



# CENTER FOR ALCOHOL POLICY

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Alcohol Law and Policy Conference Speaker Biographies & Session Descriptions

**Bellevue Hotel**  
**Philadelphia, PA | August 28-30, 2023**

### **Dangers of Illegal Shipping**

#### **Mark Brown, Executive Chairman, Sazerac Company Inc.**

Mark Brown is the Executive Chairman of Sazerac Company, which has operations across the United States, in the United Kingdom, Ireland, India, Canada, France and Australia.

Brown started in the beverage alcohol business at an early age working in his family's pub business in the U.K. in 1971. In 1976 Brown joined British alcohol cider-maker H.P. Bulmer as a salesperson, and by 1978 was Sales Trainer. He came to the United States in 1980, operating as the U.S. Field Sales Manager for Bulmer.

From 1981 to 1992 he served as Director of New Products, National Sales Manager and, eventually, Vice President of Sales and Marketing with Sazerac.

Brown left Sazerac and joined Brown-Forman (no relation) as Senior Vice President and COO of the Select Brands Group for two years. He then spent the next three years as President of the Advancing Markets Group, before returning to Sazerac in June 1997.

Brown holds an MBA from Tulane University in New Orleans. He and his wife Jane have two sons, Thomas and Sam and three grandchildren Ollie, George and Henry.

#### **Employment Timeline:**

- 1971 - Pub business in the U.K.
- 1976 - Salesperson; H.P. Bulmer
- 1978 - Sales Trainer; H.P. Bulmer
- 1980 - Field Sales Manager; H.P. Bulmer (USA)
- 1981 - Director, New Products, New Markets; Sazerac Company Inc.
- 1983 - National Sales Manager; Sazerac Company Inc.
- 1986 - VP Sales & Marketing; Sazerac Company Inc.
- 1992 - SVP & COO Select Brands; Brown-Forman
- 1994 - President, Advancing Markets Groups; Brown-Forman
- 1997 - President, Sazerac Company Inc.
- 2023 – Executive Chairman, Sazerac Company Inc.

## **Rod Diaz, General Counsel of Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board**

As Chief Counsel to the PLCB since 2016, Rodrigo Diaz 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) and the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA). He is currently the northern regional chair for NCSLA.

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.

Rod lives in Carlisle with his wife, Sara Meng, PhD, and he can still outrun his sons, Christopher and Elijah, if they give him a big enough head start.

## **Spencer Nevins, President, Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association (MB&WWA)**

Spencer is the President of the Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association and MBWWA Services, Inc. He is the Association's chief spokesperson to the legislature, regulatory bodies, elected officials, and the media.

Spencer joined MB&WWA in 2006 after holding several state and local positions, including serving as Legal and Policy Counsel to the Republican Caucus of the Michigan House of Representatives. He has also served as General Counsel to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Spencer holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University and a JD from The Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He lives in East Lansing, Michigan, with his wife Michelle and four children.

## **STOP Act Report to Congress: What is it & how do we use it?**

### **Lisa Hutcheson, VP of Prevention and Policy, Mental Health America of Indiana and Dir., IN Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking**

Lisa has been the director of the IN Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking since its inception in 1997 and she is honored to be celebrating 25 years this year! Attending the University of TN, she earned a master's degree in education with a focus on counseling. She is also the Vice President of Prevention and Policy at Mental Health America of Indiana, and in that capacity is a member of the lobbying team. With a focus on prevention, she educates legislators and lobbies on legislation with a focus on alcohol and more recently tobacco and vaping, cannabis, and gaming. With support of grassroots coalitions, ICRUD has been successful in passing significant alcohol regulation in the last two decades. Lisa has been married to her husband Scott for 33 years and they have two sons - Oliver, who is a senior in high school and Henry, who is a senior at Purdue University. She learned a lot during the pandemic - working at home with your husband and two sons is not easy and she doesn't want to do that again any time soon. Baking was a great hobby during the pandemic, but she wishes she would have bought more stretchy pants, and most importantly she learned to stop being "busy" and just be present.

