AGENDA

NDAA's 2026 Retail Crime Conference

From Checkout to Courtroom: Winning the Fight Against Retail Crime
The Marker Union Square, San Francisco, CA
Attendees must wear their name tags to all events and turn off cell phones during all sessions.

Monday, October 19, 2026
Building the Right Connections

5:30 – 7:00 PM	**Welcome Reception | Gap Inc. Headquarters**

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Understanding the Network

7:45 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Check-in & Registration
9:00 – 9:05 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks **Brooke Jenkins** District Attorney San Francisco, CA
9:05 – 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks **Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.** Executive Director National District Attorneys Association
9:15 – 10:15 AM	**What Are We Not Prosecuting?** **Dr. Julie Hibdon** Associate Professor & Director, Criminal & Justice Studies University of Missouri
10:15 – 11:15 AM	**Inside the Network: Fencing Operations Demystified** **Shanon LaCorte, Esq.** Chief, Crime Strategies & Intelligence Bureau Queens County District Attorney's Office, NY
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Networking Break

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11:30 – 12:30 PM	**Protecting The Store: Amazon's Approach to Fighting Retail Crime and Fraud** **Jason Ruiz** Senior Corporate Counsel Amazon
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Networking Lunch (on your own)
2:00 – 3:00 PM	**Panel Discussion: What Retailers See Before You Ever Get the Case** **Nelson O. Bunn, Jr. (Moderator)** Executive Director National District Attorneys Association **Justine Venezia** Director of Investigations Gap Inc. **Nathan Smith** Lead Counsel, Government Enforcement Walmart, Inc. **Dermot Fitzsimons** Sr. Mgr., Asset Protection Public Sector Liaison Macy's
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Networking Break
3:15 – 4:15 PM	**Disruption and Dismantlement of Organized Retail Crime Groups** **Willie Carswell** Special Agent Homeland Security Investigations **Brent Cole** Assistant District Attorney Cabarrus County District Attorney's Office, NC **Sydney Carter** Assistant District Attorney Cabarrus County District Attorney's Office, NC
4:15 – 4:30 PM	Networking Break

4:30 – 5:30 PM	**From Pattern to Proof: Building a Prosecutable Case** **Nathan Smith** Lead Counsel, Government Enforcement Walmart, Inc. **Debbie Ho** Sr. Manager, Global Investigations Walmart, Inc.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Building the Case

7:45 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 – 10:00 AM	**Before the Case Begins: Building Coordinated Foundation for Enterprise Level Retail Theft Prosecutions** **Theresa Turner** Deputy District Attorney Strategic Prosecution Unit – Organized Retail Taskforce Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, OR
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Networking Break
10:15 – 11:15 AM	**Panel Discussion: San Francisco in Focus: From Crisis to Coordinated Response** **Nelson O. Bunn, Jr. (Moderator)** Executive Director National District Attorneys Association **Brooke Jenkins** District Attorney San Francisco, CA **Stephanie Zudekoff** Assistant District Attorney San Francisco, CA **Tracy McCray** Commander, SFPD Investigations Bureau

San Francisco, CA

11:15 – 12:15 PM	**Driving Down Retail Crime: A Collaborative Effort Between Prosecutors & Retailers** **Rick McKelvey** Executive Assistant Prosecutor Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, NJ **Lisa Rufolo** Executive Director RILA Communities Foundation
12:15 – 1:45 PM	Networking Lunch (on your own)
1:45 – 2:45 PM	**Juvenile Retail Crime Disruption, Diversion, and the Prosecutor's Role** **Madeline Buczynski** Assistant Prosecutor Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, NJ
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Networking Break
3:00 – 4:00 PM	**The Prosecutor's Playbook: Actionable Tools for Your Next Retail Crime Case** **Bradley Schoenleben** Deputy District Attorney Orange County District Attorney's Office, CA
4:00 – 4:15 PM	Closing Remarks **Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.** Executive Director National District Attorneys Association

Please note: This agenda reflects the program as confirmed. Because prosecutors and other members of the justice system may occasionally face unexpected court obligations or other unforeseen professional responsibilities, rare adjustments to faculty or scheduling may become necessary. If changes are required, NDAA will communicate updates as promptly as possible. *Recording, reproduction, or distribution of any portion of this program is prohibited. Views expressed are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the National District Attorneys Association. Participants should consult current, authoritative sources when researching specific legal matters*

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Dr. Julie Hibdon
Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
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Dr. Julie Hibdon is an associate professor and director of the Criminal and Justice Studies program at the University of Missouri. Her research focuses on crime and place, policing, and evidence-based approaches to crime prevention.

