

Organization of Racing Investigators



27th Annual Training Conference
February 26th to March 1st, 2023
Tucson, Arizona



In the early 1990's horse racing investigators from across the United States first attended three independent conferences which were held by the Oklahoma Racing Commission, the Texas Racing Commission, and the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau. It was in 1996 when the Oregon Racing Commission hosted a conference at Portland Meadows, that 22 investigators determined an annual training conference would be beneficial for the racing industry. The following year, the Arizona Department of Racing volunteered to hold a conference which lead to training conferences being held annually.

Since 1996 the ORI has held annual training conferences with the purpose of addressing the problems of the pari-mutuel racing industry as they relate to the integrity and general health of the sport. By holding annual educational conferences and sharing information throughout the year with those who would serve the industry, the goal of creating a meaningful working relationship may be realized

**2022-2023 Organization of Racing Investigators
Executive Board**

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Chairman
Juan C. Estrada



Vice-Chairman
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February 27, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you to Tucson, Arizona for the 2023 Organization of Racing Investigators (“ORI”) Conference.

As in previous years, attending the annual ORI conference offers you the opportunity to network and exchange information, intelligence, and enforcement methods to better serve and protect the racing industry.

This year, ORI is excited to welcome the following speakers: Southern Arizona Office Director Marisol Flores Aguirre; Keynote Speaker and author of the book Bloodlines: The True Story of a Drug Cartel, the FBI and the Battle for a Horse Racing Dynasty, Melisa Del Bosque; and Race Track Industry Program Chairman Robert Hartman.

Melisa Del Bosque’s address to the ORI membership will offer valuable insight into the reality of horseracing within the cartel world. Robert Hartman will speak about the past, present, and future of the Racetrack Industry Program at the University of Arizona. This year’s ORI Conference is hosted by Arizona, which has a rich history in Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing.

I extend my gratitude and appreciation to all of our sponsors. In particular, I offer my appreciation and thanks to our board members and co-workers for helping produce this program. Without their help, this conference would have not been possible.

On behalf of the Executive Board of ORI, I thank you all for your work to maintain the integrity of racing and your continued support of ORI. I wish you all a memorable and successful visit to Tucson, Arizona.

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Estrada

Chairman, Organization of Racing Investigators



February 13, 2023

Greetings! ¡Bienvenidos!

The City of Tucson is proud to host the **2023 Annual Conference for the Organization of Racing Investigators**. Tucson is the innovative and dynamic heart of a metro area that is home to more than one million people. It is Arizona's second largest city and one of the longest continuously inhabited cities in the United States.

While we are recognized as a hub for optics, photonics, and aerospace, Tucson is also home to one of the nation's top research institutions, the University of Arizona. Its renowned Race Track Industry Program prepares students in our communities for careers in race track management and the racing and breeding of animals, and hosts an annual Global Symposium on Racing which has been taking place since 1974.

The Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI) plays an important role regulating professional horse racing from practices like animal abuse, race fixing, horse doping, and other crimes and unethical practices.

The horse has been intertwined with the traditions and cultural identity of the Southwest for generations. I am grateful for the work of your organization to ensure the regulation of this industry and for protecting the health and wellness of jockeys and horses alike.

With 4,000 years of history and culture, Tucson does not disappoint. The first UNESCO designated City of Gastronomy in the U.S., Tucson attracts lovers of food and food entrepreneurs alike. Located in the Arizona- Sonora Desert, our mild winters afford opportunities to explore scenic hiking trails, visit our vibrant downtown, or enjoy hundreds of miles of bike friendly trails. I hope you can immerse yourself in a uniquely Tucson experience while you're here.

In community

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina Romero", is positioned above the typed name.

Mayor Regina Romero
City of Tucson, Arizona



History of Rillito Park Race Track

Horse racing in the state of Arizona goes way back and is all about heritage. In 1940, the Rukin Jelks stud farm in Tucson, Arizona became Rillito Park Race Track, which has long been recognized as the birthplace of Quarter Horse racing. The initial track consisted of a 3/8th mile straightaway. In 1954, Rillito added a 5/8ths mile oval. In 2012, Rillito Park Racetrack was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1954, Phoenician Walter Cluer dreamed of building a world-class racing facility on 1400 acres of land he purchased at 19th Avenue and Bell Road, which became a reality on January 7, 1956, when Turf Paradise opened its doors. In 2000, Jerry Simms purchased the track; he continues to manage the facility today. Turf Paradise has been the winter home for thousands of horse owners, trainers, and backstretch employees over the years.

