

National Liquor Law Enforcement Association
36th Annual Conference

2023

**"Making the Case"
for Alcohol Law
Enforcement**

OCT 4-6

NLLEA

NLLEA Agenda

Pre-Event Tuesday, Oct 3

6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Early registration and networking opportunity - Cottage Row Foyer & Courtney Terrace
Swag Exchange Social!**

The NLLEA is hosting a swag exchange social. Bring your agency patches, coins, hats, keychains, etc. to exchange and network during conference pre-registration.

Event Wednesday, Oct 4

7:30am - 8:45am

Registration and Breakfast - Cottage Row Foyer & Peacock Ballroom

9:00am - 9:30am

Welcome and Opening Ceremonies - Peacock Ballroom

The Honorable William R. "Bill" DeSteph, Virginia Senator, District 8

Travis G. Hill, CEO, Virginia ABC

Tom Kirby, Chief, Virginia ABC Bureau of Law Enforcement, NLLEA President

Israel Morrow, Assistant Dir. for Operations, NC DPS ALE Division, NLLEA Vice President

Opening Invocation

Presentation of Colors

Singing of the National Anthem- Heidi Jones

Fallen Officer Tribute

9:30am - 11:00am

Opening Plenary-Peacock Ballroom

Paul Butler, internationally renowned speaker, presenter, instructor, and entertainer.

Paul holds a bachelor's degree in communication with a concentration in Culture and Communication, as well as an associate degree in criminal justice.

He excels in the areas of motivation, leadership, customer service, and attitude empowerment. During his 27 years of law enforcement, he has been a public servant, training officer, sergeant, crisis negotiator, chief of police, and chief deputy. These opportunities have given him a unique perspective on a vast array of situations and circumstances that many people find themselves in every day. These experiences have helped him to develop the answers to questions and cures to problems most people are facing at work and in life on a continual basis.

NLLEA Agenda

**11:15am - 11:45am - Announcements
Exhibitors - Cottage Row Foyer
Break**

12:00pm - 1:30pm - Lunch Buffet-Peacock Ballroom

1:45pm - 3:45pm

General Session - Peacock Ballroom

Las Vegas Metro Police Department Route 91 Harvest Festival Debrief

Sgt. Brad Cupp, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Sgt. Cupp has been with LVMPD for 19 years. He is currently the supervisor assigned to the Technical Surveillance Squad (TASS) and is responsible for LVMPD's Electronic Surveillance and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Programs. Brad has a diverse investigative background in Financial Crimes, Eurasian Organized Crime, Human Trafficking, and Technical Investigations, and served as an entry-man and sniper on LVMPD's SWAT Team. Brad was a guest instructor at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) – Budapest, Hungary and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University.

Break 15 min. - Afternoon Snack

4:00pm - 5:00pm - Concurrent Workshops

Workshop 1: Operation Fair Play Peacock Salon A

A case study into the complex investigation involving embezzled ABC assets and the handling of rare, allocated bourbon. This case study delves into the illicit underground illegal market of liquor sales that is sweeping our nation and perhaps, is the new form of organized crime.

Ryan Blaney and Jason Helton, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control, Bureau of Law Enforcement

Workshop 2: Finding Solutions to Improve Alcohol Regulatory Efficiencies and Practices

Peacock Salon B (Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement RMS)

Maria Cardiellos, Executive Director, IJIS Institute, Todd Merlina, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Bureau of Licensing, Administrative and Divergent Licensee Affairs Division

Workshop 3: How does POLD (Place of Last Drink) Measure Up? - Peacock Salon C

Sgt. Melanie Gaiotti and Sgt. Michael Welch, Vermont Department of Liquor Control

NLLEA Agenda

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

President's Reception & Awards Ceremony

Dinner will be served at 6:45pm - Awards Ceremony 7:30pm

All are welcome to attend - business attire

Award Categories

John W. Britt Community Service

Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year

Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year

Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year

Meritorious Service

Outstanding Contribution to Liquor Law Enforcement

Past President Recognition

Event Thursday, Oct 5

7:30am - 8:45am

Registration and Breakfast - Peacock Ballroom

9:00am - 10:30am

General Session - Peacock Ballroom

Trademarks & Counterfeiting Investigations: How Detecting Counterfeits Can Assist Alcohol Law Enforcement

