

# KATHERINE M. MAYER, M.A., CLI, CCDI

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Mayer Consulting Solutions, LLC**

**Austin, TX**

*Certified Legal Investigator*

*Death Penalty Mitigation Specialist*

*Board Certified Criminal Defense Investigator*

*Jury Consultant*

*NASAMS Co-Chair*

*TCDLA Committee Member*

*January 2012 – present*

- Consult with attorneys defending clients facing the death penalty.
- Create comprehensive biological, psychological, and social history report of client.
- Collect all client and family records for analysis.
- Identify mitigation themes relevant to second phase of criminal trial.
- Conduct extensive research to create biological, psychological, and social history of client in hopes of receiving a death penalty waiver from prosecution.
- Criminal defense private investigation services include but are not limited to: witness locates and interviews, witness statements, serving subpoenas, process serving, research.

### **Law Offices of Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez**

**Miami, FL**

*Death Penalty Mitigation Specialist*

*June 2010 – November 2011*

- Conduct and organize comprehensive background investigations of indigent clients charged with capital murder.
- Research relevant information regarding circumstantial and mitigating evidence pertinent to active cases and make recommendations to legal team regarding the direction of the case.
- Identify potential mitigation witnesses including mental health experts, to develop a complete social history and mitigation themes in support of a life sentence.
- Collect client records, prepare mitigation witnesses, and develop exhibits in preparation for the penalty phase.

### **Community Connections**

**Washington, DC**

*Forensic Case Manager*

*April 2009 - June 2010*

- Provided intensive case management and psychotherapy to consumers in a clinical and forensic setting to achieve personal goals of recovery.
- Transcribed clinical notes that included mental health status and outlined progress and future goals.
- Advocated for consumers in court and assisted them in navigating through the legal system.
- Within three months of employment promoted to research analyst on a federal grant that provides comprehensive mental health services for homeless consumers who are in pretrial status with the criminal justice system.
- Within seven months of employment nominated to represent forensic team on the Case Manager Advisory Board where issues and concerns pertaining to case management are addressed and resolved.
- Conducted Crisis Intervention Training to Metropolitan Police Department on how to approach mental health consumers in the community.

### **Office of the Capital Defender**

**Manassas, VA**

*Mitigation Specialist Graduate Intern*

*August 2008 - December 2008*

- Assisted legal team in defense of indigent clients facing the death penalty.
- Conducted research and investigated potential witnesses.
- Collected and digested client records and assisted with the mitigation packages of current cases.

**Seminole Community Mental Health Center***Forensic Care Manager/State Hospital Liaison***Sanford, FL***September 2006 - June 2007*

- Provided behavioral healthcare and forensic crisis intervention to individuals at risk of decompensation or incarceration.
- Trained and became certified to respond to crisis calls from law enforcement involving mentally ill consumers in the community.
- Advocated for inmates who had been remanded to State Hospitals and worked with treatment team to divert appropriate inmates from the criminal justice system for rehabilitation and reduction of recidivism.

**State Attorney – Lawson Lamar***Victim Advocate Intern***Orlando, FL***January 2006 - May 2006*

- Advocated for victims of domestic violence and provided legal information and services.
- Shadowed other advocates to court hearings and trials.

**MEDIA APPEARANCES/PUBLICATIONS**

Mayer, K. (2025). The Hidden Weakness in Criminal Defense: Why Expert Witness Vetting Can Make or Break Your Case. *The Voice*, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, November 2025, pp. 26–27.

Mayer, K. (2025). Handlebys: A Tool to Strengthen Your Criminal Defense Case. *The Legal Investigator*, National Association of Legal Investigators, Fall 2025, pp. 26–27.

Featured Contributor, *The Yogurt Shop Murders* (HBO Original Documentary Series), 2025.

Mayer, K. (2025). Executive Committee Contributor: NASAMS Code of Ethics and Professional Standards. National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists, distributed nationally, August 2025.

Featured Contributor, *Toxic* (Investigation Discovery/Max Documentary Series), 2025.

Mayer, K. (2025). Executive Committee Contributor: Recommended Minimum Requirements for Practicing Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists. National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists, distributed nationally, July 2025.