Prescott Downs, a small 5/8th oval track in the heart of downtown Prescott, began racing in 1943. The racetrack was located on the famous rodeo grounds that hosted The World's Oldest Rodeo, which was part of the Prescott Frontier Days. Over the years, summer racing eventually outgrew the small fairgrounds and in 2001 moved to the newly built Yavapai Downs Racetrack, a 120-acre facility located in

Prescott Valley, Arizona. In 2011, the track closed its doors due to funding issues, but Phoenix-area investors purchased and opened the facility in the summer of 2019 as Arizona Downs.





COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Race Track Industry Program

History of Race Track Industry Program University of Arizona

The formation of the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) began in the early 1970's when a group spearheaded by the late Frank Vessels, Jr. of Los Alamitos Race Course embarked upon the concept of a collegiate program to train young men and women to become future leaders in the racing industry.

Many ask why the program is based in Tucson. It was the desire of the founders that the program be located in a state with year-round racing, with both horse and greyhound interests, and at a land grant institution. Several universities around the country were contacted with none expressing genuine interest until the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture consented to try it on a trial period of five years.

Resources provided by the American Quarter Horse Association Racing Department helped the University get the program started. Financial commitments from a number of organizations in the industry provided the seed money and the Race Track Industry Program's first class was offered in January of 1974.

A significant program implemented during the first year was that of a seminar designed to bring industry leaders to campus for exchange of information and to benefit the students' understanding of racing. The first Symposium was held in December of 1974 and attracted approximately 45 people. Held

annually since then, the event has gained worldwide recognition and attracts attendees representing racing interests from across the United States and the world.

Just as the founders of the program envisioned, RTIP students still play an important role at the Symposium and are afforded a unique opportunity to meet and interact with many of the industry's best known and respected leaders. Few other educational programs provide this kind of access and networking with the industry that employs its students.

The Race Track Industry Program is the first program of its kind offering a Bachelor's degree centered on the racing industry. It offers two paths of study; one preparing students for race track management, regulation or pari-mutuel racing organizations, the other preparing students for employment in areas dealing with racing and breeding animals.



Chairman
Juan C. Estrada



Vice-Chairman
Jason A. Klouser

Organization of Racing Investigators Annual Training Conference
February 26th to March 1, 2023
Rillito Park Racetrack Tucson, Arizona

Sunday February 26th

6:00pm to 8:00pm **Welcome Reception**
Lodge on the Desert – Palm Room and Lawn

Monday February 27th

8:30am to 9:15pm **Money laundering in Horse Racing**
Mike McDaniel, Special Agent
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

9:30am to 10:15am **Thoroughbred Racing in Southern Africa**
Riaan Janse van Rensburg, Senior Investigator
Nat'l Horseracing Authority of Southern Africa

10:30am to 11:15am **Regulatory Oversight & Investigations**
T.C. Lane, Chief Operating Officer
United States Trotting Association

11:30am to 12:15pm **Back to Basics: Medications and Signs to Look For**
Dionne Benson, Chief Veterinary Officer
I/ST Racing

12:15pm to 1:00pm **Lunch**

12:45pm to 1:00pm **Case Study**
Jason Klouser, Director of Enforcement
Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

1:00pm to 4:00pm **Practical Searches at Rillito Park**
ORI Board Members

6:00pm to 9:00pm **Dinner and Awards Banquet**
Lodge on the Desert Palm Room & Lawn

Tuesday February 28th

- 8:30am to 9:15pm **Ethics in Horse Racing**
Philip O'Hara, Assistant Professor
University of Arizona Racetrack Industry Program
- 9:30am to 10:15pm **The Siege: The Relationship Between the Investigator and the Media**
J.N. Campbell, Associate Editor
Thoroughbred Daily News
- 10:30am to 11:15pm **Human Trafficking**
Heidi Chance, Special Agent
Arizona Department of Gaming
- 11:30am to 12:15pm **Licensing and Verification of Identify**
Connie Estes, Presiding Steward
Sunland Park
- 12:15pm to 1:30pm **Lunch**
- 1:30pm to 2:15pm **Drugs and Alcohol on the Backstretch**
Darrell Farwell, Investigator
Washington Horse Racing Commission
- 2:30pm to 3:15pm **Employee Retention**
Merlinda Gonzalez, Vice-President of Operations
Lone Star Park
- 3:30pm to 4:15pm **Barn Area Surveillance**
Corey Martinez, Equine Surveillance Manager
I/ST Racing
- 4:30pm to 5:30pm **HIWU Overview**
Shawn Loehr, Director of Investigative Operations
Horsereading Integrity & Welfare Unit