### **Steve Schmidt, former Sr. Vice President of Public Policy and Communications, National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) and former Bureau Director of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB)**

Steve Schmidt consults with international, national and state organizations on a variety of alcohol policy issues with the aim of developing initiatives and solutions to prevent alcohol misuse. He has held leadership positions with the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA), the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and for over 40 years has been engaged in efforts to address and inform alcohol related issues at the local, state, national, and international level. Steve has served on several national boards/advisory committees, authored publications, presented before a variety of audiences, and developed multiple initiatives concerning alcohol issues. He has held adjunct faculty positions at Pennsylvania State University, Villanova University, and York College of Pennsylvania in political science, government, substance use, and non-profit management.

### **Izabelle Wensley, Project Coordinator, Center for Advancing Alcohol Science to Practice**

Izabelle Wensley is a Research Associate at Synergy Enterprises where she supports the Sobering Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act Report to Congress and the Alcohol Policy Information System. In her position, Ms. Wensley helps abstract and interpret data, create graphical depictions of data to visually communicate current and historical trends in alcohol consumption and harms, and synthesize new and relevant information to draft sections of reports including the annual STOP Act Report to Congress. Concurrently, she sits on the board of the U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance, where she focuses her time on planning events, creating resources, and providing technical assistance to move the latest alcohol policy research and best practices into action. Previously, Ms. Wensley was a Prevention Programmer and Advocate for Dover Youth to Youth where she mobilized youth to take action in education, community awareness, media development, and policy change pertaining to substance misuse prevention.

## **Alcohol Litigation Update**

### **John Bodnovich, Executive Director, American Beverage Licensees**

John is Executive Director of American Beverage Licensees (ABL) and a leading advocate for America's beer, wine and spirits retailers. He works closely with ABL's state and regional affiliates representing on- and off-premise beverage licensee members on matters of concern to beverage alcohol retailers. His work includes managing ABL's federal government affairs portfolio, grassroots advocacy, and strategic communication efforts between ABL and its affiliates. John is ABL's primary representative to industry trade associations, alcohol suppliers, wholesalers and importers, as well as social responsibility organizations and other industry stakeholders. During his time with ABL, John has led association initiatives including legal advocacy, membership and responsibility campaigns, and public awareness efforts addressing alcohol issues. A native of Illinois, John holds a B.A. in Government & International Relations from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master's degree in Political Management from The George Washington University. He and his wife, Erin, reside in Kensington, Maryland with their four children

### **John Neiman, Shareholder, Maynard Nexsen**

John Neiman is a go-to lawyer for clients with high-stakes appeals. In recent years, John has helped clients obtain reversals by the Alabama Supreme Court of an \$11.4 million jury verdict in one case and an \$18 million jury verdict in another. In a recent Eleventh Circuit case, he helped a client obtain vacatur of a trial court's decision not to compel arbitration of a \$66.5 million bad-faith insurance claim. He also serves as embedded appellate counsel at high-stakes trials throughout the U.S., preserving the clients' objections for appeal and arguing motions for judgment as a matter of law. A former U.S. Supreme Court clerk and Solicitor General of Alabama, John chairs the Firm's Appellate Practice Group that strives to provide clients the highest level of appellate advocacy at value-driven rates.

At any given time, John has multiple cases pending in the Alabama Supreme Court and Eleventh Circuit, but he also represents clients in a wide array of cases throughout the country. In recent years John has presented oral argument for insurance-sector clients in the highest appellate courts in both California and New York. John has appeared for alcohol-industry clients in the Supreme Court and the Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Circuits. As state Solicitor General from 2011 to 2014, John argued two merits cases at the United States Supreme Court.

John is a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business distinguishes him as a Band 1 leading attorney in the area of Appellate Litigation. Best Lawyers® named him the region's 2017 and 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" for Appellate Practice.

## **Keynote Address**

### **Kathy Jennings, Attorney General of Delaware**

A native of Wilmington, Kathy joined the Delaware Department of Justice out of law school, starting her legal career as one of just two women in the Criminal Division. In the years that followed, she prosecuted scores of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide cases – including working with the FBI, New Castle County Police Department, and Delaware State Police to investigate and prosecute a serial killer who tortured and murdered five women.

