

2025
NATIONAL
SUMMIT
SPEAKERS

HILTON WASHINGTON, DC
NATIONAL MALL THE WHARF

DECEMBER 2-3, 2025

OPENING & CLOSING REMARKS



Jay Kennedy,
Head of Policy
and Engagement
for Philip Morris
International (PMI)

Dr. Jay Kennedy is the Head of Policy and Engagement, Illicit Trade Prevention – US for Philip Morris International (PMI), where he leads the United to Safeguard America from Illegal Trade (USA-IT) coalition, a public-private sector initiative to raise awareness on the harms of illegal trade. Jay has over a decade of experience in the brand protection/intellectual property protection industry and is globally recognized as a subject matter expert on anti-counterfeiting. He has written extensively on counterfeiting and other crimes against business, publishing numerous empirical articles and white papers, and having served as a content contributor for Forbes.com. Dr. Kennedy is a co-author of the book “White Collar Crime: An Opportunity Perspective”, one of the leading white-collar crime textbooks. His work has been cited in Senate hearings on counterfeiting and organized retail crime, and he has testified before Congress on consumer fraud during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to his current role with PMI, Jay was Head of Anti-Counterfeiting External Relations for Amazon and a professor at Michigan State University, where he served as Assistant Director, Research at the Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection.

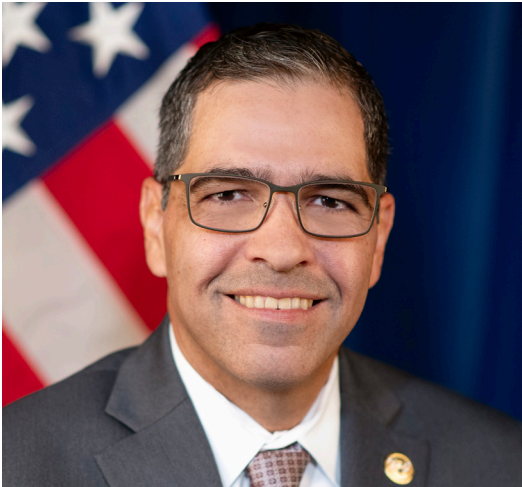
MASTER OF CEREMONIES (MOC)



Alys Erichs,
Spokesperson
for USA-IT

Alys D. Erichs is a Principal with GrindStone Strategic Consulting and serves as the national spokesperson for USA-IT. Erichs retired as the Acting Executive Associate Director for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). As the largest investigative component within the Department of Homeland Security, HSI’s investigative and enforcement initiatives and operations target cross-border criminal organizations that exploit America’s legitimate trade, travel, financial and immigration systems for their illicit purposes. HSI is comprised of more than 10,300 positions, which includes more than 7,100 special agents who are assigned to 30 Special Agent in Charge (SAC) offices in over 210 cities throughout the United States, and 80 overseas locations in 53 countries. Prior to this assignment, Erichs served as the Deputy Executive Associate Director for HSI.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ivan Arvelo,
Director of the National
Intellectual Property Rights
Coordination Center

Ivan J. Arvelo is currently the Assistant Director of the HSI Global Trade Division, and the Director of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center). As the IPR Center Director, he manages the federal government's response to combat global intellectual property theft, protect national security, and ensure public health and safety. As a decorated federal law enforcement agent and civil servant, Mr. Arvelo has served and protected communities around the world for more than 24 years. He is a senior executive service member, spearheading transformational investigative efforts within HSI. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Arvelo served as the Special Agent in Charge of the HSI New York Field Office. In this executive-level position, Mr. Arvelo had oversight of over 700 special agents, intelligence analysts, task force officers, and administrative professionals, assigned to the offices in New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, John F. Kennedy International Airport, and LaGuardia Airport.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: GLOBAL CRIME, NATIONAL IMPACT, LOCAL RESPONSES PANEL



Stacie Rumenap
(MODERATOR),
Founder and CEO of
Stop Child Predators (SCP)

As a seasoned political operative, Stacie Rumenap specializes in campaign management, coalition building and strategic alliances, and grassroots mobilization. She has led 18 successful ballot initiatives in 11 states and worked as a congressional aide on Capitol Hill. Stacie also spearheaded the passage of Jessica's Law – a measure that mandates tougher penalties for adults who exploit children under the age of 13 – in 46 states and at the federal level. She was instrumental in passing a version of this law as a model bill in 2006 through the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), where she continues to be an active member. More recently, within ALEC's Women's Caucus, Stacie was part of a discussion where she supported the rights of teens and families to use social media in contrast to the onslaught of legislative bans currently underway in most states.