Wednesday March 1st

- 9:00am to 12:00pm **ORI Membership Business Meeting**
Lodge on the Desert Palm Room & Lawn

Keynote Speaker
Melissa del Bosque



Melissa del Bosque has written about the U.S.-Mexico border since 1998 for various media outlets, including ProPublica, *The Intercept*, *The Guardian*, *The Texas Observer*, and *Harper's*. Her work has been acknowledged with numerous journalism awards including the 2020 RFK Human Rights Award, an Emmy and a National Magazine Award. Del Bosque is the co-founder of the digital news outlet, The Border Chronical. She's also the author of *Bloodlines: The True Story of a Drug Cartel, the FBI, and the Battle for a Horse-Racing Dynasty*.

**Thoroughbred Racing in
Southern Africa**
Riaan Janse van Rensburg



My Name is Riaan Janse van Rensburg and I am the special investigator for the National Horse Racing Authority in South Africa

I have been employed in my role since 2001 and I am responsible for the investigation of complaints, incidents or concerns pertaining to the integrity of the horse racing industry. The welfare of the horses is my key focus.

The investigation of matters includes stable searches, the collection of evidence, analysis of statistics, interpretation of rules, obtaining statements from all role players and presenting a completed investigation docket to the NHA for a decision.

I am married with two beautiful daughters and my hobbies include charity work for the MOTHS organization and community services as a reservist policeman. I am also an avid movie watcher!

I do my job without fear or favour and with passion and diligence. I enjoy making a difference in the industry that I serve.

Regulatory Oversight & Investigations

T.C. Lane



T.C. Lane is the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Registry for the United States Trotting Association. As the COO, Lane is responsible for the daily functions of the association. He joined the USTA as its Director of Officials in 2002 following a stint with the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, for which he served as the association's representative to Ohio's county fairs. Prior to becoming the Director of Registry and Member Services, Lane was also serving as the USTA's Director of Officials and Regulatory, overseeing the licensing of all racing officials throughout the country. To this day, he himself works as a racing official when called upon at the various fair and pari-mutuel tracks.

Before joining the OHHA, Lane, a former licensed trainer/driver himself, graduated from The Ohio State University, where he majored in Agricultural Economics and minored in Equine Science.

In addition to his position on the board of directors for the Racing Officials Accreditation Program, he represents the USTA at the Association of Racing Commissioners International; Lifetime Member of the International Trotting Committee and serves as the International Chair of Registration/Breeding; Board of Director for the National Pedigreed Livestock Council. Lane is currently involved in initiatives such as the USTA microchip transition, the industry wide Strategic Wagering initiative and led the racing industry's first, On-Line Race Entry program and On-Line foal Registration initiatives.

Back to Basics: Medications and Signs to Look For

Dr. Dionne Benson

1/ST

Dr. Benson is a highly regarded equine veterinarian with a proven track record of advocating for the health and safety of racehorses. As Chief Veterinary Officer, **1/ST RACING**, Dr. Benson is responsible for directing all veterinary safety and welfare practices and protocols, as well as equine research initiatives for the **1/ST RACING** and training brands including, California's Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields and San Luis Rey Downs, Gulfstream Park, Gulfstream Park West and Palm Meadows in South Florida, and Pimlico Race Course, Laurel Park and Bowie Training Center in Maryland.

Dr. Benson is the first to hold the title of Chief Veterinary Officer for the company, a position that was created as part of the ongoing commitment to prioritizing the care and safety of equine athletes. She has been at the forefront of guiding the implementation of racing standards that are grounded in science during this important time of reform and modernization in the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Prior to serving as Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Benson was the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for the internationally-renowned Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) in Lexington, Kentucky. She also serves on several veterinary committees with the International Federation of Authorities (IFHA) and works closely with the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) on refining medication rules for horses racing at Santa Anita and Golden Gate Fields.

Dr. Benson also holds a Doctorate in Medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota and a Juris Doctor (JD) from the William Mitchell College of Law and a Bachelor of Science from the College of Natural Resources from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. She practiced law as a commercial litigator for a number of years prior to enrolling in veterinary school, and was a law school faculty member while she was attending veterinary school.

Ethics in Horse Racing

Philip T. O'Hara Jr.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Race Track
Industry Program

Phil O'Hara is an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program.

He has over 30 years' experience as an executive in the thoroughbred racing industry in a wide variety of positions. From 2012 he has consulted with industry organizations through his company, P.T. O'Hara, Jr. Services, Inc.