Trademarks & Counterfeiting Enforcement, State of North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

SSA Adella (Dee Dee) Tippet, SA Jimmy Butler, SA Taylor Jones

NLLEA Agenda

10:45am - 11:45am Concurrent Workshops

Workshop 1: mDL – A Digital ID for the 21st Century - Peacock Salon A

Mobile Driver License (mDL) is a driver license, or ID card that is provisioned to a mobile device and allows the holder to safely, and securely share selective license and person demographics electronically. In this session attendees will learn about what mDL is, and what it is not, the current state of mDLs in North America and abroad, and how relying parties can accept and trust mDL just as they do with physical credentials today.

Mindy Stephens, AAMVA and Tom Lockwood, Secure Technology Alliance, Ashley Hall, Virginia Mobile ID & Ryan Williams, Utah Driver License Division

Workshop 2: Alcohol Delivery Compliance Investigations - Peacock Salon B

Christopher Temple, Special Investigator, Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, Tom Dixon, Enforcement Captain Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, and Marc Haalman, Special Agent in Charge, Virginia ABC Bureau of Law Enforcement

Workshop 3: Bytes of Proof: Crafting a Digital Forensics Unit for Enforcing Alcoholic Beverage Laws Peacock Salon C

Officer Brant Mendenhall, Indiana State Excise Police

Nearly 90% of criminal cases throughout the United States involve digital devices. Digital devices can be the conduit used to commit a crime or hold evidence of a crime. Due to an influx of seized digital devices, the Indiana State Excise Police created its own in-house digital forensics unit. The digital forensics unit has the capability to acquire and analyze cell phones, mobile devices, computers, DVR surveillance systems, and POS systems. Utilizing an in-house digital forensics unit has exponentially increased the agency's professionalism by being an educational source, providing subject matter expertise, and improving efficiency.

12:00pm-1:15pm Lunch Buffet - Peacock Ballroom

1:30pm-2:45pm

General Session - Peacock Ballroom

Critical Incident Response for Law Enforcement, W. Travis Tennill, Assistant Director of Enforcement, Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control

Tennill published 'The Weight of the Badge' in November of 2022 to help agencies mitigate harms that come from critical incidents. Critical incidents are mismanaged in most cases which breeds agency betrayal and contempt. This leads to resignations, suicides and/or deviant behavior that is often viewed as disciplinary issues that result in the officer quitting the agency or the agency quitting the officer. We must begin to create a new culture of understanding how to effectively deal with the innate harm that comes from being a law enforcement officer.

NLLEA Agenda

Break 15 min. - Afternoon Snack Break/Exhibitors

3:00-5:00pm NLLEA Business Meeting:

Peacock Ballroom

Exhibitor Presentations & Raffle – *all are welcome*

State Exchange – *members only*

NLLEA Business Items – *members only*

Sgt.-at-Arms Election – *members only*

Swearing in of Board – *members only*

Event Friday, Oct 6

7:30am - 8:45am

Breakfast - Peacock Ballroom

9:00am - 10:00am

General Session - Peacock Ballroom

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau U.S. Department of the Treasury-James Ebert, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Permitting and Taxation Application Services Division

As Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Permitting and Taxation, James Ebert oversees the Application Services Division, leveraging his 36 years of field experience to expand and sharpen TTB's permit application program and ensure a level playing field while maintaining continued focus upon the timely processing of permits. Join us for this general session to gain a better understanding of TTB's permitting division as it relates to the alcohol industry and establish a point of contact to interact directly with TTB's permitting division.

10:15am - 11:45am Alcohol Law Enforcement Panel

Alcohol Law Enforcement Panel - Peacock Ballroom

NLLEA Executive Board and Past Presidents-facilitated Q&A of alcohol law enforcement hot topics Our expert panelists will provide valuable insights and practical advice to help alcohol law enforcement agencies navigate the complex landscape of alcohol regulation and enforcement.

