



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Sean Tindell
DPS COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMIT 2024

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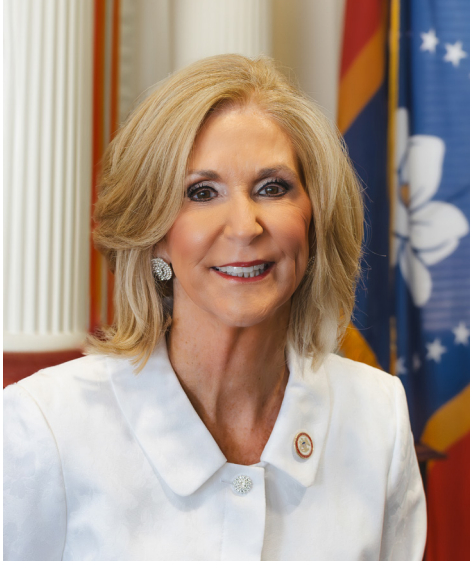
SCAN ME



**PUBLIC SAFETY
SUMMIT**
2024

MEET YOUR HOSTS

Attorney General Lynn Fitch



Mississippi Attorney General

*L*ynn Fitch was sworn in as Mississippi's 40th Attorney General and first ever woman Attorney General on January 9, 2020. She was re-elected to her second term in 2023.

Raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Attorney General Fitch earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi. At the age of 23, she began her legal career as a Special Assistant Attorney General at the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. She continued her career in private practice as a bond lawyer, accumulating more than 35 years of legal experience both in private practice and public service.

Before becoming the State's chief legal officer, Attorney General Fitch served as Mississippi's elected State Treasurer for eight years, from January 2012 to January 2020. Prior to that, she was selected

by Governor Barbour to serve as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB), and she served as Deputy Executive Director at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) and as Counsel for the Mississippi House of Representatives Ways and Means and Local and Private Legislation Committees.

General Fitch was active on the national level as State Treasurer, serving as Vice President for the National Association of State Treasurers and as Chair of the State Financial Officers Foundation. Since taking office as Attorney General, she has served on the Executive Committees of the Republican Attorneys General Association and the National Association of Attorneys General, and as Co-Chair of the National Association of Attorneys General Human Trafficking Committee.

In 2022, TIME named General Fitch to its list of the 100 most influential people in the world and Worth Magazine named her to its Worthy 100 for her work protecting women and children. She was recognized as one of Mississippi's Top 50 Most Influential in 2017, 2022, and 2023; selected as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2012 and a Woman Trailblazer by the Mississippi Bar Association; and honored with the prestigious Susie Blue Buchanan award by the Mississippi Bar Association's Women in the Professional Committee. General Fitch was also named a Mississippi Business Journal Leader in Finance in 2016 and Leader in Law in 2010, as well as a 2015 Honoree of the Women in Government Leadership Program by Governing Magazine.

Attorney General Fitch has also been active in her community, serving as a member of the boards of several charitable organizations including First Responders of Mississippi, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Goodwill Industries, and the American Red Cross.

MEET YOUR HOSTS

Commissioner Sean Tindell



Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner

*A*s the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Commissioner Tindell oversees the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy, the Driver Service Bureau, the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory, the State Medical Examiner's Office, Crime Stoppers, Public Safety Planning, Capitol Police, and MDOT Enforcement. Commissioner Tindell currently manages over 1,400 employees throughout the state.

Commissioner Tindell was appointed by Governor Tate Reeves to lead the Mississippi Department of Public Safety in May 2020. Prior to joining the Mississippi Department of

Public Safety, he served as a Judge for the Mississippi Court of Appeals, representing District 5, Position 2. Commissioner Tindell was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to fill the vacancy created by Judge David Ishee's appointment to the Mississippi Supreme Court. Commissioner Tindell also served in the Mississippi Senate, representing District 49, from 2012 until his appointment to the bench. He was chairman of the Senate Judiciary A Committee and vice chairman of the Senate Tourism Committee. He also previously served as Assistant District Attorney for the Second Circuit District of Harrison, Hancock, and Stone counties from 2002 to 2007 and City Prosecutor for the City of Biloxi from 2008 to 2011. In his private law practice, Commissioner Tindell represented a number of business clients and governmental bodies, including the City of Diamondhead, the Stone County Utility Authority, Harrison County, and the Orleans Parish District Attorney. In addition to practicing law, Commissioner Tindell held a real estate broker's license and actively managed his own commercial and residential rental properties.

Commissioner Tindell holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the Mississippi College School of Law, where he served as student body president and earned honors of American Jurisprudence in counseling, negotiations, and domestic relations. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also participated in a study abroad program with an emphasis in finance at the London School of Economics.

Commissioner Tindell grew up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He and his wife, Claire, reside in Gulfport with their four children, Sam, John Thomas, Meredith, and Henry. In his spare time, Commissioner Tindell enjoys tending to his farm in Stone County and coaching youth sports.



SUMMIT AGENDA

Monday, May 20th

TIME	TOPIC AND SPEAKERS
7:00AM-9:00AM	Registration
9:00AM-9:30AM	Welcome Remarks with Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch and Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell
9:30AM-12:00PM	Becoming Officers and Agencies of Character with Dave Anderson, <i>Author and Speaker</i>
12:00PM-1:15PM	Lunch
1:15PM-2:15PM	De-Escalation with Matt Campbell, <i>Special Agent, FBI (ret.)</i>
2:15PM-2:30PM	Break
2:30PM-3:30PM	<p>OPTION 1: Media Interactions with Crosby Parker, <i>DA, 2nd Circuit Court District</i> and Therese Apel, <i>Owner and CEO, Darkhorse Press</i></p> <p>OPTION 2: Courtroom Security with John Thompson, <i>Senior Inspector, U.S. Marshals Service</i></p> <p>OPTION 3: Organized Retail Crime with Eric Trehern, <i>Senior Manager, Asset Protection Investigations, Home Depot</i></p>
3:30PM-4:30PM	Mass Attacks in Public Spaces with Robert Grooms, <i>Domestic Security Strategist, U.S. Secret Service</i>
4:30PM-5:30PM	Working Together to Enhance School Safety with Jim Brinson, <i>Deputy Director, MOHS</i> ; Erin Meyer, <i>General Counsel, MDE</i> ; and Brian McGairty, <i>Director, Safe and Orderly Schools, MDE</i>
5:30PM-7:00PM	Welcome Reception with Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch and Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell Sponsored by the Mississippi Prosecutors Association



SUMMIT AGENDA

Tuesday, May 21st

TIME	TOPIC AND SPEAKERS
7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
8:00AM-8:15AM	Welcome Remarks with Kyle Smith, Resident Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service
8:15AM-11:15AM	Pick Up the Roach! Why Public Safety Leaders Do the Dirty Work with Pete Blank, Leadership Expert, Author, and Speaker
11:15AM-12:30PM	Lunch
12:30PM-1:30PM	Officer Involved Shooting Response with Jimmy Herzog, Director, MBI; Lindsay Cranford, Deputy Attorney General, MSAGO; Thomas Recore, Forensic Liaison, DMH; and Kassie Coleman, DA, 10 th Circuit Court District
1:30PM-2:00PM	Legislative Update with Speaker Jason White, Mississippi House of Representatives
2:00PM-3:00PM	LEAPS with Tim Rutledge, Director, Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support
3:00PM-3:15PM	Break
3:15PM-4:15PM	Advantages to Joining a Task Force: Clay McCombs, Training Coordinator, MBN; Robert Whitten, Law Enforcement Liaison, MBN; Shawn Wolfe, Director of Cyber Crime, MSAGO; Nick Brown, Human Trafficking Supervisor, MSAGO; Victoria Rice, Chief Investigator, MSAGO Public Integrity Division; and Richard Gullledge, ICAC Task Force Commander, MSAGO
4:15PM-5:15PM	<p>OPTION 1: Machine Gun Conversion with Joshua Jackson, SAC, ATF New Orleans Field Division</p> <p>OPTION 2: Fentanyl Crisis in Mississippi with Steven Maxwell, Director, Administration, MBN</p> <p>OPTION 3: Follow-Up Session: Focus on Organizational Culture, Consistency, and Performance with Pete Blank, Leadership Expert, Author, and Speaker</p>