She would go on to serve as both State Prosecutor and Chief Deputy Attorney General, prior to entering private practice where she represented individuals and companies in criminal, regulatory and civil matters. She would return to the DOJ in 2011 as State Prosecutor under Attorneys General Beau Biden and Matt Denn. Prior to running for Attorney General, Kathy served as Chief Administrative Officer of New Castle County under County Executive Matt Meyer, managing personnel and budgetary matters for Delaware's second-largest public employer. On January 1st, 2019, she was sworn in as Delaware's 46th Attorney General.

## **We Need These Stinkin' Badges! Alcohol Law Enforcement & Alcohol Regulators**

### **Patrick Maroney, Former Director, Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division; Principal, Maroney Consulting Services**

Patrick Maroney is the President of Maroney Consulting Services LLC, and provides consulting related to liquor laws, rules, liability, training and compliance for liquor licensees and stakeholders. Patrick has over 33 years of experience in law enforcement and regulatory compliance. In June 2019, Patrick retired from the state of Colorado where he served as the Director for the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) since 2013. For over two years previously, Patrick served as the Chief of Investigations for the LED. He has also worked for other government agencies including the Colorado Lottery, Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Arapahoe County Coroner's Office and the Larimer County Sheriff's Office. Patrick is a former board member of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA) and has served on several panels during NCSLA conferences as well as hosted the 2017 National Conference in Denver. During his tenure as Director of the Colorado LED, Patrick saw several changes in liquor law, policy, rules and industry practices. He worked closely with liquor stakeholders in 2016 and 2018 to implement two bills passed by the Colorado legislature that brought about the most significant changes to Colorado's liquor laws since Prohibition. He also served on the Colorado Task Force on Drunk and Impaired driving whose mission is to support the prevention, awareness, enforcement, and treatment of drunk and impaired driving in Colorado through strong partnerships with public, private and non-profit organizations.

Patrick understands the importance of strengthening America's strong alcohol regulatory system and its relevancy to protecting public health and safety.

### **Terrence Merriweather, Director of Public Policy, National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA)**

Terrance Merriweather serves as NABCA's Director of Public Policy. Before arriving at NABCA in January 2023, he served at the North Carolina ABC Commission as the Deputy Commissioner before retiring with 30 years of creditable service with the State on September 1,

2022. Previously, He was the Deputy Director of Policy, overseeing the Permit, Audit/Investigation, and Legal Section of the NC ABC Commission, including being the law enforcement liaison. He began his law enforcement career in 1997 as a deputy sheriff with the Harnett County Sheriff's Office. He continued as a deputy sheriff with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. In 2003, he was hired by the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, and in 2017 became the Branch Head of the Division. Merriweather is a United States Army Veteran and graduate of Liberty University.

### **Loren Smith, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Alcohol and Tobacco Division, Georgia Department of Revenue**

Loren Smith began her law enforcement career in 2009 with the Cobb County Police Department later joining the Georgia Department of Revenue Alcohol and Tobacco Division in December 2012. As a Special Agent, she was dedicated to enforcing the rules and regulations of the Alcohol and Tobacco Division and licensing of businesses in which she serviced the areas of Cobb, Paulding, and Bartow County. During her tenure with the Department, she has seized a vast amount of alcohol and tobacco contraband surrounding illegal manufacturing, shipments, sales, transportation, and excise tax violations. In July 2019, she was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge over Operations and is responsible for overseeing the Alcohol & Tobacco Division's licensing, audit, major case, and trade practice functions. Mrs. Smith has been responsible for several divisional and legislative initiatives for both enforcement and operations to include but not limited to enhancing the Department record management system for administrative and criminal cases, and implemented and trained all alcohol licensing authorities within the State of Georgia on the first centralized alcohol licensing system. Mrs. Smith is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a graduate of Columbia Southern University where she obtained her master's degree in business administration.

