



## NCSLA 2020 COMBINED REGIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

### *Transitioning to the “New” Normal*

November 9, 10, and 12, 2020

### **Presenter Biographies**

**JESSICA ALLEN** joined the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) in 2014. In her current role as Executive Secretary, she advises applicants on Indiana’s laws and assists staff with alcohol related questions and procedures. Jessica previously served as Commission Counsel, Legislative Liaison, and administrative hearing judge for the ATC.

Prior to joining the Commission, Jessica worked for the City of Indianapolis as Deputy City Prosecutor where she was involved in local licensing enforcement matters. Jessica earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Butler University and her J.D. from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, both in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**STEVEN BARKER** is the Deputy Director and General Counsel of the ABLE Commission, and has served the Commission since 2015. Following two years in private practice, Mr. Barker began his public service career as an Assistant General Counsel for the Oklahoma Tax Commission supervising a team of attorneys focused on the collection of sales, mixed beverage, and withholding taxes. Immediately prior to joining the ABLE Commission, Barker served as an Assistant Attorney General under E. Scott Pruitt providing legal counsel to a variety of state agencies. Steven and his wife Shauna reside in Edmond, Oklahoma with their three children.

**TONY BARNES** is Chief Corporate Counsel and corporate secretary for Founders Brewing Company and manages all of the brewery’s day to day legal, regulatory and compliance matters. He provides similar assistance to Founders’ cousin brewery, Avery Brewing Company, and also assists with the domestic legal needs of its parent company, Mahou-San Miguel. He counts serving as a member on Founders’ Diversity Advisory Counsel and beer naming committee as 2 of his favorite duties.

Previously, Tony practiced corporate and M&A law as a partner for Law Weathers PC and Varnum LLP in Grand Rapids and as an associate for Troutman Sanders in Atlanta. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Tony worked briefly as an actor and in the construction industry. He is a graduate of Kenyon College and earned his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Tony and his wife Gwen live in Grand Rapids and enjoy spending time with their 3 boys (Michael (20), Danny (15) and Johnny (13)) and 2 dogs (Ben and Paco).

**DEBBI BEAVERS** joined the Kansas ABC in January 2004. In 2010, she was promoted to licensing manager and promoted to operations manager in 2015. She was appointed interim ABC Director in 2016 and was confirmed by the Senate in January 2017. Debby is the first female director since the inception of ABC in 1949 and serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of Revenue.

Debby’s priorities for the ABC Division are to regulate the industry consistently, provide excellent customer service and increase compliance with liquor laws through education and training.

Prior to joining the Kansas ABC, Debby lived in Missouri and worked in the private sector as a Medicare compliance analyst and also a social services director. Debby studied at Missouri Western State College and has an associate’s degree in travel.



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**NICHOLAS BERGMAN** is a Partner at Buchman Law Firm, LLP, residing in the Firm’s New York City office. He has practiced in the field of beverage alcohol control law for over 20 years. He received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio in 1997 and his B.A. from and Kenyon College, in Gambier, Ohio, in 1992. He is admitted to the California, New Jersey and New York State bars. Nicholas holds a post graduate degree in Wine Marketing, Finance and Accounting from the Office International du Vin (OIV) in Paris, France.

**MATTHEW BOTTING** was appointed to the position of ABC General Counsel in August, 2008. Mr. Botting has 25 years of state government legal experience. He was ABC’s Chief Legal Counsel from 2000-2004 before he left for a short time to work in private practice. Mr. Botting returned to ABC in 2005, where he served as a Staff Counsel III until his appointment to General Counsel. Prior to joining ABC in 2000, Mr. Botting was a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice. Mr. Botting also represents the California ABC at the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (“NCSLA”) and served as President of that organization during 2016-17. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) degrees from Otago University in New Zealand before relocating to the United States.

**JEANNIE BREMER** is the Vice President of Compliance and Public Policy at The Wine Group. Based in California, The Wine Group is one of the largest wineries in the US with a portfolio of brands including Franzia, Cupcake Vineyards, Chole Wine Collection, and Benziger Family Vineyards. The company operates 9 wineries in California, one in New York and one in Australia. Jeannie is responsible for all beverage alcohol compliance matters at the company including all federal and state compliance and tax/reporting activities, marketing and sales compliance, and import/export compliance. Jeannie also oversees all public policy matters for the company and is an engaged participant in a variety of Wine Institute committees including as the Chair of Wine Institute’s Technical Advisory Committee’s Labeling Working Group. Jeannie lives in Dublin, California with her two daughters and two cats. Ask her about her favorite podcasts!