SUMMIT AGENDA

Wednesday, May 22nd

TIME	TOPIC AND SPEAKERS
7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
8:00AM-8:15AM	Welcome Remarks with U.S. Attorney Todd Gee, U.S. Attorney Southern District and Agent Robert Eikhoff, SAC, FBI Jackson Field Division
8:15AM-9:45AM	Growing Effective Teams with Jeff McManus, Author and Director, Landscape, Airport, and Golf Services, The University of Mississippi
9:45AM-10:00AM	Break
10:00AM-11:00AM	<p>OPTION 1: Board of Law Enforcement Officers' Standards and Training Update with Tony Carleton, Director, MLEOTA; Keith Davis, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, DPS; Greg Pollan, Chairman, BLEOST; Luke Williamson, Board Attorney, BLEOST; and John Quaka, Chief of Police, Tupelo</p> <p>OPTION 2: Tightening Your Grip on Mandatory Domestic Violence Reporting with Gordon McMullin, VAWA Resource Manager, MSAGO; Anna Claire Brumfield, SAAG, MSAGO; and Walter Bleck, SAAG, MSAGO</p>
11:00AM-12:00PM	<p>OPTION 1: Women in Law Enforcement with Nikki Pullen, Chief of Police, Horn Lake; Kristen Johnson, Captain, Jackson County Sheriff's Office; and Mary Eileen Paradis, Chief of Police, UMMC</p> <p>OPTION 2: Crime Scene Management/Digital Crime Scene Management with Wayne Cantrell, Director, Digital Forensics, MOHS; Austin Shepherd, Investigator, Crime Scene Unit, MBI; and Charlie Rubisoff, Deputy Director, Cyber Crime Division, MSAGO</p>
12:00PM-1:15PM	Governor Reeves' Awards and Luncheon
1:15PM-1:30PM	Closing Remarks with Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch and Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell

GUEST SPEAKER BIOS

Governor Tate Reeves



Governor of Mississippi

*A*s the 65th Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves continues to build on his strong record as a conservative leader who fights to guard taxpayers' dollars, improve educational opportunity, and grow new careers so that our state's best and brightest can raise their families and thrive here at home.

In his inaugural address, Governor Reeves promised that this would be an administration for all Mississippi. He committed to a mission to create a climate where good careers are plentiful with every Mississippian prepared to pursue them, as he has every single day of his time serving our state.

Upon taking office, Governor Reeves inherited a crumbling corrections department and a scandal-plagued human services department. He took immediate action to stem the existing issues and begin the process of rebuilding, shedding light on the issues

and installing the best leadership to help him turn the departments around to work for the people of Mississippi.

While tackling the inherited issues within government agencies to provide for the safety and human dignity of all Mississippians, Governor Reeves simultaneously led our state through historic flooding and tornadoes and a worldwide pandemic—all within his first 100 days in office.

Governor Reeves has continued to make history throughout his public service career. When elected in 2003 for his first public office, Governor Reeves became the youngest state treasurer in our country and the first Republican to hold the office in Mississippi. His business training in the banking sector made him our state's foremost advocate for balancing the state budget while minimizing state debt.

He was elected in 2011 and re-elected four years later as the 32nd Lieutenant Governor, leading the Mississippi Senate. His conservative management helped fill our state's Rainy Day Fund to over \$550 million—the most in state history—and reduce the overall debt burden. He fought for transparency in how agencies spend tax dollars and stronger reporting requirements on taxpayer-funded incentive programs.

His commitment to long-term growth that creates better careers led Governor Reeves to propose the largest tax cut in state history through the Taxpayer Pay Raise Act, lowering the personal income tax and enabling more Mississippi employers to invest in jobs and better compete in the global marketplace.

Governor Reeves' upbringing in Florence's public schools made him driven to reform the education system to increase opportunity for all Mississippians. He has worked to increase investment in the classroom and enacted reforms to save money, strengthen achievement, and effectively communicate school performance. His new mission for our state is to give us more national board-certified teachers per capita than any state in the nation.

A Rankin County native, Governor Reeves is a graduate of Florence High School and an honors graduate of Millsaps College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Governor Reeves and his wife, Elee, are the proud parents of three daughters, Tyler, Emma, and Maddie.

GUEST SPEAKER BIOS

Speaker Jason White



Mississippi House of Representatives

Jason White was born and raised in Kosciusko, Mississippi. He received his Undergraduate and Law Degrees from Mississippi College. He graduated from Law School in 1998. He has practiced law in his hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi since 1998. His firm is a traditional small town general practice law firm. He handles residential real estate loan closings, land transactions, timber sales, and a full Chancery Court Practice.

He is also privileged to serve as the City Attorney for Kosciusko as well as attorney for a number of governmental entities and utility boards and providers. He is a former Municipal Court Judge and Youth Court Judge. He also served on the Board of Alderman for the Town of West for 12 years.

In August of 2011, he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, District 48, which consists of portions of Attala, Carroll, Holmes, and Leake counties. Jason was elected by his fellow Representatives in 2020 to serve as the Speaker Pro-Tem of the House, where he also serves on several committees including the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Legislative Redistricting, Appropriations, Public Health, Medicaid, Rules, and the Management Committee. On January 2, 2024, Jason was elected Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

He is also involved in a number of civic duties which include currently serving as President of the Attala County Bar Association as well as President of the West Historical and Preservation Society.

Jason lives in the town of West, Mississippi with his wife, Jolynn and their three children, Sara, John, and Carlyn. They are members of West Baptist Church where Jason currently serves as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher.

FEATURED SPEAKER BIOS

Dave Anderson



Author and Speaker

Dave Anderson is a West Point graduate and a decorated combat veteran. He earned a Bronze Star during Operation Desert Storm.

Dave spent 20 years in a global Fortune 50 company in various leadership positions. During this time, he earned his company's highest sales leadership award 4 times in an 8 year period.

Author of the Amazon Best Seller – *Becoming a Leader of Character*, Dave has also written 1000+ articles which focus on ethics, leadership and the value of character.

Since 2017, Dave has personally led over 2000 officers from 50+ agencies through the Officers and Agencies of Character workshops including Keynotes with the US Marshal's Service and multiple state law enforcement associations.

Dave's number one goal is for everyone in law enforcement to be able to confidently say "Yes!" to the question - "Would YOU follow YOU?"

FEATURED SPEAKER BIOS

Pete Blank



Leadership Expert, Author, and Speaker

*A*fter a stint as a television sportscaster, Pete began his Disney career in 1994. Over the next 13 years, he managed various areas of Disney's theme parks and resorts, where he learned what it takes to run a world-class organization. Pete was blessed to spend a majority of his time working at the Disney University. While there, he led the Traditions program, which is known worldwide as one of the premiere employee orientation programs. He also facilitated college level courses to thousands of Disney College Interns, and was a Segment Learning Manager for Walt Disney World, Disneyland Resort, and the Disney Cruise Line.

Pete is the Training and OD Manager for the Personnel Board of Jefferson County. As a leadership expert and professional speaker, he also works with organizations and associations all across the U.S., helping them achieve their goals in the areas of leadership, employee engagement and customer service.

Pete received the prestigious "Partners in Excellence" award from Disney, which is presented to the top 3% of all employees. He also earned the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation from the National Speakers Association and the Certified Facilitator of Training (CFT) from The Center for International Credentials.

His two books are *Employee Engagement: Lessons from the Mouse House* and *55 Ways to add Disney Magic to your Organization*. Both books are available on amazon.com.

SPEAKER BIOS

Therese Apel



Owner and CEO, Darkhorse Press

*T*herese Apel is the owner of Darkhorse Press, a statewide digital news outlet based in Flowood. Darkhorse Press was founded in 2021 after Apel left her job at WLBT, looking for a better way to report the news.

Apel spent two years working for WLBT, and prior to that worked for The Clarion-Ledger for almost a decade as a crime and breaking news reporter, garnering many state and national awards for her work in crime journalism. She has been featured on several national news shows, as well as several crime documentaries, and has been interviewed on her work by the likes of Wolf Blitzer, Ashleigh Banfield, Nancy Grace, Greta Van Susteren, and Tamron Hall, just to name a few.

