

# **Traffick Jam 2024**

## **Fight for Freedom: United Against Human Trafficking**

### **General Public Speaker Biographies**

#### **Dawn Baker**

Dawn is the longest serving newsperson in the Savannah TV market and is currently the evening anchor at WTOG-TV. The Riceboro, GA native has received several awards for journalism and community services including the "Associated Press Best Documentary Award," "Humanitarian of the year," and Southeast Regional Emmy Award for "Best Newscast." Most recently, the Georgia Secretary of State Office honored her with the "Outstanding Georgian Award" and the Savannah Tech Foundation named her a "Community Star."

Through the years, she has awarded thousands of dollars to high school girls through "The Dawning of a Miracle Scholarship," a fund she created to help young women with chronic/life threatening illnesses go to college. Dawn's proudest accomplishment is the "Dawn's Daughter Leadership Academy" where she teaches 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, and Effingham County schools the skills they need to become successful in their personal and professional lives.

#### **Dr. Kate Perry**

Dr. Kate Perry is an Assistant Professor in the Political Science and International Studies Department at Georgia Southern University. She teaches courses on gender and security issues broadly. Her research interests include human trafficking, sanctions, and women's issues around the world. Her work has been published in academic journals including the European Journal of Political Research, International Relations, and International Studies Perspectives.

#### **Vincent Zagorin**

Vincent is a Seasoned Law Enforcement Professional, boasting over two decades of dedicated service and an honorable background with the United States Air Force. He started his Law Enforcement Career with the DeKalb County Police Department where he quickly moved up in ranks to Detective. Vincent was the lead Detective for the Crimes Against Property division and specialized Motor Vehicle Thefts. He currently holds the honored position of Lead Investigator within the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. Within the purview of his role, Investigator Zagorin specializes in a multifaceted portfolio tackling issues related to election fraud, securities complaints, charities' complaints, and cemetery fraud. Vincent has worked diligently to make sure integrity doesn't hide in the case file. Investigator Zagorin also oversees cases related to the licensing board, which encompasses a staggering 4 distinct boards. Notably, the field of massage therapy stands out as one of the top five areas with the highest caseload, highlighting his exceptional expertise in this domain. Investigator Zagorin's profound commitment to his work is evident in his extensive experience, as well as his 1,900 plus hours of additional law enforcement training. He has been the sole investigator and/or contributed to countless cases involving Illicit Massage Businesses. It is through this exhaustive case work that he has garnered widespread recognition as a subject matter authority in the realm of Illicit Massage Businesses.

## **Jose Ramirez**

Mr. Jose Ramirez is the Chief investigator of Paulding County Judicial Circuit Instructor for Georgia Public Safety Training Center (Coordinator of Gang Courses) 2019-2022. Investigator Ramirez is the former commander of Operations and Interim Chief of Police for the Rincon Police Department. He has 23 years of Law Enforcement Experience that includes working with the Savannah Chatham Metro Police, Chatham County DA's Office, Rincon Police Department, Georgia Department of Public Safety, and Paulding District Attorney's Office. He is the President of the Georgia Gang Investigators Association with years of experience investigating and studying gangs. He is a former Criminal Investigator for the Savannah Police Department / SCMPD - Robbery, Homicide, Gang Unit. He has served as an expert witness on Gang Identification, Investigations, and Prosecutions. Investigator Ramirez currently serves as a Gang Instructor and Consultant across the State of Georgia. He has several Georgia POST Instructor Certification that includes the General Instructor First Aid /CPR Instructor, Below 100 Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, CIT Instructor, GREAT Instructor Driving, Instructor Use of Force Instructor. Investigator Ramirez has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University. He is a member of the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association, IOMGIA, SCGIA, & ILGIA.

## **Tiffany Shayne Simpson**

Tiffany Simpson is a survivor of Human Trafficking from Southwest Georgia. She was trafficked in her own community by a man twice her age who as violent and a known criminal. Her parents were not around to raise her and at 16 she was angry and hurt, so that even the tiny bit of fake love that a trafficker offered felt like an ocean of kindness.

As a with many survivors, Ms. Simpson experienced physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her trafficker. He used threats to her family and drugs to exert more control over her. Tiffany did not know that at 17, she was a victim of sex trafficking. Ms. Simpson was wrongly prosecuted by the State of Georgia for trafficking a juvenile friend of hers who was sold for commercial sex to some of the same men to whom Tiffany herself had also been sold. In 2022, Georgia changed its vacatur law allowing survivors who were convicted for any crime committed as a direct result of being trafficked, to file to vacate their conviction. Ms. Simpson was released from her 30-year sentence in November 2022, after serving almost 11 years.

Ms. Simpson's case was featured on the front-page of the Washington Post presenting the challenges experienced by survivors of Human Trafficking who are prosecuted for crimes their traffickers compelled them to commit. She is presently enrolled in the Wellspring Living Women's Academy. Ms. Simpson provides consultative services to Shared Hope International in its work educating criminal justice stakeholders in identifying the intersection of trafficking victimization and offending conduct, as well as developing responses to these cases in a trauma-responsive and trafficking-informed manner.

## **Josephine Abigail Appiah, Judge**

Mrs. Josephine Abigail Fosuaa Appiah is a dynamic legal practitioner who will use her professional experience, knowledge, and skills to contribute to holistic development of the society. Josephine's education and training include: The university of East London (12/22), Ghana School of Law (2016), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (2011 &2014), St. Louis Girls Senior High School, Kumasi (2009). In July 2022, she was appointed as the Professional Senior Magistrate of Judicial Service of Ghana. Josephine's main duties are: Conduct hearings in

Civil cases such as corporate, land, Tort, contract, matrimonial, debt recovery, sanitary, tenancy and probate matters; Adjudicate family tribunal matters relating to the maintenance, custody, access and paternity of children; Adjudicate matters concerning juvenile and young offenders; Conduct hearings in criminal cases such as child trafficking, motor traffic offenses, assault, battery, stealing and causing unlawful damage; Conduct committal proceedings in felonious matters before reference to the High Court; Render judgements after considering the applicable law and the evidence adduced in both civil and criminal; As the ultimate arbiter of the law, rule on all matters of law by preparing rulings on interlocutory applications; Resolve questions of facts that arise from cases being finder of facts.

## **Kwame Adusei, Social Worker**

Mr. Kwame Adusei is the head of the Public Affairs Unit in the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection. He has been in this position since September 2021. The department's mission is to develop, implement and review communication strategies to market and communicate the Department's mandate. Mr. Adusei's main duties are :Communicate and sensitize the public on the Department's policies, and programs; Develop short, medium, and long-term strategic communications and marketing plans and activities to market and re-brand the Department; Monitors and analyzes newspaper coverage on the activities of the Department; Provides strategic and tactical communication advice to the Director to promote and re-brand the image of the Department; Act as the main liaison with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) on the planning and holding the Meet-the-Press series; Serves as the point of contact of media enquiries; Establishes and launches communications journal for the Department; Provides support in the planning and coordinating of meetings, conferences and ceremonial functions; Coordinates the production of brochures, leaflets and videos on the activities of the Department; Coordinates props or sets for a photo-shoot or setting up an event.