**CLAYTON BYRD**, Special Counsel at Adams and Reese, heads the firm’s Tennessee alcoholic beverage practice, representing clients across the state and the U.S. with matters involving every aspect of alcoholic beverages, from manufacture and sale to licensing.

Clay represents the interests of manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and other businesses with regard to state and federal liquor licensing and regulatory matters. He draws upon his experience drafting and enforcing legislation to help clients with business challenges related to the production, distribution, sale and regulation of alcoholic beverages.

As former Executive Director of the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC), Clay has nearly a decade of experience with policy surrounding alcohol licensing and regulation. In May 2016, he was appointed Executive Director of the ABC and was responsible for implementing the immediate rollout of wine sales in grocery stores in Tennessee, overseeing one of the largest changes in alcoholic beverage law in the state’s history. During Clay’s tenure, the ABC launched the agency’s Regulatory and Licensing Permitting System, an online licensing platform that fundamentally transformed the day-to-day operations of the agency.



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Additionally, he led the ABC's programs involving law enforcement, regulatory compliance, and alcohol awareness.

Clay previously served as Assistant General Counsel for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury and as a member of the Comptroller's legislative team. He also worked as a Legislative Attorney for the Tennessee General Assembly, where he drafted legislation and served as lead counsel to the State Government Committee and the Local Government Committee in the House of Representatives.

**MATTHEW CHERRY** currently serves as the lead regulatory attorney for matters involving trade and marketing practices at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Mr. Cherry graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2013 and began his career in state government as a budget analyst for the House Appropriations Committee Vice Chair during Texas's 83rd Legislative Session.

Since he joined TABC, Mr. Cherry has served as the Public Information Coordinator, Acting Director of Governmental Relations, Ethics Officer, and as a staff attorney. He is also a member of the Commission's COVID-19 response team, assisting with implementing statutory and policy changes to the state's alcoholic beverage laws during the coronavirus pandemic.

In his current role as TABC's Marketing Practices Attorney, Mr. Cherry prosecutes administrative cases involving regulatory violations and advises the agency's audit, licensing, marketing practices, product registration, and tax divisions.

**JOHN COCCA**, Director of the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (Department of Liquor), was appointed by Governor Ducey in February 2015. Prior to this appointment, the City of Scottsdale was Director Cocca's employer for 30-years, from February 1985 to February 2015. He retired from the Scottsdale Police Department as an Assistant Chief of Police prior to his appointment by Governor Ducey.

Director Cocca holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Arizona State University in Justice Studies and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy's Executive Management program.

A native of Arizona and raised in Scottsdale, he resides in Scottsdale with his wife of 35 years and has two adult children.

**DAVID COOK** graduated from Indiana University School of Law in 1977 and has served as Chief Trial Deputy for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Chief Public Defender for Marion County, and as both a civil and criminal court judge. When David's career on the bench ended in 2014, then Governor Mike Pence appointed him as Chairman of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. Governor Holcomb reappointed him to that post in 2018. As chairman he has worked to simplify alcohol laws and improve agency/industry relations by establishing annual roundtable discussions between agency executive and excise staff and the different sections within the three tiers. His present commission expires in 2022.



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**JOHN H. CORDREY** is the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner for the State of Delaware, having been appointed as the first Commissioner in Delaware by Governor Minner and confirmed by the Senate in January 2001. In 1977 he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia. He obtained his Juris Doctorate in 1980 from Delaware Law School of Widener University, Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Cordrey served as a judicial law clerk for the Superior Court of the State of Delaware and practiced law from 1981 until his appointment as Commissioner. In addition to practicing law at his firm of Cordrey & Clark, P.A., he was appointed as a member of the Delaware Tax Appeal Board, later named as Chairperson, serving for seventeen years. He served as attorney for the majority caucus of the Delaware State Senate from 1991 until becoming Commissioner. He was elected Chairperson of the Northern Region Conference of NCSLA in June 2002. In November 2002 Delaware hosted the Northern Region Conference’s regional conference in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Mr. Cordrey served as President of NCSLA for 2007/08. Mr. Cordrey lives in Georgetown, Delaware with his wife, Carol.