## **Legislative Update**

### **2023 National Alcohol Regulation Sentiment Survey Results**

#### **Karoline McGrail, Insights Analyst, New Bridge Strategy**

Karoline has worked on a wide range of public policy issues including corporate image and brand research, energy policy, conservation and land use, health care, technology, and tax issues.

Karoline has extensive ballot measure experience, polling for successful state and local campaigns in Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, and Oregon, including seven major statewide wins since 2014. In 2020, she served as Research Director on the team that helped guide the winning strategy for the Yes on Proposition 22 campaign in California.

Karoline is a RIVA-trained moderator who is skilled in a range of research platforms and technologies, including in-person interviews and focus groups, online qualitative research, and

online ad/concept testing. Before joining New Bridge Strategy, she was a Senior Research Assistant, Project Director, and Research Director at Public Opinion Strategies.

Karoline graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Alabama with a B.A. in Classics and received her Master's in Public Policy from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. She lives in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia with her husband and daughter.

## **Pricing Regulation in the News**

### **Christopher Jones, SVP of Government Relations and Counsel for the National Grocers Association**

Chris Jones is the SVP of Government Relations and Counsel for the National Grocers Association, the national trade association for independent grocers and their wholesalers. He runs the association's government relations and legal programs. Chris leads NGA's antitrust policy portfolio and started the Main Street Competition Coalition, a coalition of business trade associations that aim to revive the dormant Robinson-Patman Act. Chris joined NGA after serving nearly 8 years as a staffer on Capitol Hill where he served in a senior legislative role from 2010-2017. Chris is a barred attorney and earned his J.D. in 2016 at George Mason University in the night program.

### **Robert Langer, Senior Counsel, Wiggin and Dana LLP**

Bob is recognized as one of the country's foremost authorities on antitrust, consumer protection, and trade regulation law. He possesses unparalleled experience in counseling, litigation, and regulatory investigations in the field, and he is co-author of the definitive treatise on unfair trade practices and antitrust legal practice.

A Senior Counsel in the firm's Litigation Department and Co-chair of the firm's Antitrust and Technology Disputes Practice Group, Bob's experience includes class actions and representing clients in both federal and state courts and before the Federal Trade Commission, the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and offices of state attorneys general and state consumer protection agencies throughout the U.S.

Bob leverages more than two decades of experience as the Assistant Attorney General in charge of antitrust and consumer protection in Connecticut, where he litigated numerous antitrust and consumer matters in federal and state trial and appellate courts.

Bob is a Charter Fellow and former Chair of the James W. Cooper Fellows Program of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He was named Best Lawyers' antitrust lawyer of the year for Hartford on several occasions.

Prior to joining Wiggin and Dana in 1994, Bob participated in more than 20 cases in the Connecticut Supreme Court and the Connecticut Appellate Court, including the first decisions under both the Connecticut Antitrust Act (in a 1975 case) and the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) in a 1981 case. He has also assisted in drafting important amendments for both statutes.

Additionally, Bob has participated in numerous cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Leegin v. PSKS* (2007), which, with the aid of an amicus brief on behalf of PING, co-authored by Bob, overturned a century-old precedent related to vertical price fixing; *Hartford Fire v. California* (1993), one of the most significant McCarran-Ferguson decisions in our nation's history, in which Bob represented The State of Connecticut; *Ohio v. AMEX* (2018), in which Bob co-authored an amicus brief on behalf of two highly regarded antitrust economists in perhaps the most important antitrust decision rendered by the Court in a decade involving how courts should evaluate two-sided markets under the antitrust laws; and, most recently, *Connecticut Fine Wine and Spirits, LLC, dba Total Wine & More v. Seagull* (2020), where Bob served as Counsel of Record for the intervening defendants, in fending off a cert petition in which the plaintiff/petitioner had unsuccessfully challenged the constitutionality of several Connecticut liquor pricing laws.

In September 2005, at the behest of the Congressional Antitrust Modernization Commission, Bob was one of three participants to testify on the subject of the state action immunity doctrine.

