

SLAVERY NO MORE 2012 GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE
August 10-11 ~ LOS ANGELES, CA

PANEL: Investigation, Rescue & Prosecution in the United States

Julian Sher: Our panelists for the first panel. Susan DeWitt Assistant U.S. Attorney. Dwayne Angebrandt is Department of Homeland Security, Supervisory Special Agent. Tricia Whitehill is a FBI, Special Agent. Vanessa Lanza is with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. Dana Harris, LAPD Detective Supervisor, Vice-Human Trafficking. Victor Rodriguez, Sex Crimes Assistant Head Deputy LAPD, Los Angeles District Attorney's office.

It's a large panel, but it's quite a treat. We have specialists with different domains. I'm going to ask them each to answer one question. In answering the question, they're going to explain a bit about what their work is and from there we'll take off the discussion. The question I'm going to ask to all the panelists is we've seen a lot of the problems in the overview, but I'd like to ask each of you talk about what work you do and specifically in relation to that what you see as the single major challenge in fighting human trafficking.

Susan DeWitt: Good morning. My name is Susan DeWitt. I work at the United States Attorney's Office for the Department of Justice so the federal level. I'm an Assistant United States Attorney, so my job is to prosecute federal crimes. Recently, over the last couple of years, I worked for the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. in what is called the Executive Office for United States Attorney's. That's the part of the Department of Justice that oversees and manages the U.S. Attorney's offices around the country. There's 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices. We have one here in California that covers Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara. It's a huge district so a huge area that we cover for all the federal crimes that are committed in that district.

Part of my job at the Department of Justice was to oversee policy and initiatives, including policies and initiatives related to human trafficking. Now that I'm back here in Los Angeles, my job is to prosecute cases, so I got to see both sides of it, the policy side, the initiative side. Other than the couple of years I was in Washington, I've been a prosecutor for the last 15 years and an attorney for the last 25 years.

It's a very difficult question what is the single most difficulty in this area. To come up with one is actually hard. I know people get very frustrated with prosecutors and law enforcement, because it seems like we're not doing enough. He gave you the numbers of how many prosecutions we've had, and I think this will become clear throughout the course of this conference. I can't emphasize enough to you how difficult prosecuting these cases is. They're very labor intensive. They take a long time. They're difficult to prove for reasons that all of you are aware of. The victim issues and other issues, resource issues, so as we fight this fight together, and you get frustrated with us, keep in mind that we're frustrated too.

These are very difficult cases, and we live in the second largest metropolitan area in the United States. Julian who did a great job standing in for John, talked about the human

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trafficking problem in the United States. Everything he said about the human trafficking problem in the United States, unfortunately Los Angeles is just a microcosm of that. Everything that exists throughout the United States exists here in Los Angeles. We have international human trafficking. We have domestic. We have labor. We have all of those things. We have an international airport. We're close, so we have that transit issue. We're close to Las Vegas. We're close to Mexico, so we have those issues that are all compounded in a large metropolitan area.

That makes prosecutions even more difficult, because unfortunately this is a target rich environment. But also just the sheer diversity and complexity of the problem makes it even more difficult for law enforcement and for prosecutors. It's not like some small town in Iowa where they may have to just focus on one or two types of major trafficking problems. We have to deal with the whole panoply. Complex international, sophisticated trafficking rings, and your run of the mill street level trafficking and gang trafficking and international trafficking. That makes the job as law enforcement and prosecutors even more difficult than it might be in other areas in other states and other cities. Frankly, the sheer size of the Los Angeles metropolitan area just magnifies this and makes it exponentially more difficult.

Julian Sher: Thank you and we'll hear later from Dana about what the Los Angeles Police Department is doing to try to confront that. Dwayne do you want to give us a perspective from ICE?

Dwayne Angebrandt: Yes thank you. My name is Dwayne Angebrandt. I'm the Supervisory Special Agent over the Long Beach Human Trafficking/Human Smuggling Unit within Homeland Security Investigations. I've been with the agency for roughly 16 years, and in that time have been involved in worksite investigations, human smuggling investigations, trafficking investigations, was a founding member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Orange County, was a founding member of the Eagle Task Force in Los Angeles, and a member of the Act Task Force in Los Angeles as well which combats trafficking.

The single most prevalent problem that I see with trafficking is identification. The willingness of neighbors reporting their neighbors. Of people belonging to a community from India, Egypt. The immigrant to the United States, and they bond in a community here with people from their own countries. In such countries, it is very common that someone from an impoverished family will sell their daughters, their children into domestic servitude. Those families then immigrate to the United States and bring their servants with them. This is trafficking, plain and simple.