Julie has more than a decade of experience in applied research and program evaluation. Her work includes crime hot spots, policing technologies, community crime prevention, fear of crime, and law-enforcement workforce issues. She has evaluated license-plate recognition technology and studied its effects on police organizations and practices.

For prosecutors and law-enforcement professionals addressing retail crime, Julie's experience in place-based strategies, policing technology, and program evaluation can inform how agencies assess crime patterns, choose prevention approaches, and measure whether interventions are working.

Julie is a Senior Fellow with George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, First Vice President of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, and a commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, a role she has held since 2025.

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Shanon LaCorte
Chief, Crime Strategies & Intelligence Bureau
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Shanon LaCorte has served as Bureau Chief of the Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau (CSIB) at the Queens County District Attorney's Office since 2021. He leads a multidisciplinary team working on violent crime, firearms trafficking, organized retail theft, counterterrorism, online threats, asset forfeiture, illegal cannabis sales, fraud, and the illicit use of artificial intelligence.

Shanon has led investigations and prosecutions involving personally manufactured firearms and organized retail theft. The New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area recognizes him as a subject matter expert. He has trained hundreds of law enforcement agencies nationwide on personally manufactured firearms, organized retail theft, and electronic surveillance.

Before joining the Queens County District Attorney's Office, Shanon spent five years as Special Counsel with the New York State Attorney General's Statewide Organized Crime Task Force, conducting long-term wiretap investigations into firearms trafficking, narcotics distribution, retail and auto theft rings, and organized crime. He also prosecuted multimillion-dollar Ponzi schemes and fraudulent investment funds at the Attorney General's Office, and felonies including attempted murder, robbery, assault, larceny, and burglary as an Assistant District Attorney in Nassau County.

His experience gives prosecutors and investigators a view of how investigative strategy, digital and analytical evidence, and prosecution work come together in complex retail theft cases.

Shanon earned his J.D. from American University and his B.A. from Union College.

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Jason Ruiz
Senior Corporate Counsel
Amazon
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Jason Ruiz is Senior Corporate Counsel and Head of Global Store Fraud on Amazon's Customer Protection and Enforcement team. He leads efforts to investigate and disrupt cybercrime and organized retail crime schemes targeting Amazon customers, sellers, vendors, and partners. The team has referred thousands of individuals to law enforcement, disrupted complex fraud operations, recovered proceeds, and supported arrests and prosecutions worldwide.

Before joining Amazon, Jason spent more than a decade as a federal and state prosecutor. As Assistant Deputy Chief of Litigation in the U.S. Department of Justice's Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, he prosecuted drug traffickers, money launderers, and corrupt officials associated with transnational criminal organizations across Latin America. He also secured convictions against the operators of the largest synthetic cannabinoid manufacturing and distribution ring in the United States. Earlier, as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, he tried numerous violent felony cases.

Jason's experience offers prosecutors and investigators insight into how corporate investigations and prosecution can help identify and disrupt organized retail crime and complex fraud schemes.

He earned his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from The George Washington University.

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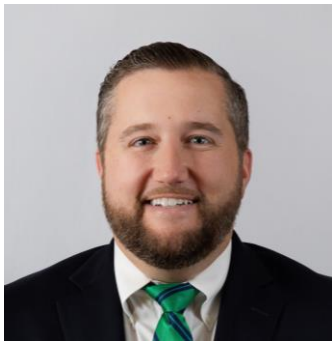

Nelson Bunn
Executive Director
National District Attorneys Association
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Nelson Bunn has served as Executive Director of the National District Attorneys Association since 2017, following three years as its Director of Government Affairs. He brings approximately 15 years of experience in criminal justice policy, working with Congress, federal agencies, and criminal justice stakeholders.

Before joining NDAA, Nelson was Director of Government Affairs for The Charles Group, representing the Major County Sheriffs of America, an organization of elected sheriffs from counties with populations exceeding 500,000. He also served in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. His experience includes government affairs, crisis response programs, and emerging technologies affecting first responders.

Nelson's background gives prosecutors and justice partners a perspective on how policy, crisis response, and technology shape public safety.