O'Hara served on the Board of Directors of the Daily Racing Form's parent Sports Information Group. He formerly held the positions of Executive Director of Track Partnerships with Daily Racing Form and worked with the U. S. Trotting Assn to integrate Harness Racing coverage and retail data on *DRF.com*.

He served as the Executive Director & CEO of the MidAtlantic Cooperative, LLC, a simulcast content buying cooperative. His duties included the fiscal and operational management of the Co-op as well as ensuring compliance with anti-trust statutes.

He was the President & CEO of Equibase Company, the Thoroughbred's industry's official database, a partnership between the TRA and The Jockey Club. He also served as Chairman of Axcis TrackMaster, an Equibase subsidiary which is a data and handicapping product retailer. He developed the annual business plans and authored the annual reports. O'Hara presented reports to the quarterly meetings of the TRA and the Stewards of The Jockey Club.

Prior to joining Equibase, he served as Penn National Gaming's Executive V.P. overseeing the company's pari-mutuel assets - the racing segment of its business. O'Hara served as a Director of the TRA for 12 years and was an active member of the 1995 and 2020 Committees of the TRA.

Before joining Penn National, O'Hara served in a variety of positions in the Marketing and Racing Departments at several racetracks including Tampa Bay Downs, Arapahoe Park and Louisiana Downs. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program.

Licensing and Verification of Identify

Connie Estes



I am a wife, mother, grandmother, and State Steward.

January 7, 1977, I married Danny Estes. We have 3 children 2 daughter in-laws and 5 grandchildren.

Our son Daniel and his wife Jessica have 4 children Azlynn, Dalton, Rebecca, and Esther. Our son David and his wife Kathryn have one son Duncan. Our daughter Jamie has 2 four-legged babies Toby and Ruby.

I have traveled all over the state of Texas and other jurisdictions since March of 1997 when I started working for the Texas Racing Commission. I love this sport and work to help level the playing field and to help protect the integrity of horse racing.

In the future I look forward to new challenges and experiences. Recently I was contacted by HIWU to be a part of their Internal Adjudication Panel. I have been asked to work in Oklahoma later this year and look forward to returning to New Mexico for work at the Downs of Albuquerque and Sunland Park. Hopefully I will again have the privilege to work as part of the AQHA Integrity Team and Breeders' Cup Equine Security team in the coming years.

Drugs and Alcohol on the Backstretch Darrell Farwell



Darrell was native of California and the son of a military family. His family was transferred to Washington State in 1962. He was always around horses on the family farm. He grew up doing chores and caring for all the animals. Darrell graduated with a degree in forestry in 1980.

In 1985 Darrell began his career with the Washington State Patrol as a commissioned Trooper. He was assigned to a rural area near Mount Rainier Washington. His duties included patrol work, firearms instructor and FTO. Darrell was also assigned as a trainer for civil disorder teams. In 1999 he was assigned as squad leader at the WTO riots in Seattle. His teams traveled all over the state whenever needed.

In 2005 Darrell was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to downtown Seattle. He later transferred to Pierce County retiring in 2010. Darrell went on to become a guide in Alaska for salmon and moose on a seasonal basis. The camps were in the remote area of Katmai national park. In addition, he worked as an investigator for employment backgrounds for the Washington state Patrol.

In 2017 Darrell was hired as the lead investigator for the Washington horse racing commission.

HIWU Overview

Shawn Loehr



Shawn Loehr joined the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) as director of investigative operations in October 2022. In this role, he will oversee the HIWU team responsible for the investigation of Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rule violations as part of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority's Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program.

Loehr has an extensive background in law enforcement, criminal and administrative investigations, and regulatory enforcement. Before joining HIWU, he was the chief of enforcement and licensing for the California Horse Racing Board. Loehr also spent time as chief investigator for the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance, a district attorney investigator for Sacramento County, and a police officer in Redding, California.

Executive Board Member Biographies



Chairman
JuanCarlos Estrada



JuanCarlos Estrada serves as an Assistant Manager for the Gaming Certification Unit within the Arizona Department of Gaming. He has worked with in all facets of the Department of Gaming, including the Racing Division and Boxing and MMA Commission Division. Juan’s previous roles have included: Horse and Greyhound Racing Steward, Racing Investigator, Executive Director of Boxing and MMA, and Employee Certification Unit Supervisor.

In his spare time, Juan has volunteered with both the Phoenix Police and Fire Departments, traveled to various states and race meets as an Investigator (including the Breeder’s Cup World Championship, one of the most well-known racing competitions in the United States), taken courses to enrich his knowledge in Horse Racing, Investigations, Boxing and MMA, and Gaming, and held leadership positions in organizations such as the Organization of Racing Investigators (“ORI”).