Mayer, K. (2025). The Case for Handlebys: How Extraneous Police Reports Uncovered a Key Pattern in our Defense. *The Voice*, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, vol. 54, no. 5, June 2025, pp. 23–24.

Burke, C.S., Priest, H., Salas, E., Sims, D., & Mayer, K. (2008). Stress and teams: How stress affects decision making at the team level. In P.A. Hancock & J. Szalma (Eds.), *Performance Under Stress* (pp. 181–208). Burlington, VT: Ashgate.

Mayer, K. (2008). Violent Crime Case Review Project. Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, DC.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE****Metropolitan Police Department, Violent Crimes Branch***Graduate Researcher***Washington, DC***October 2007 – February 2008*

- Participated in the Violent Crime Case Review Project, which will result in a published report comparing 2005 through 2007 homicides to the homicide case information gathered 20 years ago.
- Reviewed cases involving history, extensive forensic evidence, toxicology reports, depositions and investigative process.

**Institute for Simulation and Training****Orlando, FL**

- Assisted graduate students in conducting studies regarding stress in military combat teams.
- Created detailed training presentations to guide research subjects in their study participation.
- Input data and analyzed research statistics.

## **AFFILIATIONS/COMMITTEES/HONORS**

NLADA Defender Council Member, 2024-current

Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado (PPIAC) – 2025-current

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) – Capital Assistance Committee – 2025-current

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) – New Attorney Committee – 2025-current

National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists (NASAMS) – Co-Chair – 2023-current

National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists (NASAMS) - Secretary - 2019-2023

American Psychological Association

The American Psychology & Law Association

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) member, serving on the Capital Assistance, New Lawyers, Women’s Caucus, and Sexual Assault Defense Committee

TALI member

NALI member

NACDL member

CDITC member

ACLU, 2011 C. Clyde Atkins Civil Liberties Award

Psi Chi, *the National Honor Society in Psychology*

Florida Bright Future Scholarship

Dean’s List, *University of Central Florida*

## **EDUCATION**

### **Marymount University**

*Master of Forensic Psychology*

**Arlington, VA**

*July 2007 – December 2008*

Coursework included: Psychology and the Law, Psychopathology, Criminal Behaviors, and Forensic Assessment.

Research topics included: Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System.

### **University of Central Florida**

*Bachelor of Arts: Psychology, Certificate of Behavioral Forensics*

**Orlando, FL**

*June 2001 – April 2005*

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

Certified Legal Investigator (CLI)

Board Certification in Criminal Defense Investigation (CCDI)

Certificate in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST)