He holds a Master of International Affairs in International Law and Organizations and a Master of Arts in International Relations and Affairs from George Washington University, and a B.A. in Politics and Spanish from Washington and Lee University.

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Justine Venezia
Director of Investigations
Gap Inc.
Justine_Venezia@gap.com

Justine Venezia is Director of Global Investigations at Gap Inc., where she leads internal and external investigations, organized retail crime strategy, and investigative technologies. She brings more than 25 years of retail experience, including a long career in loss prevention and investigations at Gap.

Earlier in her Gap career, Justine helped transition and roll out an exception-based reporting system used by 300 global users across more than 3,000 stores in North America, Europe, and Asia. She trained users and continued developing the tool, increasing adoption and case productivity. Her work also included analyzing internal and external fraud and supporting IT and point-of-sale initiatives, including tokenization.

Justine works with Legal, Government Affairs, and Asset Protection leaders and partners with law enforcement and other public-sector stakeholders to address organized retail crime. Her experience offers prosecutors and investigators a retailer's perspective on investigations, technology, and public-private collaboration.

She is a Certified Forensic Interviewer through the International Association of Interviewers and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco.

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Nathan Smith
Lead Counsel – Government Response Team
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Nathan Smith is Lead Counsel on Walmart's Global Security, Aviation, and Investigations team, where his work focuses on organized retail crime, government investigations, and strengthening Walmart's partnerships with district attorneys.

Before joining Walmart in 2023, Nathan served as a prosecutor for 16 years, including nine years as the elected Prosecuting Attorney for Benton County, Arkansas. During his tenure, he was active in the Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association and served as its President in 2021.

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Dermot Fitzsimons
Sr. Mgr., Asset Protection Public Sector Liaison
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Dermot Fitzsimons is Senior Manager, Asset Protection Public Sector Liaison for Macy's, Inc. He has more than 28 years of experience in retail asset protection and public sector engagement.

Dermot works with public- and private-sector partners on issues involving organized retail crime, fraud, and cargo theft. He has testified on behalf of state retail associations in support of legislative changes related to organized retail crime, fraud, and cargo theft.

Dermot holds the Certified Forensic Interviewer (CFI) designation and is CORCI certified. He is a member of the International Association of Investigators (IAI), Vice President of METRORCA, and serves on the board of the Ohio Retail Merchants Association.

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Willie Carswell
Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations
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Willie Carswell is a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), where he conducts investigations involving organized retail crime, cargo theft, money laundering, and other transnational and financial crimes. He previously served in North Carolina law enforcement, including with the Asheville Police Department.

For the past five years, Willie has focused on Organized Retail Crime (ORC), cargo theft, and money laundering investigations throughout North Carolina and South Carolina. His investigations have involved organized criminal networks, financial transactions, stolen merchandise, and illicit proceeds.

Willie has been involved in identifying, investigating, disrupting, and dismantling major criminal organizations in the Carolinas. In 2024, the Carolinas Organized Retail Crime Alliance named him Federal Partner of the Year.

His experience across local law enforcement and federal investigations gives prosecutors, investigators, and retail partners a perspective on how agencies can work together to address organized retail crime.

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Brent Cole
Assistant District Attorney
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Brent Cole is a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Since joining the District Attorney's Office in 2018, he has prosecuted cases ranging from DWI to first-degree murder. In 2022, he was assigned to prosecute organized retail crime cases and began building public-private partnerships with law enforcement and retailers.

Brent prosecuted Cabarrus County's first organized retail crime case to reach a jury verdict, *State of North Carolina v. Emilio Sanchez*, which resulted in a guilty verdict in 2023. In 2025, he and trial partner Sydney Carter prosecuted the County's first Class C Organized Retail Theft case, *State of North Carolina v. Ryan Cahill*, also resulting in a guilty verdict.

His experience offers prosecutors and investigators a county-level perspective on taking organized retail crime cases to trial and building partnerships among law enforcement, retailers, and prosecutors.

Earlier in his career, Brent served as a first responder and paramedic with Guilford County Emergency Medical Service. He continues to work with first responders as a presenter, lecturer, and liaison to local agencies, and serves on the board of the Concord Public Safety Academy.

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Sydney Carter
Assistant District Attorney
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Sydney Carter is a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, where she has served as a prosecutor since 2015. She handles serious and complex felony cases, including homicide, drug trafficking, and organized criminal activity, and regularly leads major felony trials. In the past year, she tried six murder cases, including a double-homicide prosecution that resulted in two consecutive life sentences.

