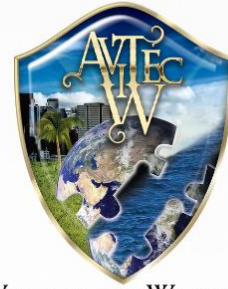




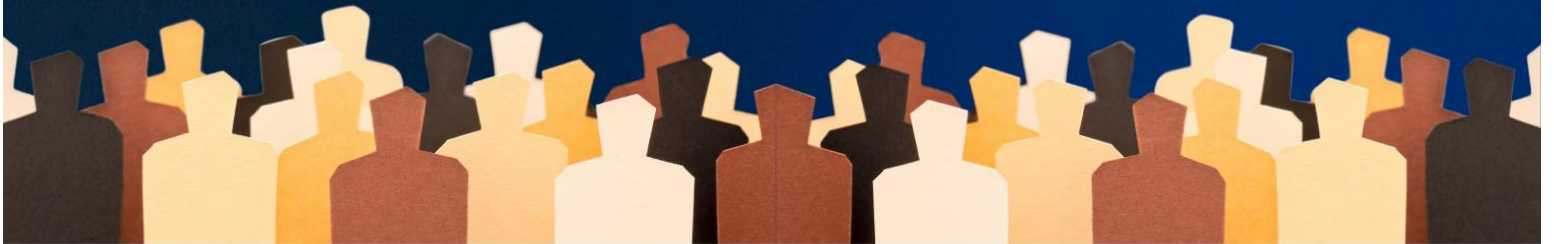
The John J. Brunetti  
Human Trafficking Academy



A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS  
EMPOWERMENT CENTER



# **Integration Challenges: All Hands on Deck to End Human Trafficking in Southwest Florida**



**January 11, 2022**

**Riverside Community Center | Ft. Myers, Florida**

# PROGRAM

## Integration Challenges: All Hands on Deck to End Human Trafficking in Southwest Florida

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

(Doors Open at 8:30 am)

8:30 am – 9:00 am	<b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>
9:00 am – 9:10 am	<b>Opening Prayer</b> <b>Teresa Watkins Brown</b> , <i>Council Member Ward 1</i> Ft. Myers City Council
	<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>
9:10 am – 9:20 am	<b>Dissecting Challenges of Integration in Anti-Trafficking Work</b> <b>Prof. Dr. Roza Pati</b> , <i>Founder &amp; Director</i> The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy St. Thomas University College of Law
9:20 am – 9:30 am	<b>A Model that Yields Results: A Voice In the Wilderness</b> <b>Ms. Ramona D. Miller</b> , <i>Founder &amp; Visionary</i> A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center
	<b>District Welcome</b> <b>Council Member Johnny W. Streets, Jr.</b> , <i>Council Member Ward 2</i> Ft. Myers City Council
9:30 am – 9:45 am	<b>The State of the Twentieth Circuit</b> <b>The Honorable Amira D. Fox</b> State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit
9:45 am – 10:45 am	<b>Perspectives in Law: Trafficking in Persons as a Crime</b> <b>Francine H. Donnorummo, Esq.</b> , <i>Special Victims Unit Chief</i> Office of the State Attorney Twentieth Judicial Circuit  <b>Detective Krysten Ridenour, M.S.</b> Innocent Images, Lee County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit
10:45 am – 11:00 am	<b>Break</b>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Assessing Vulnerability &amp; Trauma in Human Trafficking: Case Study Opioids</b> <b>Juliana Diaz, LMHC</b> , <i>Foster Care Clinician</i> CHANCE Program Citrus Health Network, Inc.
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>

1:00 pm – 1:05 pm	<b>Presentation of Proclamation</b> <b>The Honorable Kevin B. Anderson</b> , <i>Mayor of Ft. Myers</i> City of Fort Myers
1:05 pm – 2:05 pm	<b>Labor Trafficking: A Collaborative Response to Immigration Issues of Victims and Survivors</b> <b>Ana I. Vallejo, Esq.</b> , <i>Co-Director &amp; Attorney</i> VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.
2:05 pm – 2:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>Public-Private Partnerships: A Multidisciplinary Imperative to Combat Human Trafficking</b>  <u><b>Panelists:</b></u> <b>Crystal Lee Hamilton</b> <i>Consultant</i> , CrisLee Consulting Firm Survivor Leader  <b>Ramona D. Miller</b> <i>Founder &amp; Visionary</i> A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center  <b>Erika Pinerros, LMHC</b> <i>Human Trafficking Program Coordinator</i> Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice  <u><b>Moderator:</b></u> <b>Liza E. Smoker, J.D., LL.M.</b> The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy St. Thomas University College of Law
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Certificate Distribution</b>