Juan is a fan of the Arizona Cardinals and the Phoenix Suns, and enjoys watching MMA and Boxing matches in his spare time. He is a results-driven, goal-oriented team player who seizes any opportunity to grow that becomes available.

Vice-Chairman
Jason A. Klouser



Growing up in Northeast Pennsylvania, Jason graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice and Minor in Sociology in December of 2009. Upon graduation, Jason was accepted and attended the Lackawanna College Police Academy and began his career as a police officer in June of 2010. As a police officer, Jason was certified as a Drug Recognition Expert, Law Enforcement Instructor and worked as an undercover narcotics officer for the County Drug Task Force.

In 2015 Jason assumed his position with the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission as the Director of Enforcement. As Director of Enforcement Jason oversees enforcement operations at the 6 racetracks and 16 fair tracks in Pennsylvania. Since 2015 Jason has instituted the Commissions Standard Operating Procedures, developed the Commissions reporting software, introduced an annual 3-day training course for Pennsylvania investigators, and updated various enforcement programs in the Commonwealth.

Jason has served on the executive board of the Organization of Racing Investigators since 2018 and was instrumental in updating the by-laws and constitution. Jason has participated on numerous AQHA and USTA Racing Integrity Teams at racetracks in New York, Texas, Iowa, New Mexico, Florida and Virginia. Jason is a member of the Breeders Cup Equine Security Staff and worked as an investigator for the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission at Delaware Park during the 2020 season. Additionally, Jason was an Equine Security Consultant for the NTRA Safety & Integrity Alliance.

Jason has been a presenter at the USTA Judges Accreditation School since 2019 addressing topics such as identifying signs and symptoms of human drug impairment and the importance of Racing Integrity Teams. In addition to presenting at these conferences, he organizes and presents at the Annual Training Conference held in Pennsylvania.



Immediate Past Chairman

Jean Claude Jaramillo

Jean Claude Jaramillo, better known as JC, proudly serves as an Equine Investigator at the New York Racing Association (NYRA) and as Past Chairman on the Executive Board of ORI.

Mr. Jaramillo was born and raised in the New York City borough of Queens. Mr. Jaramillo's passion for Thoroughbred racing began at nine years old when he came across the 2002 Breeders' Cup on television.

Mr. Jaramillo joined NYRA's Security Department as a Peace Officer in the fall of 2011. He spent the next five years assigned to NYRA Security's Horse Watch Detail, which monitors all 'In Today' horses to prevent illegal race-day treatments.

In the fall of 2016, Mr. Jaramillo accepted an opportunity to join NYRA's newly created Equine Safety unit as an Equine Investigator. During his tenure at NYRA as a Peace Officer and Equine Investigator, Mr. Jaramillo was assigned to the security details of Triple Crown champions American Pharoah and Justify

In his spare time, Mr. Jaramillo enjoys traveling. He has experienced racing in numerous countries attending iconic race meetings such as Royal Ascot in Britain, Melbourne Cup & Cox Plate in Australia, Dubai World Cup, Irish Champion Stakes, Queen's Plate in Canada, and the Hong Kong International Races.

Aside from racing, Mr. Jaramillo's second passion is politics. This passion emanated from his first job working in the office of Eric Ulrich, a former three-term New York City Councilman and former Senior Advisor to the current Mayor of the City of New York, Eric Adams.



Secretary

Ashley Leary

Ashley D. Leary grew up in Parker, Colorado and graduated from the Metropolitan State College of Denver with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Ashley retired from law enforcement in August 2020 to pursue the entrepreneurial journey. Ashley has been an Equine Investigator with the Breeders' Cup Equine Security Team since 2018. Ashley is currently an Independent Distributor with the BEMER Group and getting certified as an Equine Gestaltist™ through the Touched by a Horse Equine Gestalt Coaching Method certification program.

During her 16.5 year law enforcement career, Ashley worked as a Deputy and Criminal Investigator. Ashley started her law enforcement career as a Deputy for Douglas County Sheriff's Office in Castle Rock, CO. Ashley was a Criminal Investigator with Colorado Department of Revenue for 14 years. Ashley worked for the following enforcement divisions: Division of Racing Events, Liquor Enforcement Division, Lottery Division/Criminal Investigations, Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division, and Motor Vehicle Investigations Unit. Ashley's professional investigative experience includes conducting financial investigations, corporate investigations, illegal gambling, medication violations and/or complex white collar crime investigations.