Sydney has also prosecuted a large-scale organized retail crime case involving the theft and resale of LEGO products that generated more than $100,000 in illicit proceeds.

For prosecutors and investigators, her organized retail crime case and major-trial experience offer a courtroom perspective on prosecuting complex cases. Sydney also teaches criminal law through a community college Basic Law Enforcement Training Program and coaches a high school mock-trial team that has advanced to the North Carolina state finals.

The Humane Society of the United States recognized Sydney for prosecuting a large-scale animal cruelty case. In 2023, the Concord City Council recognized her role in prosecuting approximately 50 fentanyl and cocaine trafficking cases that helped dismantle a drug enterprise operating in Concord.

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Debbie Ho
Senior Manager – Global Investigations
Walmart, Inc.
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Debbie Ho is Senior Manager of Global Investigations at Walmart Inc., where she leads complex organized retail crime investigations throughout California and works with law enforcement and industry partners. She brings more than 20 years of experience investigating and addressing organized retail crime.

Her retail investigations career includes roles with JCPenney, Macy's, Target, and IKEA, including positions as a regional organized retail crime manager and senior investigator.

Debbie has served on the board of the San Diego Organized Retail Crime Alliance since 2022 and the Los Angeles Organized Retail Crime Association since 2023. Her investigations and alliance work offer prosecutors and investigators an industry perspective on cross-sector efforts to address organized retail crime.

She earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Corrections from California State University, Fullerton.

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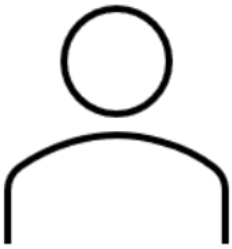

Theresa Turner
Deputy District Attorney
Strategic Prosecution Unit – Organized Retail Task Force
Multnomah County, OR
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Theresa Turner is a Deputy District Attorney in the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, where she works in the Strategic Prosecution Unit, a specialized division focused on data-driven prosecution of criminal enterprises. She is the dedicated prosecutor assigned to the Organized Retail Crime Task Force, working with specialized investigators, law enforcement, and retail partners on multijurisdictional investigations.

Theresa builds complex cases by integrating retail loss prevention data with prosecutorial strategy. In 2025, the Task Force contributed to the prosecution of more than 1,000 organized retail crime incidents and the dismantling of five major fencing operations in Oregon and Washington. Theresa and her team received the Western States Organized Retail Crime Alliance's Impact Award for this work.

Her experience offers prosecutors and investigators a practical perspective on using retail data and cross-agency partnerships to develop organized retail crime cases.

Theresa earned her Juris Doctor from Lewis & Clark Law School.

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Brooke Jenkins
District Attorney
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Brooke Jenkins was appointed San Francisco District Attorney in July 2022, elected that November, and sworn in as the city's 31st District Attorney on January 8, 2023. She was re-elected in November 2024 and leads the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

Brooke began her prosecutorial career in the office in 2014, serving in the Misdemeanor and General Felonies Units before becoming its designated Hate Crimes Prosecutor. She later prosecuted cases in the Sexual Assault and Homicide Units. Before leaving the office in 2021, she prosecuted more than 25 criminal jury trials and completed more than 100 preliminary hearings.

Her experience across trial units and as district attorney offers attendees a perspective on prosecution and leadership in a large urban office.

Brooke earned her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was a member of the track and field team.

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Stephanie Zudekoff
Assistant District Attorney
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Stephanie Zudekoff has served as an Assistant District Attorney with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office since 2013. Since 2023, she has been the office's designated Organized Retail Crime prosecutor, focusing on multijurisdictional prosecutions and fencing operations.

Throughout her career, Stephanie has prosecuted hundreds of cases, including complex white-collar fraud matters and felony offenses such as attempted murder and narcotics cases.

Her ORC work offers prosecutors and investigators a direct perspective on prosecuting cases that cross jurisdictions and involve fencing operations.

Before joining the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, Stephanie worked with the Western and Atlanta Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Offices and served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Georgia Attorney General's Office.

She earned her J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law in 2009.

