

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**SUBCOMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES
(NON-ACHT MEMBERS)**



SCOTT ALEXANDER
International Relations Director, Houston Airports

Scott Alexander is the Director of International Relations for the Houston Airports. In this role Alexander liaises with 90 Consulates in the Houston area and works with Federal Partners including Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, and multiple stakeholders. Alexander leads the airport's effort to combat Human Trafficking through training and awareness.

Prior to joining the Houston Airport System, Alexander worked for Continental Airlines and led their International Customer Service Operations at Bush Intercontinental Airport. Alexander has served in the Aviation industry for over 38 years and is a Certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives, currently serving on the Executive Board. Alexander was recently named Chair of Airports Council International North America International Facilitation Committee.



LORI ANN CHAUSSINAND
**Senior Manager, Strategic Sales Development and Training,
Pilot Flying J**

Lori Ann Chaussinand is the Senior Manager, Strategic Sales Development and Training for Pilot Company. With over 30 years in the Transportation and Energy Industry, she is currently mentoring others in roles that she has held for many years and helping others to bring value to transportation companies and their drivers. Chaussinand has focused on fighting human trafficking for many years. Having worked in the trucking industry for 30 years, she has witnessed first-hand the potential environment that victims can be lured into.

While the transportation industry has always faced challenges, in today's environment the need for drivers is greater than ever. Her focus is to ensure Pilot services their drivers when they are on the road and addresses challenges they face, such as parking shortages. Her keen understanding of fleet owners, their business challenges, and the ability to provide key information to assist them has been an integral part of Chaussinand's long-term success. She knows hundreds of owners of large trucking companies throughout 40 states and the network has been a great source to move counter-trafficking efforts even further.

Chaussinand believes that drivers are at the heart of our industry and that keeping drivers safe and happy is the key to the industry's success while helping to keep America moving. She has devoted much of her time to understanding and servicing the transportation industry and has led several strategic teams to bring value to drivers and their needs. At the same time, her fight against human trafficking is always there as well. She holds a Polaris Anti Human Trafficking Certification, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association Anti-Human Trafficking Certification, and a well as a certification from Truckers Against Trafficking. Chaussinand was also on the team that received the Florida Trucking Association Board 2021 Championship Award for Truckers Against Trafficking.

Chaussinand studied Business Management at the University of Pittsburgh and went on to study at Mobil Oil Corporation's various refineries in their Lubrication Engineering Certification Program.



LORI COHEN
CEO, Protect All Children from Trafficking

Lori Cohen is the Chief Executive Officer of Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT, formerly ECPAT-USA), the leading policy organization on child sex trafficking in the nation. PACT is a member of the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism international network, active in over 100 countries and dedicated to the prevention of child sex trafficking and exploitation. PACT is widely recognized for its innovative approach toward training partners in transportation and hospitality on identifying and disrupting trafficking.

An attorney, Cohen draws upon her years representing a broad range of trafficking survivors to inform her role at PACT. Cohen continues to work closely with the true experts in the field: PACT's Survivors' Council, women and men with lived experience who advise PACT on policy, educational material, and outreach strategies.

Cohen is a frequent speaker on trafficking-related matters in the United States and abroad and has served on the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School and Yale University.



ERIN DICESARE
Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Johnson C. Smith University

Erin DiCesare holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Humanities from Florida State University. DiCesare currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the Interdisciplinary Studies major at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina where Dicesare is also an Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Her areas of research focus on popular culture, with a specific focus on reality television.

DiCesare has published an article entitled “The Sexual Other and Realty Television: Representations, Repression, and Recovery” in the international journal *Trans-Humanities* as well as a pedagogical focused article in the American based journal *The Atrium* entitled “Interdisciplinary Research and Education in the Digital Age.” DiCesare has also recently published a chapter in the book *Yankees and Popular Culture* entitled “From Ruth to Rivera: The Core Four, Yankee Dynasties, and the Making of Legends” and a book chapter entitled “Reality TV: Instilling Fear to Avoid Prison” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Incarceration in Popular Media*.

A continued research focus for DiCesare is the use of digital tools used in the growing human trafficking problem in Charlotte. She focuses on bringing awareness of this growing problem to Charlotte and the surrounding areas and helping find ways to protect those labeled as vulnerable from becoming a victim of human trafficking. DiCesare has conducted various community lectures and guest lectures at both Johnson C. Smith University and The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She continues to work with various non-profit organizations in Charlotte and the surrounding areas that focus their efforts on combating human trafficking and sexual violence. DiCesare currently serves on the Board of Directors for Brave Step.



MARGO HILL

**Associate Professor, Eastern Washington University
SURTCOM Principal Investigator**

Margo Hill is a Spokane Tribal member and grew up on the Spokane Indian reservation. Hill is at the intersectionality of Federal Indian Law, Policy, Transportation and Mobility. Hill serves as the Associate Director of Small, Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM) and Associate Director of Northwest Tribal Technical Assistance Program. In that capacity Hill has completed over a decade of research on Tribal Transportation issues facing tribal communities.