During her tenure at Colorado Department of Revenue, Ashley worked for Division of Racing Events for 10 years investigating the illegal activity at the Racing venues within the State of Colorado. Ashley regulated horse racing at Arapahoe Park, greyhound racing at Mile High Racing and Entertainment, breeders of racing greyhounds, and 12 off track betting facilities. In addition, Ashley assisted other racing jurisdictions in special enforcement operations located in California, Kentucky, New Mexico and Texas.

Ashley currently resides in Parker, Colorado, with her spouse, 3 dogs and 2 horses. Horses play a big part in Ashley's life and have always been a passion of hers.



Treasurer

Donald W. Ahrens

A native of North Bellmore, New York, Don is a graduate of Marist College with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. On January 1, 1982, Don began his career in racing at Bowie Race Course as a track detective for the TRPB. On June 8, 1983, Don became an Agent for the TRPB, during which time he has been assigned to many tracks throughout the U.S. where he has conducted numerous investigations involving betting coups, race fixing, fraudulent foal registrations, wagering irregularities, illegal gambling and internal thefts. Don has also testified as an expert witness in racing investigations.

Since March of 2001, Don has been assigned to Sam Houston Race Park as their Director of Security and, in 2003, Don is responsible for the security, parking and EMS operations for all events that take place on the grounds. In 2009, Don accepted direct employment with Sam Houston Race Park as Director of Security and Parking. In 2010, Don accepted the additional position as Director of Security and Parking for Valley Race Park, a greyhound track located in Harlingen, Texas. In addition to those duties, Don is also the Chairman of the Safety Committee for both properties.

Don is a long-time participant in the Breeders' Cup Equine Security staff, currently serving as one of two Supervising Investigators, alongside of Mike Kilpack. Through membership in ORI, Don and many others work with the AQHA on their very successful Enforcement/Integrity Team.

In 2015, Don attended the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) Stewards' Accreditation Program, having received ROAP Accredited Flat Racing Level III. Since attending the program, Don has been a lecturing professor for the RTIP and has lectured for the ROAP Racing Officials Continuing Education Program, as well as the University of Louisville Racing Investigators Accreditation Course.

Don has been a member of ORI since 1996 and currently serves as Treasurer, Don is a past ORI Host (2009), Vice Chairman (2009-2010) and Chairman (2010-2011). Don received the ORI Lifetime Member Award in 2022

Sergeant-at-Arms
Leasa Johnson



Ms. Leasa Johnson has worked for the New Mexico Racing Commission as a State Investigator for the past 18 years and is currently the Chief State Investigator for the Commission. New Mexico currently has five racetracks and races approximately 264 days a year. Ms. Johnson has a Law Enforcement background and is a retired member of the United States Air Force.

Ms. Johnson has served at the pleasure of Organization of Racing Investigators Board since 2009 and held the positions of Chairman for 2019-2020 and Vice Chair 2009-2010 and Western US Representative (2010-2019). In Ms. Johnson's tenure as a state investigator for the NMRC she has developed a progressive Out of Competition testing program which has helped in contributing to the decrease of class 1 and 2 medication violations. She has developed an Injury/Catastrophic tracking system to identify high risk horses.

Ms. Johnson played a significant role in developing the model for AQHA Enforcement Teams relegated to enhancing the integrity of horse racing for major races. The model has since been utilized annually for the Ruidoso Downs Quarter Horse Triple Crown races in Ruidoso, NM.

She is an active member of the Rules and Medication Committee and has taken an active role in pursuing drug reform in her jurisdiction. She is highly motivated in taking a proactive approach to ensure the safety and welfare of the horse, as well as upholding the integrity of the sport of horse racing in New Mexico.

Eastern US Representative

Lance Morell



Lance T. Morell, a native of New Jersey, worked as a track detective at Atlantic City Race Course (1989) and Philadelphia Park Race Track (1991) before beginning his employment with the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau (TRPB) as an agent on December 13, 1993. He is proficient in the martial arts and once worked as an instructor at a police training academy. Lance was promoted to Corporate Director of Security of Philadelphia Park Racetrack in August of 2001, with duties that included Risk Management responsibilities for all of their properties. On February 1, 2012, Lance accepted a direct position with Parx, as their Director of Risk Management for Parx Casino & Racetrack.

