

# Protecting Yourself In Court, At Home, and Online

North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts/  
North Carolina Association of District Court Judges

*John Muffler, MS, CTM*

Principal, Aequitas Global Security  
Faculty: National Judicial College & National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

Property of Aequitas Global Security LLC

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## Objectives

- Discuss the WHY, WHEN, and WHERE of judicial (and your loved ones) attacks
- Understand typologies of judicial attackers
- Explore recent judicial threat cases
- Examine security vulnerabilities & learn how to mitigate such threats

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Be an **active participant** in your own survival



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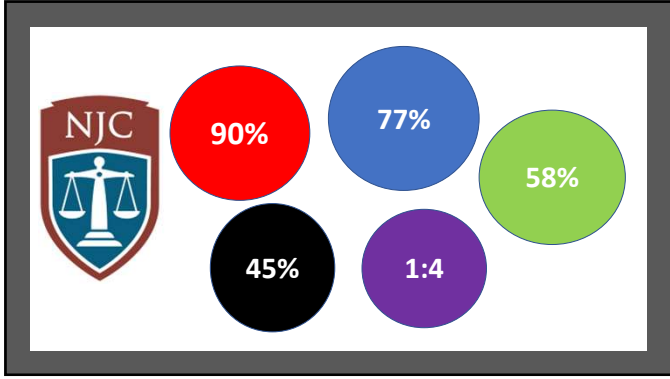
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**American Judges Association**

- Procedural fairness is a key ingredient in public satisfaction:

“The perception of unfair or unequal treatment is the single most important source of popular dissatisfaction with the American legal system.”

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**4 Key Elements in Ensuring the Perception of Fairness**

- Voice-the opportunity to be heard
- Neutrality-consistent, unbiased, transparent
- Respectful treatment-(speaks for itself)
- Trustworthy-benevolent, caring, sincere

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### Common Triggers

- Change in personal relationships
- Feelings of humiliation/rejection
- Finances
- Major change to life circumstances
- Loss of job
- Grievance develops

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"A fair exchange ain't no robbery."

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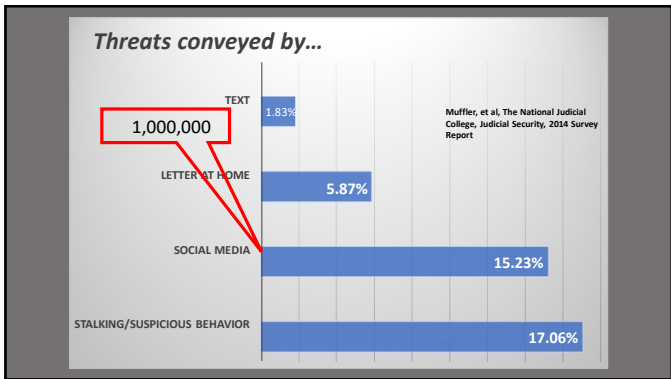
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### Difference Between Judicial Violence & Other Public Figure Violence?

Judges often live in the same community as the individuals that come before them in court. This simple fact distinguishes judicial violence from other public figure violence.

Dr. Frederick S. Calhoun's *Violence Toward Judicial Figures (The Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science, 2001)*.

*"Accessibility"-Gavin de Becker Just 2 Seconds*

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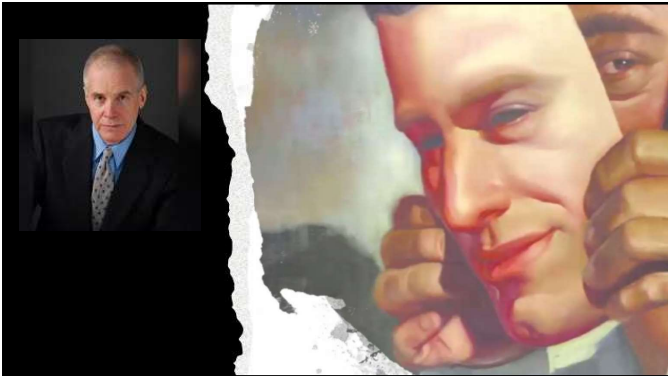
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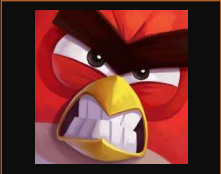
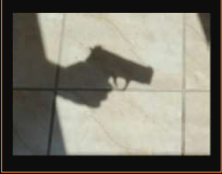
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Two Psychobiological Types of Violence