Through the Joint Terrorism Task Force, in Orange County, I was one of the members who actually rescued Shyima from Irvine. Some of you may be familiar with who Shyima is. She was a 13 year old child who was a domestic servant of an Egyptian family. The way that she was identified was because an astute neighbor finally woke up and said hey they've got four kids in that household. Only three go to school. Something's wrong there. They called the

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local authorities who did a welfare in check, and discovered Shyima in the house, and discovered the atrocious living conditions that she was living in.

That is our problem. That is the problem that we as law enforcement face. We do not get live, prevalent information to be able to go after the traffickers. We can go out and rescue a thousand girls, a thousand young men, a thousand men and women who have been trafficked into the United States, but if we do not successfully prosecute the traffickers, it will just continue to happen. It will continue to happen, and the conditions that they live in will get worse.

One of the cases I was also involved with as part of Immigration Naturalization Service was a Maltese sweat shop. When that location was first identified a bunch of Thai nationals living in an apartment complex. You would have never known anything about it. Nothing looked unusual from the outside. The apartment complex was actually a garment manufacturing mill. Based on a few of the workers getting away, escaping, getting their freedom, the traffickers upped the ante. They put barbed wire on the fences. That didn't work. They put spikes on the fences that were pointed in. If you want to keep people out of your property, you point the spikes out. You don't point them in. This was obviously a situation where they were keeping the people in.

Unfortunately, neighbors didn't report that. People who walked by every day on their daily routines, walking their dogs, saw this apartment complex with concertina wire, spikes pointed into the property and never reported it. This is what we have to break. We have to break that culture of people ignoring what's happening right in front of their faces, because trafficking is a real problem. It's happening right underneath our nose and nobody is paying attention to it.

Julian Sher: We've heard difficult to prosecute, identification and the culture of ignoring the problem. Tricia from the front lines of the FBI and international trafficking what do you see as a major challenge?

Tricia Whitehill: Again my name's Tricia Whitehill. I'm with the FBI here in Los Angeles. I'm on the Civil Rights Squad where I've worked for six and a half years, working primarily human trafficking investigations. My squad is responsible for investigating human trafficking throughout the Los Angeles County area, Ventura, Orange County, San Bernardino, so we've got a big territory. To have one squad that focuses strictly on human trafficking establishes those liaison contacts with all of the locals in those communities. It works for us. Dwayne kind of stole my answer. We should have come up with our answers beforehand, so we could come up with different ideas. But definitely identifying trafficking victims, especially in the labor context is what I perceive to be the biggest problem. It's only through people seeing it, identifying it, and reporting it that we can investigate it.

On a proactive basis, we're able to target sex trafficking a little bit easier, because we can conduct sting operations using backpage ads and other advertisements. We've developed task force partnerships in all of the counties that I've mentioned. We are working with

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locals. We are working as law enforcement is really team oriented. When it comes to human trafficking investigations, we know who to call when we see something, and we need assistance. It's just getting out there and educating the public and educating some of the front line officers in the area to make sure everybody knows what it is when they come across it.

Julian Sher: Identification as well but also educating the public and the other front line officers. Vanessa, you like me are the only civilian on the panel, in terms of not strictly law, so you bring an NGO perspective. Talk a bit about your work and what you see as the major challenge.

Vanessa Lanza: Thank you Julian. My name's Vanessa Lanza, and I am the Director of Partnerships with CAST the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking. We are a drug service provider, agency that was actually born in Los Angeles in the wake of the El Monte case. We've been providing direct services for many, many years to victims, survivors. We also do a lot of advocacy on the issue at the local, state, national, and international levels, and because we are a direct service provider which makes us more effective in that realm.

This is a really tough question, and I do like to echo the identification dilemma. A lot of what we do is broad based education. We find that it is difficult particular when people are so... Sometimes it's easy to get tunnel vision when it comes to understand what human trafficking is, and it's really important to understand all the different ways in which this affects people and all the different people it affects. It's a very crosscutting issue. There's a lot of various causal factors not just one. As a community, we often times will be impassioned by maybe one aspect, so it's important that we're looking at all of it. Anyone maybe in a position to identify a victim or a case or something suspicious, but that's not my answer.