During his career, Lance has attended numerous seminars and training courses on security-type issues and is qualified to install, service, and troubleshoot Vicon video equipment. He is often called upon to do security presentations at industry conferences. Lance has also received numerous commendations from race tracks and federal and local law-enforcement agencies for his outstanding investigative work. Some of the most notable commendations Lance has received were from Trainer John Servis, the NTRA, and NBC news for his professionalism and the fine work done by him and his staff in providing around-the-clock security coverage for 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner “Smarty Jones.” In 2007, Lance furnished photographs to the FBI which was instrumental in the apprehension of the man who shot and killed two retired Philadelphia police officers while tending to an ATM machine in close proximity to Philadelphia Park’s Northeast Turf Club.

Lance has also been a member of TRPB’s Big Event Team for such prestigious events as The Breeders’ Cup, the Preakness, and The Travers. In addition to his many duties at Parx, he is the current Eastern US Representative for the Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI), and is on the Board of Directors for The Greater Philadelphia Executive Claims Counsel (GPECC). Lance currently resides in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, with his wife.



Central US Representative
Merlinda Gonzalez

Merlinda Gonzalez joined Lone Star Park in September 2012 as the Security Administrative Assistant. Her organizational skills and ability to develop rapport with diverse groups quickly made her an asset to the Security Department. In May 2014, Merlinda was promoted to Safety Administrator. In February 2015 Merlinda was promoted to Security Administrative Lieutenant, where she took responsibility for safety, supervising shifts, administrative tasks to include payroll, training, liaison to city departments, and other records management.

In April 2017 Merlinda became the first Hispanic Female Security Director of a Class I racetrack in America. In May 2017 she passed the Texas DPS Security Managers Test to provide LSP the ability to continue to operate under a *Private Business Letter of Authority*. During her time as Director, Merlinda focused on improving morale in her department. Her leadership has led to several innovative programs in surveillance, training, and officer development. In March of 2022, Merlinda was elected to the Board of Directors of the Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI), a national professional organization of those involved in horse and dog racing in the United States.

In August 2022 Merlinda was promoted to Interim VP of Operations for Lone Star Park and later promoted to VP of Operations in December 2022.

In addition to her devotion to LSP, Merlinda is the proud mother of two daughters and a son. Her oldest daughter and her husband recently gave birth to Merlinda's pride and joy, her grandson. Merlinda and her grandson share the same birthday making baby Lucien extra special. Merlinda's daughter is finishing her senior year at college in San Antonio. Her son is finishing his senior year of high school in Fort Worth. Merlinda values her family more than anything and is justifiably proud of them. Merlinda is a native of Fort Worth and enjoys spending time with family, traveling, hiking, and the outdoors.



Western US Representative

Michael Kilpack

Michael Kilpack is currently a security/integrity consultant with the NTRA Safety & Integrity Alliance since 2010. Kilpack is also a supervising investigator with the Breeders' Cup Equine Security Team and a team member of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Equine Enforcement Team working with both the Texas Racing Commission and New Mexico Racing Commission. In 2015, Kilpack and his Organization of Racing Investigators Integrity Team were responsible in the security of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah at Belmont Park, Saratoga and Keeneland.

Kilpack has 30 years of law enforcement experience. He was the Supervising Investigator for the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) southern region enforcement division for 25 years and retired in 2009. Prior to the CHRB, he was a state investigator with the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and a firefighter with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) while attending college.

He continues to be active in the horse racing industry as a previous safety security steward at Los Alamitos Race Course and is an executive board member with the California Winner's Foundation, past chairman with the Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI) and a current member with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento and resides in Long Beach, California.

International Representative

Chris Gordon



Chris was appointed Head of Security and Investigations for the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB) in 2010 and has responsibility for a team of 20 people based across Ireland. His race day role includes security at stable yards, weigh rooms and jockeys' rooms at the 27 racecourses. He also has responsibility for investigations into potential breaches of the Rules of Racing, liaison with betting operators and regulatory bodies such as the British Horseracing Authority, the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the Police.

Prior to joining the IHRB, Chris was with the National Police for 30 years where he reached the rank of Superintendent. He served in a variety of roles including head of student training at the Police College, policy advisor to a Deputy Commissioner on Human Resources, Finance and ICT issues and policing of international soccer and rugby fixtures at the national stadium at Lansdowne Road. He also led operational units in south Dublin precincts dealing with crime and public order matters for several years. In 2002 Chris was seconded to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Cyprus where he held a senior role in managing humanitarian affairs on both sides of the divided island. Chris holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree (University College Dublin), an MSc in Public Sector Analysis (Trinity College Dublin) and a Diploma in Executive Leadership (UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School).

Chris lives in Dublin, Ireland.