“

*You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know.*

- William Wilberforce

”

# CURRICULUM

## **SESSION 1** **9:45 am – 10:45 am**

### **Perspectives in Law: Trafficking in Persons as a Crime**

This course will address the crime of human trafficking and how best to identify and understand the vulnerabilities of victims of human trafficking. Once a victim has been identified, it immediately requires a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the needs of the victim and the ongoing investigation. These investigations have commonalities regionally and involve specialized professionals to assist throughout the process to prosecution. Cases prosecuted in the 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida will be discussed along with the importance of evidence collected by law enforcement.

## **SESSION 2** **11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

### **Assessing Vulnerability & Trauma in Human Trafficking: Case Study Opioids**

This course examines trauma-informed approaches to human trafficking cases as well as the underlying factors that contribute to vulnerabilities that can be exploited by traffickers. The instructor will contextualize these issues through the lens of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). The instructor will also discuss the intersections between trafficking in persons and opioids, including how traffickers might use opioids as a mechanism of control or coercion.

## **SESSION 3** **1:05 pm – 2:05 pm**

### **Labor Trafficking: A Collaborative Response to Immigration Issues of Victims and Survivors**

Trafficking for purposes of forced labor/involuntary servitude is perhaps the most violent expression in a spectrum of labor abuses that many workers face. This course will address vulnerabilities faced by immigrant workers, whether “in” or “out” of lawful immigration status, that lead to trafficking-in-person of foreign-born workers. Using case examples and current events the course will address components of the climate of fear and provide an overview of immigration related issues present in labor trafficking cases. The course will also address immigration relief available to foreign-born trafficked persons and how to access such remedies.

## **SESSION 4** **2:15 pm – 3:15 pm**

### **Public-Private Partnerships: A Multidisciplinary Imperative to Combat Human Trafficking**

Strong partnerships across the public and private sectors are essential to combat trafficking in persons and support survivors as they rebuild their lives. During this course, panelists will share insights and perspectives from their firsthand experiences working in the field, including the importance of multidisciplinary collaborations. Panelists will discuss why the local community truly needs all hands on deck to end human trafficking in southwest Florida and beyond.



## The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy St. Thomas University College of Law

St. Thomas University College of Law's LL.M./J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights developed and guides *The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy*, a project originally funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. In 2017, the Academy received a generous donation by Mr. John J. Brunetti, a successful businessman in South Florida. Founded and directed by Dr. Roza Pati, Professor of Law and Executive Director of the LL.M./J.S.D. Program, the Academy upholds and advances the inherent *value, worth* and *dignity* of each *human being*. To this end, it develops education programs, conducts research, and instructs law and policy to fight human trafficking throughout the world and to empower survivor leadership in our global community. In particular, it offers specialized training and technical assistance to countries, government entities, academic institutions, the private sector, faith-based organizations, and the community at large on issues related to the crime of trafficking in persons.

St. Thomas University is the pioneer academic institution in South Florida to combat human trafficking. Year round, the Academy provides presentations, conferences, symposia, roundtables, and workshops. The Academy is renowned for its solid track record of effective training on human trafficking matters. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Academy aims at providing effective tools to increase awareness about human trafficking, identify and protect human trafficking victims, and develop strategies to prevent and combat this crime. To date, the Academy has provided specialized training and technical assistance to over 15,000 leaders and community members domestically and abroad.

For more information, please visit: [www.humantraffickingacademy.org](http://www.humantraffickingacademy.org).