She also currently serves as the Public Information Officer for the City of Pearl, Mississippi, and teaches public information officer classes to law enforcement and other first responders. Apel has four dogs and a horse, who are basically just four-legged children with way too much hair. She is a member of Langford Volunteer Fire Department in Rankin County and attends Southside Baptist Church in Jackson.

SPEAKER BIOS

Walter Bleck



Special Assistant Attorney General, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

*W*alter Bleck is a Special Assistant Attorney General who develops and conducts statewide training for various professionals including, but not limited to, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, court clerks, advocates, and medical professionals on Mississippi legal topics.

Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Walter served as an Assistant District Attorney in Mississippi's 5th, 20th, 11th, 21st, and 7th, judicial districts. During his twenty plus years as an Assistant District Attorney, Walter tried more than 130 felony trials.

Walter also was in private practice at the law firm of Wells, Marble and Hurst and he began his legal career as a law clerk for John J. Fraiser, Jr., Chief Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

SPEAKER BIOS

Jim Brinson



Deputy Director, Mississippi Office of Homeland Security

Jim Brinson is employed as the Deputy Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. He has been employed with the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security since 2004.

Responsibilities include managing response assets for terrorism related responses, overseeing active shooter preparedness and training program for Mississippi, along with State Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, as well as being a sworn law enforcement officer that also works cases that are either potential or actual terrorism or threats of violence related.

Mr. Brinson is a specialist in terrorism and Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Weapons of Mass Destruction. Mr. Brinson is an instructor in active shooter preparedness and response, training military, law enforcement and civilians in responding to and surviving active attacks. Prior to working for the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, Mr. Brinson worked for the U.S. Air Force where he responded to terrorist incidents and countered terrorism operations worldwide. He oversees the protection of the State of Mississippi's citizens, critical infrastructure, and governmental institutions. He conducts training for major sporting events on security measures and trains law enforcement agencies across the country in various counterterrorism areas. Mr. Brinson presents at many local, state, national and international audiences on terrorism and targeted violence.

SPEAKER BIOS

Nick Brown



Human Trafficking Unit Supervisor, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

Nick Brown is a seasoned law enforcement officer with over 20 years of public service. He is currently the Supervisor of the Human Trafficking Unit, which is a part of the Public Integrity Division of the Attorney General's Office, where he not only serves as the supervisor but as an investigator and a digital forensics examiner. Prior to becoming supervisor, Nick was assigned to the FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Division as a Taskforce Officer, where he was responsible for investigating Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation.

Before becoming employed by the Attorney General's Office, Nick began his law enforcement career at the Jackson Police Department, where he was assigned as a K9 handler while a part of the ATF Gun Crimes Taskforce. Nick continued his career with the Hinds County Sheriff's Office where he was assigned to the Narcotics Division and the

Special Operations Division as a K9 handler, as well as a member of the Metro SWAT team.

He is a graduate of the Jackson Police Department Police Academy and has attended several national courses in the fields of Human Trafficking and Victim Interviewing. He is a certified Cellebrite Operator, a certified Cellebrite Physical Analyst, and is certified in Cellebrite Advanced Smartphone Analysis. He is a certified Child First Forensic Interviewer giving him insight into techniques for forensic interviews of children as well as best practices for trauma informed interviews of adult victims. Nick is also the developer and instructor for the Certified Human Trafficking Investigator Course which has been taught to hundreds of officers and investigators from over 145 agencies from multiple states throughout the country. He is an instructor for multiple training academies throughout the state in the field of Human Trafficking.

SPEAKER BIOS

Anna Claire Brumfield



Special Assistant Attorney General, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

*A*нна Claire Brumfield is originally from West Point, Mississippi. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Mississippi State University in 2019. Anna Claire moved to the Jackson Metro area when she was accepted into law school at Mississippi College School of Law.

Upon completing her first year of law school, Anna Claire worked as a law clerk for a personal injury and worker's compensation firm until she graduated from MC Law in May of 2022. After graduation, she joined the Bureau of Victim Assistance at the Mississippi Attorney General's Office as a Special Assistant Attorney General and worked to implement training on Mississippi's protection from domestic abuse laws and the Protection Order Registry (POR) that Attorney General Fitch

launched in October of 2022.

In February of 2024, she began working in the Prosecutor and Law Enforcement Training Division at the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, where she continues to aid in training clerks, judges, law enforcement, and prosecutors. Anna Claire is married to Braxton Brumfield, and they live in Madison, Mississippi.

SPEAKER BIOS

Matt Campbell

PICTURE UNAVAILABLE

Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (ret.)

Special Agent Matt Campbell is a distinguished law enforcement professional with an illustrious career spanning 24 years within the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Stephen F. Austin State University in December 1987. Campbell's educational foundation provided him with a solid platform for his subsequent achievements in the field of law enforcement.

During his tenure with the FBI, Special Agent Campbell served as a pivotal member of the SWAT team for 18 years, showcasing his exceptional tactical skills and leadership abilities. His proficiency in tactical operations was further exemplified as he assumed the role of SWAT Team Leader for 12 years, guiding his team through high-risk scenarios with precision and expertise.

Campbell's contributions extended beyond national borders, as he actively participated in classified international missions aimed at combating the Global War on Terrorism. His involvement in both domestic and international tactical operations underscores his unwavering dedication to safeguarding national security interests.

In addition to his operational roles, Special Agent Campbell obtained numerous FBI Instructor certifications, including Firearms Instructor, Police Instructor, and Tactical and Use of Force Instructor. This diverse skill set equipped him to impart invaluable knowledge and training to his colleagues, enhancing the overall effectiveness of law enforcement operations.

Throughout his career, Campbell served as the Case Agent on several high-profile white-collar criminal investigations, successfully securing convictions of notable public figures. His meticulous approach to investigations and unwavering commitment to justice earned him widespread acclaim within the FBI community.

Special Agent Campbell's professional development was further enriched by a comprehensive array of specialized FBI training programs. From close-quarter combat to tactical surveillance, his training portfolio encompassed a broad spectrum of skills essential for law enforcement professionals operating in dynamic and challenging environments.

Campbell's exceptional contributions and sterling performance were duly recognized through a plethora of awards and accolades, including four FBI grade increase awards, the FBI Combat Theater Award, and the prestigious FBI Medal of Excellence Award—the highest performance award bestowed by the FBI.

SPEAKER BIOS

Wayne Cantrell



Director of Digital Forensics Mississippi Office of Homeland Security

*W*ayne Cantrell was named the Director of Digital Forensics by the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) Executive Director Baxter Kruger on 1 January 2023. Prior to joining the MOHS, Cantrell served as a State Trooper with the MS Hwy Safety Patrol. Cantrell was later promoted as special agent with the MS Bureau of Investigation (MBI) and retired as Director of Digital Forensics for the MBI.

Cantrell has over 24 years of law enforcement experience with the last six years serving as a special agent in the field of digital forensics. He has received extensive training through the United States Secret Service (USSS) and the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI). Cantrell currently holds the industry certification as a Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE).

SPEAKER BIOS

Tony Carleton



Director, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy (MLEOTA)

Tony was born and raised in Tupelo, MS. He graduated from Tupelo High School in 1988. He earned his associate's degree from Hinds Community College and then enrolled at the University of Mississippi. At Ole Miss, Tony was a decathlete for the Track and Field Program while earning his degree in Criminal Justice and remaining a member of the University of Mississippi M-Club. After working his first year in Law Enforcement with the Mississippi State University Police Department, he returned home to work for the Tupelo Police Department in 1996. Tupelo is where he started teaching at the North MS Law Enforcement Training Center and was a member of the Special Operations Group (S.O.G.) unit and Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) team.

Looking for new and different opportunities in his career, he relocated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where he worked for Harrison County Sheriff's Dept. at Southern Regional Public Safety Institute as a staff instructor. In 2001, he was invited to work for the Lee County Sheriff's Department as Training Director and SWAT Commander. He was promoted to Captain in 2004 as Jail Commander and his team created a Corrections Training Officer Program (CTO). For the next few years, he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Lee County Jail.

In 2010, Tony was named Chief of Police for the City of Tupelo, MS. Tony updated training with emphasis on FTO training, in-service physical fitness, and defensive tactics at the North MS Law Enforcement Training Center. In 2013, he became the Chief of Police for the City of Columbus where he overhauled the Criminal Investigation and Narcotics divisions.

