



DAY FOUR– THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022– 2:00 PM

The Perfect Plan: How Victor Rax Sexually Abused and Trafficked Boys in Salt Lake City

Session Description:

While awareness of human trafficking is on the rise, there are still blind spots that prevent law enforcement from recognizing all forms of exploitation. Men, boys, and victims of labor trafficking through forced criminality are often overlooked because they do not fit the typical depiction of a human trafficking victim. However, in the case of Victor Rax, Utah's Attorney General's Office was able to identify dozens of boys and young men from immigrant communities who were forced to sell drugs after being sexually, spiritually, and physically abused.

The presenters will use the Rax case as a backdrop to discuss the realities of labor trafficking through forced criminality, including how traffickers use grooming tactics common in both child sexual abuse cases and in gang culture to recruit and coerce victims to commit crimes. Strategies to better identify and respond to cases of forced criminality will be discussed through a detailed examination of the Rax investigation which led to his eventual arrest for sexual abuse and labor trafficking.

Objectives

At the end of this presentation, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize and describe methods traffickers use to identify, recruit, and coerce victims of labor trafficking via forced criminality
- Conduct trauma-informed investigations and prosecutions in cases where male victims have been abused and exploited to effectively hold offenders accountable
- Collaborate to provide support to and connect male victims of forced criminality/human trafficking with meaningful services

Bios:

Jane Anderson brings her expertise in prosecuting domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking to her role as an Attorney Advisor with AEquitas. Prior to joining AEquitas, Jane served as an Assistant State Attorney with Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit in Miami-Dade County. As a prosecutor, she tried many of the state's first

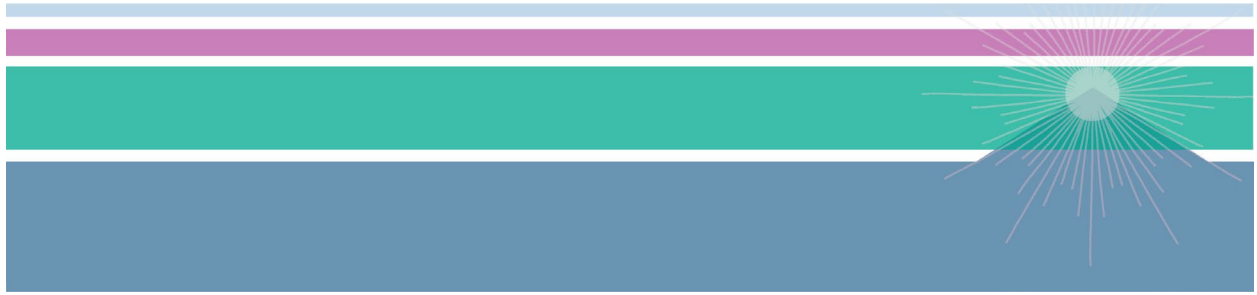
human trafficking cases, including related sexual assault, child abuse, and money laundering crimes. In her role as a founding member of the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Human Trafficking Unit and Task Force, Jane developed policies and procedures to better identify and provide necessary services to trafficking victims as well as hold offenders accountable by using digital evidence and creative charging decisions. Before focusing on human trafficking, Jane served as the Chief of Litigation for the Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Unit where she trained new attorneys and oversaw the prosecution of domestic violence, stalking, and violations of civil protection orders. Throughout her career, she prosecuted felony level crimes of all types, including homicide, kidnapping, sexual assault, and other violent crimes.

Jane leverages her experience in the courtroom and in developing policies and procedures to assist prosecutors and allied professionals in developing a victim-centered, offender-focused approach to cases of domestic violence, stalking, sexual violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse. She provides trainings and technical assistance related to investigations, case analysis, and trial strategy, as well as authors and develops resources, publications, and curricula.

Jane graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctor from American University, Washington College of Law after earning a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Washington in Seattle. Prior to her legal career, she lived and taught English in Bangkok, Thailand. Jane is based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Agent Josh Caless, UAGO is currently a Special Agent with the Utah Attorney General's Office Investigations Division and has approximately 16 years in Law Enforcement. He is currently the Group Supervisor over a major crimes unit that is also legislatively mandated to investigate Human Trafficking in the State of Utah. In addition to Human Trafficking, the unit also investigates cases involving the illegal sale of firearms, exploitation of prostitution, distribution of controlled substances, the manufacturing/ producing of fraudulent government identification documents, fraud and identity theft crimes. Agent Caless has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice/Counter Terrorism from American Military University. Agent. Caless began his Law Enforcement Career with the Greenbelt Police Department in Prince George's County Maryland in 2004. Agent Caless is also the Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) for the AG's Office with the State Intelligence Fusion Center (SIAC). Agent Caless was awarded Utah Narcotic Officer of the year for 2014. Agent Caless also has experience in the military intelligence community with a background as an Intelligence Operations Analyst working for the Army Intelligence & Security Command (INSCOM) Fort Belvoir, VA and in the army special operations community as a Psychological Operations Specialist MOS 37F (PSYOP) in the United States Army. Agent Caless also maintains a high level of proficiency in the Spanish language.

Josh Caless has conducted numerous Human Trafficking presentations for both Law Enforcement and Civilian personnel within the State of Utah. He has presented on Human Trafficking at the University of Utah where he also acted as a Human Trafficking expert on a panel fielding questions from the audience. He has taught Law Enforcement



Agencies more about Human Trafficking and how to conduct criminal investigations involving HT in the State of Utah.