



# 2023 Organized Retail Crimes Virtual Summit

November 8, 2023

## AGENDA

**Wednesday, November 8**

Sign-In and Warm Up

Event Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

**Introduction and Summit Overview** - Paul Butler

**Welcome Remarks** - Ron Foss, President, Cal-ORCA

Presentation #1

### **An Insider's Look at the Evolution of the Threat Landscape: New Strategies for Successfully Preventing Retail Violence**

**Dr. Larry Barton**, Laurence Barton LLC

The threat and violent incident landscape is ever evolving. This session looks beyond traditional LP/AP issues to focus on behaviors of customers, employees, romantic partners and others who cause or seek to cause physical harm to your human capital in the retail space. For over 30 years, Dr. Barton has led the threat assessment of over 1300 cases for retailers alone. In these cases, persons made a direct threat; in others, references to harm on social media, or suggestions of self-harm, required careful, compassionate, but also swift engagement between HR, Security and store/distribution center leadership. A new 2023 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on threats has also rewritten how threats must be evaluated and managed with law enforcement, prosecutors and others. This compelling overview of cases and successful case management strategies is unique as Dr. Barton has extensive knowledge of California case law, incidents and the opportunity we have to mitigate risk before situations escalate.



*Dr. Larry Barton is one of the world's leading experts in crisis management and threat assessment. He serves as the Distinguished University Professor of Crisis Management and Public Safety at the University of Central Florida (UCF). Prior to this post, he served as President and CEO of The American College from 2003-2013. Dr. Barton has consistently been rated a highly regarded speaker at The FBI Academy and private sector conferences where he teaches courses in threat evaluation and crisis prevention.*

*Dr. Barton designs strategies and solutions addressing workplace violence prevention and crisis mitigation; this includes presentations, 24/7 evaluative services and ongoing training. He is a frequent commentator on television networks during and after incidents of public violence for CNN, the BBC, CBS and other news outlets. The author of four best-selling books on crisis response, his work, *Crisis Leadership Now* (McGraw-Hill), was voted one of the Best Business Books of the Year by Soundview Executive Books. That work is now used in over 340 training programs globally and is available at amazon.com.*

## Presentation #2

### **The “Fast Pass to Prosecution” Pilot Program: A Law Enforcement and Retailer Partnership**

**District Attorney Jeff Reisig**, Yolo County District Attorney’s Office

DA Reisig gives a brief assessment of the current challenges facing retail crime prosecution in California and outlines solutions to the crisis, with a focus on the “**Fast Pass to Prosecution**” pilot program he introduced in Yolo County. He stresses the importance of collaboration and partnership among retailers and law enforcement to increase information sharing and reporting, enhance retailer investigation and training and ultimately hold defendants accountable.



***Jeff Reisig** is the District Attorney of Yolo County, located in Northern California, between the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento. Reisig has served as the county’s chief elected law enforcement official since 2007. In addition to overseeing all criminal prosecutions in the county, he also leads one of the state’s most active environmental protection divisions.*

Break

## Presentation #3

### **CHP Organized Retail Crime Task Force: Year in Review**

**Captain Jason Cavett**, California Highway Patrol

This presentation will provide a brief overview of how the California Highway Patrol’s Organized Retail Crime Task Forces came about and what they have accomplished since their inception in October 2019. Case highlights and major takedowns relative to ORC from the past year will be shared. Contact information from the CHP’s regional teams will be provided so retailers and allied agencies can reach out directly to respective ORC Task Force teams as needed. Attendees will be shown examples of how collaborative efforts between retailers and law enforcement can make a difference in the fight against retail theft.



***Captain Jason Cavett** commands the California Highway Patrol’s Field Support Section, which provides oversight and direction for the CHP’s criminal investigative programs, including the Organized Retail Crime Task Forces. Captain Cavett has 27 years of law enforcement experience with the California Highway Patrol and has held assignments at several ranks in multiple field commands, Internal Investigations and helped develop both criminal and administrative investigative procedures for the California Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Law Enforcement Support.*

Break

## Presentation #4

### **Operation Boiling Point: HSI's Efforts to Combat Organized Retail Crime, Cargo Theft and Organized Theft Groups**

**Raul O. Aguilar**, Deputy Assistant Director, Countering Transnational Organized Crime, Financial and Fraud Division, US Department of Homeland Security