In November 2015, Tony began working for the Oxford Police Department as a training officer and was later promoted to Captain of Patrol. In 2021, he moved to the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department, where he served as the training officer. In January 2023, Tony began working for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. He currently serves as the Director for the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy (MLEOTA) located in Pearl, MS.

Throughout his career, Tony has found fulfillment in both tactical operations and education. Serving as an Instructor Trainer at Strategic Self-defense & Gunfighting Tactics (SSGT) since 2003, he has been dedicated to instructing SSGT courses and has been a valued member of the board of directors since 2006. Tony's expertise extends to teaching a range of law enforcement-related certifications, including Tactical Operations (S.W.A.T.), Defensive Tactics, Cooper Institute Physical Fitness Specialist, firearms instruction, and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (E.V.O.C.). A graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, Tony has accumulated thousands of hours of police training over his 28-year career in law enforcement. Outside of work, Tony prioritizes family-related activities.

SPEAKER BIOS

Kassie Coleman



District Attorney, 10th Circuit Court District

*K*assie Coleman was sworn in as the District Attorney for the 10th Circuit Court District, which serves Lauderdale, Clarke, Kemper, and Wayne counties, on November 2, 2018. Kassie, was born and raised in Lauderdale County.

After graduating from Southeast Lauderdale in 1996, Kassie moved to Hattiesburg, MS to attend the University of Southern Mississippi. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, with highest honors distinction, from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1999. After completing her undergraduate studies, Kassie relocated to Jackson, MS to attend law school at Mississippi College. In 2003, she received her J.D., magna cum laude, from the Mississippi College School of Law. During law school, Kassie served on the Moot Court Board and Law Review.

In 2003, Kassie began what she consistently describes as her “dream job” serving as a prosecutor at the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office. Kassie first served as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Public Integrity Division where she prosecuted a multitude of felony cases across the state ranging from public corruption cases to capital murder cases. Later, Kassie became Mississippi’s first Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor within the Prosecutor’s Training Division of the Attorney General’s Office. In this role, Kassie served as a special prosecutor in DUI death and DUI maiming cases. She also trained fellow prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and judges in traffic related subject matters.

In 2006, Kassie returned to Hattiesburg to work as an Assistant District Attorney in the 12th Circuit Court District (Forrest and Perry counties) prosecuting violent crimes. Those cases included Murder, Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, gang-involved crimes, as well all crimes committed against women and children.

In September 2014, Kassie was given the opportunity to move back home to Lauderdale County to work as an Assistant District Attorney. In November 2018, Kassie was appointed by then Governor Phil Bryant as the District Attorney. The following November, Kassie was humbled by the voters’ decision to elect her their District Attorney.

Kassie serves as a member on the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training. She is also an instructor for the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer’s Training Academy. Kassie is a past-president of the Mississippi Prosecutors Association; and she continues to serve the association as the Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, a Board Member, and member of the Curriculum Committee. Kassie was an active member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar, having served on the Board of Directors in multiple capacities. Kassie was honored to be appointed as a Commission Member for the Commission for Study of Domestic Abuse Proceedings. She is a member of the Lauderdale County Bar Association and the National District Attorney’s Association.

In 2020, Kassie was honored with the Outstanding Local Prosecutor award from U.S. Attorney’s Office. Kassie is married to Jay Mercer, and they are members of Gateway Community Church in Lauderdale, MS. She is the daughter of Coach Jerry Coleman, who spent 37 years as a dedicated coach, teacher and principal at Southeast Lauderdale and Kathy Harper Coleman, a beautician who operated her own shop in Meridian for more than thirty years.

SPEAKER BIOS

Lindsay Cranford



Deputy Attorney General, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

In addition to her position as Deputy Attorney General, Lindsay is currently a member of the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) as well as a member of the Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force. She is a regular instructor for the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy (MLEOTA), the Mississippi Judicial College and the Mississippi Prosecutors Association, teaching on the topics of cybercrime, Fourth Amendment law, digital evidence and human trafficking.

Lindsay previously served as the Director of the Public Integrity Division and as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Cyber Crime Division. During her 17-year law career, Lindsay has served in the capacity of both prosecutor and public defender, including as Chief Public Defender of the Pearl River County Public

Defender's Office, one of the few full-time public defense offices in the State of Mississippi, and as an Assistant District Attorney in the Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

Lindsay received her B.A. in English from the University of Southern Mississippi and her J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Lindsay's husband, Clay, is also a career prosecutor. She has two daughters.

SPEAKER BIOS

Keith Davis



Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Mississippi Department of Public Safety

In 2020, Keith Davis was appointed to Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety by Commissioner Sean Tindell. Since his appointment, Davis has played a pivotal role in modernizing the operations of the Driver Services Bureau, streamlining the issuance of driver's licenses and other state identification credentials, which has resulted in substantial reductions in wait times statewide. Deputy Commissioner Davis also oversees the Offices of Homeland Security, Bureau of Narcotics, Capitol Police, Public Safety Planning, and Crime Stoppers.

Davis is committed to advancing the administration's vision of transforming DPS' service to the state and enhancing its collaboration with law enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local levels. His strategy for effectively implementing public safety measures in the future revolves around "collaboration and force multiplication" of resources, ensuring a collaborative approach to addressing challenges and maximizing efficiency.

Prior to joining the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Davis served as Chief of Staff for the Secretary of State's Office. He is a veteran law enforcement officer with over 30 years of experience and has served several Chief Administrative roles for State and local law enforcement agencies.

Davis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, minoring in Forensics Science, from the University of Southern Mississippi and is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Class 243 and the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy.

SPEAKER BIOS

Robert Eikhoff



Special Agent in Charge (SAC), FBI, Jackson Field Division

Robert A. Eikhoff was named the special agent in charge of the Jackson Field Office in Mississippi, in 2024. Mr. Eikhoff most recently served as a section chief in the Operational Technology Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Eikhoff joined the FBI as a special agent in 2004, and was assigned to the Columbia Field Office in South Carolina, where he investigated public corruption and civil rights violations. He transferred to the Washington Field Office in 2008, and worked on the first squad dedicated to investigating terrorists' use of the internet.

In 2010, Mr. Eikhoff was promoted to supervisory special agent and transferred to the Counterterrorism Division at Headquarters, where he provided oversight for international terrorism investigations. He returned to the Washington Field Office in 2012 and investigated counterterrorism-related computer intrusions.

Mr. Eikhoff was promoted in 2016 and led a team of investigative and analytic professionals in the Washington Field Office that investigated counterintelligence-related computer intrusions. In 2020, Mr. Eikhoff was selected to serve as one of the Washington Field Office's assistant special agents in charge, overseeing the Human and Signals Intelligence programs and Language Services.

In 2022, Mr. Eikhoff was promoted to chief of the Cyber Operations Section of the Operational Technology Division at Headquarters, leading the FBI's primary computer and vehicle network exploitation and covert infrastructure operations.

Prior to joining the FBI, Mr. Eikhoff served in the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer and later worked as a business analyst in the credit industry and a chief information officer in the recruiting industry. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Georgia State University.

SPEAKER BIOS

Todd Gee



U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Mississippi

Todd W. Gee was confirmed as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi on September 29, 2023. As United States Attorney, Mr. Gee supervises the investigation and prosecution of all federal crimes and the litigation of all civil matters in which the United States has an interest.

Mr. Gee has worked for the U.S. Department of Justice since 2007 including serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia and a Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section of the Department's Criminal Division. He has tried a wide variety of cases before juries with charges ranging from homicide to bank fraud and obstruction of justice.

Before joining the Department of Justice, Mr. Gee was the Chief Counsel of the Homeland Security Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, clerked for United States Magistrate Judge Janice M. Stewart of the District of Oregon, and was a legislative assistant for a member of Congress. He has also taught a course on public corruption law at George Washington University Law School.

Mr. Gee is a graduate of George Washington University and Tulane Law School. He was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

SPEAKER BIOS

Robert Grooms



Domestic Security Strategist, U.S. Secret Service

Robert Grooms currently serves as a Domestic Security Strategist (DSS) with the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), where he interfaces with community safety partners to facilitate access to NTAC resources and the development of targeted violence prevention programs. Mr. Grooms is based out of the Atlanta Field Office. In addition to developing relationships and responding to the needs of community partners, Mr. Grooms provides briefings on NTAC and assists with consultations on threat assessment policy development and on individual complex threat cases.

