

**MARYLAND ALCOHOL LICENSING ASSOCIATION
ALCOHOL REGULATIONS & BEST PRACTICES 2023 –
POST-PANDEMIC INNOVATION**

PRESENTER BIOS

Mike Mohler (MALA President) served as the Chief Administrator for Baltimore County's Liquor Board/Rental Registration Program. In addition to his duties of regulating all facets of the licensing and sale of alcoholic beverages within the county, Mike was appointed Co-chair of the Baltimore County Liquor License Review Task Force, consisting of 10 business leaders from diverse backgrounds to review and recommend changes to Baltimore County's Liquor License Laws. Mr. Mohler also managed Baltimore County's Rental Registration Program, which has grown from 249 units in 2007 to over 19,000 today.

Past positions include the Deputy Director of Permits and Development Management for Baltimore County's Code Enforcement division. Prior to this time, Mohler held the position of Mid-Atlantic Region Sales Director for DIAGEO-GUINNESS USA where he managed the sales of the Guinness beer and FMB portfolio in a six-state, 3.5 million case region accounting for \$70 million in annual sales in Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, DC, and West Virginia.

Captain James "Art" Grady is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. After graduating from Dulaney High School, he attended the University of Baltimore and graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Captain Grady was hired by the Ocean City Police Department in 1997. He worked most of his career in the Patrol Division assigned to the boardwalk district. During this time, he served as a foot patrol officer, bicycle officer, and plain clothes operator. His plain clothes operator experience helped him establish and develop policy for a full-time plain clothes unit which eventually became known as the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU). In 2012, he was assigned to the Training and Recruiting section and was responsible for all officer training within the agency, seasonal police academy, legal updates, and all in-service hours mandated by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

Captain Grady is a certified police instructor through the Maryland Police Training Commission. He spent 20 years on the Quick Response Team (QRT) and was a team leader. He served as an instructor of the Defensive Tactics Unit and was assigned to the Bicycle Unit. He was selected to be one of the first Taser instructors in the agency and helped implement the Taser Program by developing policy and creating the initial training course for all OCPD officers. Captain Grady attended the FBI-LEEDA 9th Reflective Leadership Institute Course and attended the FBI-LEEDA 622nd Session of the Command Leadership Training Course. He was honored as the Ocean City Neighborhood Watch Association Officer of the Year in 2003. In 2022, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and currently serves as the Commander of the Patrol Division for the Ocean City Police Department.

Debbe Owston (Board Member) was promoted to Administrator to Garrett County Board of License Commissioners in 2006. At this time, she was also appointed to the MALA Executive Board. Debbe is a past president of the Garrett County Drug Free Communities Coalition and is still very active with the coalition.

Ms. Owston began her career with Garrett County Government in 1998. Originally, she was hired to fill an administrative assistant position in the Department of General Services. She worked directly with the Board of License Commissioners among other things. What set her apart from other applicants was the fact that she had an alcohol awareness certification. She quickly became very familiar with alcoholic beverage regulations and advanced in her position.

Prior to working for Garrett County Government, Debbe worked at a Deep Creek Lake restaurant while pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Frostburg State University. She also owned and operated a retail package store with an on-premise tavern. Debbe is also a graduate of Leadership Garrett County. She really enjoys being a part of MALA and looks forward to many more years serving on the board.

Dawn Shugars has been with the Frederick County Liquor Board since 2017. She started as a part-time receptionist. As time progressed and she became more involved with the day-to-day operations of the Liquor Board, she quickly developed a desire to learn all she could about the alcohol industry. This catapulted her career path into her leadership role today. In addition, she developed a passion for teaching alcohol awareness. During COVID, Dawn developed a universal alcohol awareness program that could be offered all over the state of Maryland. The classes offered through the Frederick County Liquor Board have become a staple in supporting the alcohol awareness needs of many across the state.

Dawn has been married for over 28 years to her husband Allen and has one adult daughter Katie. She enjoys spending quality time with her family. This includes weekly dinners around a table enjoying the conversations and making those moments a memory.

Mark Baxter is a 22-year police veteran and currently a full-time sworn detective. In his role as a detective, he is responsible for the investigation into the use and manufacturing of counterfeit documents, as well as violations of alcoholic beverage laws by citizens and licensed businesses. He has previously worked at the FBI and is a veteran of the United States Army. When not hunting for fake IDs himself, he instructs police officers, police recruits, and civilians from across the country in the detection of counterfeit identity documents. He provides training for various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to include the United States Department of Justice, the United States Attorney's Office, and the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association.

