

**Michelle L. Willingham, Ph.D.**

Manager of Missing Persons/Juvenile Processing – San Antonio Police Department  
Adjunct Professor of Criminology

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**OBJECTIVE:**

To secure the position of professor in a university where my teaching experience and service to the field would be most beneficial to the organization.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

Fluent in her first language of Spanish and a Colombian, Dr. Willingham is an Adjunct Professor of Criminology at Texas A&M University, the University of Texas in San Antonio, and Franklin University in Ohio. Her commitment to the academic field includes researching and preparing course material delivered through in-person, online, and hybrid style lecture. Dr. Willingham has also served for the San Antonio Police Department for over 24 years in the roles of Crime Scene Investigator, Senior Management Analyst, and currently as Manager of Missing Persons/Juvenile Processing Unit. Her professional experience includes responding to crime scenes where search, identification, documentation, and preservation of evidence played a crucial role in criminal court convictions. Her role as a Senior Management Analyst included active participation in special projects designed for leadership and development initiatives for the San Antonio Police Department. Dr. Willingham contributed to various documents on topics including bullying. She currently oversees the operations within the Missing Persons Unit; a unit embedded within the Homicide Section of the San Antonio Police Department. The Missing Persons Unit handles all cases of missing persons and works closely with internal units and external agencies when there is suspicion of foul play and trafficking. The Missing Persons Unit processes all juvenile offenders, which requires special handling with regard to legal and ethical practices.

**EDUCATION:**

**Nova Southeastern University, Fischler Graduate School of Education and School of Criminal Justice, Davie, Florida:**

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree (2020)**

- Concentration in Juvenile Justice
- Dissertation – *Runaway Events Among Foster Care and Non-Foster Care Youth: An Examination of Runaway Trends in Lonestar, Texas* (2020, March)



**Boston University, Massachusetts:**

**Master of Criminal Justice Degree (2008)**



**University of Texas, San Antonio:**

**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice (1998)**



**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

September 2010 to present:  
**Texas A&M University, San Antonio, Texas**

**Adjunct Professor of Criminology:** Appointed as an adjunct instructor of undergraduate upper division studies in the Criminology program.

**Undergraduate Coursework On Campus, Hybrid, and Online:**

- Juvenile Delinquency



- Victimology
- Domestic Violence
- Community Perspectives in Crime
- Wildlife Crime
- Theories of Crime Causation



August 2021 to present

**University of Texas San Antonio**, San Antonio, Texas

**Adjunct Professor of Criminology:** Appointed as an adjunct instructor of undergraduate upper division studies in the Criminology program.

**Undergraduate Coursework Face-to Face:**

- Victimology
- Wildlife Crime



August 2021 to present

**Franklin University**, Columbus, Ohio

**Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice Public Safety:** Appointed as an adjunct instructor of undergraduate upper division studies in the Criminology program.

**Undergraduate Coursework Online:**

- Introduction to Criminology

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**Criminal Investigator School Instructor:** Planned instruction, delivered, and trained newly hired Crime Scene Investigators and newly promoted detectives of the San Antonio Police Department in crime scene investigation (2010)



- Identification, Documentation, and Collection of crime scene evidence
- Photography, Videography, Packaging, and Submitting Evidence
- Report Writing and Courtroom Testimony
- Reviewed reports, extracted statistical data and conducted analysis to present to department leadership in executive summaries
- Co-Authored manuscript intended for San Antonio Police and community crime prevention partnerships
- Facilitated initiative Operation Rebound
- Write SAPD Standard Operating Procedures
- Analyzed departmental reports intended for policy amendment on various General Manual procedures; Pursuit Policy
- Supervised and coached SAPD volunteers and student interns

**Recruit School:** Delivered relevant crime scene duty, missing persons reporting, and juvenile processing material to police in training.

**SCHOLARSHIP: Dissertation**

- Willingham, M.L. (2020, March). Runaway Events Among Foster Care and Non-Foster Care Youth: An Examination of Runaway Trends in Lonestar, Texas. *ProQuest NOVA Southeastern University*.
- Contributor in *Crime Hits Home: Mystery Writers of America. A Collection of Crime Stories from America's Top Authors*.

**Publications:**

- Willingham, M.L. (2024, March). Successful Outcomes in Juvenile justice: Overcoming Community-Based and Correctional Challenges. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*.

**Research On Agenda:**

- Analysis of social bonds theories and factors in one-time runaway events and three or more runaway events.

**RECOGNITION/  
ACADEMIC:**

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (2019 to present)

**RECOGNITION/  
PROFESSIONAL:**

- Women's Leadership Mentoring Program Alumni
- Supervisor Training Academy Alumni
- Contributor for Crime Fiction Top Author Alexandra Jamison

**REFERENCES:**

William P. McManus; Chief of Police  
San Antonio Police Department  
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Frank A. Colaprete, Ed.D., Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration Adjunct  
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