

**Presenter:** Miriam Falk, Department of Justice

**Session Title:** “The Vulnerability of Addiction in Human Trafficking Situations”

**Session description:** In this session, we will examine the ways in which addiction creates a unique vulnerability that human traffickers exploit to gain access to individuals they target and to create both dependency and fear. Addiction keeps the addicted trapped in a no-win situation with the trafficker. We will consider addiction generally and the rising incidence of how heroin addiction connects to human trafficking.

**Bio:**

Miriam Falk, JD, began as an assistant attorney general for Wisconsin in the Training & Standards Bureau in August 2014. She is the state resource prosecutor and LE trainer for sexual assault and domestic violence. Before that, she worked as an assistant DA in Milwaukee, assigned to their Sensitive Crimes Unit for the last 23 of her 27 years with the office, spending her first four years at Children’s Court handling CHIPS and TPR cases. Miriam has extensive training experience in Wisconsin and nationally on a wide variety of topics related to sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as trial advocacy and interviewing adults and children. Out of law school, she worked for 2 years for a small litigation firm in Milwaukee. Miriam graduated from UW-Madison Law School in 1985 and got her Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 1982 from Marquette University, magna cum laude. She is married and has two young adult daughters.