Notary of Texas

Certificate in Process Serving, *Texas*

Certificate in Behavioral Forensics, *University of Central Florida*

Certificate in Crisis Intervention Training, *Seminole County Sheriff’s Office*

## **CONTINUED EDUCATION**

American Society of Trial Consultants, Annual Conference, 2026, *San Diego, CA*

TCDLA The Art of Mitigation: Crafting Persuasive Narratives, 2026, *Dallas, TX*

TCDLA Sex Crimes, 2025, *Austin, TX*

TCDLA Capital Voir Dire Theory and Intense Practice, 2025, *Austin, TX*

PPIAC Rocky Mountain Investigators Annual Conference, 2025, *Westminster, CO*  
TCDLA Rusty Duncan, 2025, *San Antonio, TX*  
NALI Annual Conference, 2025, *Denver, CO*  
National Child Abuse Defense & Resource Center, False Allegations, 2024, *Las Vegas, NV*  
NASAMS Holistic Defense & Leadership Conference, 2024, *Minneapolis, MN*  
American Society of Trial Consultants, Annual Conference, 2024, *Washington, DC*  
NLADA Life in the Balance, 2024, *Biloxi, MS*  
FAPI Annual Litigation and Investigators Conference, 2024, *Altamonte Springs, FL*  
TCDLA Defending Sex Crimes Against Adults & Children, 2023, *Round Rock, TX*  
TALI Annual Conference, 2023, *San Antonio, TX*  
NALI Annual Conference, 2023, *Charlotte, NC*  
NACDL Defending Sex Cases, 2022, *Las Vegas, NV*  
NDIA Regional Conference, 2022, *Austin, TX*  
Texas Tech Mental Health Law Symposium, 2022, *Virtual*  
NAPD We the Defenders, 2022, *Indianapolis, ID*  
TCDLA Mental Health & Capital Seminar, 2019, *Austin, TX*  
CACJ/CPDA Capital Case Defense Seminar, 2019, *Monterey, CA*  
Damages in Civil Litigation, 2019, *Dallas, TX*  
TALI Midwinter Conference, 2019, *Chandler, AZ*  
Federal Death Penalty Strategy Session, 2018, *Tampa, FL*  
CAPDS Capital Defense Symposium, 2018, *Austin, TX*  
TALI Spring Seminar, 2018, *San Antonio, TX*  
Making the Case for Life, 2017, *Las Vegas, NV*  
Capital Murder Symposium, 2017, *Austin, TX*  
Board Certified Criminal Defense Investigator Program, 2017, *South Bend, IN*  
CAPDS Investigators Training, 2017, *Austin, TX*  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Practitioner's Course, 2016, *Austin, TX*  
CAPDS Forensics Training, 2016, *Austin, TX*  
Federal Death Penalty Strategy Session, 2016, *Denver, CO*  
World Investigators Conference, 2016, *Lake Conroe, TX*  
TCDLA Capital & Mental Health Training, 2016, *Houston, TX*  
Wisconsin Public Defender "Working as a Team to Investigate Cases", 2016, *Fontana, WI*  
NLADA Life over Death, 2015, *Houston, TX*  
TALI Conference, 2015, *San Antonio, TX*  
Program on Mitigation, 2015, *Plano, TX*  
Capital Litigation: Bring your own Case, 2015, *San Antonio, TX*  
Life Over Death, 2013, *Bonita Springs, FL*  
Development and Integration of Mitigation Evidence, 2012, *Atlanta, FL*  
Death Is Different XVIII, 2012, *Orlando, FL*  
Life Over Death, 2011, *Orlando, FL*  
NLADA's Life in the Balance, 2011, *Orlando, FL*

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

CAPDS Mitigation Advancement Program, Panel Interview, 2026, *Virtual*  
TCDLA How to Use an Investigator Pretrial, 2026, *Dallas, TX*  
ACDLA, Investigating Sex Assault of Children, 2026, *Virtual*  
NASAMS Mitigation Certificate Program, 2025, *Virtual*  
TCDLA, How to Use Mitigation for Parole Hearings, 2025, *Houston, TX*  
WILBY Betty, Women in Leadership, New Orleans, 2025, *New Orleans, LA*  
NAPD, Investigating Child Sex Assault Cases, 2025, *Virtual*  
TCDLA Capital Defense Seminar, 2025, *Austin, TX*  
SACLA Monthly CLE, 2025, *San Antonio, TX*

ACDLA Austin Criminal Lawyer Retreat, 2024, *Kerrville, TX*  
ACDLA Weekly CLE: Presentation about Jury Research & Focus Groups, 2024, *Virtual*  
NASAMS Holistic Defense & Leadership Conference, 2024, *Minneapolis, MN*  
NLADA Life in the Balance, 2024, *Biloxi, MS*  
NLADA/NASAMS COD/BDPA Conference, 2023, *Baltimore, MD*  
ACDLA/Austin Bar Association's Criminal Law Retreat, 2023, *Kerrville, TX*  
NLADA/NASAMS Fundamentals of Mitigation Certificate Program, 2022, 2011, *Virtual*  
CAPDS New Panel Criminal Defense Attorney Training, 2022, *Austin, TX*  
Capital Murder Symposium, 2021, *Austin, TX*  
Creator & Instructor of the Criminal Defense Investigator Bootcamp, 2021, *Virtual*  
CAPDS New Panel Criminal Defense Attorney Training, 2019, *Austin, TX*  
Capital Defense Symposium, 2018, *Austin, TX*  
Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Crisis Intervention Training, 2006, *Orlando, FL*