

Instructor Biographies

Winter Conference, 2022



James Aguiar, Jr.

James Aguiar, Jr. started his career in law enforcement with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in 1986. He served as a correctional officer, classification officer, sergeant, and director. In 2000, James served with the Marion County Sheriff's Office as a bailiff and fire safety officer. James is currently serving with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office as the accreditation inspector in their Professional Standards Division. James is an assessor and team leader for law enforcement and corrections for the Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation, Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission and Florida Model Jail Standards. He also serves as an assessor for American Corrections Association and served as a PREA auditor with the Bureau of Justice from 2015 to 2019. He has completed over 134 assessments and regularly teaches various subjects for both of the commissions and FLA-PAC.

Gary Barrett

Gary Barrett started his career in law enforcement in 1988, serving in the United States Army as a military police officer and criminal investigations command special agent. He was hired at the Leesburg Police Department in 1992 and is a lieutenant serving as the accreditation/professional standards commander. He has served in various capacities at the Leesburg Police Department including patrol, SWAT, traffic homicide, narcotics/ vice, criminal investigations, intelligence liaison, street crimes, professional standards/accreditation and grant management. He holds a bachelor's degree in organizational management and a master's degree in criminal justice administration. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officer's Course (125th) and the Police Executive Leadership Graduate Program. He is a CJSTC general and firearms instructor. He serves as a law enforcement assessor and team leader for CFA, and enjoys family activities, hunting, fishing and boating.

Mark P. Brewer

Mark Brewer began his law enforcement career with the Sarasota Police Department in 1979 and was assigned to "rookie zones." He served as a deputy sheriff with Seneca County, New York from 1981 until being accepted to law school. Mark served as a telecommunicator for Seneca County as well. After law school, he was a JAG for the 82d Airborne Division and then opened a private practice in Sarasota. In 1990-1991 he was mobilized to serve on the war crimes team during Desert Storm. After "Spring Break '91," he served as an assistant general counsel for FDLE in Tallahassee and then as the general counsel for the Lake County Sheriff's Office in Tavares. He is now the 12th Judicial Circuit chief for regional counsel in its main office in Sarasota.

Robert A. Brongel

Bob Brongel began his career with the Sarasota Sheriff's Office, retiring after 32 years as a lieutenant. He served in uniformed patrol, SWAT, tactical unit, vice/narcotics, criminal investigations, and administrative services. He then spent four years with the Division of Insurance Fraud as a captain. He was recruited to assist the Florida Lottery in obtaining law enforcement accreditation, serving as a reserve special agent and accreditation manager. Bob has extensive experience as a team leader and assessor for law enforcement, inspector general and communications accreditation for both CFA and FLA-TAC. He was one of the first commissioners appointed to the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. In addition to his law enforcement activities, Bob has been very active in his community, volunteering with several organizations and serving on a number of boards.

Juli Brown

Juli Brown is the Northeastern Accreditation Coordinator for the Florida Sheriffs Association. Juli serves as a Liaison between the Florida Accreditation Office and Sheriff's offices seeking initial accreditation by CFA. Juli has 15 years of experience in accreditation - 10 years as the accreditation manager for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement. She has been a FLA-PAC Certified Accreditation Professional (CAP) since 2012, was awarded CFA Team Leader of the Year in 2015 and has conducted more than 70 mock and formal accreditation assessments as a CFA certified Assessor and Team Leader.

Dawn Case

Dawn E. Case began her career in 1986 with Florida's Department of Children and Families (formerly the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services), Office of Inspector General, where she held numerous investigative positions including six years as its chief of investigations. After 16 years with the Department of Children and Families, Office of Inspector General, she held the positions of director of investigations and deputy inspector general in the Executive Office of the Governor's Chief Inspector General's office. After eight years with the Office of the Chief Inspector General, she returned to the Department of Children and Families as inspector general where she served in that capacity for approximately 15 months before returning to the Governor's office as deputy chief inspector general. In October 2016, Ms. Case became the inspector general for the Florida Department of Management Services. During her tenure as inspector general, the Florida Department of Management Services investigative function achieved accredited status in October 2018. Ms. Case returned to her previous position as the deputy chief inspector general in the Chief Inspector General's Office in June 2019. Ms. Case earned her bachelor and master's degrees from Florida State University. Ms. Case is a certified inspector general, a commission member on the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, and serves as the first vice-president of the Association of Inspectors General, Florida Chapter.