Closing Invocation



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association 36th Annual Conference *Making the "Case" for Alcohol Law Enforcement* Conference Agenda

Conference Speakers

Paul Butler is an internationally renowned speaker, presenter, instructor, and entertainer.



He holds a bachelor's degree in communication with a concentration in Culture and Communication, as well as an associate degree in criminal justice. He excels in the areas of motivation, leadership, customer service, and attitude empowerment. During his 27 years of law enforcement, he has been a public servant, training officer, sergeant, crisis negotiator, chief of police, and chief deputy. These opportunities have given him a unique perspective on a vast array of situations and circumstances that many people find themselves in every day.

These experiences have helped him to develop the answers to questions and cures to problems most people are facing at work and in life on a continual basis.

Paul became the chief of police of the Aynor Police Department at 22 years of age, making him the youngest police chief in the history of South Carolina. Born and raised on a small farm, his parents served as examples of hard work, common sense, personal responsibility, and respect for self and others. This has played heavily in his success in life and within each organization in which he has served. He believes the power of a positive attitude can take you to the top or help you simply find happiness and pride in the current role you fill. A healthy attitude is often the key to both personal and professional success – this has certainly been the key to Paul's success.

As Chief Deputy of the Horry County Sheriff's Office, he was selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 2005 for the 220th Session. This 10-week, executive level course was host to 250 attendees from all 50 states and 29 countries around the world. Paul was selected by his class to be their graduation day speaker alongside then-FBI Director Robert Mueller. He continues to serve as the official Master of Ceremonies for the FBI National Academy Associates during their annual training conferences, which are held throughout North America.

To increase his outreach, Paul Butler Presentations was formed, and he has been traveling the globe speaking, instructing, and entertaining for all types of groups, organizations, and events. He is consistently one of the highest-rated presenters on the market today and comes with strong references and a list of past and future exciting events on his website: www.Paul-Butler.com.

Sergeant Brad Cupp, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department



Brad has been with LVMPD for 19 years. He is currently the supervisor assigned to the Technical Surveillance Squad (TASS) and is responsible for LVMPD's Electronic Surveillance and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Programs. Brad has a diverse investigative background in Financial Crimes, Eurasian Organized Crime, Human Trafficking, and Technical Investigations, and served as an entry-man and sniper on LVMPD's SWAT Team. Brad was a guest instructor at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) – Budapest, Hungary and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University.

Maria Cardiello, Executive Director, IJIS Institute



Maria Cardiello is a nationally recognized Justice and Public Safety executive with over forty years' experience leading numerous successful programs nationally and internationally. She previously served as Chief of Staff of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (sponsored by DOJ, DHS, FBI, ODNI and White House) overseeing the solution delivery to seventy-eight fusion centers nationwide. She was previously Chief Information Officer for NJ's Department of Law and Public Safety within the Office of the AG.



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association 36th Annual Conference

Making the “Case” for Alcohol Law Enforcement

Conference Agenda

Todd Merlina, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Chief of Nuisance Bars/NLLEA Past President



Todd has been involved in the oversight of the alcohol industry for over 36 years. His career has included undercover investigations and prosecution throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as both an officer and a supervisor. In his current position as Chief for the Pa. Liquor Control Board Nuisance Bar Program Todd works with District Attorney’s, Law Enforcement and Community groups to hold Liquor Licensees accountable for their actions, and the actions of their staff and patrons. In his career Todd was involved with developing The Pa. State police Bureau of Liquor Enforcements alcohol education program “CHOICES”, assisted in adapting the nationally recognized program “Cops in Shops” to Pennsylvania, developed and manage the Age Compliance Program, initiated and coordinated investigative procedures for illegal gambling, Small Games of Chance and alcohol manufacturers, and managed the PLCB’s Reducing Underage and Dangerous Drinking Grants to Law Enforcement, Universities and Community Groups. Throughout his career Todd has travel the country presenting on “Creating

a Greater Awareness of Alcohol Enforcement”. Todd believes that a better understanding of the history of the alcohol industry, the laws and the authority and resources available can help create safer communities.