Derek Benner,
CEO of Our Rescue

Derek is the CEO of Our Rescue, bringing over 30 years of experience in federal law enforcement, including a distinguished career with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

While at HSI, Derek led an organization of more than 10,000 law enforcement personnel and spearheaded the creation of the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking, the first unified, inter-component coordination center for countering human trafficking. Derek also served as Managing Director, Federal Law Enforcement and Commercial at Thomson Reuters Special Service, LLC



Tasha Hippolyte,
Acting Deputy Assistant
Director of DHS Center for
Countering Human Trafficking

Tasha Reid Hippolyte is the Acting Deputy Assistant Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), led by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). With 14 participating component agencies and offices, the CCHT is a DHS-wide effort to advance counter human trafficking law enforcement operations, protect victims, and enhance prevention efforts by aligning DHS's capabilities and expertise.

Prior to this assignment, Ms. Hippolyte joined HSI as the Deputy Assistant Director for the Office of Administrative Operations. In this position, she managed critical functions that support the efficient use of HSI resources related to budget, human resources, fleet/facilities, and acquisitions for over 10,000 employees throughout the United States and across 56 countries worldwide.

CLOSING THE GAP: PUBLIC SECTOR ROLES AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE PANEL



Raul Aguilar,
Senior Director of
Law Enforcement
Partnerships at Auror

Raul O. Aguilar is the Senior Director of Law Enforcement Partnerships at Auror, where he leads initiatives that bridge retailers and law enforcement to drive better, safer outcomes through Auror's Retail Crime Intelligence platform. Raul brings over 25 years of public service as a federal law enforcement leader, with a distinguished record in criminal investigations, international operations, and strategic leadership.

Before joining Auror in January 2024, Raul served as the Deputy Assistant Director for the Countering Transnational Organized Crime, Financial and Fraud Division at Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In this senior executive role, he oversaw HSI's strategic planning, national policy implementation, and operational initiatives targeting transnational criminal organizations involved in money laundering, financial fraud, labor exploitation, and organized retail crime.



Jennie Huerta,
Acting Deputy Assistant
Director of Cross-Border
Financial Crime Center

Jennifer Huerta is the acting deputy assistant director (DAD) of the Cross-Border Financial Crimes Center (CBFCC) for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Washington, D.C. As the DAD for CBFCC, Ms. Huerta oversees various programmatic areas targeting transnational criminal organizations involved in money laundering, bulk cash smuggling, document and benefit fraud, labor exploitation, and other crimes enforced by HSI. Additionally, this division maintains the investigative resources related to asset forfeiture, seized property, and equitable sharing.

Acting DAD Huerta holds a Business degree in Management from the University of Texas from 2001.



Justin Smith,
Incoming Executive
Director of the National
Sheriff's Association

Justin Smith is the incoming Executive Director for the National Sheriffs' Association. Smith is a retired three-term sheriff from Larimer County, Colorado, who brings 36 years of prior public safety experience to the position. Thirty-two of those years were with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office. Following his time as sheriff, Smith founded Cameron Peak Solutions, a successful public safety consulting firm that specialized in election safety initiatives. Smith earned a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice from Wichita State University as well as a master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado's Graduate School of Public Affairs. Smith served intermittently as an adjunct professor in criminal justice at Colorado State University.

CLOSING THE GAP: PUBLIC SECTOR ROLES AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE PANEL



Aliana Van Horn,
Chief of Intellectual Property
Enforcement at U.S. Customs
and Border Protection

Alaina van Horn currently serves as the Chief of the Intellectual Property Enforcement (IPE) Branch where she is responsible for administering CBP's IP border enforcement efforts in interdicting

counterfeit and infringing goods before they enter the U.S. stream of commerce. Immediately prior to this position she was detailed to the Office of the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC) in the Executive Office of the President and served as a Senior Attorney-Advisor in the Intellectual Property Rights Branch of CBP's Office of Trade for over a decade. Ms. van Horn has conducted capacity building trainings on border enforcement of intellectual property rights to over fifty foreign governments, international organizations, and domestic audiences in both the public and private sectors, and holds the leadership position of Chair of the FTZ Experts Group at the OECD Working Party on Countering Illicit Trade.

Ms. van Horn received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from New York University, a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, a Masters of Arts (M.A.) degree from Catholic's Graduate School of Philosophy, and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from The George Washington University Law School.