**RODRIGO DIAZ**, as Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, leads a team of attorneys and staff that advises the PLCB in the review and resolution of legal matters impacting the agency. The office renders opinions upon the legality and propriety of statutes, rules and regulations relating to the possession, manufacture, sale, consumption and transportation of alcohol within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Since Rod joined the PLCB in 1992, he has served as assistant counsel, legislative counsel and deputy chief counsel. From 2008 through early 2016, Rod served as executive deputy chief counsel, directly overseeing all legal functions in the agency. During his career, Rod has represented the PLCB before numerous tribunals, including Commonwealth Court and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, involving significant issues like liquid fuels and alcohol sales by supermarkets. Rod has been instrumental in drafting PLCB regulations and representing the agency before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Rod has drafted numerous legislative proposals ultimately enacted into law and has provided testimony in legislative hearings involving the beer distribution system. Rod has served on the faculty of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, where he taught liquor licensing matters, and he has planned and moderated panels for the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). Rod is a cum laude graduate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at Yale.

**KATIE DOYLE**, State Government Affairs Manager at the Washington Hospitality Association, spent over six years in the restaurant industry both before and during her time at the association. With a BA in political science from Seattle University and over five years at the association, Katie advocates for Washington State restaurants and hotels on alcohol policy while assisting in maintaining a robust grassroots advocacy program. Her genuine passion for hospitality has helped strengthen and grow relationships with members, under her management, effective engagement is at an all-time high. Outside the office, she spends most of her time hiking and climbing in the Pacific Northwest.

**CHIMAOBI ENYIA** was appointed by the Governor of Illinois to lead the Illinois Liquor Control Commission in March of 2018. As Executive Director he oversees all policy, operations, legislative, and intergovernmental initiatives of the Commission.



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Prior to servings as Executive Director at ILCC, Director Enyia served as Chief Operating Officer for the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, which manages the administrative operations of the State of Illinois. More recently he served as the Associate Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue primarily focusing on strategic planning, process improvements, data analytics, liquor policy, and management training.

Director Enyia’s efforts were integral in over \$200 million in tax fraud prevention over 3 years through use of data analytics, over \$1 million in annual cost savings, a 30% increase in employee morale, and an increase in employee productivity equivalent to 1 week of work for 400 employees of the Department of Revenue. Most recently, he successfully led the ILCC’s seamless separation from the Department of Revenue to become a newly formed independent agency.

Director Enyia grew up in the southern suburbs of Chicago. He obtained his undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Political Science, received a Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government certification, and is a certified Lean 6 Sigma practitioner. He currently resides in Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood.

**JASON EVANS** is currently serving as Deputy Director of the Business Tax Division. He deals primarily with the Special Taxes aspect of the division which, among many other things, includes licensing, taxation, and regulation of alcohol and tobacco. He has been in his current position since July 2011 but has worked for the South Dakota Department of Revenue since 1996.

**SUSAN EVANS** is a career federal employee who has worked for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) and its predecessor, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), since 1988. In her role as Director of the Office of Industry and State Outreach she draws from her previous positions, including time spent in the field as an inspector and in bureau headquarters as the head of the alcohol labeling and formulation division and as Assistant Administrator for Headquarters Operations. Susan’s main focus is on enhancing TTB communication, education, and customer service.

**AMANDA FILIPEK** is the supervisor of the Wholesale and Oil Tax section at the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner. This section is responsible for the administration of Alcohol, Cigarette and Tobacco, Motor Vehicle Fuel, and Oil and Gas taxes. Originally from Australia, Amanda earned her Bachelor of Business degree from the University of Tasmania. Since joining the Tax Department in 2010, Amanda has held positions in the Corporate Income Tax, Motor Vehicle Fuel, Registration, and Taxpayer Services sections. Before moving to North Dakota, Amanda was an Accounting Supervisor for GE Finance in Rapid City, South Dakota for eight years, where she worked to administer private label credit cards and loans.

Amanda lives on a ranch in North Dakota with her husband. Together they have raised four daughters and run approximately 100 cows.

**PAMELA FRANTZ** is the Executive Director of The National Conference of State Liquor Administrators, Inc. (NCSLA) and joined the association on July 1, 2010. Her primary duties entail general administrative





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management of the organization, support to the Executive Committee, conference/meeting planning, member benefits and recruitment, and website management. She was instrumental in establishing the NCSLA Best Practices Awards in 2007 as Committee Co-chair.