### Contact Us

#### **Professor Dr. Roza Pati**

*Professor of Law & Executive Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights  
Founder & Director, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy  
St. Thomas University College of Law  
Member, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, The Vatican  
E-mail: [rpati@stu.edu](mailto:rpati@stu.edu)*

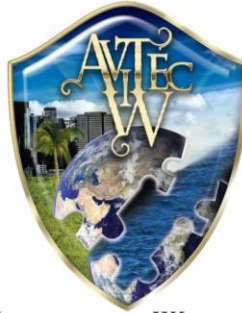
#### **Liza E. Smoker, J.D., LL.M.**

*Managing Director, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy  
St. Thomas University College of Law  
Phone: (305) 623-2320 E-mail: [lsmoker@stu.edu](mailto:lsmoker@stu.edu)*

#### **Karla Garcia, M.A.**

*Executive Assistant, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy  
St. Thomas University College of Law  
Phone: (305) 628-6688 E-mail: [kgarcia@stu.edu](mailto:kgarcia@stu.edu)*





A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS  
EMPOWERMENT CENTER

## A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center

A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center is committed to educating the community and empowering individuals by eradicating human trafficking, ending homelessness, and preventing overdoses. We are committed to helping Florida see no new cases of HIV and Hepatitis C.

A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center is an innovative CLIA Waived grassroots organization providing temporary emergency shelter, preventative medical services, and life-saving support services throughout South and Southwest Florida.

Ramona D. Miller is the visionary and founder of A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center, and she is a proud United States Army Veteran. Ms. Miller is a regional leader and a change agent with over 25 years in Human Service and is an active advocate on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. As such, Ms. Miller assisted Legal Momentum and other advocates in the closing of Backpage.com.

Ms. Miller creates and spearheads strategies to accomplish positive outcomes. A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center has successfully recovered victims of human trafficking locally, nationally, and targeted victim recovery during the Super Bowl. Success in these efforts is found through essential networking and partnerships with law enforcement and service providers throughout the United States.

A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center was the first grassroots Non-Governmental Organization to train and distribute Narcan under the Department of Children and Families Harm Reduction Response to Opioid program. We are distributors of Narcan, but we are recognized among leaders in reversing overdoses beyond the walls of a medical facility.

Under Ms. Miller's leadership, A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center is a sought-after member of Voices for NonOpioidChoices, a nonpartisan coalition dedicated to preventing opioid addiction before it starts, by increasing patient and provider access to non-opioid therapies and approaches to manage acute pain.

Our efforts are featured in an Emmy Award-Winning investigative report by Producer and Investigative Reporter Michele Gillen, *TRAPPED: Lessons from the Trenches*.

Our efforts were also featured in the News-Press and USA Today for our efforts in combating the Opioid Crisis and helping those who have fallen through the cracks.

## TRAINING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



### **Prof. Dr. Roza Pati**

*Founder & Director, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy*  
*Executive Director, LL.M./ J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights*  
*St. Thomas University College of Law, Miami, Florida*  
*Member, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, The Vatican*

Prof. Dr. Roza Pati is a tenured Professor of Law at St. Thomas University College of Law, where she also co-directs the programs of *Master of Laws* and the *Doctorate of the Science of Law in Intercultural Human Rights*. Inspired by her work against human trafficking since the early 1990s, Dr. Pati founded in 2010 the *John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy*, an institute she continues to direct.

Dr. Pati is a prolific scholar, who has written extensively in the field of international law, human rights, human trafficking and international criminal law. She is a globally published author of books, book chapters and law review articles in multiple languages and she lectures at academic, governmental and inter-governmental institutions around the world. She earned her Doctorate of the Science of Law degree, *summa cum laude*, at the University of Potsdam, Germany, her LL.M., *summa cum laude*, at St. Thomas University College of Law, and her B.A., *highest honors*, and LL.B., *honors*, at the University of Tirana, Albania.

Her areas of expertise include international law, human rights law, comparative law, human trafficking law, terrorism law, and she is a proponent of the New Haven School of Jurisprudence. Dr. Pati is Faculty Adviser of the *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* and member of the Editorial Board of the international series: *Studies in Intercultural Human Rights*, published by BRILL/ Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

Formerly a *Member of Parliament* and a *Cabinet Member* serving as the *Secretary of State for Youth and Women of Albania*, Dr. Pati has a wealth of experience in public service and academia. In 2012, Dr. Pati was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to serve as Member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at the Vatican, and in 2020 she was appointed by the Holy Father Pope Francis to serve as Member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, The Vatican.



### **Ramona D. Miller**

*Founder & Visionary*  
*A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center*

Ramona D. Miller is the visionary and founder of A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center. Ms. Miller is a proud United States Army Veteran and exercises her exceptional mapping ability to reach, identify, and recover those who require critical intervention and services.

Ms. Miller is a regional leader and a change agent with over 25 years in Human Service and is an active advocate on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. As such, Ms. Miller assisted Legal Momentum and other advocates in the closing of Backpage.com.