ORI Media Lead

J.N. Campbell



J.N. Campbell is a professional turfwriter and serves full-time as an Associate Editor for the *The Thoroughbred Daily News*. His work includes feature writing, race coverage and editing for both the American and European daily publications. Before, he contributed to the website America's Best Racing (ABR) and previously was senior writer for the UK-based Gaming USA site Horseracing.net/us. For two years, he covered the sport of Thoroughbred racing for that site, attending a wide-range of events, including the 2021 Breeders' Cup at Del Mar as an accredited member of the media.

Past turfwriting can be found through several outlets including: The Paulick Report, Past the Wire, Thoroughbred Racing Commentary, *Gallop Magazine*, Thorocap, and The Sports Haven.

As far as professional affiliations, he is a full Race Writing Member and Board Director of the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters (NTWAB). As an Eclipse Award voter, he also casts ballots for the NTRA Thoroughbred Polls and the National Museum and Racing Hall of Fame. Campbell also is part of a panel that chooses the Jockey of the Week, which is officiated by the Jockey Guild of America.

As the Media Lead for the Organization of Racetrack Investigators (ORI), he assists the membership with press releases and outreach. He served as an onsite member of the media at both Del Mar and Keeneland, helping to tell the story of the investigators that work tirelessly behind the scenes

After graduating from Texas Christian University with a B.A. in History, Campbell received a pair of M.A. degrees from the University of Kentucky and the Parson School of Design in New York City. It was in Lexington where he first experienced the thrill and passion that encapsulates this wonderful sport. When he is not dreaming of the racetrack, he lives in Texas.



John F. Wayne Lifetime Member Award

The Organization of Racing Investigators established the Lifetime Member award in 2003 to recognize those members who have dedicated their career to the integrity of horse racing and were actively engaged in the operations of the ORI.

The Executive Board unanimously voted in 2020 to name the Lifetime Membership Award after long-time ORI member John F. Wayne following his tragic passing in Albuquerque, New Mexico following the Annual Training Conference that year.

Recipients

2022

Donald Ahrens
Director of Security
Sam Houston Race Park

2018

Kevin Murphy
Director of Security
Woodbine Entertainment

2021

John F. Wayne
Executive Director
Delaware Racing Commission

2017

Melvin Bell
Investigator
Texas Racing Commission

2020

Jim Blodgett
Director of Law Enforcement
Texas Racing Commission

2016

Louis Scalera
Director of Security
Santa Anita Park

2019

Tom Sage
Executive Director
Nebraska Racing Commission

2015

Dave Rogers
Director of Security
Phoenix Greyhound Park

2015

James P. Gowen
Vice-President
TRPB

2014

Joel Leveson
Director of Investigations
New York Gaming Commission

2013

Pete Lang
Supervisory Senior Agent
TRPB

2012

Richard Honaker
Director of Security
Santa Anita

2011

Michael Kilpack
Supervising Investigator
California Horse Racing Board

2010

Rick Stogdill
President
Titan Plant Security

2009

Mel Webb
Director of Law Enforcement
Oklahoma Racing Commission

2008

Collin Adams
Director of Security
Woodbine Entertainment

2007

Jim Perry
Director of Security
Keeneland

2006

Robert Nieto
Chief Investigator
California Horse Racing Board

2005

Steve Lump
Chief Investigator
Arizona Department of Racing

2004

John T. Williams
Director of Enforcement
Texas Racing Commission

2003

Dan Sweetwood
Chief Investigator
Nebraska Racing Commission



Past Conference Locations

2022	New York	Aqueduct Racetrack
2021	N/A	N/A
2020	New Mexico	Albuquerque Downs
2019	Florida	Gulfstream Park
2018	Ontario	Woodbine
2017	Florida	Tampa Bay Downs
2016	Delaware	Delaware Park
2015	New Jersey	Meadowlands
2014	Kentucky	Keeneland
2013	Minnesota	Canterbury Park
2012	Indiana	Indiana Downs
2011	New Mexico	Sunland Park
2010	Ontario	Woodbine
2009	Texas	Sam Houston Race Park
2008	Pennsylvania	Chester Downs
2007	Oklahoma	Remington Park
2006	California	Del Mar
2005	Delaware	Dover Downs
2004	Ontario	Woodbine
2003	Texas	Lone Star Park
2002	Colorado	Arapahoe Park
2001	New York	Saratoga
2000	Kentucky	Keeneland
1999	Texas	Retama Park
1998	California	Santa Anita
1997	Arizona	Turf Paradise
1996	Oregon	Portland Meadows

The Organization of Racing Investigators would like to recognize and thank all our sponsors for their generous contribution and support for the 2023 training conference.



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