

## ***Bios for Forensic Nurse Courtroom Training***

### **Maryam Afshar (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney)**

Maryam A. Afshar began her legal career at the prestigious Chicago law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, LLP shortly after receiving her bachelor's degree from DePaul University with a double major in political science and psychology. While at Kirkland & Ellis, Ms. Afshar supported lawyers in complex litigation and sophisticated transactional matters. After gaining valuable experience in private practice, Ms. Afshar attended Valparaiso University Law School where she received her *Juris Doctor* degree in 2016. During her time in Law School, Ms. Afshar clerked for the Honorable Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., presiding judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, as well as the Honorable Judge Samuel L. Cappas in the Lake County Superior Court Criminal Division. Ms. Afshar also gained practical experience as a part of Valparaiso University Law School's Criminal Law Clinic where she represented indigent clients charged with a range of misdemeanors and felonies. In addition, Ms. Afshar was a member of the Valparaiso Law Review Executive Board and was a published author in Volume 50 of the Valparaiso University Law Review. After graduating in 2016, Ms. Afshar accepted a position as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. Since that time, Ms. Afshar has successfully prosecuted complex murders, domestic violence, kidnapping, and sexual assault cases at trial. Ms. Afshar was recently selected as a member of the newly-formed Lake County Prosecutor's Office Special Victim's Unit, which specializes in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and intimate partner domestic violence cases. Outside the Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Afshar has worked as an Adjunct Professor of Law at her *alma mater* educating the next generation of attorneys in trial practice.

### **Teresa K. Hollandsworth (Defense Attorney)**

Teresa K. Hollandsworth graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1996. She began her legal career as a deputy prosecutor with the Lake County Prosecutor's office. In July of 2000, she opened her own firm and joined the Lake County Public Defender's office. Her private practice focused in the areas of criminal law and family law. She was assigned to the felony courts in her position as a deputy public defender. In 2015, she closed her practice and left the public defender's office to serve as Referee for the Lake County Juvenile Court. In 2017, Teresa returned to the Lake County Public Defender's office again was assigned to the felony court division. She represented clients charged with all level felonies, including capital crimes. During her time as public defender, she worked on three (3) capital cases, one as first chair. Over her sixteen (16) years with the Lake County Public Defender's office she tried numerous jury trials. She is skilled at all aspects of trial work. She attended and was trained at the Clarence Darrow Death Penalty College and the Colorado Method of Jury Selection. She also attended the Judicial Orientation Course conducted by the Indiana Supreme Court.

### **Nadia Wardrip (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney)**

Nadia Wardrip has been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Lake County, Indiana since August 2013. Since March 2015 she has been assigned to the Felony Division and was recently appointed to serve on the Lake County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit, where she is able to focus on prosecuting sex crimes and crimes involving intimate partner violence. Nadia graduated from Ball State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Sociology. She then earned her Master of Social Work with a concentration in Community Practice and a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies from DePaul University in 2010. While a graduate student, she interned and was later hired as a Medical and Legal Advocate for Rape Victim Advocates in Chicago, Illinois where she became certified in sexual assault crisis intervention through the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Nadia earned her Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University in 2012. While maintaining academic honors status, she also competed nationally on the Trial Advocacy Team and was a Notewriter on Valparaiso University's Law Review, where she addressed deficiencies on the classification of sexual assault on the federal level. Nadia gained additional experience as a clerk at the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana, as a judicial extern, and as a Certified Legal Intern at the Porter County Prosecutor's Office and Valparaiso University School of Law Criminal Clinic. Nadia currently represents the Lake County Prosecutor's Office on the Lake County Sexual Assault Response Team, and was recently recognized by the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault for outstanding service on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual violence, and named a 2018 NWI Times "20 Under 40" honoree.

### **David Rooda (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney playing the role of Defense Attorney)**

David Rooda is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, where he has been working in various capacities for eight years. Mr. Rooda believes strongly in being an effective advocate on behalf of victims of Lake County, especially since he grew up in this area. He graduated near the top of his class from Merrillville High School in 2003. Afterwards he received undergraduate degrees in Environmental Management and Legal Studies from Indiana University Bloomington in 2007, where he graduated *cum laude* and was a Herman B Wells Scholar. He then received a Juris Doctor degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 2010 and participated in various organizations, including the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Before his work at the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Rooda worked with the United States Federal District Court in Hammond, Indiana, with the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and with multiple law firms in Northwest Indiana. He currently prosecutes criminal cases of all levels and at all stages of legal proceedings, and is assigned to the Lake Superior Court, Criminal Division 1 in front of the Honorable Salvador Vasquez. He has completed over twenty trials, and has obtained multiple convictions for the crimes of murder, child molesting, battery, and others.