Ryan Blaney, Special Agent, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control, Bureau of Law Enforcement



Ryan E. Blaney currently serves as the acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Richmond/ Fredericksburg Enforcement Office with the Virginia ABC’s Bureau of Law Enforcement. SA Blaney has served in law enforcement for 6 years. He began his career with the City of Richmond Police Department before joining the Virginia ABC in 2019. While with the City of Richmond, he operated in part with the Office of the Attorney General for Central VA Gang Awareness and participated in specialized units tasked with deterring violent crimes and interdiction. During his career at ABC, he partook in the Bureau’s Credit Card Fraud Task Force, serves as a General Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Underage Buyer Program

Coordinator and has successfully investigated high-profile cases. SA Blaney’s academic accomplishments include a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement Technologies from the State University of New York at Farmingdale and is presently completing his Master of Science in Public Administration from Liberty University.

Jason William Helton, Special Agent, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control, Bureau of Law Enforcement



Jason W. Helton is a Special Agent for the VA ABC’s Bureau of Law Enforcement serving in the Richmond Region. He is the Senior Agent in the Region having 17 years in law enforcement. SA Helton is originally from the Hampton Roads area of Virginia growing up in Williamsburg VA. SA Helton was an active member in the Boy Scouts growing up and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. SA Helton graduated from Jamestown High School and went on to attend Christopher Newport University to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a minor in economics. SA Helton initially began working for William and Mary Police Department in 2006 as a part time Community Service Officer until he got hired at VCU Police Department as a police officer in 2007. While at VCUPD he served as a FTO training over 10+ officers and then later as an evening shift supervisor. He left for VA ABC in 2014 after seven years with VCUPD. He has served VA ABC’s BLE as an FTO having trained 9 Agents, he

serves as the Region’s Surveillance Technician, and as a general instructor for numerous different topics for the bureau and training new Field trainers.



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association 36th Annual Conference *Making the "Case" for Alcohol Law Enforcement* Conference Agenda

Melanie Gaiotti, Sergeant, Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery



Melanie Gaiotti is a Sergeant with the Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery. She has an associate degree in criminal justice and a bachelor's degree in psychology. Melanie has served in the enforcement and education divisions and is currently assigned as a Field Sergeant in the Enforcement Division. Melanie has presented all over the US and Japan and Canada.

Michael Welch, Sergeant, Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery



Michael Welch is a 20-year Law Enforcement Officer and Sergeant with the Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Norwich University and previously served as Captain and Chief Deputy of the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Vermont. Michael has, for over 8 years, served the Department of Liquor and Lottery as an Investigator and more recently as a field Sergeant.

Adella (Dee Dee) Tippett, Supervisory Special Agent, Trademark and Counterfeit Enforcement Division, North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

I have over 45 years of law enforcement experience. I began my career in August 1977 at the Onslow County Sheriff's Department. I graduated top of my BLET class and was recognized for academic excellence. I served as a Deputy Sheriff for almost 13 years before leaving to begin a career at the Jacksonville Police Department (JPD). In 1992 I was successful in competing in the promotional process for Sgt. and attained fifth place on the promotional list. In 1993 I was the only female assigned to the newly formed Street Crimes Unit. The units' focus was to suppress criminal activity in high crime areas within the city of Jacksonville. In 1994 I was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as supervisor to the same unit. In 1995 I successfully competed in the promotional examination process for the rank of Commander (Captain). My position on the promotional list was #1. In May of 1996 I was formally promoted to Commander (Captain) and assigned to the uniformed patrol division. I was only the second female in the history of the Department to attain the rank of Commander (Captain). In 1998 I became a single mother of three young children and moved to the triangle area where I would have the support of extended family, and an understanding Chief (Zebulon Police Chief Donna Waters). Chief Waters was the first female to attain the rank of Commander (Captain) at JPD. Soon after joining Zebulon PD, I was assigned as the Juvenile Detective/School Resource Officer. Chief Waters left Zebulon in late 1999 and became Chief at Raleigh Durham International Airport (RDU). Chief Waters recruited me to RDU as a Detective. RDU is one of only three airports in the nation that is a municipal government. A short time later, I was promoted to Detective Sergeant and assigned as supervisor of the Detective Unit until I retired in 2009 and began my new career on November 30, 2009, with the Secretary of State's Office, where I currently serve as a Supervisory Special Agent over the Trademark and Counterfeit Enforcement Division.