Baxter is routinely utilized by the Maryland Courts as a Subject Matter Expert for the prosecution of fraudulent document cases. In 2010, he created the "Fake ID-Real Problem" initiative to battle fake ID use and access to alcohol by minors. To date, this program has prevented more than 3000 sales to minors and has led to the seizure of thousands of fake IDs.

Drawing on his years of expertise, he established SureScan to attain maximum nationwide impact fighting this problem. SureScan helps guide businesses, agencies, and organizations with the detection of counterfeit documents by providing an unrivaled training program, as well as proven ID authentication solutions.

Nic Blandy currently serves as the Deputy Executive Secretary for the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City. Prior to this role, he worked in a variety of government relations roles for three different Mayors of Baltimore City and three different County Executives of Baltimore County, and as such, has extensive experience with the lawmaking process in the General Assembly. He holds a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law (2008) and is admitted into the State Bar of Maryland. Perhaps most importantly, Nicholas grew up in Ocean City and nearby Berlin, Maryland and he is happy to provide you with recommendations for which restaurants and bars you might choose to patronize, a couple of which possibly once employed him.

Kathie Durbin (Vice-President) is the Director of the Montgomery County, MD's Alcohol Beverage Services. For the past 15 years, she has been responsible for alcohol licensing, alcohol policy, education, legislative initiatives, and business compliance.

Ms. Durbin began her career as a Responsible Alcohol Beverage Service Instructor for the Restaurant Association of Maryland's Hospitality Education Foundation while working in restaurant management positions in DC and Maryland. She then spent 10 years as a contractor for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services where she wrote and managed state grants, mini-grants, and managed the substance abuse prevention network. During that time, she also served as the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Restaurant Association, collaborating with local agencies and the executive board to craft meaningful alcohol legislation.

Kathie is a University of Maryland, Baltimore County Graduate and is also certified by the of State of Maryland as an Alcohol Server Instructor and a Substance Abuse Prevention Professional. She is an active member of the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association, Responsible Hospitality Institute, and the Responsible Retailing Forum. Recognized in 2016 by the National Alcohol Licensing Professional Association for Innovation and Leadership and again in 2017 by the Center for Alcohol Policy as Regulator of the Year, Kathie is considered an expert in the field of alcohol regulation, education, and policy.

Pam Erickson is a passionate leader on alcohol policy issues. Currently, she owns Public Action Management which operates an education campaign for a "Healthy Alcohol Marketplace." From 1996 to 2003, she directed the Oregon Liquor Control Commission which included licensing, regulatory enforcement and operating Oregon's distilled spirits business as a "control state". From 2003 to 2007, she worked at Oregon Partnership to direct statewide leadership and media campaigns to reduce underage drinking. Beginning in 2005, she developed the Campaign for a Healthy Alcohol Market, which is an education campaign designed to explain the purpose and objectives of alcohol regulation in simple terms. She has written several reports on deregulation in the United Kingdom and the US and produces a periodic report for policy makers called, "Issue Briefs." 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.

Pam has also served as an expert witness in key alcohol regulation cases in Kentucky, California, Indiana and Michigan. Her educational materials and legal expert reports/affidavits are available free of charge at www.healthyalcoholmarket.com.

Kelly Roberson 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.

Anjanette Ballard has been the Licensure Manager for Montgomery County since November 2022, where she is responsible for managing the Licensing Unit, administering licensing procedures, and providing liaison services and oversight of the Board of License Commissioners. Prior to joining ABS, Anjanette worked at the Department of Permitting Services for Montgomery County overseeing the County's Electrical Licensing Program. At that time, she also handled commercial electrical and mechanical permitting as well as residential building and land development permitting for Montgomery County. Prior to joining Montgomery County government, Anjanette managed a construction company which specialized in residential design/build projects and commercial condo design/build projects in addition to new home constructions for 13 years.

Ms. Ballard relocated to Montgomery Village, MD from Poughkeepsie, NY with her husband and two sons in 2005. Anjanette is a business manager, engineer, and quintessential southern girl. North Carolina is one of the great loves of her life, it's where she was born and raised, attended college, met the love of her life, and married him, and where she still spends lots of time with family and friends.

Tamara Hildebrand is a Long Island, NY native. When the US Navy stationed her husband Paul at NAS PAX River in St. Mary's County in 1991, both fell in love with the community that reminded them of the Long Island of their childhood and decided this would be where they would settle once Paul retired. So in 2001, St. Mary's County became home. Tammy has worked for the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County for 20 years. Under the tutelage of her predecessor, Patricia Insley, she acquired the knowledge needed to serve the licensees of the County and became the Administrator to the Board in 2009.