Prior to joining the U.S. Secret Service, Mr. Grooms served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Psychological Operations Specialist. Mr. Grooms completed three combat tours in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Mr. Grooms served as a patrolman in Ohio for fourteen years, spending the last seven years as a School Resource Officer. Additionally, Mr. Grooms worked with regional partners to build out threat assessment capabilities using a multi-disciplinary, public health approach.

Mr. Grooms holds a bachelor's degree in Adult/Young Adult (AYA) education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Toledo.

SPEAKER BIOS

Richard Gulledge



Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Commander, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

*R*ichard Gulledge is the Commander of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force for the State of Mississippi and is currently assigned to the Cyber Crime Division of the Attorney General's Office. Prior to becoming Commander of the ICAC Task Force, Richard served as a senior investigator and digital forensic examiner within the Cyber Crime Division.

Before becoming employed with the Attorney General's Office, Richard began his law enforcement career in the state of Florida. Richard later moved to Mississippi in 2009, where he served with several law enforcement agencies as a patrol officer, field training officer, investigator, and task force officer (TFO) with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

Richard is a Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) through the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS). Richard holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of South Florida and is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Command College and the Mississippi Certified Investigators Program (CIP).

SPEAKER BIOS

Lt. Colonel Jimmy Herzog



Director, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation

*L*t. Colonel James Herzog was born and raised in Mississippi. Lt. Colonel Herzog embarked on his academic journey at Mississippi College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a specialization in Management. His academic prowess was evident as he consistently garnered recognition on the Dean's List. Additionally, Lt. Colonel Herzog showcased his athletic prowess as a pivotal member of the prestigious 1989 NCAA Football National Championship Team and the 1990 Gulf South Champions.

Lt. Colonel Herzog's foray into law enforcement commenced in 1994 when he joined the ranks as a State Trooper. His exemplary performance and unwavering commitment soon propelled him to prominence, earning him a coveted spot on the SWAT team and subsequently assuming the role of a Field Training Officer. His dedication and proficiency did not go unnoticed, as evidenced by

accolades such as the Lamar County Officer of the Year Award and a Life-Saving Award.

In 1999, Lt. Colonel Herzog transitioned to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, where he undertook the formidable task of conducting over 250 death investigations with utmost diligence and precision. His exceptional contributions were duly recognized through prestigious honors such as the Trooper of the Year award and a Distinguished Service Award, underscoring his invaluable service to the community.

Throughout his tenure, Lt. Colonel Herzog assumed multifaceted roles, including serving as the Amber Alert and Silver Alert Coordinator for the state of Mississippi, where he implemented vital protocols for locating missing children and vulnerable adults. His proficiency in counterterrorism and national security investigations was further showcased during his tenure as an FBI Task Force Agent with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, where he played a pivotal role in thwarting potential threats and safeguarding national security interests.

Lt. Colonel Herzog's unwavering pursuit of excellence culminated in his appointment as Director of Special Operations and Major Crime Unit in 2012, where he oversaw a myriad of complex investigations ranging from murder-for-hire to human trafficking. His visionary leadership and indomitable spirit were instrumental in the creation of the Endangered Missing Child Alert system, a testament to his enduring commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

In 2017, Lt. Colonel Herzog ascended to the esteemed position of Deputy Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, where he continued to chart new frontiers and spearhead innovative initiatives to combat crime and uphold the rule of law. His unwavering dedication to duty and exemplary leadership qualities were further underscored by his appointment as Chief of Security at the Ag Theft Bureau in 2022, where he assumed responsibility for ensuring safety at major events such as the Mississippi State Fair and Dixie National Rodeo.

In February 2024, Lt. Colonel James Herzog returned to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation as the Special Agent in Charge, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a steadfast commitment to advancing law enforcement strategies. His tenure continues to be characterized by unwavering dedication, exemplary leadership, and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the communities he serves.

SPEAKER BIOS

Joshua Jackson



Special Agent in Charge (SAC), ATF, New Orleans Field Division

Joshua E. Jackson is currently the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the New Orleans Field Division and was appointed to this position in August 2023. Jackson is the chief executive responsible for management and oversight of ATF's criminal enforcement and industry operations in the seven judicial districts that cover the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

Jackson began his ATF career in January 2009 as a Special Agent (SA) in the Los Angeles Field Division, Los Angeles, CA in the Los Angeles II Field Office. In 2017, Jackson took a promotion as a program manager/spokesperson in the Public Affairs Division in ATF Headquarters. In 2018, Jackson transferred out of ATF Headquarters to the Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) of the Stockton Field Office, Stockton, CA in the San Francisco Field

Division. In 2019, Jackson became the RAC of the Oakland Field Office Crime Gun Enforcement Team, Oakland, CA. In 2020, Jackson became an Assistant Special Agent in Charge in the San Francisco Field Division, Dublin, CA. From August 2022 through May 2023, Jackson served as the long-term acting SAC for the San Francisco Field Division.

During his career in California, Jackson led teams of ATF Special Agents and investigators on multiple high-profile investigations including the Goshen Homicides, Stockton Serial Killer, mass shooting at the Valley Transit Authority in San Jose; multiple Special Response Team enforcement operations; multiple National Response Team callouts for arsons; large scale takedowns; multi-state and multi-national initiative, and as "Operation Halo," of the Hells Angels Outlaw Motorcycle Gang; murder-for-hire shootings, and many undercover operations focused on violent offenders.

Prior to joining the ATF, Jackson worked as a firefighter/paramedic for the Houston Fire Department and later as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the Houston Medical Center. Jackson received a Juris Doctor Degree in Law from South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX in 2008, and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing from the University of Houston, Houston, TX in 2003. Jackson successfully passed the Texas Bar Exam in 2012, nearly four years after graduating law school, while working investigations in the ATF Los Angeles Field Division.

SPEAKER BIOS

Kristen Johnson



Captain, Jackson County Sheriff's Department

Captain Kristen Johnson is a dedicated law enforcement professional serving her community with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. With over 17 years of experience in law enforcement, Johnson made history as the first female lead investigator in the Criminal Investigations Division. Her specialization in Crimes Against Children underscores her commitment to protecting vulnerable populations, with 12 years dedicated to this critical area of law enforcement.

As a member of the Mississippi Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, Johnson is actively involved in combating online exploitation and abuse. Prior to her role in the Criminal Investigations Division, she gained valuable experience in patrol, public relations, transportation, and served as an Explorer Advisor.

Johnson's educational background includes certification from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy, along with degrees from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and the University of Alabama. She furthered her expertise by completing training at the National Computer Forensics Institute in Hoover, Alabama, specializing in digital forensics.

Recognized for her outstanding service, Johnson has received numerous awards throughout her career. Notably, in September 2023, she graduated from the FBI National Academy, Session 287, further enhancing her skills and leadership capabilities.

SPEAKER BIOS

Steven Maxwell



Administrative Officer, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Steven Maxwell is a seasoned law enforcement officer with 27 years of public service as an Agent of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. His leadership and management roles with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics include Group Supervisor of Special Operations, Captain of Special Operations, Captain of the Hattiesburg District, Captain of the Jackson Enforcement Team, Major of the Central Region, Major of the Southern Region, Lieutenant Colonel of Enforcement, Deputy Director, and Colonel of MBN. Most recently, Maxwell was named as an Administrative Officer for the Department of Public Safety, overseeing drug demand reduction and developing identification and training on substance abuse by mental health patients. Maxwell is also leading a study with other states on how to reduce the incarceration population of drug offenders.

Maxwell has received numerous accolades, including the MBN Claude Stuckey Award, awarded for a sustained and superior record of service. He was also the recipient of the MBN Director's Award, awarded for outstanding performance and contributions in furtherance of the Agency's mission.

Stephen Maxwell is a lifelong resident of Mississippi and graduate of Stone County High School in Wiggins. Maxwell continued his education by attending Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College where he obtained an Associate's Degree followed with a Bachelor's Degree in Corrections from Langston University. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. Stephen Maxwell is a graduate of the FBI 252nd National Academy Class and served as an adjunct faculty member of William Carey University from 2013-2018.

