



**RETURNS!**  
**Feb. 1-2, 2025**  
**Fargo Ramada**

[valleycon.com/fargotruecrimeexpo](http://valleycon.com/fargotruecrimeexpo)



**Feb. 10-11, 2024**  
**Fargo Ramada**

**Program Guide**

# FARGO TRUE-CRIME EXPO Presenters



**Kara Schmitz Olson**

First Assistant State's Attorney  
Cass County State's Attorney's Office  
Kara has been an assistant State's Attorney for Cass County since January 2005. She is currently assigned to prosecute drug crimes and juvenile delinquency matters, as well as handle involuntary commitments. She has prosecuted all types of crimes in her time as a prosecutor. Kara has a Bachelor of Business Administration (concentration in Management) and a minor in Spanish from the University of Iowa, her Juris Doctor from the University of North Dakota and an Executive Certificate in Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice from Georgetown University. She has also been employed as a law clerk to the judges of the South Central Judicial District in Bismarck, ND and an Assistant City Attorney, filing the role of city prosecutor for the City of Fargo. Kara has taught trainings for law enforcement, attorneys and other professionals in a variety of topics. Kara has been an appointed member of the Criminal Justice Information Sharing Board for the State of North Dakota since 2009 and previously served as a board member on the North Dakota State's Association, for seven terms, including one as president.



**Jay Boese**

Homeland Security  
Area Commander Jay Boese has worked for the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Protective Service for over 15 years. Prior to his work with DHS, he was a Military Police Officer in the United States Air Force. Boese holds a degree in Criminal Justice and is considered a subject matter expert in Tactics, Use of Force, Riot Control, Firearms and Less Lethal Use of Force and Munitions.

In his off-duty time, Commander Boese coaches' youth sports and enjoys hiking and snowshoeing with his wife Jennifer. He has three children, Hannah, Haleigh and Charles. He is also an avid fisherman and cyclist.



**Dr. Chad Zimmerman**

Footsteps in the Dark Podcast  
When bad things happen, those who are affected need answers. Footsteps in the Dark is an investigative podcast looking to shed the light of understanding on mysterious tragedies of the past. We look everywhere to find answers so those vexed by crime can find closure, knowing those behind the crimes always leave their tracks to be found. Dr. Chad Zimmerman is also a chiropractor with The Clinic!



**Ruth Buffalo**

Fargo-Moorhead Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Taskforce  
Ruth Buffalo is an enrolled citizen of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Chiricahua Apache. In 2018 she was elected to serve her first four-year term in North Dakota's House of Representatives, District 27. Ruth is a public health professional. She has served on advisory councils focused on women's health, women's leadership development and local food systems. In 2019, she was named North Dakota Woman of the Year by North Dakota Women's Network. Ruth has introduced new laws focused on Human Trafficking and MMIP prevention. She is the founder of the local Fargo Moorhead-Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples taskforce. She is an appointed commissioner to the federal Not Invisible Act Commission. A legally mandated body convened to address the MMIP crisis.



**Sandy Bartholomay**

AARP  
Sandy is an official AARP speaker here to discuss common scams and how to protect ourselves and loved ones from becoming victims.

# FARGO TRUE-CRIME EXPO

**Saturday, Feb. 10**

- 10am: Doors open
- 11am: **Kara Schmitz-Olson, First Assistant State's Attorney, Cass County State's Attorney Office.** What the State's Attorney office does in their course of their work of prosecuting crimes.
- 12:30pm: **Sandy Bartholomay, AARP speaker.** Common scams, how to spot them and protect ourselves and loved ones from becoming victims.
- 2pm: **Victim Impact Panel.** Karen Eisenhardt and Vince Ulstad from the Victim Impact Panel of the local Judicial District will be discussing the personal impacts of crimes committed against them.
- 3:30pm: **Dr. Chad Zimmerman, The Footsteps in the Dark Podcast.** When bad things happen, those who are affected need answers. Footsteps in the Dark is an investigative podcast looking to shed the light of understanding on mysterious tragedies of the past. We look everywhere to find answers so those vexed by crime can find closure, knowing those behind the crimes always leave their tracks to be found.
- 5pm: **Doors close for Saturday!** *\*The planned dinner was canceled as it required a firm number from the venue to proceed and this being our first year, we had only a few so next year we plan on having it with featured presenters!*

**Sunday, Feb. 11**

- 10am: Doors open
- 11am: **Jay Boese, Homeland Security.** The history of Homeland Security history and active shooter issues and scenarios.
- 12:30pm: **Dr. Chad Zimmerman, part 2 of Footsteps in the Dark Podcast.**
- 2pm: **Ruth Buffalo, Fargo Moorhead Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Taskforce.** Indigenous Peoples taskforce was founded after Savannah Greywind's tragic case. Hear about where the taskforce is today and what are some of the ongoing issues.
- 4pm: Doors close until Feb. 1-2, 2025 for the Fargo True-Crime Expo II!



## NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

The Fargo True-Crime Expo thanks its non-profit partners!  
Jazzy & Mumbo's \* Honor Flight \* Spencer Strong  
Crosses for Cameron/Garden of Healing  
Bella Dulce's Eats & Treats \* AARP  
Fargo Paranormal

Karen Eisenhardt and Vince Ulstad from the Victim Impact Panel