



FIRST ANNUAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 12, 2019

THE NORTHEAST OHIO HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAW CLINIC

Renee Jones Empowerment Center

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The Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic
First Annual Human Trafficking Symposium
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AGENDA		
8:00 a.m.		Registration
8:30 a.m.		“Human Trafficking Overview: Where Are We and How Did We Get Here?” <i>Maureen (Kenny) Guirguis, Director</i> Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic (former Co-Director of CWRU Human Trafficking Law Clinic)
9:15 a.m.		“Prosecuting Complex Human-Trafficking Cases” <i>Carol M. Skutnik, Assistant United States Attorney</i> United States Attorney’s Office, Northern District of Ohio
10:30 a.m.		“FBI Agent’s Perspective: Investigating Human Trafficking Cases” <i>Suzanne Lewis-Johnson,</i> CEO, Rahab Ministries, Inc., and former FBI Special Agent, Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team
11:30 a.m.		“Therapeutic-Team Approach to Serving Human Trafficking Survivors” <i>Staff Members</i> Renee Jones Empowerment Center & Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic
12:30 p.m.		Lunch on Your Own
1:45 p.m.		“News from the Statehouse: Fighting Human Trafficking Through Legislation” <i>Senator Teresa Fedor, Ohio State Senator</i> Introduced and Passed Ohio’s Safe-Harbor and End-Demand Acts
2:45 p.m.		“Internet Sex Trafficking: Has FOSTA Had an Effect?” <i>Maureen (Kenny) Guirguis, Director</i> Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic
4:00 p.m.		Survivors’ Panel: “Surviving and Thriving After Life as a Sex-Trafficking Victim” <i>Moderated by Renee Jones, Director</i> Renee Jones Empowerment Center
4:45 p.m.		Program Concludes

Speaker Biographies



State Senator Teresa Fedor is a Democratic member of the Ohio Senate, representing the 11th District. She returns to the Senate, where she previously served from 2002-2010, following eight years as the Ohio Representative for the 45th and 47th House Districts. Throughout her legislative career, Senator Fedor has championed responsive and responsible government. She brings with her both expertise and an accomplished body of legislative work focused predominantly on education, health care, and human trafficking where she is considered the state's preeminent legislative voice in the fight to combat it.

A proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Ohio Air National Guard, Senator Fedor spent 18 years in the classroom at Toledo Public Schools before first pursuing elected office in 2000 (Ohio House of Representatives, 52nd District). She received her Bachelor's of Science (B.S.) in Education from the University of Toledo.

A resounding theme throughout her years of public service is ensuring that government is transparent and accountable, guarding against waste, fraud, and abusive practices. Protecting our most vulnerable young Ohioans is her driving force. Since joining the General Assembly, Senator Fedor has introduced legislation that will curtail the growing problem of cyberbullying, honor literacy and educational attainment among children by celebrating a "Dia de Los Ninos", create physical and health education standards in Ohio's schools, require background checks for volunteer coaches, ensure military children are given the same educational opportunities as other children, and create a license plate while providing funding for bullying prevention education. In the 132nd General Assembly, then-Representative Fedor served on the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and as the Ranking Member on the House Education and Career Readiness Committee.

Senator Fedor has unprecedented success in passing bills to fight human trafficking. In 2009, she passed legislation creating an Ohio Attorney General's commission to study the issue in Ohio and a penalty enhancement for human traffickers. She now serves as the Chairperson of the Legislative and Legal Subcommittee of the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission. In 2010, she passed legislation making human trafficking a stand-alone felony. In 2012, then-Representative Fedor passed The Safe Harbor Act, her most comprehensive human trafficking legislation to date. This legislation was followed by the End Demand Act, which tackles market-driven demand for human trafficking by increasing penalties for purchasing sex from minors.