SPEAKER BIOS

Clay McCombs



Training Coordinator, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Clay was born and raised in Carthage, Mississippi, where he grew up having strong roots in his community, due to his family owning a local grocery store in Carthage. He began his career as an intern with the Carthage Police Department, in 1998, and pursued a degree at Mississippi State University. Agent McCombs received his degree from MSU in Interdisciplinary Sciences, where his focuses were Sociology, Criminology, and Insurance.

In 2004, he became a Deputy with the Leake County Sheriff's Office and was re-assigned to investigations divisions, and he became a Special Contract Agent with the MS Bureau of Narcotics. In 2012, he became the Chief Investigator for Leake County Sheriff's Office, where he oversaw all criminal investigations. Agent McCombs worked four assignments with the United States Drug

Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) while at Leake County Sheriff's Office that led to arrests throughout Mississippi and across the United States.

In May of 2017, Agent McCombs became a fulltime Agent with MBN. In 2018, he became the lead negotiator for MBN Crisis Negotiation Team and was assigned to DEA Task Force Group 51 in Jackson, Mississippi. He currently serves as MBN Training Coordinator and is assigned to Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy. Agent McCombs is married and lives in Carthage with a 10-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl. Agent McCombs is a member of First Baptist Church Carthage. He spends his spare time chasing his kids, hunting, coaching baseball, and teaching archery at his former high school.

SPEAKER BIOS

Brian McGairty



**Director,
Safe and Orderly Schools
Mississippi Department of Education**

*B*rian McGairty serves as the Director of the Office of Safe and Orderly Schools and the Office of Educator Misconduct with the Mississippi Department of Education.

After graduating Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Corrections, he graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy in 2006. He would then serve the next 13 years working his way through the ranks with the Pearl Police Department from patrolman to Captain/Public Information Officer before beginning his career with MDE in 2019.

Brian currently oversees the safety compliance of all accredited schools in the State of Mississippi in areas of facility management, transportation, and school safety. In 2023, Brian co-chaired the Mississippi School Safety Alliance, bringing together stakeholders from education, public safety, juvenile justice, and many other agencies such as Child Protection Services, The Parent's Campaign, the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to engage in conversations as a work group to review current school safety law and policies while working together to make recommendations for best practices and enhanced school safety standards.

Brian lives in Rankin County with his wife Emily and their three sons Jon Davis, Tatum, and Tucker. He enjoys serving at his church in various capacities and spending time with his family watching MSU Athletics and coaching soccer and baseball with his kids.

SPEAKER BIOS

Jeff McManus



**Author and Director,
Landscape, Airport and Golf Services
The University of Mississippi**

Jeff McManus and his team have been praised by The New York Times, Forbes, and the Huffington Post for their work in landscaping at Ole Miss as well as Jeff's book, *Growing Weeders into Leaders*, that reveals the secret sauce in the recipe for their success. The PGMS, Newsweek, the Princeton Review, and USA Today all designated the Ole Miss Landscape team worthy of national distinction, naming the Ole Miss campus as the nation's most beautiful. As noted by Dan Cathy, Chairman of the Board for Chick-fil-A, "Jeff reminds us that all leaders can be cultivated with the right pruning and nurturing."

As the Director of Landscape, Airport and Golf Services at the University of Mississippi by day, a member of the National

Speakers Association by night, Jeff has worked with hundreds of leaders and organizations to find the hidden leader within themselves and others. His easy-to follow leadership programs motivate participants to lead by example, problem solve and to engage in continuous learning and growing.

Jeff graduated from Auburn University in Horticulture, he is a Professional Certified Grounds Manager, and a Certified Arborist. Jeff knows that great leaders grow great leaders, and as a professional speaker and a member of the National Speaker Association, his message focuses on enriching, entertaining, and inspiring industry leaders looking to grow their team's performance.

SPEAKER BIOS

Gordon McMullin



Violence Against Women Resource Manager, MS Attorney General's Office

Gordon McMullin is a dedicated professional who joined the Office of the Attorney General in 2020, bringing his expertise to the forefront as the Law Enforcement Liaison within the Public Education and Community Engagement Division. With a commitment to promoting safety and justice, Gordon transitioned to the role of Violence Against Women Resource Manager within the Prosecutor and Law Enforcement Training Division.

In his current capacity, Gordon plays a vital role in providing comprehensive training to law enforcement officials, judges, court clerks, and advocates across the state, focusing specifically on domestic violence awareness and prevention. His efforts extend beyond training sessions as he actively contributed to the implementation of the new Mississippi Domestic Violence

Reporting (DVR) System, continuing to support its deployment and facilitate training initiatives.

Gordon's dedication to his field is underscored by his academic background. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, accompanied by a minor in Psychology. During his time at university, Gordon also served as Vice President of the Legal Studies' Student Association, demonstrating his leadership and commitment to his studies.

Outside of his professional endeavors, Gordon finds fulfillment in family life. He resides in Madison, Mississippi, with his wife Breanna and their son Briggs. Their shared values of service and community involvement enrich Gordon's personal and professional journey, reflecting his holistic approach to making a positive impact in the lives of others.

SPEAKER BIOS

Erin Meyer



General Counsel, Mississippi Department of Education

Erin Meyer is a distinguished legal professional currently serving as General Counsel to the Department of Education. With a career spanning various facets of law, Erin brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her role.

Prior to her current position, Erin held the esteemed role of Group Lead for Education in the State Agencies Division at the Attorney General's Office. In this capacity, she served as Lead Counsel to the Department of Education, State Board of Education, Licensure Commission, and Commission on School Accreditation. Erin also provided supervision to attorneys assigned to the IHL, MCCB, and MCSAB, demonstrating her exceptional leadership skills and legal acumen.

Erin's legal career began in Miami, where she served as a prosecutor handling cases involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Her dedication to seeking justice and protecting vulnerable individuals has been a cornerstone of her professional journey.

Erin's educational background includes an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Miami School of Law. She is known for her sharp intellect, strong work ethic, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Erin resides in Madison with her husband Chris, a partner with Burr Furman LLP, and their three children, Jake, Leah, and Max. Erin's dedication to her family and her community underscores her values of integrity, compassion, and service.

In her current role as General Counsel to the Department of Education, Erin continues to make invaluable contributions to the field of education law, upholding the highest standards of legal integrity and advocacy.

SPEAKER BIOS

Mary Eileen Paradis



Chief of Police, University of Mississippi Medical Center

*M*s. Mary Eileen Paradis possesses over thirty years of law enforcement experience, emphasizing in higher education, public safety and emergency management that is built upon a foundation of enterprise thinking, collaboration and unquestionable integrity. She currently serves as the Chief of Police and Executive Director of Public Safety for the University of Mississippi Medical Center Police Department and the Office of Public Safety (UMMC PD). Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Chief of Police and Executive Director of Public Safety serves as the senior law enforcement official to plan, direct, coordinate, and provide overall leadership of UMMC PD. Duties and responsibilities include enforcement of all local, state, and federal laws and adherence to UMMC policies and procedures.

Before joining UMMC PD, Paradis held the position of Assistant Vice President (AVP) of Safety & Security at Marymount University, situated in Arlington, Virginia. In this role, she was responsible for overseeing the University's Office of Safety and Emergency Management, which was dedicated to fostering the physical health and psychological well-being of the campus community. Her responsibilities included the coordination of efforts to prevent campus crime, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and maintain a safe environment. Paradis led the Campus Safety and Emergency Management staff in providing around-the-clock general assistance, information, and necessary response to the community.

Previous to her role at Marymount University, Paradis served The George Washington University Police Department (GWPD) from 2014-2020. During her employment with GWPD, she served as the Interim Chief of Police and Assistant Chief of Police. In this role, she led and directed GWPD personnel where she oversaw the patrol, administration, communications and investigation branches. Paradis managed the safety and security pertaining to all five of The George Washington University campuses located in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to her assignment as Interim Chief of Police, she served as the GWPD Assistant Chief Physical Security and Information Management where she managed all internal and external physical security and information technology responsibilities.

Prior to GWPD, Paradis held the following titles: Senior Director of Safety & Security at the Corcoran Gallery of Art & College of Art + Design, Director of Security at the Willard InterContinental, Corporate Director of Loss Prevention at Global Wireless Solutions, Director of Security at Westfield Wheaton Shopping Town, and Public Safety Director at Tysons Corner Center. Paradis was also a sworn member of the Chicago Police Department's Intelligence Section for over 11 years.