I think as a direct service provider, it's also really important and difficult, because often times you find that there's somewhat of a rescue complex. I'm not saying that's the easy part, because I know how difficult that is. I think what happens is that people forget that once these individuals are freed, they sort of think okay now onto the next. Now that person's freed, great.

I was only at CAST for maybe less than one year, and I went and saw one of the largest cases that we'd had in a while here. I went to the trial and the sentencing, and I remember someone reading a victim impact statement. These traffickers had gotten pretty high sentences up to 30 to 40 years. One of the victims in the case said, *"That's great, but I have a life sentence."* I think that's really important, because we forget that it takes a long time to heal. We're not just talking about physical or emotional. These are deep issues and often times issues that existed even before. They're just compounded by the impact of the trauma and their experience.

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As a direct service provider and other service providers in the room can attest to this, it's a long, long process that's not linear. People do well and then something happens in their life, and there are these setbacks. Anyway, I want to say that's probably one of the biggest challenges at least from our perspective that we see. There's sort of this emphasis on numbers, but if you think about it someone can be with us for years and really require intensive case management and support.

Julian Sher: So the long time to heal and the challenges of rescue. Dana when I started working on my book a few years ago, I was hard pressed to find police agencies that you could talk to somebody about human trafficking. Now the pioneering work that Los Angeles Police Department is doing, so can you talk a bit about your work and what you see as the major challenge in Los Angeles.

Dana Harris: My name's Dana Harris, and I'm a Detective Supervisor with the Los Angeles Police Department. I specialize in the human trafficking section. I'd like to introduce my boss before I do anything, Lieutenant Andre Dawson who's also a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force as our officer in charge and also the Innocence Lost Task Force. I've been a police officer for 24 years, and I've had the good fortune of working in a variety of different assignments from patrol to homicide to gang enforcement and narcotics enforcement, sexually assaulted victims, and for the past six years, I've been able to be assigned to this unit the Human Trafficking Unit.

One of the things that we're seeing to go into the answer is the paradigm shift. What we're looking at the days of driving down the street and oh that's a bad girl. A lot of times we deal with as Tricia was saying before the girls who are trafficked. Even that's different from the pimping, the pandering, or whatever we used to call it. Now we're calling it survivors. They're trafficked survivors. The days of law enforcement driving down the street seeing these young girls and saying oh that's a bad girl, the citizens who drive down the street and see these young girls who are out of the street selling their bodies on Backpage and whatnot and saying oh they want to be out there.

To piggyback on something that Dwayne was saying, one of the challenges we're seeing, and I'll get into something in a little bit, Dwayne was saying that the bars are on the walls. These young people are actually held in against their will. What do you do when you have a jury of 12 or you have the public who says where are the bars? How are they not being held? Are they being held against their will? And to go into something that we had last night, so forgive me I'm a little tired. Lieutenant and I, we had a 14 year old girl last night who was actually a runaway. She left placement, and she ran away and of course a pimp met her, recruits her, keeps her against her will, and sexually assaults her. After he sexually assaults her, he gives her her money quota that I want you to go out and work for me as a prostitute, and you're going to do X, Y, and Z with all these different people to which he says okay.

Come to find out that as the panel was saying before, what was the trauma that happened to this young girl beforehand? This young girl was sexually assaulted by her stepfather at 12

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years old who not only was she sexually assaulted by her stepfather, but he infects her with the HIV virus. In the interviews one of the officers who started interviewing before he turned it over to us to do the interviews, I start talking to this young girl. Mind you, I was with her for hours, and each time she would start talking, anybody who would look at this young lady would start to see her as 14 and literally before my eyes, she became a six year old little girl, because her voice went up and then her voice went down. As the different levels of trauma, the different things that she would start to uncover, the different things that she would start to say, her voice would go down, because she's taking me back to that place when different things started to happen to her.

So I would say, and I'm sorry I'm giving a long answer to this, but part of what we're seeing is the paradigm shift turning our citizens, law enforcement from not just driving down the streets, seeing the young girls on the street and saying that's a bad girl or she wants to be out there and starting to see these young survivors as victims, because they are traumatized, and they are victims. Many of them are held against their will, and it's not the bars on the walls that's keeping them. It's the prison of their mind, because someone has attacked them.