Richard Cerniglia

Richard J. Cerniglia is a retired Supervisory Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) with over 25 years of overall law enforcement experience and 21 years of narcotics investigations, management, and training experience. During his time with the DEA, he was assigned to, and conducted, investigations as a special agent in the Miami Field Division, the Cleveland Resident Office, and the Norfolk Resident Office. He was also assigned to the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center, where he served as a watch officer, training officer, security officer, and as the lead liaison and briefing officer. As the Resident Agent in Charge of the Cincinnati Resident Office, he directed special agents along with state and local task force officers in all aspects of complex federal drug and money laundering investigations; and developed a highly successful clandestine laboratory awareness training program that served to educate state and local law enforcement officers, fire department personnel, and emergency medical service unit members in identifying and approaching clandestine laboratories. During the last part of his career he was assigned to the DEA Headquarters as a staff coordinator in the Office of Enforcement Operations in the Mexico and Central America Section where he coordinated highly sensitive international investigations and enforcement operations, worked closely with field personnel and the interagency on various operational issues, met and worked with foreign counterparts, and facilitated the arrest and prosecution of individuals and criminal organizations through the coordination and management of highly sensitive domestic and global criminal investigations.

Vince Dauro

Vince started his law enforcement career in 1978 with the Oxford Police Department in Mississippi. He returned home and joined the Huntsville Police Department in Alabama in 1982 and continued there for over 31 years. During his tenure with Huntsville, he worked in all areas of the agency, retiring as the senior captain with the department. He has worked with accreditation since 1998, serving as an accreditation manager for Huntsville PD and as an assessment team leader for CALEA. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and lives and works from his home in the Huntsville area. He is the current president of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Safety Chaplain's Board. Vince joined CALEA in June of 2013 and serves as the regional program manager for the Southeast and Caribbean regions.

Carolyn DeGraff

Carolyn DeGraff is the Accreditation & Grant Coordinator for Casselberry Police Department. She has a love of anything technology related and a passion to bring useful technology to her agency to improve upon processes and procedures. She has worked in law enforcement for 4 years, previously working with the Ocala Police Department before moving to the Orlando area.

Natalia Duran

Ms. Natalia Duran began her career with the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department as a Fire Rescue Dispatcher in 1976. Quickly moving up in rank to supervisor in 1980. In 1986 she was promoted to Fire Communications Officer, managing the Operations, Training and the EMD Quality Assurance for Miami-Dade Police Department of the Communications Center. She retired in 2012, after 36 years of service. Since 2012, as an adjunct instructor for the APCO Institute, Natalia has provided training to 911 Emergency Communication Specialist across the country and as far as Baja California, Mexico's 911 centers. As the State Coordinator for the FL-APCO Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce Team (FL-TERT) she works with Police & Fire agencies in Florida in the deployments of Emergency Communication Specialist who are trained to deploy to assist a 911 center during hurricanes such as Hurricane Irma 2017, Hurricane Michael 2018, Hurricane Sally 2020, Hurricane Ida 2021. A CISM/Peer Support Team Lead for MDRF, she continues to work in supporting our emergency responders. A humbling experience, she worked at the SURFSIDE Collapse (2021) site providing peer support to emergency responders as Operations Chief. A graduate of the Certified Public-Safety Executive Program (2017) through APCO International, Natalia has proven to be a leader in our 911 industry and continues to make a difference. A proud mother of two Marine Vets and grandmother of six, she enjoys traveling, training, and meeting many of her brothers and sisters in public safety.

Nicholas Haupt

Nicholas Haupt is an independent law enforcement accreditation professional with a decade and a half experience assisting agencies across the United States in various capacities. Specializing in accreditation, he has been recognized and trained at the state and national level by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA); Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA); ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB); and International Association of Law Enforcement Planners (IALEP). He holds a Bachelor of Public Management with a minor in criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University.