- Affective
- Targeted

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**Example of Affective Violence:  
Victim Impact Statements,  
Larry Nassar Sentencing  
February 2018**

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**Assessing Indicators**

What “red flags” did you witness in this courtroom?

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**What are some tools in your toolbox to protect against violence in court/hearing room?**

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**Chimene Onyeri**

- October 7, 2015: Motion to Proceed w/ Adj. Guilt – 1st setting
- Fraudulent use of identifying information- 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony
- 7 years if plead true

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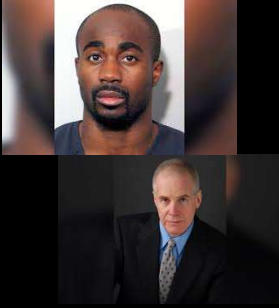
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**JACA**

- Justification
- Alternatives
- Consequences
- Ability



The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence The Gift of Fear, de Becker, G. 1997

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**Common Judicial Attack Themes**

- Case-related (it's personal)
- Judge will *likely* know their attacker
- Prior threat is *very* rare before physical attack
- Shifts control back to the attacker
- Targeted attacks occur away from the courthouse

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**Warning Behavior Typologies**

Pathway	Fixation	Identification	Novel aggression
Energy burst	Leakage	Last resort (JACA)	Directly communicated threat

International Handbook of Threat Assessment, 2014, Meloy, J., et al (Chapter 3)

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# Externalization of Blame\*

- “Character-impaired individuals...all-too-ready to blame everyone else in the world for their own failures in life.”\*\*



\*Kris Mohandie, "Threat Assessment in Schools" in *International Handbook of Threat Assessment*  
 \*\*Externalizing Blame Can Have Deadly Consequences, 2015, Simon, G.

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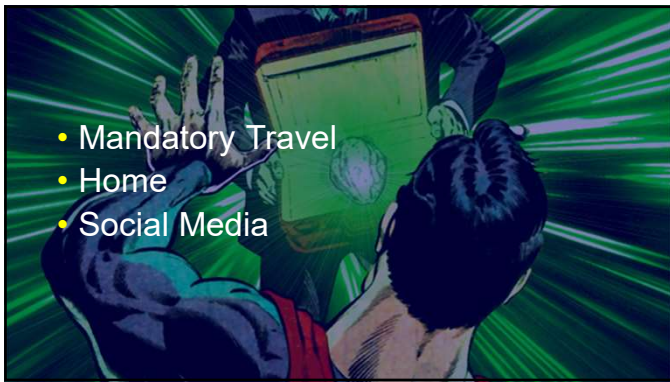
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- Mandatory Travel
- Home
- Social Media

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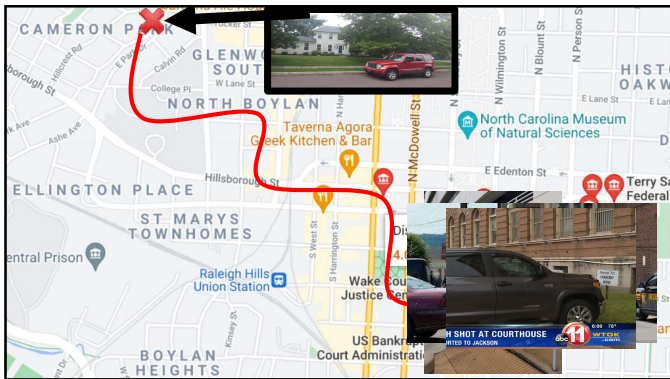
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**Don't help a potential attacker**