From 1990 to 1992, Bob served as Chair of the NAAG Multistate Antitrust Task Force. NAAG established the now commonplace model of multistate attorney general cooperation in consumer protection. That model was born with Bob's and others' work in the 1970s to forge a landmark agreement with General Motors for secretly installing Chevrolet engines in Oldsmobiles.

Bob has participated in numerous pro bono initiatives, including the Fair Factories Clearinghouse (FFC), which, after Bob helped FFC obtain a successful Business Review Letter from the Antitrust Division of the DOJ, now shares documented data about wages and working conditions in foreign manufacturing settings. He also successfully obtained Advisory Opinions from the Federal Trade Commission to enable healthcare nonprofits to pass savings on to their employees and others. As Chair of the Cooper Fellows, he helped launch a program to capture the oral histories of pioneering women in the law in Connecticut.

Bob lectures and writes regularly on antitrust, consumer protection, and healthcare topics. Bob is the co-author of *Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices, Business Torts and Antitrust*, the foremost treatise on the topic, which is now approaching 2000 pages, updated every year, and intended for Connecticut judges, lawyers, and academicians. His op-ed articles have appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Hartford Courant*.

Every year since 1979, Bob has taught courses as an adjunct professor that include antitrust, unfair and deceptive trade practices and constitutional law at the University of Connecticut School of Business Administration's MBA Program (1979-2013) and the University of Connecticut School of Law (2014-present). Bob now also teaches courses as an adjunct professor on both antitrust law and unfair and deceptive trade practices law at the Quinnipiac University School of Law. Bob obtained his J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law and his A.B. from Franklin & Marshall College. Bob was admitted to practice in 1973.

### **Travis Wheeler, Shareholder, Maynard Nexsen**

Travis Wheeler is an antitrust lawyer. He represents clients large and small as both plaintiffs and defendants in antitrust litigation.



Travis counsels clients on all manners of antitrust issues, including horizontal and vertical restraints, resale price maintenance and price discrimination issues, and mergers. He regularly conducts antitrust compliance training and drafts corporate compliance policies for clients.

Outside of the office, Travis is an adjunct professor of Antitrust Law & Trade Regulation and Law & Economics at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Travis has been recognized repeatedly by his peers as a “Legal Elite” for Antitrust Law in the Midlands, receiving the most votes of any attorney in 2018.

Travis serves as a Vice Chair of the ABA Antitrust Section’s Civil Practice and Procedure Committee. Prior to that appointment, he was a Vice Chair of the Section’s Exemptions & Immunities Committee for three years. He is currently only the South Carolinian to hold a leadership position in the ABA’s Antitrust Section.

In addition, Travis also has experience in local government, election and constitutional matters. He was part of a team that challenged a mayoral primary result, and he has challenged special legislation targeting individual special purpose districts in violation of the South Carolina Constitution. Travis has also prosecuted, pro bono, criminal domestic violence cases before juries in Orangeburg, Kershaw, and Sumter counties.

Prior to coming to South Carolina, he practiced antitrust law with Arnold & Porter in Washington, D.C. and clerked for the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He received his J.D. with High Honors from Duke University School of Law and his B.A, summa cum laude, from Wofford College. He is a member of the Order of the Coif and Phi Beta Kappa.

Outside his practice, Travis served six years on the Board of Trustees of the Montessori School of Columbia. He also served as the President of the Rosewood Community Council in 2007 and 2008 and as Vice President of the Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association in 2011. He was also Chairperson of the Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation in 2013-14, on which he began serving in 2008.

Away from the office and the classroom, Travis and his wife, Lisa, keep busy with an fourteen-year-old son, an eleven-year-old daughter, a golden retriever, and three backyard chickens. Outside of work, he can often be found cheering on his son in kart racing or school sports or watching his daughter’s dance performances. He is an avid cyclist and runner (and has run at least one mile every day since April 13, 2011).