Prior to July 2010, Ms. Frantz was Director, Industry Affairs at Beam Global Spirits & Wine, Inc. She was employed with Beam Global for over 22 years and managed various regulatory compliance responsibilities, in addition to serving on the DISCUS Laws & Regulations Committee.

**RICK GARZA** is the Agency Director of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB). Rick has been with the WSLCB since 1997. During Rick’s career with WSLCB he has also held the positions of Legislative and Tribal Liaison, Policy Director and Deputy Director.

Prior to joining the WSLCB, Rick served 13 years as a staff member for the Washington State Legislature, including five years with the Washington State Senate and eight years with the state House. His legislative assignments included Policy Analyst in the state Senate, House of Representatives Staff Director, and adviser to House and Senate leadership.

Rick is a past President of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA) and presided during 2012-13. In 2016, he was inducted into the NCSLA Hall of Fame.

**JEFF GIAMETTA** is an attorney at Davis Wright Tremaine in Portland, Oregon. For over a decade, Jeff’s focus has been on regulatory and licensing issues in the alcohol beverage industry, representing wineries, breweries, distilleries, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses in alcohol regulatory matters nationwide. He has significant experience counseling clients on state and federal alcohol regulatory and trade practice matters, with a particular emphasis on the marketing, advertising, and promotion of alcoholic beverages in both traditional and digital media. He also leads the firm’s team that handles licensing and permitting activities for alcohol beverage clients. In addition, he is working to support the development of a responsible, professional, and successful cannabis industry in Oregon and Washington.

**JENNA GIGUERE** is Deputy Chief of Legal Services for the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation. She provides a wide range of in-house legal services, including comprehensive internal legal advice, appearing in administrative hearings and court proceedings, and advising on legislative matters. Jenna has experience in a myriad of regulatory law subjects, with current focus areas including Liquor, Board of Accountancy, and Banking. She finds particular satisfaction in identifying opportunities for process improvements, working collaboratively with businesses on complex business licensing and regulatory compliance issues, and mentoring law students through supervising legal internships. She is a proud member of the Leadership Rhode Island (LRI) Class of 2019 and on the Steering Committee of the LRI Women’s Network. Jenna serves in various leadership roles including the Rhode Island Bar Association House of Delegates, Chair of the Government Lawyers Committee, and active contributor on the Bar Journal Editorial Board; RI Women’s Bar Association Newsletter and Community Outreach Committees; Roger Williams Law Alumni Association Board of Directors; United Way of Rhode Island Young Leaders Circle Executive Committee; and as Chair of the



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Northern Region and Executive Committee for the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators. Her pro bono legal work has focused on supervising Roger Williams Law students helping incarcerated individuals with civil law issues.

**BRANDON GONZALEZ** is a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools, the University of Washington, and the University of Hawai'i - William S. Richardson School of Law. He has previously served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Deputy Corporation Counsel, and Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works. Since 2016 he has been the Administrative Officer of Liquor Control for Hawai'i County.

**RYAN HAYNES** serves as the Executive Director of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Tennessee (WSWT), a statewide trade association of local businesses that play a central role in distributing wine and spirits to restaurants and retail outlets in Tennessee. Prior to this role, Ryan served as the chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party, where he served from April 2015 to December 2016, further consolidating supermajorities in the statehouse for the Republican Party.

Elected in 2008 to 14th District Seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives, Ryan previously served as the youngest member of the Tennessee General Assembly for several legislative sessions, escalating to the role of Chairman of the House State Government Committee and serving as the Assistant Majority Caucus Leader in the House. Ryan received his B.A. from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville graduating Magna Cum Laude and his J.D. from the Nashville School of Law. He and his wife, Madison, reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

**ALISON HERMAN** currently serves as SGWS Senior Counsel, Regulatory & Compliance. She has worked for SGWS for the past 12 years. In her role as Senior Counsel, Alison is responsible for regulatory and compliance matters, including trade practice investigations and trainings, in all 44 states and Canada. Prior to joining SGWS, Alison worked for 13 years in the law firm of Breier, Seif, Herman & Silverman, P.A. and for over 2 years as a Broward County Assistant State Attorney. Alison received her Juris Doctor from the University of Miami in May 1988. She currently serves on the board of the Parkinson's Foundation. Alison can be reached at 305-627-1078 or by email [Aherman@sgws.com](mailto:Aherman@sgws.com).

