

2021 Texas Impaired Driving Forum

Speaker Bios

Troy Walden

Dr. Troy D. Walden has over 29 years invested in highway safety as a law enforcement officer, crash reconstructionist, traffic safety advocate, and impaired driving safety researcher. Walden received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University in August of 1987. Walden received his Master of Science Degree in Education from Texas A&M University in August of 1999 and his Doctor of Philosophy from Texas A&M University in May of 2005.

Walden began his law enforcement career with the City of College Station (Texas) Police Department in 1988. While there, he served in the Patrol Division as a Sergeant, Recruiting and Training, Special Enforcement, and the Criminal Investigation Divisions. In January 1999, Walden became employed with the Texas A&M University System-Texas Engineering Extension Service as a Law Enforcement Training Program Coordinator. Walden was responsible for training management of the statewide (Texas) impaired driving education program initiatives including the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Drug Evaluation and Classification programs.

Presently, Walden is the Director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute's Center for Alcohol and Drug Education Studies (CADES) that currently resides within the Institute's Center for Transportation Safety.

Michael Chacon

A native of El Paso, Michael graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1993. He is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

Michael Chacon has been with TxDOT for over 26 years and he was appointed the Director of the Traffic Safety Division in October 2016.

He is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Traffic Safety Division, including the state's Traffic Management System, Traffic Engineering, Policy and Standards, the Texas MUTCD, Speed Zoning, Crash Records and Data Analysis and the Behavioral Traffic Safety Program. These responsibilities include the development and administration of policies, programs, and operating strategies for TxDOT.

Lisa Robinson

Lisa Robinson is an experienced public speaker with more than 20 years of expertise in successfully addressing behavior change. She brings passion and enthusiasm to the topic of transportation safety.

As a senior program manager with the National Safety Council, she works on influencing behavior and policy change through effective and proven strategies to address preventable motor vehicle crashes, aligning with the Council's transportation initiatives. She serves as a subject matter expert and spokesperson for transportation safety, building strong relationships within the employer and transportation communities, including state governmental agencies.

Lisa works with employers to strengthen their health and safety management systems by increasing their resources and knowledge of transportation safety and comprehensive driver safety programs. She works diligently to educate employers about the roadway as an extension of the workplace, and the importance of implementing policies to decrease risk and exposure to liability.

Prior to joining the National Safety Council, Lisa worked with Texas Courts. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University and the designation of Certified Family Life Educator from the National Council on Family Relations. Lisa is a member of ASSP, the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders, Impaired Driving Task Force, TxPRIMA, a CPS Technician, a Alive @ 25 certified instructor and is Car Fit trained.

Javier Salazar

Sheriff Javier Salazar was sworn into office on January 1, 2017 as the 34th Sheriff of Bexar County. He is a Bexar County native and graduate of Samuel Clemens High School. He attained his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from the Alamo Colleges District. He later received his Bachelor's Degree from Wayland Baptist University and holds a Master Peace Officer License from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Prior to being elected, Sheriff Salazar served with the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) for twenty-three years.

During his tenure with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Salazar has created several units including; Adult Detention Mental Health, Contraband Abatement Team and the Applicant Processing Unit. In the interest of community engagement and safety he has also created the Public Integrity Unit, Mounted Patrol, Special Victims Unit as well as the Sheriff's Community Oriented Response and Education (SCORE) Unit.

He has made community engagement one of the top priorities of his administration. In doing so Sheriff Salazar has created several programs including; Active Shooter Training, Gold Badge

Business Certification, Pastors on Patrol, the Senior Fraud Program as well as the Sheriff's Citizen Academy.

He has been married to his wife Sarah for twenty years and is the proud father of two daughters.

Shannon Bryant

Shannon is the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for the State of Nevada and a Deputy District Attorney with the Washoe County District Attorney's Office. He has over 14 years of prosecution experience, including approximately 4 years as an Assistant United States Attorney. As Nevada's TSRP, Shannon trains law enforcement personnel and prosecutors across the state in all traffic safety matters, with an emphasis on impaired driving cases. Shannon is a POST-certified Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor, an Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) Instructor, and the first and only prosecutor in Nevada to be certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and DRE Instructor by International Association of Chiefs of Police. Shannon is also a regular instructor at the Nevada POST Academy in Carson City and the Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy in Reno.

Prior to becoming a prosecutor, Shannon clerked and was a criminal division staff attorney the Supreme Court of Nevada. He then spent several years practicing in civil litigation for two established law firms in the state as well as building his own successful law practice.

Shannon is a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law and the University of Maryland at College Park, and is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

David Whitt

David Whitt is a Captain with the Special Investigations Unit with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. David retired from the Houston Police Department and has over 30 years of law enforcement experience.

Lauren Ibekwe

FBCPC, a program of Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, serves a vital role in protecting the health and welfare of youth, families, and community members within Fort Bend County. Coalition members of varied backgrounds, levels of expertise and commitment have come together to address factors, such as ease of access to drugs and alcohol, low perception of the risks associated with using, and negative peer influence, that are proven to increase adolescent substance use rates.