Tammy feels that the opportunity to work with a variety of partners representing community, health, business, and law enforcement brings a broad spectrum of knowledge that benefits the licensed retailers her office serves. And of course, having a good team and dedicated Board is essential to meeting the challenges of the job in an ever-changing industry and Tammy is blessed with both.

Jeffrey A. Kelly (Board Member) is the Executive Director of the Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco, & Cannabis Commission (ATCC), the State regulatory and enforcement agency of Maryland's alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis industries. Prior to his role with the ATCC, Jeff was the Director of the Field Enforcement Division for the Comptroller of Maryland. Until January 1, 2021, the Field Enforcement Division was Maryland's regulator and enforcement agency for the alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel industries. Since 2021, the regulatory and enforcement responsibility for alcohol and tobacco resides within the ATCC. As of July 1, 2023, the authority of the ATCC expanded to include the enforcement of the unlicensed and illicit cannabis market.

Preceding his appointment to Director in 2008 by Comptroller Peter Franchot, Jeff served as the Deputy Director and as a field supervisor. Before joining the Office of the Comptroller, he was a member of the Anne Arundel County Police Department where he retired as the Executive Officer of the Western District. In total, Jeff's career in public safety spans over 40 years.

Jeff is currently a board member of the Maryland Alcohol Licensing Association and is a Past President of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland with major course work in accounting, management, and financial planning. He also has a Certificate in Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic and a Certificate in Financial Planning. Jeff lives with his wife in Anne Arundel County, Maryland and has three sons and four grandchildren.

Raimee H. Eck, PhD, MPH, MPAS, CPH has over 20 years of clinical and public health training and experience, focusing on the epidemiology of alcohol use and harm, environmental interventions to reduce acute and chronic causes of alcohol-related harm, and translating research into effective policy. She also completed a Cancer Research Training Award Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute where she studied the role of alcohol in the development of cancer, the co-use of alcohol with other behavioral risk factors (e.g., tobacco), and points of intervention along the cancer control continuum. Raimee is a Past President of the Maryland Public Health Association and Past Chair of the Advocacy Committee, where she currently leads the statewide Alcohol, Tobacco & Cannabis Network, a coalition of researchers, legal experts, and community advocates. She is also the founder and principal of Sonrisa Solutions, providing expertise on topics such as alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis epidemiology, regulation, and enforcement; public health policy translation; and advocacy in the form of research reports, workshops, and webinars. She also teaches Media Advocacy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH).

Raimee received her Bachelor of Health Science and Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA and her MPH and PhD from JHSPH.

Maryellen Kraese is the Behavioral Health Prevention Program Manager at the St. Mary's County Health Department and Facilitator of the local Cannabis and Alcohol Coalition <https://smchd.org/cac/>. Maryellen has almost 20 years working in the behavioral health field, serving individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. Ms. Kraese has worked with both youth and adult populations to provide supportive programming and services in the area of substance use and mental health, and in her current capacity, works closely with community partners to address underage alcohol and cannabis use. Her prior work experience includes Drug Court Coordinator and Teen Court Coordinator for Charles County and Family Services Coordinator for the Florida Department of Health, Brevard County.

Maryellen graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Registered Peer Supervisor, and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention volunteer.

Randy Barnhart is the Vice-President Government Relations and Compliance, Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits has more than 40 years of experience in the beverage alcohol industry. Starting in 1979, Barnhart worked as a warehouseman | driver for a Havre de Grace beer wholesaler. Joining Seagram Americas in 1983, Barnhart gained distiller sales and marketing experience over a 20-year period on the East Coast in both open and control markets.

He joined Southern Glazer's in 2003 as Vice-President of the New England Division managing the sales of wine and spirits. In 2018, Barnhart transitioned from sales into Government Relations and Compliance with Southern Glazer's. Barnhart is a graduate of Salisbury State College.

Louis Berman is the Trade Practice Regulatory Manager for the Alcohol, Tobacco, & Cannabis Commission. He investigates and coordinates new license applications and provides counseling and technical advice to applicants. Berman's expertise is investigating and helping to resolve Maryland alcohol and tobacco licensee problems and complaints. Lou has also served as an Administrator in the Maryland Comptroller's Field Enforcement Division; was a Credit Analyst at Dun and Bradstreet and served our country in the US Army.

Amy Samman is the Division Chief of Licensure, Regulation and Education for Montgomery County (Maryland) Alcohol Beverage Services. She is responsible for supervising alcohol licensing, policy, legislative initiatives, education, and business compliance. She oversees the processing of liquor license applications, as well as community outreach and education programs including Alcohol Education and Regulatory Training (ALERT) which is designed to educate servers, sellers, managers and owners in alcohol beverage regulatory compliance and the First Year Intervention (FYI) program which helps new license holders and their staff understand their roles and responsibilities and prepares them for future compliance inspections.