**JAY HIBBARD** currently serves as Vice President of Government Relations for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, the national trade association representing America's leading producers and marketers of distilled spirits and importers of wine sold in the U.S.A. In this role he manages state government relations including legislative issue management, regulatory compliance, state policy development and implementation. Jay is a native of Portland, Maine and holds a Masters in Law and Public Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in Political Science and Associate Degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern Maine. He has owned his own retail business, served as executive director of two non-profit associations and ran his own public affairs firm for fifteen years. A former elected member of the Portland (Maine) City Council, Jay is now a resident of Florida.

**TRAVIS HILL** was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia ABC Authority by Governor Ralph Northam in January 2018. As CEO, Travis Hill serves as the head of the ABC Authority and works with the



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appointed five-member Authority Board to set the course and strategic objectives for the Authority. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Hill served as Virginia ABC's Chief Operating Officer after being appointed to that position by Governor McAuliffe in October 2014. During his time as COO, Hill focused on increased revenue, a modernization of business practices and agency infrastructure and enhancing regulatory service provided by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He also guided the smooth transition of Virginia ABC from an agency to an authority structure. Before arriving at ABC, Hill previously served as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, having been appointed by Governor McAuliffe in January 2014 after serving in the same capacity under Governor McDonnell since July 2011. Prior to that, Hill worked eight years as an attorney in the Richmond office of Williams Mullen representing a wide variety of clients before the Virginia General Assembly, the State Corporation Commission and other regulatory bodies, including Virginia ABC. Hill received both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**ANNA HIRAI** is the Assistant Administrator at the Honolulu Liquor Commission. She has been with the Commission since 1997, first as Adjudications Deputy Corporation Counsel, then in various capacities to include Special Assistant to the Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and Acting Administrator. Previously, she was in private practice in Honolulu, Hawaii (corporate, healthcare & real estate) and Little Rock, Arkansas (securities regulation & corporate finance). She has been a member of the Hawaii Bar since 1981 and the Arkansas Bar since 1984.

Anna graduated from Punahou School (“a few years” before Punahou’s most famous alumnus); Georgetown University (1977; A.B. American Studies); and Boston College Law School (1981). She is an empty-nester living in Honolulu, with two daughters each successfully pursuing divergent career paths. She has served on the executive committee of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators representing the Western Region states since 2013, and currently holds the position of President.

**BAHANEH HOBEL** is a Partner at Dickenson Peatman & Fogarty in Napa and heads the firm’s Alcohol Beverage Law group. Bahaneh’s practice focuses on all aspects of alcohol beverage law and regulation for wineries, breweries, distilled spirits plants, importers, wholesalers and retailers. Bahaneh has worked extensively with state and federal alcoholic beverage agencies throughout the U.S, including the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Bahaneh’s areas of expertise include trade practices (dealing with issues related to, among other things, advertising, sponsorships and special events), festivals, celebrity brands, state and federal labeling regulations and approvals, franchise laws, distribution agreements, winemaker agreements, third party marketing, contests and sweepstakes and direct shipping laws. Bahaneh received her J.D. in 2001 from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard C. Tallman on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before commencing her law practice. Bahaneh is also a member of the Craft Beverage Lawyers Guild. Bahaneh lives in Napa with her husband Cameron, a wine importer, and her two children. Bahaneh is also co-owner of Hobel Wines, a small winery located in the Napa Valley.





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**STEPHEN B. HUMPHRESS** began working as an attorney for the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control in 2001 and now has nineteen years’ experience as a state government attorney. Steve served as the ABC’s General Counsel for twelve non-consecutive years and was appointed by both Republican and Democrat Kentucky Governors to that position. Steve is currently employed by the Kentucky Attorney General’s Office. Steve received his law degree from the University of Louisville, School of Law and was employed in private practice until joining the ABC. Steve is admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court, United States Sixth Circuit; United States District Courts in Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Steve has sixteen published Federal and state court opinions as counsel of record.

