



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



June 9, 2025

For Immediate Release

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**22nd Judicial Circuit and Family Violence Coordinating Council Present
Program and Mock Trial – June 27, 2025**

WOODSTOCK, IL – The 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County, in collaboration with the Family Violence Coordinating Council (FVCC), is proud to announce an impactful training event titled *“From Violence to Verdict: A Journey Through Domestic Violence, Strangulation, and the Courtroom.”* This hybrid educational opportunity will take place on Friday, June 27, 2025, and is open to law enforcement, court personnel, legal professionals, service providers, and community stakeholders committed to understanding and addressing domestic violence.

The morning session, held virtually from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., will feature renowned national expert Kelsey McKay, J.D. A former prosecutor in Travis County, Texas, Ms. McKay brings over a decade of experience specializing in criminal asphyxiation, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and homicide. She is widely recognized for her work developing strangulation protocols and training professionals across the country to enhance investigation and prosecution practices. Her presentation will provide critical insight into the unique dynamics of strangulation-related crimes and the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration.

The afternoon session will be in-person and showcase a mock trial. It will be held from 1:00 – 4:30 pm in Courtroom 204 at the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center. The presenters will realistically demonstrate a direct examination and cross examination of an arresting officer and a domestic violence victim in a strangulation case. The simulated proceedings will illustrate courtroom procedures in domestic violence trials. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of courtroom testimony, trial strategy, and the importance of trauma-informed practices in legal proceedings. Members of the local judiciary, State’s Attorney’s Office, the local bar will play the roles in the mock trial presentation.

The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.

Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center
2200 North Seminary Avenue, Woodstock IL 60098
Office: 815/334-4385 Fax: 815/338-0248

This seminar's attendees will leave with:

- A deeper understanding of domestic violence and strangulation dynamics
- Tools to better support survivors
- Strategies to prepare themselves and others for courtroom testimony

For additional information or to register, please contact Kate Webster, FVCC Coordinator, at KEWebster@22ndcircuitil.gov.

This event reflects the partnership of many justice and community partners and the continued commitment to interagency collaboration, education, and the pursuit of justice for survivors of family and intimate partner violence.

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