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association 36th Annual Conference ***Making the “Case” for Alcohol Law Enforcement*** ***Conference Agenda***

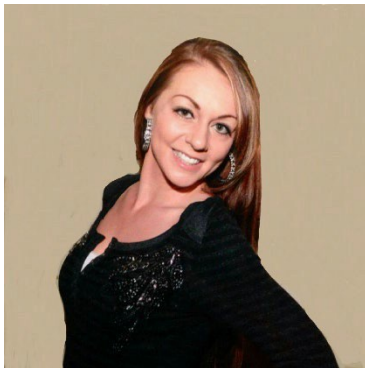
Jimmy Butler, Special Agent, Trademark and Counterfeit Enforcement Division, North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

SA Jimmy Butler has over 32 years of law enforcement experience. Twenty-one of those 32 years, SA Butler served as an agent in the field of Alcohol Beverage Control Law Enforcement. He is a graduate of Saint Augustine’s University in Raleigh, NC with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. SA Butler is also a graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program (AOMP) through North Carolina State University. SA Butler was born and raised in Clinton, NC (Sampson County) on a rural family-owned tobacco farm that led him to pursue a career in law enforcement after college. Prior to joining the Secretary of State’s Trademark and Counterfeiting Enforcement Division, SA Butler worked for the Durham County NC Sheriff’s Office where he attained the rank of Captain. SA Butler led the Durham County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division (CID). The CID division consisted of the narcotics, intelligence, forensics, sex offender, domestic violence, strike team, warrant unit, and the FBI, DEA, and H.S.I TFO sections. During his time with DCSO, SA Butler was instrumental in the creation of the Sheriff’s Targeted Enforcement Program (STEP). The STEP program consolidated law enforcement efforts between local, state, and federal partners to target the main individuals or groups within the city and/or county responsible for much of the harm affecting the community.

Taylor Jones, Special Agent, Trademark and Counterfeit Enforcement Division, North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

SA Taylor Jones graduated from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Emergency and Disaster Management. SA Jones has over 10 years of law enforcement experience. He began his career as a Special Agent with North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE). He left ALE to begin his career as a Special Agent with the North Carolina Secretary of State Trademark Enforcement Division. SA Jones also holds the distinction of being a sworn Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Task Force Officer assigned to HSI’s Charlotte, NC office where he has participated in numerous Federal Trademark and Counterfeit Enforcement cases, resulting in the arrest and prosecution of the offenders, and the seizure of millions of dollars in counterfeit merchandise.

Mindy Stephens, AAMVA, Identity Management (IDM)



Mindy Stephens, Manager of Identity Management at AAMVA has 17 years of industry experience; nearly nine of those years have been spent at AAMVA. Mindy is a vital member of the Identity Management (IDM) team offering subject matter expertise and supporting the department’s work portfolio to include Mobile Driver License (mDL), physical credentials, identity proofing and vetting standards and biometrics. Prior to her role in Identity Management, Mindy worked as a Lead Business Analyst in AAMVA’s Driver Systems department where she supported several different driver and verification systems. Before her time at AAMVA, Mindy worked for the Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS) Driver License Division (DLD) for nearly 9 years. During her time with Utah, Mindy held several different positions, however most of her time was dedicated to the DLD’s system modernization. As a part of the modernization efforts, Mindy organized and led efforts for training and testing across the span of the project, covering both headquarters and field office operations.



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association 36th Annual Conference *Making the “Case” for Alcohol Law Enforcement* **Conference Agenda**

Tom Lockwood, Secure Technology Alliance Board Member, Member of the Executive Committee,



Chairman of the Identity & Access Management Forum, and coordinator for trusted mobile identities. Tom is active in promotion and application of trusted computing to create value, solve challenges, and promote quality of life and service. Tom’s executive leadership and design-build experiences span public and private sectors including public safety, security, defense, transportation, chemical, pharmaceutical, and food sectors. He is a former member of U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) senior leadership team and served three of its secretaries in key leadership roles as well as the White House Office of Cybersecurity Coordination on national cyber strategies securing online transactions. He served as the DHS director for the National Capital Region; the Homeland Security Advisor and Deputy Director of Homeland Security for the State of Maryland; and the Executive Deputy

Commissioner for Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the State of New York.