Steve is Kentucky’s leading authority on his state’s complex alcoholic beverage laws. In recent years, Steve was instrumental in proposing and drafting several comprehensive bills with bipartisan support that modernized and drastically improved Kentucky’s alcoholic beverage laws. Steve was the primary author of the comprehensive 2012 Governor’s Task Force Report on Kentucky Alcohol Laws and he has written several published articles and reference materials as well. In 2017, he received the Governor’s first Red Tape Reduction Award for eliminating fifty percent (50%) of the ABC’s outdated and unneeded regulations. Steve is a nationally sought speaker on alcoholic beverage law issues and has been a frequent speaker at National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) national legal symposiums; National Conference of State Liquor Association (NCSLA) national and regional conferences; CLE International’s Wine, Beer & Spirits Law annual conferences, PLI’s Alcohol Law programs, and Kentucky Bar Association annual conferences.

**MARIA JACKSON** is Director and Associate General Counsel for Regulatory at Instacart, a San Francisco-based technology company that provides a grocery and alcohol delivery platform. Maria oversees a wide variety of regulatory matters at the company and advises the business teams on various e-commerce issues, including compliance with alcohol, consumer protection and environmental laws and regulations. Before joining Instacart, Maria was Senior Counsel at Lyft and spent 6 years as Corporate and Regional Counsel at Campari America. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law and received her B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University.

**ANNE M. JUNIA** is a partner with Powell Junia P.C. in Chicago, Illinois, and specializes in litigation, regulatory compliance, and trade practice in the alcohol beverage and hospitality industry. Anne regularly represents clients through administrative law actions, civil litigation, and alternate dispute resolution. She also works closely with e-commerce and technology-based companies with particular focus on emerging industry practices, legislation, licensing, rules, regulations, and compliance strategy and success. Anne earned her B.A. in Economics from University of California at San Diego in June 2000, and her J.D. from John Marshall Law School in June 2007. Anne lives with her husband Matt, daughters Evelyn and Ayla, and their Bernedoodle Abby S’mores in the Village of Glenview where she also serves as a Plan Commissioner.

**JEFFREY A. KELLY** is the Director of the Field Enforcement Division for the Comptroller of Maryland. The Field Enforcement Division is Maryland’s regulatory and enforcement agency for the State’s alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel industries. Prior to being appointed Director in 2008 by Comptroller Peter Franchot, Jeff worked as the Deputy Director and as a field supervisor. Jeff’s career in public safety spans over 37 years;



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the last 16 of which encompass alcohol regulation. He is an executive board member of the Maryland Alcohol Licensing Association and a member of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine & Grape Growing. Before joining the Office of the Comptroller, he was a police officer for the Anne Arundel County Police Department where he retired as the Executive Officer of the Western District. Jeff has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland in Management Studies with major course work in accounting, management, and financial planning. He has a Certificate in Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic and a Certificate in Financial Planning. Jeff lives with his wife in Anne Arundel County and has three sons and four grandchildren.

**TOM KERR** focuses on nationwide regulatory advice and counseling across all areas of the alcoholic beverage industry in his practice. He advises supplier and retailer clients on trade practice issues, licensing, distribution, promotions, advertising, marketing, events, acquisitions, and tied-house issues. Tom also specializes in advising third party providers and traditional industry members on alcohol ecommerce issues, including on interstate direct shipping, retail delivery, subscription models, and other emerging industry practices.

Before joining the firm in 2011, Tom practiced commercial litigation at Holme Roberts & Owen LLP. There, he represented clients in a wide variety of practice areas, including intellectual property, antitrust, real estate, and general business litigation. Tom also got his first taste for the alcoholic beverage industry while at Holme Roberts & Owen, counseling spirits industry clients on promotional and trade practice issues.

When not consumed by alcohol beverage statutes and regulations, Tom loves exploring the outdoors of Northern California, listening to live music (when that was possible) and cheering on all of his hometown Denver Colorado sports teams. He is also an avid traveler - ask him about his year-long adventure to South America, India, and Southeast Asia!

**ERNEST P. LEGIER JR.** was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as Commissioner of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control in August of 2020.

Commissioner Legier has worked with ATC since 2016, when he joined the office as supervising attorney. He served later as chief of staff and deputy commissioner. Legier’s private-sector experience includes more than 20 years practicing law and tenures as executive director of Orleans Parish Hospital Service District A and vice president of business development for the American Arbitration Association. He earned a B.A. in political science from the University of New Orleans and a Juris Doctor from Loyola University of New Orleans. He will complete his MBA from UNO in December 2020. Legier is a veteran of the Louisiana Air National Guard.