Prior to joining ABS, Amy spent seven years in Montgomery County's Office of Intergovernmental Relations where she worked on a variety of legislative matters on behalf of the County. Her portfolio included issues relating to alcoholic beverages, agriculture, environment, housing, land use and planning, permitting, procurement, recreation, and utilities.

Earl Bradford (Board Member) has worked for Cecil County Government for 38 years; 30 years have been with the Cecil County Liquor Board. In 2001 he became Chief Alcoholic Beverage Inspector for the department. He has successfully led the Liquor Board's Operation Stay Alert program since 2001, as well as Compliance Checks for the department. Earl has held a position on the Maryland Alcoholic Licensing Association Executive Board for 14 years and served as President for two.

Crystal Dadds (Board Member) is the Assistant Director of the Codes Division for the Caroline County Department of Planning & Codes where she manages the day-to-day operations of code enforcement, permitting and building inspections, electrical, plumbing, and alcoholic beverage licensing. She also serves as the Administrator for the Board of Zoning Appeals, Construction Trades Board, and the Board of License Commissioners. Born and raised in Caroline County, Maryland, Ms. Dadds has worked in local government since graduating from North Caroline High School, starting off as a Clerk and Office Manager until her promotion in 2008. Crystal is happy to call Caroline County her home and resides there with her husband and three rescue dogs.

Judy Hagner (Board Member) was recently promoted as Executive Director of Anne Arundel County's Board of License Commissioners. She has been with the Board since 1976, first serving as Secretary and Administrator respectively. Committed to helping her community become a better and healthier place to live, work, and play, Judy currently serves Board Member of the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth & Families and Vice Chair of Substance Abuse & Prevention Education (SAPE) Committee. She was also Board Member, Vice-President, and Equipment Manager of the Dunkirk Boys & Girls Club and served as Board Member and Vice-President of the Northern High School Athletic Boosters Club.

Ms. Hagner has traveled extensively in England, Italy, Sicily, and Germany. She graduated from the Fleet Business School and attended Southern High School. Judy has been married for 42 years and has two grown children.

Dale Maginnis (Treasurer) has held the position of Clerk for the Somerset County Board of License Commissioners since 1999. She also serves as an Administrative Assistant for a local university on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Ms. Maginnis was previously the Acting Executive Director for the Delmarva Advisory Council, a tri-state non-profit organization that was formed to advance the economic and cultural welfare of the people of the Delmarva Peninsula. Dale has an Associate of Arts Degree from Wesley College and a certificate in grant writing from The Grantsmanship Center. She is also an active Board Member of the Friends of Teackle Mansion and is a member of the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club.

Maryland Alcohol Licensing Association

Wayne Magoon (Board Member) is currently the civilian Alcohol Inspector assigned to the Alcohol Enforcement Unit of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Wayne is a retired USAF Rescue Helicopter Flight Engineer. After retirement from the Air Force, Wayne was invited to be the managing partner in an upstart Liquor Store where he and his partners built a successful business in nine months and then happily sold the business. He then became a partner/owner of a mid-sized, Charles County printing company. As a well-known businessman and prior liquor store owner, he was appointed to the Charles County Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board) where he served for eight years and rose to the position of Vice Chair. Shortly after leaving the Liquor Board, Wayne also sold his printing business. His history of having owned a liquor store and his service on the Liquor Board made him the obvious choice for the Sheriff to fill the vacant Inspector position he now holds. Wayne lives in Charles County with his wife Robin. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Christine Travis (Board Member) has served as the Administrator to the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners since 1999. Prior to this time, Ms. Travis held a number of administrative and management positions within the private sector in various industries including the steel industry, a HazMat company, wholefood sales, and poultry industries. Christine has an Associates Degree in Computer Science, lives in Salisbury, Maryland, and has a lovely daughter.

Barb Giniger Cooper is President of Cooper Communications, a social marketing and communications company which specializes in assessing challenges, applying strategies, and achieving solutions. For over 29 years, Cooper has created website content, collateral, and programs that hit-the-mark. Her company delivers products and programs based on audience feedback and participation. Barb's areas of expertise include alcohol and other drug abuse prevention, re-entry issues, career development, and arts administration. For the past 4+ years, Barb has served as MALA's Webmaster and Communications Consultant and is proud to help bring this MALA Conference out of the virtual world.



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