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Rick McKelvey
Executive Assistant Prosecutor
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Rick McKelvey Rick McKelvey is Executive Assistant Prosecutor and third-in-command of the 50-attorney Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office. Since joining the office in 2011, he has served as Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Litigation Section and as a prosecutor in Major Crimes, handling murder, vehicular homicide, and drug-induced death cases. He has also argued cases before the New Jersey Appellate Division and Supreme Court, oversees recruitment and retention, and helped develop the Community Outreach Unit.

Rick developed the office's Mental Health Diversion Program and At-Risk Initiative prosecution list, which incorporates input from law enforcement, court staff, service providers, casino security, and business leaders. With Wellbeing and Equity Innovations, he helped create Alternative Prosecutions for Positive Outcomes (APPO), a diversion program focused on trauma-informed therapy. He trains prosecutors and law enforcement and advises on major incidents, including barricaded-person situations, active shooters, and mass-casualty events. This work offers attendees a prosecutor's perspective on coordinating across justice, service, and business partners in support of public safety.

Rick is a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney recognized by the New Jersey Supreme Court, an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Stockton University, president of the Atlantic County Bar Association, and a board member of the Coalition for a Safe Community.

He has taught for the New Jersey State Bar Association, the New Jersey Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, Rutgers University School of Law, and forensic science and computational justice programs.

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Lisa Rufolo
Executive Director
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Lisa Rufolo is Executive Director of the RILA Communities Foundation and Senior Executive Vice President of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA). Through initiatives such as the Vibrant Communities Initiative and the Gift Card Fraud Prevention Alliance, she works with law enforcement, prosecutors, and community organizations on research, education, and data-informed approaches to retail crime and fraud.

Lisa brings more than 30 years of experience across prosecution, corporate legal affairs, and retail operations. She began her career as an Assistant Prosecutor in Hudson County, New Jersey, later served as Director of Legal at The Home Depot, and has held senior roles at RILA overseeing member offerings in asset protection, crimes against business, workplace safety, and supply-chain operations.

Her experience offers prosecutors and law enforcement partners an industry perspective on aligning investigative needs with retail practice and building cross-sector responses to retail crime.

Lisa earned her J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law and her B.A. in Psychology from Penn State University.

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Madeline Buczynski
Assistant Prosecutor
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Madeline Buczynski is an Assistant Prosecutor in the Juvenile and Weapons Forfeiture Units of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. Since joining the office in 2017, she has handled juvenile cases, prosecuted child sexual abuse material cases in the High-Tech Crimes Unit, and assisted the Special Victims Unit.

Since 2018, Madeline has presented on juvenile justice topics throughout New Jersey, including juvenile law, diversion, school-law enforcement partnerships, youth use of intoxicants, and implicit bias. She also presents for the New Jersey Department of Education's School Safety Specialist Academy Certificate Program and has lectured at Monmouth University on juvenile law and waiver.

Madeline's prosecution and teaching experience offers attendees a practical perspective on how juvenile law intersects with diversion, school safety, and law enforcement. She chairs the Ocean County Council on Youth Justice System Improvement and the Ocean County Youth Services Commission and its Legislative Committee.

Madeline completed Rutgers University's Juvenile Justice and Youth Development Program and Child First New Jersey training. She is a Certified Instructor at the Ocean County Police Academy and has served as a Guardian ad Litem and Temporary Guardian.

She earned a B.A. in English from Rutgers University and a J.D. from Barry University School of Law.

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Bradley Schoenleben
Deputy District Attorney
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Bradley Schoenleben is a Deputy District Attorney and senior prosecutor in Orange County, California, where he leads the Organized Crime Unit. He supervises a team prosecuting organized and career criminals who target homes and businesses. In 2023, he testified before the United States Congress as a subject matter expert on transnational criminal organizations operating in the United States.

Before leading the Organized Crime Unit, Bradley served in the Gang and Human Trafficking Units. He has trained thousands of law enforcement officers nationwide on digital evidence, human trafficking, and investigative and prosecutorial strategies.

Bradley has also taught at two law schools, with courses on human trafficking, international human rights, criminal procedure, and domestic violence. His experience in organized crime prosecution, digital evidence, and law enforcement training offers prosecutors and investigators insight into building cases against criminal groups targeting businesses.

His honors include the California Prosecutor of the Year Award from the California District Attorney Investigators Association (2017), the Global Center for Women and Justice's Outstanding Individual Award (2018), and the Orange County District Attorney's Office Prosecutorial Excellence Award as a Felony Trial Lawyer (2023).