If you'll indulge me, Lieutenant Dawson and I had an arrest that we made of a trafficker. It was a pimp, gang member about 26 years old, and he's got a 14 year old girl. The arrogance of this young man as he said, "You can ask her anything you want. You can do anything you want to her but society didn't want her. But I did, and I gave her what she wanted." She believes him. She wants him, and she will do anything and everything to protect this guy who allows her, his words, "To work for him." No bars on the walls, because he doesn't need them. But he's got the bars in her mind. He's already got her.

Julian Sher: Thanks for working late and hard last night and telling us that story. The prospective of the paradigm shift and going from the notion of bad girls to victims but the challenges that leads. Finally Victor if you can talk about it from your perspective.

Victor Rodriguez: I'm on the ad on here, but I'm very glad to be here this morning. I work with Dana a lot, and a lot of times I'm the bad guy in the story. I'm the prosecutor who says sir we can't follow that case. I came to these cases about a year ago. I've been a prosecutor for more than 20 years now. I've tried a lot of cases, and I've also supervised in the past of the southeast part of the county, supervising sex cases out there. For the last two years, I've been the Assistant Head Deputy of the Sex Crimes Division, and about a year ago, I was asked to be the liaison for the Los Angeles Innocence Lost Task Force and to work with Dana and his group. I've been a lot more involved in these cases.

Our cases are local in nature for the most part. For the most part, they involve the pimping and pandering of minors. Not too many cases where the victims are brought from other states. They're pretty local. One of the things I learned upon being assigned to work with the task force is that we're not prosecuting many of these cases. I did a little bit of research, and I asked my systems division to look up all the cases in which we have filed prostitution

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charges against minors in the past five years. The number they gave me was something like 550 or so. Then I also asked for all the number of cases that have been presented to us that we have filed or rejected, involving pimps who were pimps of minors. The number was really low. It was something like 27 so that told me a lot.

These cases were for one not really being brought to us, and they had a lot of problems. We've been working hard. I think Dana and his team and my people to improve a lot of the issues that have been brought up here. One is your rank and file prosecutors and officers to start seeing these prostituted children as victims and not as criminals. The system is changing. A lot of you are familiar with the STAR program that's being instituted in Los Angeles County for some of these minors. The STAR Court and other programs, so that's one issue to see them as victims.

Another big issues, and this is kind of what I deal with is making sure we have enough evidence to prosecute these cases and that we have the right kind of evidence. When I first got assigned to work on these cases, I went to a seminar on human trafficking, and it was a police officer talking and someone asked him, *"How come more cases are not filed?"* And he said, *"Because prosecutors are afraid. They're concerned with their conviction rate."* Well that's just not true. We do want some corroboration. I think my fellow panelists from the federal side will agree on that. We want corroboration, and it's been in working with a lot of the officers. There's been some growing pains to figuring out exactly what kind of corroboration we need.

There's been on my side also getting our prosecutors to understand these cases, to understand the dynamics of these cases. They are different from your typical sex case. I spent six years also working the domestic violence cases, and a lot of these cases have those elements and dynamics present in the domestic violence cases. They also have some of the dynamics present in the gang cases, so a lot of the problems have been understanding the cases, understanding what we need to put on the case to successfully prosecute it.

We went from, in my division, which covers the central district of the county from having at any given time zero to one or two pimping, pandering of minor cases to now at any given time, we probably have like ten of them pending, a few that have been taken care of, and a few others that are working their way to a filing. I think just in one year, working with Dana and his team, I think we've come a long way. It's still a huge problem out there. These cases are very challenging to prosecute. Just getting the cooperation of the victim, the right kind of corroboration. They're very, very labor intensive for the police officers. They're very labor intensive for the prosecutors knowing at any given moment, you might lose that victim, and it all goes down the drain. There's some frustration, but I think we're doing a lot better, and hopefully we continue to improve.

Julian Sher: We're going to change things around a bit in that as you predicted that talks would be good. We've got about half an hour left, so instead of going through, we had a whole elaborate series of individual questions to each person, we could take the

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whole day. These people are great. What I'm going to try to do is throw out two or three themes that came out of what you said. Just to recap what we've heard from these excellent front line people, some of the big issues facing the prosecution, investigation, and rescue of human trafficking is the difficulty.

These are complex cases. Identification, that's also linked to public willful blindness. The need to educate the public but also the need to educate front line officers, other law enforcement people, and prosecutors, the myths inside our own establishments, the paradigm shift, the revolution going on in policing and law enforcement but also the prison inside the mind of the victims which leads to the point of both rescue and that it takes a long time to heal. So those are some of the key points.