Steve Hougland

Steve Hougland is the Director of Research and Accreditation at the Florida Sheriffs Association where he led the effort to create FSA's Accreditation Assistance Program. He retired in 2010 after a 30-year career in Florida law enforcement. Steve was the Accreditation Manager (CALEA and CFA) at the Orange County Sheriff's Office and successfully led the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to initial CFA accreditation. He also was an assessor, team leader, and CFA trainer and conducted numerous mock and onsite assessments. Steve received CFA's Neil J. Perry and Assessor of the Year awards.

Areaka Jewell

Areaka Jewell is the accreditation manager at the Sarasota Police Department. She began her career in law enforcement with the Key West Police Department in 2002, where she served in uniformed patrol, special operations, the training unit, accreditation, and information services. Areaka retired as a lieutenant in 2018 and moved her family to Sarasota to start a second career. She is a team leader for CFA law enforcement assessments, completing over 20 assessments. She enjoys cross-country road trips with her family and do-it-yourself projects. Areaka is the founder of the Accreditation Academy.

Jack Jordan

William “Jack” Jordan has over 45 years of experience in law enforcement. His experiences include being a traffic homicide investigator for the Clearwater Police Department, an assistant state attorney in Florida, (6th Judicial Circuit), and undersheriff and legal counsel for the Sumter County Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Jordan earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Eckerd College, and his doctor of jurisprudence from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, and he is a member of the Florida Bar. He is also a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, VA, Session 211. He has been an adjunct professor for over 30 years, teaching legal and management classes at both the bachelor and masters level.

Oscar Kieffer

Oscar is currently the accreditation manager for the City of Palmetto Police Department, with a background in customer service management prior to his employment with the police department. He successfully got the agency re-accredited in 2016 and 2019. He served as the Training committee chair for the FLA-PAC from October 2016 – February 2018, and was appointed to 2nd vice president of the FLA-PAC in February 2018. He is an active assessor and team leader for CFA.

Jeff Kilpatrick

Jeff Kilpatrick is currently the Accreditation Manager for Alachua County in Gainesville, FL. Jeff has been with Alachua County for more than 23 years. Prior to being appointed to his current position, Jeff spent 20 years as a Program Supervisor with the Department of Court Services where he oversaw Pretrial Release and Supervision, Misdemeanor Probation, Day Reporting and EM/GPS Home Confinement. Jeff has a Bachelor of Science degree in the Administration of Criminal Justice from California State University Long Beach and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from California Coast University. Jeff received his Certified Public Manager (CPM) through Florida State University in 2007. Jeff is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Jeff is a past President of Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida (APPF); a former Commissioner for the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC); and is the immediate past President of National Association Pretrial Service Agencies (NAPSA). Jeff spend 21 years as a criminal investigator for the U.S. Coast Guard prior to joining Alachua County. Jeff was instrumental in developing and implementing the Florida Statewide Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument and the revalidation of this tool, the Florida Pretrial and Probation Accreditation Standards administered through FCAC and the National Pretrial Accreditation Standards administered through NAPSA. When not working, Jeff enjoys reading, golf, traveling and working on his project cars.

Julie Leftheris

Julie Leftheris serves as the Inspector General and Director of Compliance for the State University System of Florida. She previously spent 9 years as the Inspector General for the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and previously as the Deputy Inspector General for the Florida Lottery. Julie has worked in the Inspector General community for 28 years working in both auditing and investigative functions. Julie is a graduate of Florida State University with degrees in both Finance and Accounting. She has obtained the professional certifications of Certified Inspector General, Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Information Systems Auditor. Julie currently serves as a board member of the Florida Association of Inspectors General and the Leon County School Board. She is a current Commissioner for the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Tammy Matthews

Tammy Matthews is the inmate programs and accreditation manager for the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections. She has been with the department for 20 years. She supervises all inmate programs, including visitation, commissary, education, and re-entry programs. As the accreditation manager, she ensures policies and practices meet or exceed Florida statutes and established FMJS and FCAC standards. Ms. Matthews has conducted assessments for correctional facilities and pre-trial agencies throughout Florida. She earned her undergraduate degree from Emory University and holds a master’s degree in clinical psychology from University of West Florida. She is

an active member of the FLA-PAC, currently serving as its public relations director. She was selected as the FCAC Accreditation Manager of the Year in 2012 and Team Leader of the Year in 2019. She is a certified accreditation professional (CAP).