In 2017, Paradis was recognized as a Distinguished Scholar by The George Washington University. This award recognizes students for their exemplary performance both inside and outside the classroom. In 2015, Paradis received the Dr. Richard F. Southby Police Science Prize which is presented to an exceptional graduating student from GW's Police and Security Studies program where Paradis maintained a GPA of 4.0. Paradis is a graduate of the Chicago Police Training Academy, holds a bachelor's degree in Police & Security Studies and a graduate degree in Cybersecurity Strategy & Information Management from The George Washington University. Paradis lives in Jackson, Mississippi.

SPEAKER BIOS

Crosby Parker



District Attorney, 2nd Circuit Court District

Crosby Parker is the District Attorney for Harrison, Hancock, and Stone counties. This office handles all the felony prosecutions and trials in the three counties. Prior to becoming the District Attorney, Crosby worked as an Assistant District Attorney, and then as the Chief Assistant District Attorney where he specialized in handling high profile violent, child victim, and corruption cases.

On the State level, Crosby served as the President for the Mississippi Prosecutors Association, as well as, the Vice Chair for the Prosecutors Section of the Mississippi Bar.

Prior to coming to work for the District Attorney's Office, Crosby served approximately six years in the active duty Air Force as a Judge Advocate. He currently serves as a Colonel in the Mississippi

Air National Guard as the State Staff Judge Advocate where he oversees the JAG Corps for both the Mississippi Air Force and Army National Guard. Crosby attended Mississippi State University and Baylor University Law School.

Crosby lives in Gulfport with his wife, the former Lauren Berry, and they are currently raising three boys in the Gulfport School District- Crosby II, Cannon, and Charlie.

SPEAKER BIOS

Greg Pollan



Sheriff, Calhoun County

Sheriff Pollan started his law enforcement career at the age of 19 as a part time police officer with the Calhoun City Police Dept. while working his way through Ole Miss. After graduating and obtaining his B.S. in Public Administration, Sheriff Pollan continued with CCPD working his way up to Asst. Chief serving in that capacity for over 10 years.

He is a very proud graduate of MLEOTA and is also a graduate of the Criminal Investigator Program (CIP) at MLEOTA. In 2011, Sheriff Pollan was elected to his first term as Sheriff.

Sheriff Pollan has continued his education and training after being elected with the belief that education is power. He is a graduate of the National Sheriff's Institute in Aurora, Colorado; the

National Sheriff's Institute in Corrections at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.; N.R.A. Firearms Instructor and TASER Instructor.

In 2021, Sheriff Pollan was elected as President of the Mississippi Sheriff's Association. In 2022, he was reelected to that position serving as only the second back-to-back President. The Sheriff has used that position to fight for legislation that would benefit all law enforcement across the state. Sheriff Pollan has over 35 years experience and is looking forward to many more.

SPEAKER BIOS

Nikki Pullen



Chief of Police, Horn Lake Police Department

*A*fter starting her law enforcement career at Horn Lake Police Department in June 2005, Nikki Pullen worked as a patrol officer, narcotics investigator, patrol shift supervisor, general investigations commander and patrol division commander. She was appointed Chief of Police of Horn Lake Police Department on July 1, 2023.

Pullen is a 2005 graduate of Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a 2022 graduate of the FBI National Academy Session 283.

SPEAKER BIOS

Chief John Quaka



Chief of Police, Tupelo Police Department

Chief John Quaka is a seasoned law enforcement leader with a wealth of experience and a steadfast commitment to serving his community. His journey in public service began in 1995 when he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent. Over the years, Chief Quaka served in various locations including Los Angeles, CA and Greenville, Tupelo, and Oxford, MS, tackling a diverse range of federal violations including bank robbery, kidnapping, public corruption, civil rights, white-collar crime, terrorism, and organized crime.

Chief Quaka's expertise and dedication were further showcased during his 22-year tenure as a member of the FBI SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team, where he was certified as an assaulter, sniper, medic, and drone pilot. His exceptional skills and

leadership capabilities earned him the opportunity to serve on the FBI Protection Detail Teams of United States Attorney Generals William Barr, Loretta Lynch, and Eric Holder.

Among the highlights of Chief Quaka's esteemed career was his deployment to Afghanistan in 2006, where he was embedded with a United States Army Special Forces team on the Pakistan border, actively combating terrorism. This experience underscored his unwavering commitment to national security and the fight against global threats.

After retiring from the FBI on December 31, 2021, Chief Quaka embarked on a new chapter of his career as the Chief of the Tupelo, MS. Police Department, commencing on January 1, 2022. In recognition of his exemplary service and leadership, Governor Tate Reeves appointed Chief Quaka to serve on the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training in 2022.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Chief Quaka finds joy and fulfillment in his family life. He is married to Vicky Williamson Quaka and is the proud father of three accomplished children. Mason is a third-year Law School student at Ole Miss, Benjamin is a first-year Law School student at Ole Miss, and Anna Fleming is a junior at Mississippi College. Chief Quaka himself graduated from Ole Miss with a degree in Public Administration in 1990 and furthered his education by obtaining a degree from the Ole Miss School of Law in 1993. His dedication to education and public service exemplifies his commitment to excellence in all aspects of his life.

SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. Thomas Recore



Forensic Liaison, Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Dr. Thomas Recore is an Ocean Springs, MS native. He graduated from Tulane University in 2001 and accepted an officers' commission in the United States Marine Corps. In 2005, upon his return from a deployment to Iraq with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, he left active-duty military service to pursue a career in medicine.

In 2015, Dr. Recore completed his residency in psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center where he served as the Executive Chief Resident. In 2016, he graduated from a forensic psychiatry fellowship program at the University of North Carolina and then returned to Mississippi.

After returning to Mississippi in 2016, Dr. Recore began working at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) as a board-certified forensic and clinical psychiatrist, and he assumed a forensic liaison role with state and local governments. In this role, he also ensured a productive and collaborative relationship with the MS Circuit Courts, Disability Rights, and the MacArthur Justice Center.

Dr. Recore continues to develop and implement strategies to serve the forensic patient population and stakeholders in the MS Criminal Justice system as the Forensic Liaison for the MS Department of Mental Health.

SPEAKER BIOS

Victoria Rice



Public Integrity Division Chief Investigator, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

*V*ictoria Rice is the Chief of Investigations for the Public Integrity Division of the Attorney General's Office. Prior to becoming Chief Investigator, Victoria was assigned to the Cyber Crime Division where she served as an investigator, a digital forensics examiner, and the Commander of the Mississippi Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Before becoming employed by the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, Victoria began her law enforcement career at the Copiah County Sheriff's Office where she was a dispatcher, deputy sheriff, juvenile officer, and a member of the Special Response Team (SRT). Victoria holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She is a graduate of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy (MLEOTA) and is also a graduate of the Criminal Investigator Program (CIP) at MLEOTA where she was elected class leader. She is a Certified Computer Forensic Examiner (CFCE) through the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS).

Last year, Victoria attended and graduated from the 286th class of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Victoria is a life-long resident of Copiah County. She and her husband live in Hazlehurst with their daughter.

SPEAKER BIOS

Charlie Rubisoff



Deputy Director of Cyber Crime, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

Charlie Rubisoff is the Deputy Director of the Cyber Crime Division of the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. There, he supervises the state's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Cyber Fraud Task Force, the agency's digital forensic laboratories, and a statewide team of investigators.

Charlie is a globally recognized expert in the field of digital forensics having provided subject matter expertise to organizations such as Cellebrite, the United States Secret Service, the United States State Department, and the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS). As a trainer, he has delivered instruction on digital forensic techniques on four continents to thousands of students.

Charlie is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. In his spare time he enjoys travel, the outdoors, and software development.

SPEAKER BIOS

Tim Rutledge



Director, Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support

Timothy Jay (Tim) Rutledge is a co-owner of LEAPS Training, LLC, created to train law enforcement officers in peer support, officer involved shootings, and other topics. LEAPS Training trains over 1,500 officers per year in these complex topics and has trained more than 15,000 officers, chaplains, prosecutors, and dispatchers in peer support topics.