**MARBET LEWIS** has focused her practice on the laws governing the alcohol industry and the manufacture, importation, and sale of alcohol beverage products since 2004. She represents clients in all aspects of alcohol and business licensing, alcohol licensee mergers and acquisitions, negotiation of asset purchase agreements and required alcohol use provisions, license transfers and licensing due diligence, trade practices, alcohol product advertising and review of marketing agreements, importation agreements, label



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approvals, and regulatory compliance guidance. Her experience also includes enforcement action defense and administrative litigation, zoning and land use due diligence and approval processes, and state and local government regulatory compliance, which includes drafting municipal code ordinances and amendments as well as assisting with redistricting and development of entertainment overlay districts.

Marbet also assists clients with additional business permitting including obtaining business tax receipts, building permitting, certificates of use and occupancy and other related operational permits, as well as representing various entertainment, hospitality, and alcohol industry clients during the zoning approval process, including representation before zoning boards for approval of variances, special exceptions, and use nonconformity issues as well as representation for zoning appeals cases. She has assisted with transfer of business and operational permits required as part of large asset acquisition transactions and merger of national retailers including hotels and entertainments venues such as movie theaters.

She works with domestic and foreign suppliers, wholesalers, manufacturers and a broad range of retailers, including nightclubs, bars, movie theater operators, hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, and pharmacy chains.

Mrs. Lewis is proficient in Spanish and has been a featured guest on *Nuestro Mundo* and *A Fondo* and co-hosted *The Happy Hour Show* on 880AM *The Biz* radio.

**STEVEN MARKS** is a veteran of public service, with 33 years of service to the State of Oregon. Director Marks joined the Oregon Liquor Control Commission in October 2013 and has been working on implementation of recreational marijuana since the passage of Ballot Measure 91 in November 2014. Marks has also led the agency in the largest retail expansion since prohibition, improving customer convenience by increasing the number of retail locations that sell distilled spirits.

Prior to joining the Oregon Liquor Control Commission as Executive Director, he served as a policy advisor in the Office of the Senate President, a Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, and as Chief of Staff to the Governor during his service to the state. From 2004 to 2010 Marks was president of his own public policy and public affairs consulting business, *The Marks Network*. In 2013, he returned to state government service as a policy advisor within the Chief Operations Officer's Office, Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

Marks earned his undergraduate degree and Master's Degree in Public Policy, Planning and Management from the University of Oregon.

**GARY MEYERHOFF** is the General Counsel to the New York State Liquor Authority, serving in that role since he joined the agency in October 1, 2019. He supervises a team of lawyers who prosecute violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law and the Rules of the State Liquor Authority and handle litigation brought against the SLA in New York state and federal courts. Gary advises the SLA's Board and its executive team on licensing and disciplinary matters and also works on legislative issues affecting the agency. During the recent COVID-19 crisis, he has supervised an extended team of lawyers and investigators responsible for enforcing Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders relating to the service of food and alcoholic beverages in the roughly



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30,000 licensed restaurants and taverns in New York. Gary works out of the SLA’s offices in both New York City and Albany.

Prior to joining the SLA, Gary spent 27 years in private practice as a civil litigator, the last 20 as a litigation partner at the law firm Dentons US LLP and its predecessor firms, including Sonneschein Nath & Rosenthal. His complex commercial litigation practice has included representation of the hospitality industry, on both the owner and operator side, in disputes over hotel management matters and related contracts. Gary also has focused on clients in the financial services industry, defending class actions and handling other disputes involving consumer fraud, life and health insurance and reinsurance matters. Gary also has represented private equity funds in disputes over the purchase, sale, and management of companies in multiple industries, and has represented unsecured creditors committees and other constituents in large, public bankruptcy cases. He represented former CBS News anchor Dan Rather in his well-publicized lawsuit against CBS and Viacom related to his constructive termination following the *60 Minutes* report on then-President George W. Bush’s National Guard service in the run-up to the 2004 presidential election.

Gary graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor’s degree in government and holds a JD from New York University School of Law. He has homes in New York City and in Ulster County, New York where he lives with his wife.

**HOBERT RUPE** was appointed Executive Director by the Commission in December 2003 and began his duties on January 15, 2004.

Prior to serving as Executive Director he was an Assistant Attorney General for the State from May 1994 until January 2004. As an Assistant Attorney General he served as legal counsel/administrative prosecutor from September 2001 until January 2004.

He is admitted to practice before the Nebraska Supreme Court, The Federal District Court for Nebraska, The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and The United States Supreme Court.

He is a 1992 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law and a 1989 graduate of Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in History and Government.