He is a member of the Preparedness Leadership Council, Advisory Board of DomPrep Magazine; a Brookings Legis Fellow; a graduate of the Harvard Business School and Class Chair; and Past-President of the Navy’s Association of Scientists and Engineers.

Ryan Williams, Utah Department of Public Safety, Driver License Division



Ryan Williams has been with the State of Utah Driver License Division since 2011. He has worked as a licensing examiner, CDL Examiner, Hearing officer, CDL Coordinator, CDL Manager, Medical Manager, and is currently the Quality Assurance and IT Program Manager for the division.

Ryan sits on the AAMVA Driver Standing Committee as the Identity Management Representative. He serves as the Chair of the AAMVA Card Design Standard Subcommittee. He is the Vice Chair of the Joint mDL working group.

Ashley Hall, Virginia Mobile ID Program



Ashley Hall is the project lead for Virginia’s Mobile Id program. Ms. Hall is also a member of the AAMVA working group for the Mobile Driver’s License. Ms. Hall has been a Project Manager with the Department of Motor Vehicles for the previous fifteen years.



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Tom Dixon, Captain, Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board



Captain Tom Dixon holds a bachelor’s degree in law and justice from Central Washington University. He started in public service at the Washington State Department of Revenue in 1988 moved over to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (Liquor Control Board) in 1990. He served as a Liquor Enforcement Officer for eight years, working directly with licensees, law enforcement, universities, tribes and community leaders in an assigned geographic area. In 1998 he was promoted to Lieutenant and continued working shoulder to shoulder with his Enforcement Officers in the field. He was promoted to Captain of the Northwest Washington Region in 2006 and has held that position until today.

Marc Haalman, Special Agent in Charge, Virginia ABC Bureau of Law Enforcement



Marc Haalman has been with the Virginia ABC Bureau of Law Enforcement since 2004 where he began his career in law enforcement. He currently serves the Bureau of Law Enforcement as the Special Agent in Charge of Compliance overseeing the units work with manufacturers, wholesalers, importers and direct to consumer shippers in the alcoholic beverage industry. He previously was a Senior Special Agent with the Compliance Unit in the Richmond metro area from 2011 until 2015. Prior to that, was a Special Agent in the Richmond region for 7 years. SAC Haalman was the Accreditation manager for the Bureau of Law Enforcement in 2015 when the Bureau received its initial state accreditation award from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). SAC Haalman serves on several internal committees at the VA ABC as well as Chair of the NLEEA Professional Development Committee.

SAC Haalman’s academic accomplishments include an associate degree in the administration of criminal justice from the Community College of Allegheny County, and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown. He is also a graduate of the University of Richmond’s Professional Executive Leadership program as well as a recipient of the FBI LEEDA Trilogy award.

Special Investigator Chris Temple, Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Investigation and Enforcement Division



Special Investigator Chris Temple received his BS and MS from Northeastern University and his MBA from University of Massachusetts Amherst and has been with the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Investigation and Enforcement Division since 2012. Currently, he directs three Division Units that address the Unlawful Interstate and International Shipment of alcoholic beverages into the Commonwealth, Direct to Consumer enforcement operations, as well as the Retail Delivery Unit that addresses unlawful sale and delivery of alcoholic beverages to underage students. During his career he has been responsible for directing several Industry level and Tied-House investigations, as well as numerous Illegal Ownership investigations that he guided through successful prosecution. Chris also serves as an Enforcement Division Training Officer in charge of field training and as the Division’s liaison with municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.



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Brant Mendenhall, Senior Officer, Indiana State Excise Police, Digital Forensics Unit



Brant Mendenhall has more than 15 years of law enforcement experience, having served the last eleven with the Indiana State Excise Police, a division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. Currently, Brant serves as a Digital Forensic Investigator within the Digital Forensics Unit, which he played an integral part in creating. Additionally, Brant serves his agency as a firearm and STOPS instructor. With the Indiana State Excise Police, Brant has received district officer of the year twice, public information of the year once, and a myriad of other commendations. Brant is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of the Columbians. Prior to working on his doctoral degree Brant received his master’s degree in digital Forensics and bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He also maintains regular memberships with the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), the Indiana State Excise Police Officers Association, and the FOP.