Ms. Miller creates and implements innovative models that have resulted in excellent and expected outcomes. A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center has successfully recovered victims of human trafficking locally, nationally, and targeted victim recovery during the Super Bowl. Success in these efforts is found through essential networking and partnerships with law enforcement and service providers throughout the United States.

Ms. Miller is on the frontlines fighting to eradicate human trafficking and to end the national opioid crisis and has been featured in many investigative reports for her instrumental role in the community.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**The Honorable Amira D. Fox**

*State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit*

Amira D. Fox is the State Attorney for the 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida covering Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. She graduated from American University in Washington D.C. in 1987 with degrees in International Studies and Economics and received her law degree from The George Washington University in 1990. Ms. Fox began her career as an Assistant State Attorney with the 20th Judicial Circuit in 1990. She worked in the misdemeanor, juvenile and felony divisions of the State Attorney's Office before becoming head of the Hendry and Glades office in 1998. In 1999, she became the first female head of the Collier County office. She entered private practice in 2002, and formed her own practice in 2004, where she specialized in criminal defense and family law and was a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent-rated lawyer. She rejoined the State Attorney's Office in 2012 as Chief of the Homicide and Economic Crime Units and in 2015 she became Chief Assistant State Attorney overseeing the day to day legal and administrative functions of the office, including the operation of grand juries throughout the circuit.

In November 2018, Ms. Fox was elected State Attorney, becoming the third State Attorney, and the first female State Attorney, in the history of the Circuit. She has prosecuted hundreds of cases including numerous first-degree murder death penalty cases. Ms. Fox serves as the Secretary of the Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association. She also serves on the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and the Supreme Court of Florida Criminal Court Steering Committee. She is the recipient of the GEM award for excellence in public service, a Leader in the Law award by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, the Commitment to Justice award from the Fallen Officers Foundation and the Woman of the Year award from the Ladies Leading Right.

Ms. Fox is a member of the Fort Myers Rotary Club, serves on the board of the Shelter for Abused Women and Children, the board of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, the board of the PACE Center for Girls and has been a Captain and Event Lead for Relay for Life. Amira's husband Mike served with the Collier County Sheriff's Office for 30 years and they have four children.





## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONT.



### **Mayor Kevin B. Anderson**

*Mayor, City of Ft. Myers*

Kevin B. Anderson was sworn in as Mayor on November 16, 2020, after serving as Ward 4 councilperson for the previous two years. Mayor Anderson retired from Chico's FAS, Inc. in June 2019 after 15 years. Prior to joining Chico's, Anderson had a more than 24-year career with the Fort Myers Police Department, holding the rank of Major at retirement. He was one of the first officers assigned to the School Resource Officer program, established the Habitual Juvenile Offender Unit and introduced the Citizen Police Academy and Citizens on Patrol programs.

Mayor Anderson is a graduate of Edison Community College, Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute. An active community member with a long history of community involvement, Anderson has been a resident of Fort Myers since 1979, serving on numerous boards and coalitions in Southwest Florida. He also served three years in the United States Army.

Anderson was an appointee to the Children's Services Council of Lee County by Governor Chiles, and served on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Florida Safety Council, the Board of Directors for the Coalition for Drug Free Southwest Florida and the Lee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. He was the inaugural chair of the State of Florida Juvenile Justice Standards and Training Commission, and is a past president of the Edison Festival of Light. While on city council, Anderson was Vice Chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board, and was the council liaison to the Citizens Police Review Board, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, Historic Preservation Commission and the Public Art Committee.

Currently Mayor Anderson serves on the advisory boards of the Uncommon Friends Foundation and Barbara's Friends. In June of 2021, he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties.



### **Council Member Johnny W. Streets, Jr.**

*Council Member Ward 2  
Ft. Myers City Council*

Johnny W. Streets, Jr., is a retired Law Enforcement Officer with the City of Fort Myers Police Department with 26 years of service. After retirement, he continued to serve the public through both the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers and Lee County Housing Authority.

Councilman Streets is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church; a Board Member of Lee County Housing Development; and a Board Member of Lee County Human Services. Councilman Streets is married to Mable Spears Streets and they have two adult daughters, Terryn and Jarrian.

## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



**Ana I. Vallejo, Esq.**  
*Co-Director & Attorney*  
VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

Ms. Ana Isabel Vallejo is a co-director of VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the rights of immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in persons and other violent crimes. From 2011 to 2013, she was the Project Coordinator for the Human Trafficking Academy of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights at St. Thomas University School of Law. Prior to her joining St. Thomas University and VIDA, she supervised a team of four attorneys and three paralegals, while representing low-income immigrant women and children victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, incest, and other gender related violent crimes.

Ms. Vallejo has been representing immigrant survivors of violence for over 15 years. She has represented trafficked persons and has worked in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, the U.S. Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security. Recently, Ms. Vallejo appeared as a witness before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission where she testified on issues related to trafficking in persons in the context of the agricultural industry in Florida.

In addition to direct legal representation, Ms. Vallejo has been part of the faculty and a panelist in numerous national and international trainings and conferences. Ms. Vallejo has a law degree and a Master of Laws degree from St. Thomas University College of Law, Miami, Florida.



**Crystal Lee Hamilton**  
*Consultant, CrisLee Consulting Firm*  
Survivor Leader

After surviving sexual exploitation, Crystal Lee is fighting back by empowering others as she combats against the exploitation of people. Specializing in helping children, young adults, and single mothers in the sex industry.

As a young mother coming out of the aftermath of a destructive relationship, Crystal believed she had found a more promising future with a medical doctor, who courted her and her infant son when she was only 21. However, over the next four years, she was forced into sex trafficking by him under the guise of an ‘escort’ service he operated. After escaping and staying in hiding for a decade, she now lives bold and empowered.

Through deep healing and truly connecting to a higher source of power, she found a calling to impact the lives of others trapped in the industry. She assists and equips young women who have been sexually exploited through domestic sex trafficking by actively going into juvenile detention centers, county jails, mental health facilities, group homes, and working with the local Department of Children and Families to speak the truth about the vulnerability and danger these populations face daily.

Crystal has made a direct impact in the community through resilience sharing, living by example, and coaching survivors back into society and into living into their potential. She is currently awaiting her dream of running a nonprofit with the hopes of making an even greater impact with strides to help to heal, connect, enrich, and serve this population by decreasing the vulnerabilities they face. Crystal is completing her Chaplaincy to reach the populations in our state prison systems. In her downtime, Crystal loves adventuring with her children and cooking a variety of foods.



**Erika Pineros, LMHC**

*Human Trafficking Program Coordinator*  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice

Erika Pineros is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and the Director for the Anti- Human Trafficking Program at Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in Psychology and obtained a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Florida Gulf Coast University.

Her clinical work has focused on trauma victims including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Throughout the past seven years, she has managed the Anti- Human Trafficking Program at Catholic Charities, which offers case management assistance to survivors throughout ten counties. Ms. Pineros works collaboratively with community partners to ensure access to resources and services to survivors of human trafficking. She also conducts outreach events and trainings to raise awareness about human trafficking.



**Francine H. Donnorummo, Esq.**

*Special Victims Unit Chief*  
Office of the State Attorney Twentieth Judicial Circuit

Francine H. Donnorummo's commitment to working with abuse victims began in law school, preparing protection from abuse petitions for victims of domestic violence which lead to her employment as staff attorney with Northern Pennsylvania Legal Services. In northern Pennsylvania, her practice ranged from representing indigent clients in landlord tenant disputes, family law, dependency matters as well as other civil court concerns. When she moved to Wisconsin, she became a member of the Wisconsin Bar and in a non-lawyer position worked for a company that managed the foreclosure process and fortunately she was able to relocate with her family to Fort Myers, Florida.

She had the good fortune to begin working with the Office of the State Attorney, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in December of 1998. During her tenure at the SAO she has tried well over 100 jury trials including several domestic violence murders, sexual batteries, human trafficking, child exploitation, child abuse and child homicides. She is the Special Victims Unit Chief Unit and Victim Services Director for the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. This supervisory role keeps her involved in cases throughout the five counties as well as provides her with the space to educate and continue involvement in the community in which she serves. This involvement includes participation on several task forces associated with the women's shelter, child abduction, child death review, elderly abuse fatality review and human trafficking.

Leading the Human Trafficking Task Force has been a great privilege for Ms. Donnorummo. The Task Force is a multidisciplinary effort to best meet the needs of the victims subject to human trafficking and trauma. She also provides training and presentations for law enforcement and professionals in the field at the police academy, summits and workshops on related topics.