Maureen Guirguis, is the founder and Director of the Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic at the Renee Jones Empowerment Center. This Center is unique in that it provides legal advocacy and holistic, restorative services for human-trafficking survivors all in one place. Prior to founding the NEO Human Trafficking Law Clinic, Ms. Guirguis was a Professor of Law for fourteen years at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where she founded and co-directed the Case Human Trafficking Law Project. Before joining the faculty at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Ms. Guirguis was a Senior Associate in the Litigation Department at the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey (now Squire Patton Boggs) in Cleveland, Ohio, where she specialized in First-Amendment law and business litigation. Ms. Guirguis provides legal representation to both juvenile and adult human-trafficking survivors. She also works with legislators and advocacy groups to research and initiate legislative reform at both the state and national levels. Finally, she is actively involved in raising awareness and educating the public on human-trafficking issues. She is an expert in state and federal laws affecting human trafficking victims. And she has organized and spoken at multiple symposia on topics related to sex trafficking and human-trafficking and she has trained local service providers on legal issues facing trafficking victims. She also created and taught a lab course for law students that addresses current topics in the field of human trafficking. She serves on the Legislative Subcommittee for Ohio's Human Trafficking Commission, the Legal Committee and Restoration Committee for the Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking, and the CORE Committee for S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution). She also serves on the Advisory Committees for the Cuyahoga County Safe Harbor Court and the Summit County RISE Human Trafficking Court.



Suzanne Lewis-Johnson was a FBI special agent and she led cases that made headlines. She coordinated a Child Exploitation Task Force that addressed violent crimes against children in ten Ohio counties and led a human trafficking investigation *The FBI Story* recognized as one of the top cases of 2014. With her Women's Advisory Committee colleagues, she received the 2017 Director's Award for Excellence from FBI Director Christopher Wray.

Already a frequent speaker on behalf of the FBI, in the spring of 2018 Suzanne received FBI Headquarters' endorsement to become FBI adjunct faculty and taught classes as an FBI subject expert on Human Trafficking, Civil Rights and Violent Crimes Against Children. Suzanne also participated in one of twelve **Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams** (ACTeams) in the United States, which the U.S. Attorney General and other Federal Agency heads at the Cabinet level created to investigate sex and labor trafficking.

Prior to entering on duty with the FBI, Suzanne worked first as a journalist and then for Habitat for Humanity International's Women Build program and later for Habitat for Humanity's Gulf Coast Hurricane Response. Her publishing credits include Christianity Today magazine, several newspapers and other publications. In her capacity with Habitat for Humanity, she collaborated with all levels of government, including every State Governor's Office and the White House, other non-profit organizations and religious organizations, corporations and people from all walks of life to address poverty housing. Suzanne resigned as an FBI Special Agent to become RAHAB's Executive Director, officially taking the helm on June 1.



Carol M. Skutnik, is currently employed as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Ohio. She is the Project Safe Childhood Coordinator for the District and is responsible for intake on all child exploitation and sex trafficking matters. In her 10+ years as an AUSA, she has prosecuted offenders for the production, transportation, receipt, distribution and possession of child pornography; travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor; coercion and enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution or illegal sexual activity; sex

trafficking of a minor; trafficking of an adult across state lines or by force, fraud or coercion; as well as murder, armed robbery and firearms violations. Ms. Skutnik was previously employed by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, where she was assigned to the Major Trial division. During her tenure as a county prosecutor she specialized in the prosecution of sexual assault and homicide crimes. Prior to that, Ms. Skutnik was employed by the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant City Prosecutor. She is a graduate of James Ford Rhodes High School, Bowling Green State University and Cleveland Marshall College of Law.



Renee Jones is the President & CEO and founder of the Renee Jones Empowerment Center and the Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that fosters opportunities for the disadvantaged. The Center's mission is to empower these individuals to advocate for themselves and to improve their quality of life through personal, social, and professional development. The Center has operated in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood on Cleveland's near west side since 2002 and provides evening & weekend programs and outreach programs

and services in the greater Cleveland area and surrounding suburbs. Since 2008 (RJEC) is the only Northeast Ohio 501(c)(3) agency committed to providing life coaching, direct services and aftercare services through the Project Red Cord program for those with the courage to break the human trafficking cycle and escape the commercial sex industry. Ms. Jones is a graduate of Neighborhood Leadership Cleveland from the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and a graduate of a Treu-Mart Fellowship at the Mandel Center for Non-Profits Organizations at Case Western Reserve University. MHFA (Mental Health First Aid certified) by Recovery Resources and a Graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy, Ms. Jones is also a member of the Society for Human Resources Management and a certified Toastmaster with Toastmaster's International.