Clay Abbott

Clay Abbott is the DWI Resource Prosecutor with the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. He graduated from Lubbock Christian University in 1984 with a BA in History, magna cum laude. He graduated from the Texas Tech School of Law in 1986 with a JD, cum laude. He was inducted into the Order of the Coif in 1987. From 1987 until 1990 Clay was with the Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney's Office, where he left as the Trial Chief of the 140th District Court. He was in solo practice in Lubbock until 1995 when he rejoined the Lubbock CDA as Chief Deputy. Clay served as an adjunct professor at the Texas Tech School of Law from 1990-1999. In 2000 he became general counsel at the Texas Municipal Court's Education Center. He left judicial education to join TDCAA in 2004. He has trained thousands of Texas Peace Officers and Prosecutors each year in that job. Clay has trained on DWI and Ethics topics at the National Advocacy College and for NDAA. He has also trained prosecutors in DWI, prosecutor ethics, or at train the Trainers in 30 of the 50 states.

Dimitrios (Jim) Mastoras

MPO Dimitrios (Jim) Mastoras retired from Arlington County Police Department, VA after twenty-four years of service. In his last position as the Nightlife Liaison, he developed and implemented strategies to reduce alcohol related harm while establishing trustful relationships with restaurant owners. Using the Proactive Alliance relationship-based policing approach as the foundation, he created the first restaurant accreditation program in the U.S. The program focuses on best practices and law compliance for restaurants and bars to increase safety and economic viability. The strategies he implemented have been recognized as a national model by the US Department of Justice. In 2019, the DOJ COPS Office published a toolkit he authored titled, The Arlington Restaurant Initiative - A Nightlife Strategy to Improve Safety and Economic Viability, to be used by departments across the US. His work for Arlington County has been recognized by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) for saving lives and preventing injuries caused by drunk driving in the Washington, DC Metro area. He also co-authored an article titled, Traffic Safety Initiatives: SoberRide - Enhancing Enforcement Efforts Since 1982 in IACP Police Chief Magazine.

Jim now provides guidance to municipalities, public safety, and the hospitality industry through his consulting agency, Safe Night LLC. Jim can be contacted at Jim@safe-night.com.

Laura Weiser

Judge Weiser retired from Victoria County Court at Law No. 1 after more than 22 years of service. She is currently the Judicial Resource Liaison for the Texas Center for the Judiciary.

The Judicial Resource Liaison provides Texas judges with up-to-date information and training regarding laws concerning impaired driving, license suspension, breath interlock devices and other alcohol monitoring technologies, courtroom evidence and the sentencing and supervising

of offenders. This position is funded by a Traffic Safety Grant from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Mark Busbee

Mark Busbee is the Lead Instructor for the FRIDAY & ADAPT law enforcement training programs. Before joining the FRIDAY & ADAPT programs, Mark was the Lead SFST Staff Instructor for the Texas SFST Program and has over 42 years of law enforcement experience.

During his career he has worked for the Victoria Police Department, Balcones Heights Police Department, Boerne Police Department, and the Uvalde Police Department. He has been a Field Training Officer, Traffic Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Assistant Chief.

After retiring as Assistant Chief with the Uvalde Police Department in November of 2013, Mark became a Specialist with the Law Enforcement Advanced DUI/DWI Reporting System (LEADRS) program. He holds a Master Peace Officer certificate, an Advanced Instructor certificate, is proficiency certified in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), an SFST Instructor, a Seated SFST Instructor, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), and has been an Intoxilyzer Operator.

Mark has a Master of Science in Strategic Leadership (MSSL) degree from Mountain State University and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) degree from Sul Ross State University. Since 1998, he has instructed courses across the state on a variety of topics including SFST, Effective Investigation of Impaired Driving Cases, LEADRS, Drug Impairment and Behavioral Recognition for the Education Professional (DIBREP), RADAR, Ethics and Integrity, Use of Force, First Line Supervisor, Specialty Impact Munitions, Crisis Intervention, etc. During his professional career, Mark has been named Employee of the Year for both the Victoria and Boerne Police Departments, Kendall County Veterans of Foreign Wars Officer of the Year, Outstanding Criminal Justice Graduate Student for both St. Mary's University and Sul Ross State University, and Bexar County DWI Task Force Law Enforcement Member of the Year.

Mark is presently a reserve deputy with the Travis County Precinct 1 Constable's office in Austin.

Chinelo Nsobundu

Chinelo Nsobundu, RN, MPH, CHES, DrPH (2021), is an affiliate in the Center for Population Health and Aging at the Texas A&M University. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Texas Woman's University-Institute of Health Sciences and Master's in Public Health with a major in community health practice and health disparities concentration at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston. She has just completed all requirements for the DRPH in the Texas A&M School of Public Health Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences having successfully defended her dissertation research on the factors that impact the implementation and effectiveness of diabetes self-management programs. Additionally, she serves as program coordinator for the Texas A&M School of Public

Health's Health & Wellness Committee, and teaches workshops on Diabetes Self-Management, Chronic Disease Self-Management, and Chronic Pain Self-Management.