

UPCOMING TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

A full list of NDAA's virtual learning sessions is available at
➤ ndaa.org/training-courses/.

**NDAA's Mastering Masking Digital Course/
On Demand Training (CLE Available)**
➤ ndaa.org/training/mastering-masking-2/

**NDAA's Human Trafficking and the Impact on
Commercial Driver's Licenses/On Demand Training**
➤ ndaa.org/training/human-trafficking-and-the-impact-on-commercial-drivers-licenses/

**NDAA's Prosecuting DUI Cases Online Course/
On Demand Training (CLE Available)**
➤ ndaa.org/training/prosecuting-dui-cases/

**NDAA's Investigation and Prosecution of Drug-Impaired
Driving Cases Online Course/On Demand Training
(CLE Available)**
➤ ndaa.org/training/on-demand-learning-investigation-and-prosecution-of-drug-impaired-driving-cases/

NDAA's Office Administration Course
April 8–10, 2025, Portland, OR

NDAA's Summer Summit
July 14–15, 2025, Kansas City, MO

RESOURCES

Impaired Driving Resources
➤ ndaa.org/programs/ntlc/

CDL-Related Resources
➤ ndaa.org/programs/ntlc/commercial-drivers-license/

NDAA STAFF

Executive Director Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer Christine Mica

Vice President, Education & Engagement
Lorena Vollrath-Bueno

THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER

Director
Erin Inman erinman@ndaajustice.org

Senior Attorneys
M. Kimberly Brown mkbrown@ndaajustice.org
Bella Truong btruong@ndaajustice.org
Jim Camp jcamp@ndaajustice.org

Staff Attorneys
Stacy Graczyk sgraczyk@ndaajustice.org
Jill Bennett jbennett@ndaajustice.org

Coordinator, Education & Engagement
Hannah Dickmyer hdickmyer@ndaajustice.org

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CDL Drivers and Courts: On the Road to End Human Trafficking

**A New, Free On-Line Course Educating
CDL Holders to Fight Human Trafficking
Via the Court System**

By Aaron Ann Cole-Funfsinn

The National Centers for State Courts (NCSC) recently launched a new, free, 45-minute interactive, self-paced online training module called **CDL Drivers and Courts: On the Road to End Human Trafficking**. Its purpose is to educate commercial driver's license (CDL) holders who are engaged in the court system to identify human traffickers and victims of human trafficking in the trucking industry.¹ "With about 8.7 million commercial motor vehicle drivers in the U.S., this initiative

¹ www.ncsc.org/newsroom/at-the-center/2025/new-online-course-connects-courts-with-cdl-drivers-in-the-fight-against-human-trafficking, last accessed on March 17, 2025.

provides an opportunity to reach a significant number of commercial drivers with information to help them detect and report human trafficking,” said Derek Felton, NCSC Creative Learning Services director.² “State courts and judges can actively participate by promoting the course and reinforcing certain messaging at various CDL holder touchpoints.”³ In addition to those partners, prosecutors are essential stakeholders in the judicial adjudication process to disseminate this module to other participants in the court system, thus furthering the essential message of preventing human trafficking in the CDL world.

This project, funded by the Federal Motors Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), was developed to “provide education to CDL drivers that come through the court concerning human trafficking as it relates to commercial driving.”⁴ The course covers essential signs of trafficking, discusses how to report suspicious activity, and provides insights into potential victims, perpetrators, and common trafficking locations.⁵

The funding proposal for this module set forth why courts are particularly well suited to host such an initiative, stating, “The courts have several touch points of opportunity to provide information and education on this topic including court web sites regarding traffic court, online dispute resolution (ODR) systems that offer an on-line approach to commercial traffic cases that may include educational information as part of the adjudication process, and in-person court handouts for CDL/CMV drivers.”⁶ The application noted that only limited opportunities exist to educate CDL holders that enter the court through traffic cases about human trafficking, and that the courts provided “a prime opportunity to reach the community of commercial drivers to provide information about human trafficking and how it may impact them as a commercial driver.”⁷

The course covers essential signs of trafficking, discusses how to report suspicious activity, and provides insights into potential victims, perpetrators, and common trafficking locations.

To develop the module, NCSC set forth specific performance objectives to ensure the course’s success. As set forth in the project application, these objectives were:

1. **Human Trafficking Research and Policy Guidance.** Research relevant laws and regulations regarding human trafficking and specifically how this relates to commercial drivers. Recommended policy guidance for when and how to deploy education materials.
2. **Human Trafficking Education Materials Development.** Develop education and information content and provide it in various formats such as video, web content, print and other guidance such as digital signage or print signs.
3. **Human Trafficking Education Material Distribution and Outreach.** Reach out to courts to make them aware of these educational resources and provide them with the content in the various formats developed.⁸

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ FY2022, Assistance Listing # 20.232, CDLPI High Priority/Emerging Issues Cooperative Agreements and Grants, Funding Opportunity: FM-CDL-22-001, p. 2.