Flora Miller

Flora Miller started her career in state government in 2000 in Public Assistance Eligibility and Public Assistance Fraud Investigations, joining the Office of Inspector General in approximately 2003 as a regional investigator and regional investigator supervisor. She currently serves as both a regional investigator, covering portions of the Central, Northeast, SunCoast, and Southeast Regions, and as the accreditation manager for her agency. Mrs. Miller is a team leader for Inspector General assessments for the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA), completing over 25 assessments (mock, formal, and technical assists) as both a team leader and team member. She has completed approximately 20 peer reviews as both a team leader and team member for the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Peer Review Committee. She is the chair of the AIG's Peer Review Committee. Mrs. Miller is an instructor for the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition (FLA-PAC) and the AIG Institute. She holds certifications as a certified inspector general investigator (CIGI) and certified accreditation professional (CAP). In her downtime, Mrs. Miller is active in the martial arts community with her husband, sanctioning amateur competitive events through the Florida Boxing Commission and in the Bahamas.

Marie Reese

Marie Reese joined the Naples Police Department in August of 2010 as the Accreditation Manager. She serves as an assessor and team leader for CFA and participates in mock assessments. She serves on the FLA-PAC Training Committee and the FLA-PAC Professional Standards Committee. She is a FLA-PAC conference first-timer mentor. She is certified accreditation professional (CAP). Prior to moving to Naples, she was employed for many years by Penn State University.

Doug Robertson

Chief Doug Robertson came to the Wilton Manors Police after a distinguished law enforcement career in Upstate New York, where he rose through the ranks from dispatcher to serve as Chief of Police for nearly 12 years. In addition to his law enforcement command experience, he served as an instructor at the Central New York Regional Police Academy and an adjunct faculty member of the Public Safety Training Center at SUNY Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, NY. Chief Robertson has 29 years of accreditation experience after having been named accreditation manager for the North Syracuse Police Department back in 1990. In 2005, he was the primary author of the New York State's Division of Criminal Justice Services Accreditation Manager Training Tutorial. In 2006, former New York Governor Pataki appointed Robertson to a seat on the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council (Commission). Over the last 29 years, he has served as an assessor and team leader in New York and continues to serve in those roles for CFA here in Florida. Doug has conducted over 36 mock and on-site assessments in both states and is an active member of the FLA-PAC and the training committee. He is a proud grandfather to his five grandchildren.

Gary Robinson

Gary Robinson started his career with the West Palm Beach Police Department in 1973, retiring as a Captain in 2004. He served in a broad range of assignments, including communications, patrol, special investigations, criminal investigations, training, property and evidence, and administration, among others. He served as the accreditation manager from 1997-2004. He served as the Major over Support Services Bureau for the Port St. Lucie Police Department from 2004 to 2012. With the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office since 2012, he currently serves as the Unit Manager over Staff Inspections and the law enforcement accreditation manager. He holds an MBA and graduated from the Southern Police Institute, 82nd Administrative Officers Course. He's been involved in accreditation at some level since 1989; continuously since 1997, including as an assessor and team leader for CFA since 1999; CALEA assessor and team leader 2001-2012. Certified Accreditation Professional since 2010. CFA Assessor of the Year 2012 and Team Leader of the Year 2019. Individual recognition, IACP Webber-Seavey Award, 1995. He is a former FLA-PAC Treasurer and PAC-CHAT editor. He has served as a CFA SRIC member 2006 – 2009 and currently since 2019. Gary has completed over 88 law enforcement and Inspector General assessments; 64 as team leader.