What I think I'd like to start with is ask pretty much whoever wants to answer. Why don't we talk for about maybe the next five minutes or so first on the victims that unlike many other crimes that a lot of you have to deal with, or the public is familiar with, a kidnapping, bank robbery where the victims leap into the arms of law enforcement and want to testify and are glad to see the bad guy going away. Human trafficking, especially if it's illegals who don't know the system or with young minors, these are different kinds of victims, so can anybody who wants to talk about how are these victims different and challenges. A pimp once told me, or told somebody who told me, that the best victim is somebody who doesn't see herself as a victim, because she's then so much easier to manipulate. I think it holds true for labor trafficking as well. The floors open to anybody. What is different about these victims compared to other crimes, and what does that mean for either prosecution or rescue?

Dwayne Angebrandt: In the majority of the cases that we work, we're dealing with foreign nationals and reiterating on Dana's point about the bars within their mind. One of the first things that a trafficker is going to hold over that person's head is you're illegal. You're in this country illegally. You go against me, and I'm going to inform on you to immigration and have them arrest you. They hold as leverage the fact that they have connections in their home towns, in their home countries. They know their families. If you got against me, my friends will visit your family, your mom.

One of the worst things is you have a girl who comes into the United States to work as a model or to do what she believes is working an honest job, but when she gets here, she gets forced into prostitution. The leverage that's held over that child now is what's your mom going to think about what you've been doing for the last eight months? What's your family going to think about you being a prostitute? They use that as psychological leverage over them.

Julian Sher: I want to talk about the credibility of them as witnesses and ask maybe Susan about that, but Dana could you riff on what he said in terms of domestic sex trafficking victims. How does the pimp dominate them and threaten them? The pimp can't

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threaten to send them home, so what kind of threats and elaborate on the prison of the mind.

Dana Harris: Exactly what you're saying, and that's exactly what we're seeing. I'll refer back so it's fresh in my mind from last night. A young girl, like I said, 14 years old. Her pimp has her out there working as a prostitute. She's doing her thing, and she meets a guy. A guy is a prospective client so to speak, gets her in the car, performs services, and then decides I've had enough. He pulls a gun on her, puts it up to her temple, and says I'm going to kill you. 14 years old now imagine that. Now of course, she's afraid and all the rest of it. He says I'm not paying. He threatens her with physical violence and all the rest of it, pushes her out the car. The car's driving away, and that's basically it.

At 14 what's the first things she's going to do? Call mom. So that's how the whole thing starts. She's calls mom, and when she calls mom, she tells mom I'm hurt. Somebody just put a gun in my face, and I'm afraid and hangs up. She has to get that from air voice, tells mom what's going on and goes from there. When she gets back in the car this pimp who says I'm going to protect you, because I love you and your mine. What does he do? He puts his hands on her, curses her out, and says how did you let this happen to me? What does she say? I'm sorry and then Daddy. She tells this guy I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I let this guy point a gun at me. I'm sorry that I let this guy put hands on me, and now because this happened to me, I was victimized and called my mother which never I'm supposed to do. You're going to put hands on me, call me everything but a child of God and beat on me.

As we get back to the prison of the mind, that's exactly what it is. These guys will do anything and everything. This girl which doesn't sound like far to us is from out East, San Bernardino County and he has her out in the city of Los Angeles. To a lot of us, we think okay that's 50, 60 miles. We might go there once a week or every day for some of us who are commuting but for her that's everything. These guys thrive on isolating these girls, getting them away from everything they know and as Dwayne put so eloquent, "*Shame them, embarrass them,*" and say, "*What would your family think? What would your loved ones think? This is what you're doing*" and then tell them nobody's going to want you. Who wants you? I want you. I love you, and you don't realize how powerful that is to these young women.

They feel like they can't get away, because as I asked her yesterday. She said, "I have no idea where I am. I have no idea where I was. Is it another country?" No its 50 miles away, but for her, that's the other end of the world.

Julian Sher: I want to ask about what that means but also in terms of credibility of these witnesses, because they're often going to tell different stories. They might deny initially, so what challenges does that pose for you as a prosecutor?

Susan DeWitt: Just too back up a little bit, in 2011, the Department of Justice launched an enhanced human trafficking initiative that is a joint effort of the Department of Justice, FBI, Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Department of Homeland Security, HSI. One of the key components of that initiative aside from the concept

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of this has to be a collaborative effort where we are all working together is that our approach to human trafficking investigations and prosecutions has to be victim centered.