**Juliana Diaz, LMHC**

*Foster Care Clinician*  
CHANGE Program  
Citrus Health Network

Juliana Diaz is a licensed mental health clinician who serves as a clinician at the CHANCE Program for Citrus Health Network. Prior to this position, Juliana was a part of the Project GOLD at Kristi House. Project Gold is a Drop In Center program for underage girls who are overcoming child sex trafficking.

In 2014, Ms. Diaz worked with the LIFT (Learning Independence from Trauma) Program with Henderson in Broward County, where she provided Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) for cases of sexual abuse, human trafficking and domestic violence. Ms. Diaz volunteered with Glory House of Miami from 2015–2019, where she mentored adult survivors of human trafficking, provided orientation trainings for volunteers, and co-facilitated the Hands that Heal Training.

Ms. Diaz is trained in Risk Reduction Family therapy, a substance abuse and trauma-focused modality. She has also been recently trained in Alternatives for Families Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence-based practice to improve the relationships between children and caregivers in families involved in frequent conflict, physical force/discipline, or child physical abuse. She was also part of a year-long training collaborative on the TF-CBT adaptation for CSEC. Ms. Diaz received her Bachelor degree from Nova Southeastern University and her Masters of Science in Mental Health from Florida International University.



**Detective Krysten Ridenour, M.S.**

Innocent Images  
Lee County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit

Detective Krysten Ridenour has been a sworn law enforcement officer for nine years, and is presently a Detective within the Lee County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit, more specifically within Innocent Images.

Detective Ridenour began her career at Lee County Sheriff's Office on patrol in "South District," in the Fort Myers, San Carlos Park, and Bonita Springs area. Detective Ridenour later joined the Bonita Springs Community Policing Unit for several years and participated in various community events, while answering calls for service in the City of Bonita Springs.

Detective Ridenour has been a member of various investigative divisions to include: Criminal Investigations (Property Crimes), Violent Crimes, Intelligence, and Special Victims. Detective Ridenour is currently a member of the South Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The ICAC Task Force was created to help federal, state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative responses to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems, or computer technology to sexually exploit children.

Detective Ridenour is also currently assigned as a Task Force Officer to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Child Exploitation/Human Trafficking Task Force in Fort Myers, Florida. The Task Force is a component of the FBI's Violent Crimes Program, an intelligence-driven, proactive, multi-agency investigative initiative to combat the proliferation of child sexual abuse/child sexual exploitation facilitated by online offenders. Detective Ridenour holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from the University of Florida, and a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati.





**Liza E. Smoker, J.D., LL.M.**

*Managing Director*

The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy  
St. Thomas University College of Law

Liza E. Smoker, Esq., is Managing Director of The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy. She graduated from Florida State University with degrees in Multinational Business and Real Estate, where she returned to receive her law degree. She was formally educated on human trafficking at St. Thomas University College of Law's LL.M./J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights, and served as LL.M. Editor-in-Chief of the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review.

Prior to joining the Academy, Ms. Smoker spent ten years in the private practice of law where she became the first woman partner in her firm's 90-year history. She served as president of the Broward County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, which was recognized as Affiliate of the Year by the Florida Bar YLD largely due to her leadership. Ms. Smoker also served in the public sector. She worked in the Executive Office of the Governor of Florida, prosecuted crimes as a CLI in the Leon County State Attorney's Office, and served as a White House Legal Intern in the Office of the Counsel to the President of the United States.

In 2017, Ms. Smoker spearheaded more than twenty events focused on the harmful effects of pornography and its link to commercial sexual exploitation as one of the prevalent forms of human trafficking. She led a grassroots campaign in support of Florida House Resolution 157 on the issue that passed in 2018 with bipartisan support.

Ms. Smoker is a Women's History Month Honoree of the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women, recipient of the Paul May Professionalism in Practice Award from the Broward County Bar Association, an AV Preeminent rated attorney for the highest level of legal ability and ethical standards, and a national semi-finalist and regional champion in trial advocacy competitions by the American Bar Association.

In 2019, Ms. Smoker was one of 60 Scholars chosen nationwide as a Presidential Leadership Scholar (PLS). The PLS Program is a partnership among the Presidential Centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and designed for mid-career leaders from diverse backgrounds who share a commitment to helping solve society's greatest challenges.



*Trapped: Human Trafficking Academy & A Voice in the Wilderness Partnering in 2017*