

What Every Judge Needs to Know: Best Practices for Hidden Faces and Forms of Human Trafficking

Friday, October 18, 2024
10:15 – 11:30 AM



This session consists of three parts. First, San Diego’s District Attorney will provide overview of labor and human trafficking law and an update on current trends and how a human trafficking situation could be hidden in your courtroom. Second, this program will feature a conversation between San Diego’s Assistant Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division and a sexual exploitation survivor about how specialty courts such as R.I.S.E. (Resiliency is Strength and Empowerment) engage with exploited youth through collaboration, harm reduction, and lived experience. Third, panelists will address new perspectives in human trafficking including institutional abuse and the “troubled teen” industry, trafficking in commercial trucking, and empowering the transition from survivor to thriver.

At the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Recognize current trends in human trafficking.
- Evaluate starting or expanding a human trafficking specialty court based in collaboration, harm reduction, lived experience, and empowerment.
- Identify new legislation and law regarding youth residential programs and commercial driver’s license revocation after a human trafficking conviction.

SPEAKERS:



Hon. Deborah Cumba, Commissioner, San Diego Superior Court

Deborah A. Cumba, a San Diego Superior Court Commissioner since 2021, currently sits in the Family Support Division. Cumba hears cases involving child and spousal support, parentage, and contempt for failure to pay.

With a background spanning 18 years in civil litigation, Cumba brings a wealth of public and private sector experience to her judicial role. Cumba spent a decade as a deputy attorney with the State of California, Department of Transportation. In this capacity, she handled matters ranging from dangerous condition of public property to tort and eminent domain, including trials and appeals. Before her public service, Cumba was a civil litigator at Wilson Elser LLP for eight years, specializing in product liability cases.

An active member of the National Association of Women Judges, Cumba contributes her expertise to committees addressing critical issues such as human trafficking and the challenges faced by women in prison. She participates in the NAWJ book club and the Success Inside and Out program at Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility, where she helps prepare women for successful reentry into society. Cumba furthers her commitment to the legal community by serving as an advisory board member of Lawyers Club of San Diego and a master of the Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court.

A Southern California native, Cumba received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, San Diego before obtaining her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.



Hon. Tilisha Martin, Judge, San Diego Superior Court

Judge Tilisha T. Martin, a certified child welfare law specialist was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in November 2015 to the San Diego Superior Court. She currently sits as the Assistant Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court where she hears juvenile dependency and juvenile justice matters as well as handles several specialty courts. Judge Martin was previously assigned as the site supervising judge in a family law assignment at the San Diego Superior Court, East County Branch and was assigned to a misdemeanor arraignment calendar.

Her experience prior to becoming a judge, includes adjunct faculty at California Western School of Law and lecturer at San Diego State University. She served as the supervising attorney for minor’s counsel in San Diego and as deputy public defender in juvenile dependency and criminal divisions. She was the coordinator for the first downtown community court in San Diego, a collaborative with the San Diego Superior Court, San Diego City Attorney, San Diego Public Defender, and Downtown San Diego Partnership. She also worked as a protective services worker for San Diego County Health and Human Services prior to entering the legal field.

She earned a Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law, a Master of Justice Management degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, a Master of Social Work degree from San Diego State University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

She sits on various local and statewide committees related to juvenile law.



Caitlin Radigan, Author

As a former ward of the court and CSEC survivor, Caitlin has overcome unfathomable adversity to become the unapologetic voice of her peers navigating the juvenile justice and foster care systems today.

Caitlin recently earned a BA in Business Administration from San Diego State University; launched Parent Share, a social enterprise to serve

parenting students; and co-authored the book *Life Changing Choices: The 7 Essential Choices at the heart of Transformational Change for Foster Youth and Your Community*.

Her unwavering commitment to achieve her personal and professional goals as a mother, student, and advocate inspires everyone from congress members to local philanthropists to mobilize communities and lead change for lasting impact. Caitlin Radigan has been an integral part of NAWJ's Success Inside and Out Program that focuses on providing critical information to empower women in San Diego's local jail to build a better future free from exploitation and crime.