Tim was an Agent of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics from 1983 until retirement in 2009. While at MBN, he received dozens of commendations and awards for his work. He has served as an instructor in firearms, SWAT, the use of deadly force, supervision and leadership, wiretaps, peer support, and many other topics. He has authored 23 statutes in the State of Mississippi on a variety of topics including the state's wiretap law, methamphetamine

production, overdose deaths, subpoenas, and in 2006, the peer support privilege law, in which 4 other states copied. He was also awarded the ICISF Jefferson Cup for his service of providing peer support in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

His second retirement was as the Director of Training for the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy, part of the National Guard Counterdrug Training System from 2009 to 2020. RCTA trained 15,000 law enforcement officers each year under his leadership. He received many awards for his work at RCTA including the rarely given Governor's Distinguished Civilian Service Medal.

He is the founder and director of the Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support (LEAPS), which has certified more than 3,300 officers in more than 130 classes to conduct peer support in 16 states. LEAPS has provided emotional support for tens of thousands of officers with proven support mechanisms exclusive to law enforcement stress and trauma developed by LEAPS. Tim has instructed 220 Officer Involved Shooting classes to more than 13,000 officers based on his multiple decades of research on this topic. He has interviewed more than 3,000 officers who have been involved in shootings. He has been recognized as an expert in the aftermath of officer involved shootings by many including former Attorney General Jim Hood. He is a Force Science Institute Certified Specialist and offers unique instruction in the before, during and aftermath of shootings.

Tim received his Bachelor's in Public Administration from the University of Mississippi where he was the President of the Ole Miss Law Enforcement Fraternity.

SPEAKER BIOS

Austin Shepherd



Crime Scene Unit Investigator, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation

*A*ustin Shepherd has been a Forensic Team Lead for the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation Crime Scene Unit since 2020. He specializes in responding to and processing crime scenes in the North and Central Districts of Mississippi.

Prior to his role with the MBI-CSU, he held the position of Director at the Columbus Forensic Lab. In this role, he oversaw all operations and personnel in a comprehensive forensic lab that provided services to over 20 law enforcement agencies in the region. He also conducted crime scene analysis and investigations, fingerprint analysis, and provided training in forensic science.

Before his time with the Columbus Forensic Lab, he spent three years with the State of Mississippi Crime Lab's Violent Crime Scene Response Unit and four years at the Mississippi State University Anthropology Lab while earning his bachelor's degree. During his time at Mississippi State, he participated in two summer excavations in Israel, sponsored by both Mississippi State and Hebrew University, assisting with the excavation of Iron Age settlements.

Mr. Shepherd holds a master's in forensic science; a bachelor's in anthropology and is a nationally certified Crime Scene Investigator. He is also a certified state instructor and law enforcement officer through the State of Mississippi BLEOST.

Aside from his advanced degrees in forensic science, Mr. Shepherd is also a member of the International Association of Identification (I.A.I.) and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He has completed over 1500 hours of training in various areas of forensics, including crime scene reconstruction, bloodstain pattern analysis, fingerprint analysis, computer forensics, and crime scene investigation. His expertise has been utilized in court as an expert witness for both crime scene investigation and fingerprint analysis. He has been featured on "Dark Minds" on the ID Channel as well as numerous publications for his work on the Columbus, MS "serial killer."

Mr. Shepherd has given guest lectures on forensic science at universities such as Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi, as well as at the International Forensic Science Academy. He has also shared his expertise with law enforcement agencies throughout the Southeastern region. Additionally, he holds a position as an Adjunct Professor in the Criminal Justice Program at Itawamba Community College.

SPEAKER BIOS

Kyle Smith



Resident Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service

In July 2023, Kyle Smith was appointed as Resident Agent in Charge (RAIC) of the U.S. Secret Service' Jackson Resident Office, in Jackson, Mississippi. As the RAIC of the Jackson Resident Office, Mr. Smith oversees all of the budgetary, investigative and protective operations in the Jackson district which covers the state of Mississippi.

Mr. Smith entered on duty with the U.S. Secret Service in March of 2008 as a Special Agent in the Houston Field Office. There he investigated financial crimes and conducted protective advances within the Houston Field Office's district.

In 2016, Mr. Smith was transferred to the Presidential Protective Division where he served under President Barack Obama, President Donald Trump, and President Joseph Biden.

In the summer of 2021, he was promoted to Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge within the Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division. While serving in this role, Mr. Smith was in charge of the dissemination of information to each of our agency's directorates.

Prior to the Secret Service, Mr. Smith served two years as a police officer with the St. Louis County Police Department in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Smith holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University.

SPEAKER BIOS

John Thompson

PICTURE UNAVAILABLE

Senior Inspector, U.S. Marshals Service

Inspector John Thompson is the Judicial Security Inspector for the Marshals Service's Judicial Security Division, Office of Court Security. He assists with managing the CSO Contract for the U.S. Marshals Service. He has been in the U.S. Marshals for 20 years with the last 10 focused on Judicial Security. He was in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, an Opelika Police Officer, and a Detective in Alabama for 7 years before joining the U.S. Marshals Service. He helped create the U.S. Marshal Service's Vulnerability Assessment Class and Residential Assessment Class that teaches deputies how to conduct security surveys of court facilities and protect an individual's residence.

SPEAKER BIOS

Eric Trehern



Senior Manager of Asset Protection Investigations, Home Depot

Eric Trehern is a Senior Manager of Asset Protection Investigations at The Home Depot. He leads a team of highly trained investigators based at The Home Depot's Store Support Center (SSC) supporting over 2,000 US Stores. His team is focused on the resolution of complex internal theft investigations impacting stores, supply chain and rental. Prior to his current role, Eric led Organized Retail Crime Investigations in Home Depot's Southern Division. Eric comes from a background with almost a decade in law enforcement and over 11 years of retail Asset Protection experience, he has held several leadership roles in both store and headquarter environments. Eric is a graduate of the University of Georgia with his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

SPEAKER BIOS

Robert Whitten



Law Enforcement Liaison, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

*L*t. Robert Whitten has over 16 years of law enforcement experience. He currently works for the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, overseeing their clandestine lab operations and works as their Law Enforcement Liaison with the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy. Lt. Whitten began his career with the Vicksburg Police Department in 2007 and completed the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in March of 2008.

In 2014, Lt. Whitten began working for the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, where he began working with the Jackson District Office enforcing drug related crimes in the Central Mississippi area. During his time with MBN, he has also worked with the Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit and had the opportunity to be an instructor for other state and local law enforcement officers.

He has attended numerous trainings at the local, state and federal level to further his knowledge and understanding in a variety of fields, with a primary focus on clandestine lab operations, safety and handling, as well as basic and advanced pharmaceutical investigations and tactics.

SPEAKER BIOS

Luke Williamson



Deputy Director of Public Integrity, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

*L*uke P. Williamson is a Special Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Director of the Public Integrity Division of the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Luke was an Assistant District Attorney in DeSoto County for nearly sixteen (16) years.

During his time in the District Attorney's office, Luke prosecuted all manner of felony crimes, including prosecutions against public officials, drug trafficking cases, and maximum victim cases including capital murder, armed robbery, rape, and the physical and sexual assault of children. Luke has tried dozens of cases to verdict in his career as a prosecutor.

Luke received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2001 from the University of Southern Mississippi, attending as a Presidential scholar and graduating summa cum laude. He received his juris doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2005.

SPEAKER BIOS

Shawn Wolfe



Director of Cyber Crime, Mississippi Attorney General's Office

Shawn Wolfe came to the Mississippi Attorney General's Office after more than two decades with the United States Secret Service. In his last position as Resident Agent in Charge of the Jackson office, Wolfe oversaw all budgetary, investigative, and protective operations. Wolfe partnered with the Mississippi Attorney General's Office to establish the Mississippi Cyber Fraud Task Force in April 2021. Between 2005-2009, Wolfe served in the Presidential Protective Division.

In 2010, Mr. Wolfe was selected for a congressional fellowship on the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. In 2011, Wolfe returned to the investigative field where he investigated financial crimes and protective interest threats. In 2016, he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Congressional Affairs Division.

Wolfe received both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from Florida State University in Criminology. Prior to the Secret Service, Wolfe served nearly three years with the United States Border Patrol in Laredo, Texas.

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