Frank Ruggiero

Major Frank Ruggiero has been in law enforcement since 1990 and currently works for the Tarpon Springs Police Department (TSPD). Prior to his promotion to major in 2021, he served as the accreditation manager and supervisor of training, hiring, recruiting, traffic homicide, and special events. Major Ruggiero began teaching at the Pasco/Hernando State College in 2000 as a lead instructor and has taught more than 50 different academy classes. He is currently CJSTC certified in the areas of firearms, police driving, defensive tactics, medical first responder, dart firing stun guns, and general topics. He has been on the FDLE Curriculum Maintenance Board since 2006. He has been a member of the St. Petersburg College Training Advisory Board since 2005. He has presented for several different organizations including the Property Evidence Association of Florida (PEAF), the State of Florida Crime Watch Organization, FLA-PAC, and for several city commissions. Major Ruggiero has been a CFA assessor since 2012 and a CFA team leader since 2016. He is also a member of CFA SRIC and a Certified Accreditation Professional. Until his promotion in 2021 he served as the FLA-PAC Training Committee chairperson. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville's SPI Command Officer Development Course class #77. His awards include Officer of the Year 2004 and 2018, Best New Crime Watch Program for State of Florida 2011, Certified Public Pension Trustee (FPPTA), Best Instructor PHSC (multiple times), and the TSPD Award of Excellence.

Kim Wachter

Ms. Wachter began her career in law enforcement in 2002, as an intelligence analyst with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. She is a 2004 graduate of the FDLE Analyst Academy. During her career with FDLE, she worked in the Melbourne Field Office, in the Orlando Region. Her assignment to the field office included working as the analyst with Special Agents handling public corruption, economic crimes, violent crimes, narcotics investigations, and cold case homicides. In 2007, she began working with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office as an Investigative Analyst. There, she worked in the Investigations Unit with detectives assigned to persons and property crimes, as well as the detectives assigned to the Multi Agency Criminal Enforcement Unit, specifically handling narcotics investigations and Intelligence (gangs and drugs). In 2012, Ms. Wachter was hired by the Sebastian Police Department as their Crime Analyst and Accreditation Manager. In 2013, she became an accreditation assessor and has traveled around the state to assess other law enforcement agencies to determine their compliance with the state accreditation standards. In 2015, Ms. Wachter was promoted to Administrative Supervisor where her duties included continuing as the crime analyst and accreditation manager but also supervising the Records Unit and Logistics Unit. While with the Sebastian Police Department, she had the privilege of serving as their accreditation manager for two assessments (2014 and 2017), the last of which recognized the Sebastian Police Department as an Excelsior agency with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). In 2017, Ms. Wachter moved to Tallahassee where she now serves as a Senior Management Analyst Supervisor with the Department of Financial Services, Division of Investigative and Forensic Services. Her duties include supervising the Division's public records specialists and acting as the Division's accreditation manager. In October 2018, the Division proudly received their initial accreditation with CFA and received their first reaccreditation award in October 2021.

William Walls

William "Billy" Walls is a senior program manager for the Florida Accreditation Office and is responsible for assisting agencies in the Southeast Florida region. He has previously been an active assessor and team leader for CFA and has over twenty years of law enforcement experience. His career began in municipal law enforcement with the Havana Police Department. He then moved to the Tallahassee Police Department. While with TPD, he served as a patrol officer, DARE officer, and fraud investigator. Billy was hired in 2000 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Inspector General as an investigative lieutenant and in 2002 he was promoted to captain. In 2003, he was promoted to the chief of training in the Division of Law Enforcement. In that position, he was a member of the State Law Enforcement Chiefs Association and a member of the Training Center Directors Association, Chairing Region 15 which oversaw funding for all state law enforcement officer advanced training. Billy holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Flagler College and is instructor certified through the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.

Wanda White

Wanda White retired in 2016 after 41+ years with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office (EC SO) and Escambia County Corrections. She served as accreditation manager for both law enforcement and detention at the sheriff's office and as the accreditation manager for Escambia County Corrections. Wanda has over 20 years of experience in accreditation and has earned and maintained the designation of Certified Accreditation Professional for 10 years. She has been an active assessor conducting 50+ assessments for CFA, FCAC, FPAP, and FLA-TAC, usually as team leader. Wanda has been actively involved with FLA-PAC, serving on the executive board and many committees. She currently serves as chair of the CAP Committee. Wanda has been a member of the FMJS Subcommittee/Task Force since 2003. Prior to her assignment to accreditation at the EC SO, Wanda worked in administration, operations, investigations, training, human resources, traffic, records, detention, public records, and planning & research. Wanda is currently the CEO of Accreditation Consultants of Florida, LLC.