Amanda Simmons, Esq., Attorney and Founder, Ambika Law

Amanda Simmons is an attorney and the founder of Ambika Law, a law firm dedicated to special education and children's rights. As a survivor of sexual assault in a therapeutic boarding school, Amanda has taken her experience and become a leading voice on institutional child abuse in residential treatment centers. After graduating from law school in 2021 and achieving a lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer, Amanda had the rare opportunity to draft and present Resolution 605 at the American Bar Association's 2023

Annual Meeting. This Resolution provided unanimous support by the ABA for the Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act and other legislation aimed at reducing institutional child abuse.

Since then, Amanda has published numerous articles and presented all over the country regarding institutional child abuse. Her research on juvenile strip searches has been featured in a webinar by the ABA's Children's Legal Rights Committee, and she is currently producing a series of webinars with the ABA's SOGI Committee on the troubled teen industry. She has also presented at National Association of Counsel for Children, National Conference of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Association of Women Judges, Coalition on Juvenile Justice and other prestigious conferences. Her current research focuses on judicial responses to institutional child abuse as well as sex and labor trafficking within youth treatment facilities.

Amanda deeply appreciates the exceptional mentors and coaches who have supported her on the journey of using her lived experience to create a better world for vulnerable children.



Summer Stephan, District Attorney, San Diego County

District Attorney Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families, providing justice to the most vulnerable, and is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Summer rose through the ranks fighting for justice in the trenches before San Diego County voters overwhelmingly elected Summer as District Attorney in 2018 and again in 2022. As District Attorney, she leads the second-largest DA's Office in California, and fifth largest in the

nation managing a professional staff of 1,000 employees, serving as the People's Prosecutor for San Diego County and its more than three million residents. Summer leverages her extensive courtroom,

management, and leadership experience to set clear public safety priorities in collaboration with law enforcement and the community, keeping San Diego County one of the safest urban regions in the United States. In 2022, Summer was named one of *“The Five Best Prosecutors in America.”*

Summer is the recipient of numerous local, state, and federal awards, including an FBI commendation for organized crime prosecution. She was named an “Angel of Anti-Human Trafficking.” In 2022, she received the Bernard E. Witkin Esq. Award for Excellence in the Practice of Law. Summer received the Attorney General’s 2023 Award for Meritorious Public Service which is the top public service recognition for citizens in the service of the mission of justice.

Summer received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis and her Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



Bella Truong, Esq., Staff Attorney, National District Attorneys Association

Bella Truong is a Staff Attorney in the National District Attorneys Association’s National Traffic Law Center. Her work involves matters relating to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Bella has over 12 years of multifaceted legal experience prior to joining NDAA, the majority of which she served as a prosecutor in both the Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office (Fayetteville, NC) and the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (Tacoma, WA). During her time as a prosecutor, Bella had a primary focus on prosecuting violent crimes and crimes involving special victims. She was the lead prosecutor for human trafficking cases and provided training and guidance for multidisciplinary teams, including training FBI agents on local laws dealing with human trafficking. Early in her career, she focused on impaired driving cases for many years as well as other traffic related cases. In addition to her career experience as an attorney, Bella is a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a military intelligence officer leading teams of analysts and deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Bella is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and the University of Kansas School of Law.



Marisa Ugarte, Founder and Executive Director, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

Marisa Ugarte is the founder and executive director of the nonprofit Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC), which combats human trafficking in San Diego County and Tijuana. As an international and local expert on the subject of human trafficking, she works, as the BSCC Mission states, "to preserve the dignity and wellbeing of commercially and sexually exploited women and children through prevention, intervention, and education." She has received grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. State Department, and the International Foundation for Human Rights and Tolerance awarded her for bringing sanctuary to girls in illegal brothels in Southern California after being smuggled across the border. Ugarte builds coalitions trained in best practices in combatting human trafficking and safeguarding victims by convening anti-

trafficking conferences that are multi-disciplinary. Marisa has over 20 years of experience in advocacy for exploited men, women and children. She built and pioneered successful coalitions to address the problem within Southern California and Mexico. Her experience in domestic and international human trafficking focuses on bilingual and bicultural Spanish and English expertise.

Marisa Ugarte is the recipient of many national and local awards including the prestigious La Mancha Award presented by Casa Cornelia Law Center, the Peacemaker award by the National Conflict Resolution Center, the Digna Ochoa Award by Amnesty International. She was inducted into the San Diego Women's Museum Hall of Fame.