**CLARK E. SMITH** joined the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) as general counsel in 2017. Before joining the Commission, he worked in private practice representing clients in administrative proceedings, appellate litigation, and public policy matters. His most recent public sector service was at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), where he served as a senior deputy to the chief counsel and executive commissioner. At HHSC, Smith managed an overhaul of the agency’s legal services system and rewrote agency administrative processes.

Smith practiced commercial and employment litigation in Houston before joining HHSC in 2015. He graduated from The University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 and a Juris Doctor in 2008.



## NCSLA 2020 COMBINED REGIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

### *Transitioning to the "New" Normal*

November 9, 10, and 12, 2020

#### **Presenter Biographies**

**MICHELLE STONE-PRINCIPATO** began her career with the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division five years ago. Michelle started her career with the Department of Revenue as the Agent-in-Charge of the Division's Licensing Section, then as the Agent-in-Charge of the Enforcement Section, and was responsible for supervising four field offices across Colorado. Michelle was promoted to Deputy Director and, in that role, was instrumental in coordinating the move of the main field office. Michelle was recently promoted to Director of the Division. Michelle immediately put into place Trade Show and Biometric Identification regulations, in support of Governor Polis' digital transformation and customer service priorities. Michelle was given the honor and privilege to serve the citizens of the City of Lakewood as a Law Enforcement Professional for 17 years. She served as a Patrol Agent, Field Training Agent and a Detective in the Crimes Against Children Unit, Major Crimes Unit, and Cold Case Unit. As a Sergeant, Michelle worked in the Patrol Division and Internal Affairs Unit. She served as a liaison to the Lakewood Police Department Chief's Employee Representative Group, a member and instructor of the Crisis Intervention Team, and a certified KOGA Instructor. Michelle has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Metropolitan State College of Denver and a Paralegal Certificate from Arapahoe Community College. Michelle spends time outside of work supporting her children's' love of basketball and golf. Michelle is excited and eager to assist local Licensing Authorities, licensees, attorneys and stakeholders with navigating Liquor Licensing and Compliance in the State of Colorado.

**STEPHANIE STRAUSS** has served as an Executive Officer at the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division since 2010, leading the Division's governmental and public affairs program. In this role, she works in collaboration with the Administrator and the senior leadership team to develop the policies, initiatives, goals, and objectives of the Division. Her duties include developing and securing enactment of the Division's legislative package, coordinating rule making activities, and communicating to members of the executive and legislative branches and other stakeholders on controversial, sensitive, and complex issues related to alcohol policy. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University in Business Administration.

**DOROTHY (DOTTIE) TAYLOR** has served in many capacities throughout her career. She first started in banking but soon realized her interests lie elsewhere and she transitioned into the criminal justice field - first to the Rolla, Missouri Municipal Court as the court clerk; then to the Missouri State Highway Patrol in a communications position (dispatcher); and shortly after that to a sworn position as a trooper. She rose through the ranks of the Patrol, serving in a variety of positions. She obtained the rank of corporal while working the road and then sergeant as a criminal investigator, where she became supervisor of her unit. She served the State of Missouri as a criminal investigator for several years before being promoted to lieutenant and accepting a position with the Patrol's Professional Standards (internal affairs) Division. Her last assignment before she retired was as Assistant Director of the Patrol's Training Division.

On November 1, 2017, the day after her retirement from the Highway Patrol, Dottie took over the helm at Missouri Alcohol and Tobacco Control as the State Supervisor. Dottie strives to bring a style of leadership to ATC that encourages positive innovation and empowerment. After staffing at ATC was drastically cut in the late 2000's, ATC went through ten long, lean years, but has finally begun to rebuild, with district offices in Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, in addition to the main location in Jefferson City. Dottie's position requires a gubernatorial appointment and she serves at the behest of the governor, now Governor Parson,





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with confirmation by the Missouri Senate. She plans to stay at ATC as long as the Governor will have her or until November 2022, whichever comes first. Dottie will then retire to her lake house in Alabama.

**RUSSELL THOMAS** is the Executive Director of the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission. He is an attorney who holds an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, which represents the highest ranking given to a lawyer by his peers for both professional excellence and ethical conduct. He is a member of the Tennessee, Nashville and American Bar Associations. He formerly chaired the Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Committee of the Nashville Bar Association and had over 13 years of criminal trial experience before joining the ABC.