W. Travis Tennill, Assistant Director of Enforcement, Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control



I am a thirty-three-year law enforcement veteran. I retired from the Kentucky State Police after serving in a variety of roles including trooper, detective, special response team, governor’s security officer and adjunct academy instructor. I then taught basic and in-service training at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training and created the Post Critical Incident Seminar. I now serve as the Assistant Director of Enforcement for Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control. I published ‘The Weight of the Badge’ in November of 2022 to help agencies mitigate harm that comes from critical incidents.

James Ebert, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Permitting and Taxation, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau



As Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Permitting and Taxation, James Ebert oversees the Application Services Division, leveraging his 36 years of field experience to expand and sharpen TTB’s permit application program and ensure a level playing field while maintaining continued focus upon the timely processing of permits.

A federal employee since 1986, Mr. Ebert has contributed to successful Treasury Department efforts throughout his career. Mr. Ebert joined the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in 1987 and then migrated to TTB in 2007. In a detail with the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Mr. Ebert managed the operations of the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, the main collection point of all IRS tax payments as well as Pay.Gov. As a National Response Team leader from the TTB program’s launch in 2012, Mr. Ebert has organized and participated in ninety separate investigations of tax fraud and

evasion in the alcohol and tobacco manufacturing and export industries that have identified over \$264,000,000 in tax liability. In 2017, Mr. Ebert became the Assistant Director of the Office of Special Operations, a new unit created for investigating violations of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act’s trade practice provisions. In less than a year under Mr. Ebert’s leadership, the office had opened fifty-four active investigations and closed twenty-three cases with adverse action recommended, including a case with a \$5,000,000 settlement – the largest FAA-related settlement in TTB history. In his last position before joining the Office of Permitting and Taxation in April 2022, Mr. Ebert served as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Administrator, where he established the Cross Directorate Workforce Engagement Program to facilitate investigations involving application and tax issues.



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NLLEA Executive Board

Tom Kirby, President
 Israel Morrow, Vice President
 Jim Diana, Secretary/Treasurer
 Marc Haalman, Sergeant-at-Arms
 Todd Merlina, Immediate Past President
 Carrie Christofes, Executive Director

NLLEA Professional Development Committee

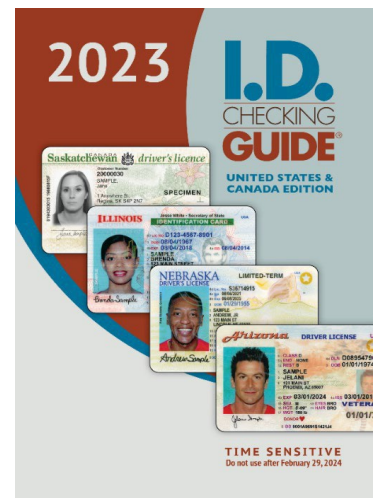
Marc Haalman, Committee Chair, VA ABC Bureau of Law Enforcement
 Daniel Beckey, PA State Police, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement
 Xavier Casares, TX Alcoholic Beverage Commission
 Steven Johnson, AK Alcohol and Marijuana Control
 Michael Loiseau, DE Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement
 Chris Temple MA Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
 Riley Nelson, MS Alcoholic Beverage Control
 Melanie Perry, CA Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
 Matthew Stemple, NC Alcohol Law Enforcement Division
 Kellette Mayberry, OH Investigative Unit
 Melania Gaiotti, VT Department of Liquor Control
 David Leslie, SC Law Enforcement Division
 Deidra Helms, NC Mecklenburg County ABC Law Enforcement

Sponsors & Exhibitors

NLLEA thanks our sponsors and exhibitors for their support of the conference!



NABCA





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Thank you for taking the time to join us for the 36th Annual NLLEA Conference. We hope you found the content valuable to your profession and most of all we hope you made some new connections and friends during your stay. See you next year in North Carolina!