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One of the most incredible aspects of being a nurse, and one of the concepts that I teach my undergraduate nursing students, is that you can absolutely do anything you want with your career. After receiving my Master's Degree in Forensic Nursing, I evolved from an emergency department and psychiatric nurse into a forensic legal nurse consultant. It has been incredibly rewarding to have the opportunity to use my forensic nursing knowledge to evaluate criminal cases for attorneys, write expert reports utilizing evidence-based research, and testify in trial, if necessary, for the prosecution, defense, and United States Air Force. I have qualified as an expert in ten states and in England in topics including strangulation, sexual assault, and injury causation.

From the moment I started my nursing career 14 years ago, I knew I wanted to end up in education. In addition to being an adjunct professor, I have been privileged to present both regionally and nationally to attorneys and nurses, to help educate them about sexual assault and abuse cases, as well as forensic nurse examinations. I have also had the opportunity to be a part of performance improvement processes within forensic programs, including consulting with Adult Protective Services. My hope for the always growing field of forensic nursing is to see more standardization in forensic programs in order to allow the implementation of our standards and protocols, from the most unpopulated and rural areas to the most populated cities nationwide and worldwide. I look forward to the opportunity to work with others in a multidisciplinary process in order to expand the IAFN reach as far as it can go.