***Deputy Assistant Director Aguilar** directs the Financial and Fraud Division for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which investigates, disrupts and dismantles transnational criminal organizations and terrorist networks that threaten or seek to exploit the customs and immigration laws of the United States.*

*Prior to this assignment, Mr. Aguilar served as the Deputy Special Agent in Charge for HSI Baltimore, Maryland and as the Division Chief for the newly established Transnational Organized Crime Division in Washington, DC. Mr. Aguilar also served as the HSI Deputy Special Agent in Charge at the U.S. Department of Justice, Special Operations Division in Chantilly, Virginia.*

*Mr. Aguilar has been a criminal investigator for over 23 years, initially with the Department of the Treasury, U.S. Customs Service and its successor agency, ICE HIS. Mr. Aguilar received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego.*

## Presentation #5

### **Overview of the New California Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program**

**Deputy Chief Robert O'Sullivan**, San Francisco PD

**Director Ryan Kao**, San Francisco PD

**Lieutenant Wesley Herman**, Citrus Heights PD

**Ryan Allain**, Director, Government Affairs, California Retailers Association

The State of California Budget Act of 2022 established the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Prevention Grant Program, which funds programs supporting local law enforcement agencies' efforts to prevent and respond to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft or cargo theft. This session will focus on grant details and highlight two awarded programs – the **Citrus Heights PD** installation of cameras, mobile security trailers and an enhanced video wall with innovative Live 911 service; and the **San Francisco PD** support of proactive policing operations targeting ORC and motor vehicle accessory theft.



***Deputy Chief Robert O'Sullivan** leads the Investigation Bureau for the San Francisco Police Department.*



**Director Ryan Kao** is responsible for developing crime reduction strategies and leading a dedicated team of crime analysts in support of the Department's sworn members. Prior to joining the Department in 2022, he served as an Assistant District Attorney for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted a wide range of cases, including robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, assault on peace officers, firearm trafficking and homicide. He is recognized as an expert on firearms and was embedded in the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC), where he worked with a team of SFPD officers and ATF agents to remove armed and dangerous criminals from the community. He has also specialized in DUI enforcement, particularly drug-impaired DUI and vehicular manslaughter, including cross-training as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and receiving the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Outstanding Prosecutor Award for his work. Director Kao is a native of Piedmont, CA and holds a Bachelor of Arts cum laude in Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought from Amherst College and a Juris Doctor with a specialization in Public Interest Law and Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.



**Lieutenant Wesley Herman** has worked for the Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD) in Northern California for over 15 years. Prior to that and following college, he was a commercial real estate investment manager for a multi-million dollar real estate investment management firm in Northern California overseeing the operations and profitability of retail shopping centers, commercial office buildings and apartment communities throughout the Western US. He spent 13 years in the private sector prior to entering law enforcement. During his time in policing, he has overseen the startup of two new innovative investigation units and their teams. He's led and worked in multiple positions in patrol operations, special operations and investigations focused on strategic public-private partnerships and forward thinking programs that utilize technology to maximize efficiencies for the law enforcement profession. Additionally, he's managed the firearms, K-9, honor guard, explorer, PAL and mobile crisis support units. Herman is a recent graduate of the prestigious California POST Command College program, Class of '70. He's earned a Master of Science degree in law enforcement and public safety leadership from the University of San Diego in 2021 and a Bachelor of Science degree in economics and business administration from Saint Mary's College of California. He is focused on innovative police futures and shares a passion for envisioning tomorrow's law enforcement profession.



**Ryan Allain** is the Director of Government Affairs with the California Retailers Association. He is also a Board Member on the Cal-ORCA Board of Directors and served as a Panel Member on the California Board of State and Community Corrections Organized Retail Theft Grant Scoring Panel, which was tasked with reviewing and scoring dozens of grants from law enforcement agencies across the state. He earned a bachelor's degree in Government/International Relations with a minor in Peace and Conflict Resolution at Sacramento State. While at Sacramento State, Ryan was heavily involved in student government, Greek life and new student orientation. Additionally, Ryan participated in American Model U.N. representing South Africa on the Economic and Social Council earning a distinguished delegation award. Prior to joining the CRA and Cal-ORCA teams, Ryan interned with the Chief Clerk's office in the California State Assembly and served as the Assembly Floor Analysis intern. During the internship Ryan gained an understanding of how the legislature functioned, the ebb and flow of the legislative process and honed in on his proofing and editing skills.

Final Remarks and Closing