## **History of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment**

### **J. Neal Insley, President & Chief Executive Officer, National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA)**

J. NEAL INSLEY became President & CEO of National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) on October 2, 2021 and served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for NABCA since April 2015. Neal began his career in law enforcement and held the position of special agent with the Va. ABC while attending law school part-time at nights and weekends. Neal has also served as the Chairman of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Va.

ABC) and as Chairman of the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). In his 25+ years of working in the beverage alcohol industry, Neal has worked as a regulator, private practice attorney, administrative law judge and business leader. This expansive background gives him a broad and unique perspective of the intricacies of the hospitality and beverage alcohol industries.

### **Francis X. O'Brien, Principal, F.X. O'Brien Associates**

Fran O'Brien is a lawyer/lobbyist practicing across Pennsylvania exclusively in the area of beverage alcohol. He represents licensees of all types on matters of licensing, transactions, and enforcement. Non-licensees with liquor law issues, such as developers, lenders, landlords, and municipalities, also call on his expertise. This regularly takes him before the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and courts at all levels. Mr. O'Brien has spoken about the liquor laws to innumerable citizen groups and licensee groups, as well as government regulators from many states.

Mr. O'Brien enjoyed great government experience before opening his own office. For nearly eight years he served as Chief Counsel (general counsel) to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania State Police.

He received his undergrad and law degrees from Villanova University, where he was a published member of the Villanova Law Review.

## **Hot Topics: Competition, Blurred Lines, and Crowded House**

### **Matthew Botting, General Counsel, California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control**

Matthew Botting was appointed to the position of ABC General Counsel in August, 2008. Mr. Botting has over 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.

### **Jaci Flug, Former General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Drizly, Former General Counsel, New York Liquor Authority**

Jacqueline P. Flug, Esq. served as General Counsel/Senior Vice President for Drizly, an ecommerce platform for delivery of alcoholic beverages. Prior to joining Drizly Ms. Flug worked in New York State government as General Counsel and Vice President of Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, and as General Counsel to the New York State Liquor Authority.

Ms. Flug also worked in New York City government and served as Administrator of the Assigned Counsel Plan for the Appellate Division, First Department and began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County focusing on violent felonies and vehicular homicides.

Ms. Flug has served as the President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and the President of the Bronx Women's Bar Association. She proudly served as a long time coach for Bronx Middle School I.S. 145 in the Thurgood Marshall Junior High School Mock Trial Competition and served on the Board of the National Organization for Women – NYC.

Ms. Flug is a past president of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert and serves as pro bono counsel to domestic violence victims seeking asylum. Ms. Flug received her Juris Doctor cum laude from New York Law School and her B.A. in American Studies from SUNY Geneseo.

### **Ted Mahony, Chief Investigator, Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission**

Ted Mahony has served as Chief of Investigations and Enforcement with the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission since 2001. In 2004 he was named the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) Agent of the Year for his leadership in ensuring effective liquor law enforcement in Massachusetts and in 2008 the Massachusetts ABCC was recognized as the NLLEA Agency of the Year for its innovative enforcement programs. Chief Mahony served as President of the NLLEA in 2008-2009 and again in 2012-2013.

### **Amy Graydon, Assistant Administrator for External Affairs/Chief of Staff, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)**

Amy Graydon is the Assistant Administrator for External Affairs and Chief of Staff for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) at the U.S. Department of Treasury. In this role, Ms. Graydon provides strategic advice to the Administrator and the Deputy Administrator and focuses on stakeholder-engagement, communications, and public affairs. She manages the Bureau's internal workflow processes and facilitates proactive coordination of Bureau-wide priorities and in direct support of TTB's mission. She also ensures the Bureau employs Customer Experience principles when designing and improving its services and systems.

Prior to joining TTB in June 2022, Ms. Graydon served as the Director, Office of Policy, Strategic Planning, and Regulations at the Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). In this capacity, Ms. Graydon led the Agency's strategic planning and associated performance management processes. She also spearheaded the Agency's regulatory development and analysis process to address issues concerning motor carrier safety, operating authority, hazardous materials transportation, and the movement of household goods.