Hill served as the Spokane Tribal Attorney for 10 years and as a Coeur d’Alene Tribal Court Judge. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga School of Law and her Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Eastern Washington University. Her bachelor’s degree is in Political Science from University of Washington. Hill is faculty at Eastern Washington University where she teaches Planning Law and Legislation, Community Development, Planning Implementation, Administrative Law, Community Development, Tribal Planning classes and American Indian Law. Hill is a member of the Northwest Human Trafficking Taskforce.

Hill has presented training workshops to tribal communities, WSDOT, law enforcement and transportation professionals across the region and nation. She works with tribal leaders, Washington State patrol Tribal Liaisons and participates with Washington State Attorney General's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Task Force. Hill has a number of publications that explain Federal Indian Law and Policy, risk factors for Native Americans, and jurisdictional issues that contribute to Human Trafficking and MMIW/P.



HERMAN HORTON
Chief of Police, Department of Public Safety,
Jackson State University

Chief Herman Horton is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts in Criminology.

Horton began his military career in the United States Marine Corps, serving as a Military Police Officer, Watch Commander, Military Police Investigator, Military Police Instructor and Special Response Team leader.

After serving 10 years in the Marine Corps, Horton returned home and joined the Jackson Police Department in 1995. There, Horton obtained his state certification as a police instructor and has since trained over 31 police recruit classes. He served as firearms instructor and defensive driving instructor, as well as Assistant Commander of the Crisis Negotiation Team, Commander of the Civil Disturbance Team, and Crisis Intervention Team Instructor/Coordinator. Horton also served as the head of dignitary protection for former Mayor of the City of Jackson, Harvey Johnson, for 3 years.

Horton served in the Mississippi Army National for 7 years as a Military Police Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant. Horton later joined the United States Army Reserve in where he served as a Military Police Instructor, Drill Sergeant, Deputy Inspector General and Battle Command Training Evaluator.

Horton retired at the rank of Master Sergeant (E-8) after serving 28 years of honorable service. He has received numerous commendations and accolades throughout his police career including 3-time Officer of the Month, Jackson Police Department Officer of the Year, Mississippi Attorney General's Tri-County Officer of the Year, United States Attorney's Meritorious Service Commendation, and the Jackson City Council "Outstanding Citizen Resolution" for his service to the citizens of Jackson, along with a Senate Resolution from Senator Hillman Frazier and the late Senator Alice Varnado Harden. Horton's military awards include Meritorious Service Medal, Army Reserve Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

In 2019, Horton left the Jackson Police Department to serve as the Chief of Police at Hinds Community College (HCC)–Utica Campus until his retirement in September 2021. While serving as Chief of Police at HCC-Utica campus, he hosted human trafficking training for all members of the faculty, staff, and student body with Hinds County Sheriff's Office Deputy Helen Brown, CEO at No More Tears, as well as similar human trafficking training for members of the faculty, staff, and student body at Jackson State University.

Horton worked with Michael Watson, Secretary of State, to orchestrate the first Mississippi Businesses Against Trafficking summit to the Jackson State University in April 2023 which

helped the Department of Public Safety spread the word about the ever-increasing issue of human trafficking.

He serves as the Regional 6 Vice-President for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Law Enforcement Executives and Administrators. Horton is also a member of the Mississippi Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

After his brief stint at retirement, Horton returned to active service where he currently serves as Director of Public Safety for Jackson State University in Jackson, MS.



DONNA HUBBARD

***Special Government Employee
Executive Director, Woman at the Well Transition Center;
Training Director, Airline Ambassadors International; Flight
Attendant, American Airlines; Survivor Leader Advocate;
Subject Matter Expert**

Donna Hubbard is the daughter of the late author and Community Activist Barbara “Nayo” Watkins and Charles “Charlie” Hubbard, graduates of Atlanta’s historic Booker T. Washington High School. Her mother took great pride in cultivating Hubbard’s precocious, creative spirit. Hubbard graduated Valedictorian of Clara Muhammad

High School in 1973. But life would not always be prestigious for Donna Hubbard. Hubbard married while still in high school. After a violent sexual assault her life became a series of abandonment, abuse, addiction, exploitation, and violence. She was sold to a pimp, trafficked, gang raped, and finally became gang property. Waiting to be transferred to prison, she met Minister Lynnette Higgins who introduced her to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Knowing what awaited her if she were released, Hubbard accepted that prison would be her only escape. Prison is where Hubbard was finally “free” and made a commitment to serve God: a complete surrender to a greater destiny and purpose. She was paroled in 1993 to Atlanta, GA.