Rich Wilson,
Division Chief of Global Trade at
Homeland Security Investigations

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON ILLEGAL TRADE FIRESIDE CHAT



Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown,
Senior Fellow in
Foreign Policy at the
Brookings Institution

Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown is a senior fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution. She is also the director of Brookings' Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors and co-director of the Africa Security Initiative at Brookings. She directs The Fentanyl Crisis in North America and the Global Reach of Synthetic Opioids and is the host of the podcast show The Killings Drugs. Previously, she was also the co-director of the Opioid Crisis in America: Domestic and International Dimensions. Dr. Felbab-Brown is an expert on international and internal conflicts, insurgency, terrorism, urban violence, and illicit economies. Her fieldwork has covered Afghanistan, South Asia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Andean region, Mexico, Iraq, Somalia and the Horn of Africa, Nigeria, and other African regions.

In 2020 and 2021, Dr. Felbab-Brown served as a senior advisor to the congressionally-mandated USIP Afghanistan Study Group.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Michael Rousek (Moderator)
Vice President | Customs and Trade Facilitation | United States Council
for International Business (USCIB)

LEGISLATIVE PATHWAYS TOWARDS IP SECURITY PANEL



Jennifer Hanks,
Chief Advocate and
Spokesperson for AAFA on
Intellectual Property (IP)

As the chief advocate and spokesperson for AAFA on intellectual property (IP) and brand protection issues, Jennifer Scoggins Hanks serves as the staff liaison to AAFA's Brand Protection Council. She connects with government officials; members of Congress; and representatives of global e-commerce, social, and digital platforms to shape IP policy, protect U.S. branded products, and advance AAFA member online and offline priorities.

Jennifer's unique background of public policy, advocacy, coalition management, and strategic communications experience was earned serving across a series of bicoastal public and private sector positions, including with a Washington D.C. public affairs firm, CNN Worldwide, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Her career began working in the California State Legislature and the California Governor's Office.

LEGISLATIVE PATHWAYS TOWARDS IP SECURITY PANEL



Travis Johnson,
Vice President of Legislative
Affairs at the International
AntiCounterfeiting Coalition

Travis Johnson serves as Vice President for Legislative Affairs for the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition (IACC) in Washington DC, overseeing all aspects of the organization's government relations and policy development functions, and serves as the IACC's primary lobbyist in Washington. During his tenure at the IACC, he has drafted and successfully advocated for the adoption of criminal trademark counterfeiting legislation in eight states, contributed to the enactment of a variety of enhancements to federal statutes and regulations related to IP protection and enforcement, and testified before Congress as an expert witness on issues related to the U.S. government's legal framework for protecting intellectual property rights at the border, numerous state legislatures, and in the state courts of New York.



Kari Kammel,
Director of the Center
for Anti-Counterfeiting
and Product Protection

Kari Kammel is the Director of the A-CAPP Center, overseeing the center's research, education, outreach, and the Industry Advisory Board and four brand protection councils. She maintains an active research agenda on legal issues pertaining to trademark counterfeiting in the U.S. and internationally, including primary and secondary liability issues, as well as overlapping issues of criminal law, First Amendment, public international law, and others. She has testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee twice based on her research. Prior to coming to the center, she worked in International Studies and Programs at MSU; she was Deputy Chief of Party at DePaul College of Law's Iraq office for the International Human Rights Law Institute, where she managed rule of law programs; and Deputy Executive Director in the Chicago office.



Sydney Redden,
Director of IP Enforcement
at the U.S. Chamber of
Commerce

Sydney Redden is director of IP enforcement at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC). Redden leads the U.S. Chamber's brand protection portfolio, which involves global advocacy for strong intellectual property protections and leadership of public-private partnerships to combat illicit trade activities like counterfeiting and piracy. Additionally, she leads the #ShopSmart campaign, a public education effort that arms consumers with common sense tips for safe shopping, including how to avoid buying counterfeit goods.

Before joining the Chamber, Redden worked on Capitol Hill, first for her home state of Kansas in the office of Senator Jerry Moran and subsequently as a Senate Appropriations staffer.

Redden, a graduate of the University of Kansas, is pursuing a Master of Public Policy at George Mason University. She lives in Arlington, Virginia, with her husband.



Jennifer Simmons,
Associate Senior Director
of International Trademark
Association

As Associate Senior Director of Government Relations, Ms. Simmons is INTA's liaison with federal government officials and contributes to the development of INTA's positions on national and global intellectual property (IP) issues. Prior to joining INTA in 2019, Ms. Simmons served as Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, at the United States Trade Representative (USTR). She was the lead IP attorney for the U.S.- Mexico-Canada Agreement and engaged with Congress and industry stakeholders. Ms. Simmons also served as Pro Bono Coordinator in the Office of the Under Secretary and Director, and as Associate Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

NOTES



United to Safeguard America from Illegal Trade (USA-IT) is a public-and-private-sector partnership protecting Americans' security and prosperity from black market criminals.