Ms. Graydon worked for 17 years at the U.S Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Most of her tenure with DHS was spent working with public and private partners to enhance the country's chemical facility security. While at DHS, Ms. Graydon also led CISA's efforts to plan and execute nationwide cybersecurity and physical security exercises with the public and private sectors that served as a critical platform to test existing policies and procedures.

Ms. Graydon began her 29-year Federal career working in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia, PA, as part of the Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Ms. Graydon received a Bachelor of Science in International Business from Georgetown University, and a Master of Public Administration from George Washington University.

## Moderators

### **Brannon Denning, Starnes Professor of Law, Cumberland School of Law, Samford University; Center for Alcohol Policy Advisory Council**

Denning writes in the area of constitutional law; specifically, he has written on the Commerce Clause and the dormant commerce clause; judicial and executive branch appointments; the constitutional amendment process; foreign affairs and the Constitution; and the Second Amendment. He collaborated with Boris I. Bittker, Late Sterling Professor Emeritus at Yale on Bittker on the Regulation of Interstate Commerce and Foreign Commerce (Aspen Law and Business 1999), and is the sole author of the [second edition](#). In 2016, he published [Guns and the Law: Cases, Materials, and Explanation](#) (with Andrew Jay McClurg), a casebook published by Carolina Academic Press that covers various aspects of the legal regulation of firearms from the Second Amendment to the laws governing the use of deadly force. Most recently, he has published the sixth edition of [American Constitutional Law: Powers and Liberties](#), for which he is the successor author to the late Calvin Massey. He also recently combined two volumes of the previously-published The Glannon Guide to Constitution Law, publishing a third edition of [The Glannon Guide to Constitutional Law: Powers and Liberties](#). All are published by WoltersKluwer. He also wrote [Developing Professional Skills: Constitutional Law](#), an innovative text that furnishes materials allowing students to hone their drafting, analysis, and negotiation skills through constitutional law problems. In addition, he is the co-author of *Becoming a Law Professor: A Candidate's Guide*, a soup-to-nuts guide for the aspiring legal academic. Denning's other writings have been published in *Foreign Affairs*, *Constitutional Commentary*, the *Northwestern University Law Review*, the *William and Mary Law Review*, the *Minnesota Law Review*, the *American Journal of International Law*, the *Wisconsin Law Review*, the *Tulane Law Review*, and *Law and Contemporary Problems* among other journals and periodicals. He was the recipient of the 2008 Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award for upper-level classes and of the Lightfoot, Franklin & White award for Faculty Scholarship, which he won in 2012, 2016, and 2019.

### **Pam Erickson (Moderator), Founder, Public Action Management, Former Director, Oregon Liquor Control Commission; Center for Alcohol Policy Advisory Council**

Ms. Erickson is passionate leader on alcohol issues. Currently, she owns Public Action Management, an Arizona small business, and operates an education campaign for a "Healthy Alcohol Marketplace." From 1996 to 2003, she directed the Oregon Liquor Control Commission where she transformed an antiquated bureaucracy into a high performing, results oriented organization. In 2003, she joined Oregon Partnership to direct leadership and media campaigns to reduce underage drinking. Her recent publications include, "Issue Briefs for States, 2016," "Alcohol Deregulation by Ballot Measure in Washington State," "Fair Trade Practice Regulations" and "Public Supports Strong Alcohol Policies." These reports explain how

deregulation can lead to increased social problems such as high rates of underage drinking, public order offenses and alcohol related disease. She also served as an expert witness in key alcohol regulation cases in Kentucky and California.

### **Patrick Lynch, Former Attorney General of Rhode Island and Center for Alcohol Policy Advisory Council Member**

Serving from 2003 to 2010, Patrick C. Lynch was the 72nd person to hold the office of Rhode Island Attorney General since its inception in 1650. A former State prosecutor, he made reducing juvenile crime the centerpiece of his administration, believing that the career criminals of tomorrow start off as the youth offenders of today. A 1987 graduate of Brown University, Attorney General Lynch earned his law degree from Suffolk University Law School. As a Special Assistant Attorney General from 1994 to 1999, he prosecuted cases at every level of Rhode Island's criminal justice system and led the State's prosecution of gang-related offenses. Lynch worked for one of Rhode Island's top law firms until the 2002 election, which capped his first campaign for public office.