- Practice "what if" scenarios
- Use a Private mailbox, PO Box or work address
- Utilize privacy protection laws

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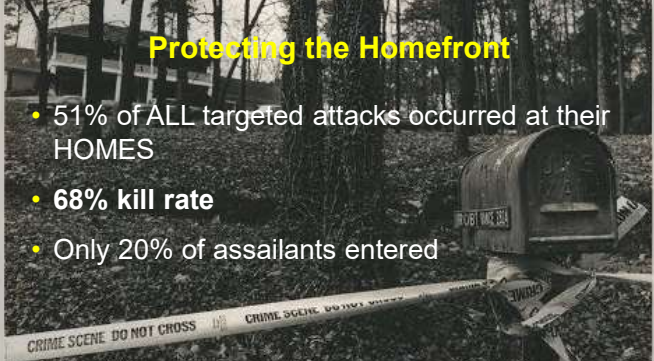
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**Protecting the Homefront**

- 51% of ALL targeted attacks occurred at their HOMES
- 68% kill rate
- Only 20% of assailants entered

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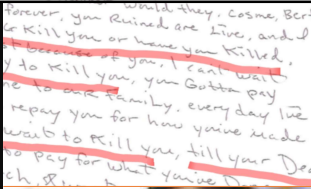

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### From Letters to Online Threats

- 90% of the threats handled by the LAPD are internet-related
- 2Xs as much since 2008

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75% burglars ID their targets via social media

65% of sex offenders use to gain home and school information

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**10 Tips If You Must Use Social Media**

- 1. Don't respond to invite or comments
- 2. Register the account anonymously
- 3. Create an email address for each social networking site
- 4. All profiles should be marked "private"
- 5. Avoid and remove any "tags" in photos that are publicly posted

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**10 Tips If You Must Use Social Media**

- 6. Don't know? Don't accept
- 7. For private accounts, ensure selected profile does not identify the user
- 8. **DO NOT** post future non-public plans
- 9. Avoid livestreaming (or use a fake background image if you must stream/Zoom)
- 10. Establish a written family (and staff) SM policy

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**Other Privacy Protection Strategies**

- Scrubbing the Internet – Deleteme.com, OneRep.com, Safeshepherd.com, Reputation.com
- Monitoring Internet Chatter – RSS Feeds – Google Alerts, Mention, Talkwalker

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## Situational Awareness



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## Tips for Your Safety

(This is from the *Observe More, Fear Less* article in your handout)

- Listen to your intuition
- Know (see) the baseline
- Mix up your routine
- Use your command voice ("NO!" "GET BACK!")
- Learn self-defense
- Cultivate a safety-net of friends
- Use a code word or gesture

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**Tips for Your Safety**  
(This is from the *Observe More, Fear Less* article in your handout)

- Be mindful of your social media posts (and what others post)
- Use technology to help you
- Encourage bystander support
- Be prepared (snacks, full tank, good shoes, small bills)
- Carry safety tools (tactical pen, brush, pepper spray, flashlight)

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- *The most dangerous place is in or around your car*
- 64% of attacks
- 77% attacks succeed

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## The Gift of Fear



"The only real valuable thing is intuition."  
-Albert Einstein

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## Knowing Without Knowing Why

- Reno, NV court story
- "Intuition is always right in at least two ways: it is in response to something and it always has your best interest at heart."  
-Gavin de Becker, *The Gift of Fear*



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## The Opposite of Intuition

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Be an **active participant** in your own survival



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**Thank you and be safe!**

John Muffler, MS, CTM

[jmuffler.aequitas@gmail.com](mailto:jmuffler.aequitas@gmail.com)  
[jmuffler@gdba.com](mailto:jmuffler@gdba.com)



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