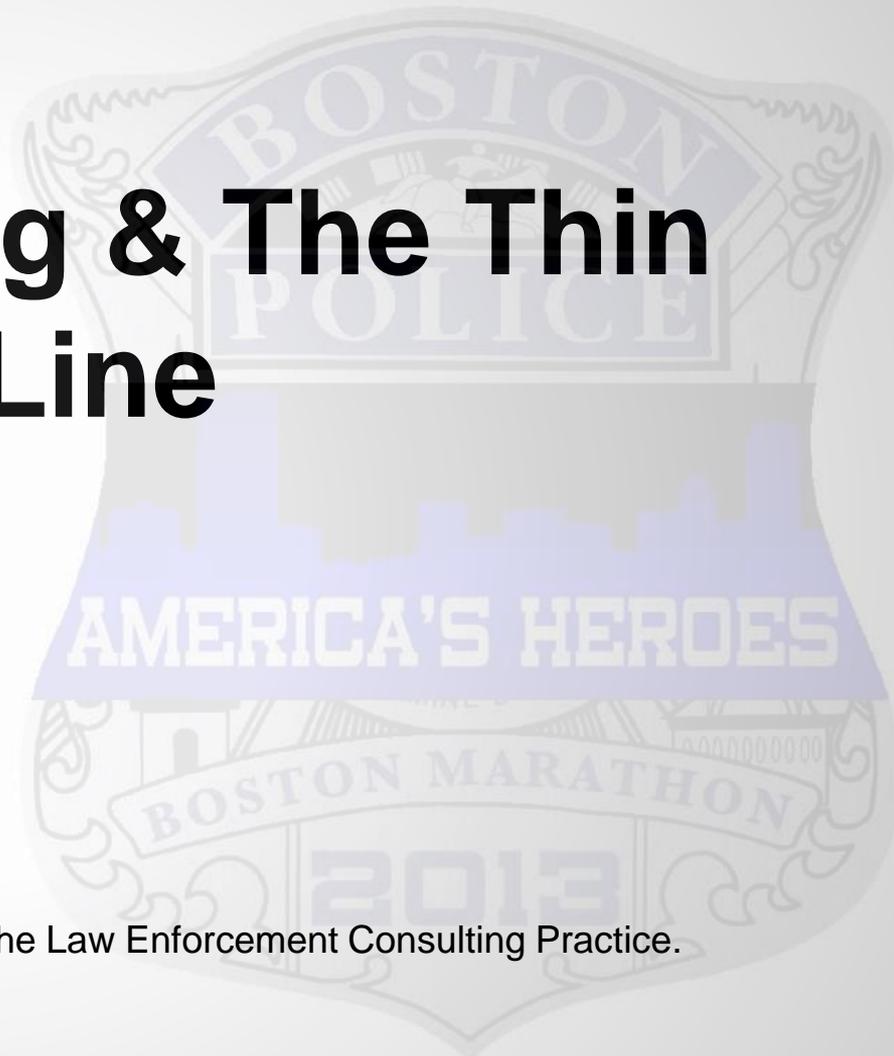


# Ethical Policing & The Thin Blue Line



Managing Director of Kroll , Boston Office Head, Leader of the Law Enforcement Consulting Practice.

What Are Your Department's Ethical Challenges?

Corruption issue- lying on reports, search warrants  
stealing money, guns, drugs, committing  
rape, robbery, drug dealing, kidnapping, lying about  
arrests, excessive force, planting evidence, shaking  
down night clubs, compromising investigations,  
stealing cars, time, ot, false injuries

**If You Lie You Die**

**It's Never The Screw Up It's The Cover  
Up**

# Active Bystander

An “active bystander” intervenes when he or she sees something happening or about to happen that is wrong. “

# Passive Bystander

“Passive Bystanders” fail to intervene for various reasons. They may be afraid they are interpreting the situation incorrectly, or they think it’s not their job to intervene, or they have a misplaced sense of loyalty to a colleague.

Is There a Thin Blue Line ?

Have You Ever Been Part of It.?

1.) a situation in which the officer did not know what the right course of action was, or

2.) a situation in which the course of action the officer considered right was difficult to do, or

3.) a situation in which the wrong course of action was very tempting (Braswell, McCarthy B.R., and McCarthy, B.J. 2002).



Leadership, professionalism, and ethics is considered so critical to the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) that it is the very first learning domain presented to new recruits in police academies. But learning is not a one-time event. Rather it is a continuous process of review and reinforcement. Therefore, ethics training should continue throughout an officer's career. This training should be both formal and presented in a structured format, as well as informally presented in settings such as briefings and team meetings. In addition to participating in the ethics training received by those at the officer rank, first line supervisors and middle management should also receive training in the investigation of ethical breaches.

But no amount of training is sufficient if department leadership fails to set an "ethical-leadership" example. Upper management needs to understand the influences they have on those in their command through the decisions they make. Decisions such as policy development, discipline, and promotions must inculcate a "just-culture" within the organization.

## New Orleans Police Department

**TRAINING GOALS** The resulting peer intervention solution revolves around five simple goals:

1. Help officers understand the career-saving benefits of intervention, and the huge risks (including the growing legal risks) of non-intervention.
2. Help officers identify the signs that an intervention is necessary.
3. Teach officers how to intervene effectively and safely.
4. Teach officers how and why to accept intervention respectfully.
5. Protect officers who intervene and those who accept intervention

# **Are We Training For This**

**Most of us will never get shot.**

**More cops will go to prison this year than will be shot.**

**More cops will commit suicide this year than will be shot.**

**All of us will be confronted in policing with significant ethical, emotional, and procedural dilemmas**

Process of developing a “moral career”

Passing through various stages of rationalization to more serious misdeeds in a graduated and systematic way

Once a person gets past the first moral crisis, it become less difficult to rationalize new and more unethical behaviors

**What Are You Doing Now?**

[http://archive.boston.com/bostonglobe/magazine/articles/2009/06/21/the\\_blue\\_wall\\_of\\_silence/](http://archive.boston.com/bostonglobe/magazine/articles/2009/06/21/the_blue_wall_of_silence/)