In 1994, Hubbard founded Woman at the Well Transition Center, a 501(c)3 non-profit providing direct services to rescued, trafficked, and formerly incarcerated women throughout the United States. In the first 3 years the organization served 4000 women offering several programs including F.O.C.A.U.S -Parenting from Prison, G.I.F.T. For Life -street intervention, relapse prevention, reentry case management, and I.M.A.G.E - employment readiness.

Since 2010, Hubbard has facilitated trainings for law enforcement, public health practitioners, community resource providers, houses of faith, aviation and hospitality and corporate employees on recognizing and reporting human trafficking. She has authored and copyrighted 8 original curriculums. Since 2015, she has worked with Airline Ambassadors International as a Certified Director of Human Trafficking Awareness and has facilitated trainings in North America, Hungary, Latvia, Thailand, the Philippines, Colombia, Iceland, Japan, Switzerland, Romania, Kenya, Korea, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates. Hubbard co-facilitated Human Trafficking Awareness Trainings for 3 Super Bowls, trained 3500 airline and airport personnel, and more

than 700 public health providers as a member of the Board of Directors of the Family Health Centers of Georgia. As an American Airlines (AA) Flight Attendant, she has represented AA and her work force of flight attendants at two aviation security international conferences. Hubbard earned her Bachelor of Science in Theology, her Master of Science in Biblical Studies at PCIE Seminary Program, San Bernardino, CA. In 2023, she was presented an Honorary Doctoral Degree in International Women's Studies and holds a Christian Counseling Certification from the National Association of Christian Counselors. In July 2021 Hubbard was consecrated by Archbishop Q.S. Caldwell as the first woman Jurisdictional Bishop of Celebration of Praise Ministries International fellowship of 133 churches. She is a sought-after keynote speaker, certified workshop facilitator, dedicated consultant, mentor, and prolific preacher.



JESSICA POWERS

Chief Safety Office for Bus and Rail, Trinity Metro

Jessica Powers is the Chief Safety Officer for the transit agency Trinity Metro in Fort Worth, Texas. She is an Army Veteran and served 8 years as an 88M Heavy Wheel Operator. She has a degree in Business and Accounting and as a Safety Professional.

Powers started her career in transportation in South Florida at Tri-Rail on the TCRC construction project in 2003. She was a train conductor for 7 years and a locomotive engine for 8 years with Tri-Rail. She went into railroad management and safety in 2015 with Tri-Rail. In 2020, Powers relocated to Texas for a position as the Director of Safety and Regulatory Compliance for Trinity Railway Express and TEXRAIL with Trinity Metro. She was promoted to Chief Safety Officer with Trinity Metro in 2022.

In 2022, Powers applied for the Annual Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award, and Trinity Metro won second place. She is on the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force for Texas and participated in the Light the Way to End Human Trafficking Summit for two years. Powers facilitated the partnership between Trinity Metro and the Fort Worth Unbound non-profit organization to help survivors. Unbound and Trinity Metro worked together to build a training program centered on transit operations in Fort Worth. Trinity Metro implemented a training program for employees on Human Trafficking and Awareness. Powers is extremely passionate about the fight against human trafficking and supporting survivors and is extremely grateful for the guidance from the representatives of Unbound and Safe Place.



KEZBAN YAGCI SOKAT

Assistant Professor of Business Analytics, San Jose State University

Kezban Yagci Sokat is an Assistant Professor of Business Analytics at San José State University and a Research Associate at the Mineta Transportation Institute with a passion for using analytics to alleviating human suffering in the areas of public health, humanitarian logistics, and human trafficking.

In collaboration with local, national, and international efforts, Yagci Sokat leads various multi-disciplinary projects to combat human trafficking. Her efforts to combat human trafficking have been supported and recognized by government and organizations such as the United States Department of Transportation, Valley Transportation Authority and San José State University. Yagci Sokat received the IBM Public Impact Award for her work on human trafficking in global supply chains. Yagci Sokat's work has been used to inform policy and anti-trafficking efforts both nationally and internationally. Her work in transportation was utilized by the U.S. Senate to reach out to the key transportation industry stakeholders. Yagci Sokat had the honor to train anti-trafficking practitioners about supply chains in Workshop on Draft National Action Plan – Labor Exploitation and Supply Chains, co-organized by Department of Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, Presidency of Migration Management and International of Organization for Migration and funded by the European Union Support to Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings in Türkiye Project.

Yagci Sokat has served on various multi-disciplinary committees to aid local and national collaborative efforts as a recognized researcher. She is the chair of the Forced Labor Working Group and a member of the Analytics Working Group for the National Outreach Survey for Transportation under the U.S. Department of Transportation Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award. Yagci Sokat has served on the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, Los Angeles Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, and South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking. Yagci Sokat received her PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences from Northwestern University and holds master's degrees from Georgia Institute of Technology with a Fulbright scholarship.

**Special Government Employees contribute to the ACHT as subject matter experts rather than as representatives of their organizations*