### **Paul Pisano, Senior Vice President, Industry Affairs and General Counsel, National Beer Wholesalers Association**

Paul Pisano leads the association's efforts in industry, legal and state governmental affairs and serves as a liaison to state distributor associations and outside groups. Prior to joining NBWA, he served at the Department of Commerce, most recently as director of congressional affairs at the U.S. Census Bureau. He also spent six years working in senior positions on Capitol Hill. Pisano holds a B.A. degree from Hampden-Sydney College and earned his J.D. from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

### **Kelly Roberson, Executive Director, Center for Alcohol Policy**

In May 2020, the Center for Alcohol Policy named Kelly Roberson as executive director. Roberson brings to the Center her years of experience in policy and marketing from the public and private sectors.

Prior to her work with the Center, Roberson served as policy advisor and communications director in the U.S. House of Representatives where she led a varied portfolio of issues on behalf of the Western Caucus. She cultivated a strong understanding of regulated industries and worked with several members of Congress and their staffs on issues including energy and the environment, land use and resources, water and Native American affairs.

Most recently, Roberson pioneered the role of National Director of Digital Communications for one of the leading bicycle retailers on the east coast. During this time, her passion for building strategic partnerships and relationships combined with her overhaul of the company's digital presence paved the way for exponential growth in both sales and brand awareness.

A native of Scottsdale, Arizona, Roberson graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University with a degree in Spanish Linguistics and International Business and Management.

## **Sessions:**

### **Alcohol Litigation Update**

Join us as we sit down with legal experts to hear an update from them on alcohol litigation around the nation and what's on the horizon. From the Supreme Court to the circuit courts, this conversation will give the lay of the land.

### **2023 National Survey on Alcohol Regulation**

According to the Center's most recent national poll, attitudes among adult Americans remain consistent: the long-standing alcohol regulatory system in the U.S. works, and people like it. This session will feature an overview of the results from the Center's 2023 national survey, as well as additional key findings and trends over the years.

### **We Need These Stinkin' Badges! Alcohol Law Enforcement and Regulation**

In this conversation we'll learn more about the challenges facing alcohol law enforcement and regulators; why their work is crucial to maintaining a safe and orderly marketplace and protecting public health and safety.

### **Hot Topics: Competition, Blurred Lines, and Crowded House**

From the upcoming TTB rulemaking, new entrants into the marketplace, Blue Cloud and prohibited interests, this panel will delve into some of the most pressing topics facing the alcohol industry today.

### **History of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1933 – 90 years later, what have we learned? This session will do a deep dive on the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

### **Update on the STOP Act Report to Congress**

Every year, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) produces a report to Congress that provides national and state data on the policies, programs and practices related to preventing underage drinking. This panel will highlight some of the key takeaways from the recent report to Congress as well as some of their most important programmatic activities.

### **Keynote Address from Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings**

We're looking forward to hearing from Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings as our keynote speaker!

### **Dangers of Illegal Shipping**

A panel to explore some of the dangers of illegal shipping. What are the benefits to the public of a closed marketplace? Hear from regulators, public health representatives, and industry stakeholders who each bring a unique perspective to the table regarding this important topic.

### **Legislative Update**

This roundtable discussion from leading state legislators from around the country will highlight the issues facing policy makers in their respective capitols. The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment provided states

with the right and ability to set laws that most effectively regulate alcohol within their borders. This panel will highlight some of the common issues as well as unique challenges facing legislators today.

### **Pricing Regulation in the News**

There is a renewed interest in pricing laws. Most of the national discussion centers around the Robinson Patman Act of 1937 and concerns about competition, however state alcohol pricing laws are even more commonplace and have broader public health and competition concerns. This panel will draw from leading experts on the national trends and reason for renewed focus on the Robinson Patman and discuss its relevance, if any, to state alcohol laws.