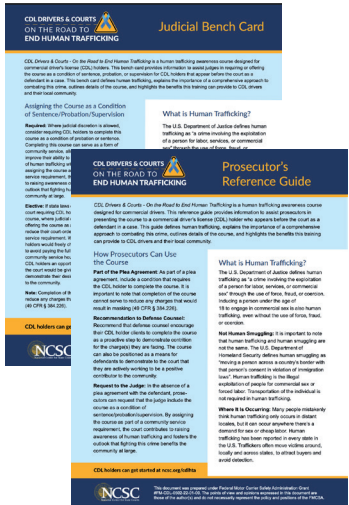
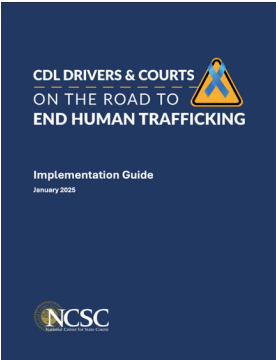
⁵ www.ncsc.org/newsroom/at-the-center/2025/new-online-course-connects-courts-with-cdl-drivers-in-the-fight-against-human-trafficking, last accessed on March 17, 2025.

⁶ FY2022, Assistance Listing # 20.232, CDLPI High Priority/Emerging Issues Cooperative Agreements and Grants, Funding Opportunity: FM-CDL-22-001, p. 2.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* p. 2–3.

Once this proposal was approved, a team from NCSC’s Creative Learning Services paired with a subject matter expert to develop this project. Together, they conducted research on relevant state and federal laws and regulations governing human trafficking and CDL disqualification.⁹ They also delved into policy guidance for when and how to deploy education materials, soon learning that court administrators would play a critical role in rolling out the module. Thus, a working group was created, comprised of court administrators from across the country, to determine the best and most efficient ways to deploy educational materials at various court touchpoints where CDL holders could be engaged, either through their court cases or through general informational resources in the courthouse.¹⁰ This working group met virtually to help develop educational materials to support the module. They were instrumental in reviewing the instructional design blueprint and narration script, advising where the touchpoints for CDL holders were in the court system, and providing feedback for the e-learning modules. Once the course was more fully developed, several judges from across the country were consulted to determine the most effective way to utilize the course in the adjudication of matters involving CDL holders. Some members of these groups, specifically in Arkansas, Connecticut, and Minnesota, are currently taking steps to introduce the module in their courts.¹¹



This work showed the necessity of engaging stakeholders throughout the process, in addition to the court administrators, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, court personnel and judges. As NCSC continues to publicize the course, we hope these essential parties will share messaging about the course in notices or public information geared toward CDL drivers, or, once the CDL holder’s case concludes in the court, viewing of the module may be mandated by court order as an appropriate sentence requirement or condition of probation, parole, or community service.¹² Additional resources available to courts and justice system partners to help raise awareness include a judicial bench card, a reference card for prosecutors, digital signage content, social media graphics, and flyers and rack cards.¹³



To learn more about the course and access the implementation guide and resources, visit ncsc.org/cdlhtainfo.¹⁴

About the Author

Aaron Ann Cole-Funfsinn is a contract staff member with the National Center for State Courts and is the Managing Attorney at L.S. Miller Law in Lexington, Kentucky. You can reach her at aacole@lsmlaw.com.



⁹ *Id.*
¹⁰ *Id.* at p. 3.
¹¹ *Id.*
¹² *Id.* at 4.
¹³ www.ncsc.org/newsroom/at-the-center/2025/new-online-course-connects-courts-with-cdl-drivers-in-the-fight-against-human-trafficking, last accessed on March 17, 2025.
¹⁴ *Id.*

The Confrontation Clause and Its Impact on Traffic Safety: A Primer

FREE NDAA Live Webinar!
May 13, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. ET

Panelists include:

- **The Honorable Mary Kate Huffman**, Ohio Second Appellate District Judge and American Bar Association National Judicial Fellow
- **Sabra Jones, PhD**, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Regional Toxicology Liaison, NHTSA Region 3
- **Deena Ryerson**, Senior Assistant Attorney General of the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor



The Confrontation Clause impacts how and under what circumstances the testimony of witnesses for the state is admissible in criminal cases. A series of decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court, culminating in the Court's recent case, *Smith v. Arizona*, provide guidance about how those witnesses, especially forensic scientists, provide testimony. This webinar will provide a basic yet thorough analysis of the Confrontation Clause and recent Supreme Court decisions, with a focus on *Smith v. Arizona*, and how the decision impacts the practices and procedures of those working with the criminal justice system. The multi-disciplinary panel will discuss suggested practices that comply with the requirements of the Confrontation Clause and evaluate alternative means of proving an element of an offense in the absence of forensic evidence.

For further information and to register for this webinar, please click [HERE](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

**2025 Commercial Driver's
License Violations Training:
Enforcement, Prosecution,
& Reporting**
June 3-5, 2025

NDAA's National Traffic Law Center is hosting the **2025 Commercial Driver's License Violations Training: Enforcement, Prosecution, & Reporting** course on June 3-5, 2025. This course is designed to assist prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, judges, court clerks, motor vehicle administrators, and other allied professionals with vested interests in CDL enforcement and public safety. By identifying where potential breakdowns in communication exist and identifying common misconceptions about CDL prosecution, we will be able to focus on ways to improve public safety, educate our enforcers, and save lives on our roads.

This course is **FREE** to attend, and expenses are reimbursable for qualified attendees.

Registration details coming soon.