Obviously every crime as Julian mentioned has a victim, but I don't just mean that you're prosecuting a case to vindicate the right of a victim. You have to think about your prosecution, and you have to think about your investigation from the very start as involving a very vulnerable and potentially very tenuous witness and victim. The first thing you've got to do, and you have to think about this from the minute you start the investigation, the minute you start the prosecution is how do I stabilize that victim?

At the federal level that can be done in a lot of different ways. First and foremost is taking advantage of the many fabulous and dedicated NGO's that we have in Los Angeles to help you get them home, help them get in a safe place, help them get counseling. It also can involve for international victims getting them visas, getting them paroled immigration status, getting them into a situation where they don't have to worry about getting deported. It may be getting them simple resources to live day to day. All of those things have to be taken into consideration at the very, very beginning. This is a totally different ball game than a murder case or an organized crime case or a national security case. That has to be the priority from the prosecutors and the investigators from the start. Part of this initiative is to make people understand that and to put that into play from the very beginning.

You have a vulnerable victim who may or may not be a good witness. If you've done everything you can to try to stabilize that witness in all the different ways that we can, and that's going to be as varied as the victims that we come across. From a prosecution perspective, and this is one of the things that makes these cases so difficult is first you have difficult witnesses. What you have to do, and you have to be thinking of from the very beginning is what can I do to corroborate this witness? That corroboration may come in tiny little ways where you paint the totality of the circumstances that you find that victim in to make that witness more credible and in some instances maybe not even make that witness necessary, because they're unable to testify or not very good at testifying. That is a labor intensive, time intensive process.

That can be making sure you found that witness who heard that person cry out, who picked that person up in a taxi and took them away from the place that they were being held. It might be somebody who noticed the barbed wire. Those little things. Each of them alone is not going to paint the picture but every little bit. It may be going through their bank records, going through their phone records. It may be going through what are they actually producing out of this building? Doing surveillance. What's going in and out of this sweat shop? Why are the windows boarded up and barred? Why do we never see people coming in and out? Why do they have such a high electrical rate when they claim that they're not doing anything here? Little tiny things like this that you have to painstakingly put together to corroborate the witness to help make that witness more credible, help make your case more credible, and help make your case more successful. It's two fold. It's the critical corroboration and the critical stabilization of the witness to the best of your ability from the

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very beginning. You can't wait until the day you walk into court. You have to start that process long before you ever get to court.

Dwayne Angebrandt: If I may add actually, one of the things that we as law enforcement need to do is look at the totality of the circumstances and find ways that we can possibly prosecute the trafficker without having to put the victim on the stand. The problem with these cases is this is not like doing a narcotics case where I have twenty keys of coke sitting there in a lockerroom. It's easy to present that evidence. Now we're talking about a human being who has emotions, fears, and may not be comfortable testifying about what they've lived through.

We have a current investigation in which we had a trafficker travel to a foreign destination, have sex with a minor, then have that minor smuggled in the United States, continue to have sex with the minor here in the United States, and it was all on video tape. Production of child pornography, statutory maximum or minimum sentence of 15 years. Don't have to put her on the stand. Look at everything that you've got. Look at all the evidence that you've been able to collect and be able to put forward to make your case. If you don't have to put the child on the stand don't.

Julian Sher: That was the exact question I was going to ask you Victor. If the Dallas police have a very successful prosecution rate of pimps, but they've now instituted a new policy sort of unofficial which is basically one victim, one trial. In other words, they don't want to revictimize the victim. They don't want this one girl to have to testify against five or six people, and they are willing to even lose a case if it means not victimizing this girl again. So the question Dwayne that would you ever consider what are the dilemmas about revictimizing the victim just on the case.

Dwayne Angebrandt: Unfortunately, we're very limited as to when we can do that. We do have to put the victim. We do have some child pornography statues that we can sometimes just charge that, but in California, they don't carry a whole lot of time. If you have other charges, you're going to want to put the victim on, and if you have subsequent trials, there has to be a finding that the victim is not available before you can put her own to form her testimony. Aside from that, you're really limited. You cannot. You have to put her on otherwise its hearsay. Especially after some of the recent Supreme Court decisions Crawford and other cases that came after that. We can use some evidence, code sections that we had that used to allow us to proceed with these cases without having to put on the victim. Now we do.

Going back to what some of the other speakers have talked about, these are challenging victims. I don't deal directly with them. The officers come and talk to me. My prosecutors come and talk to me about the cases, but frequently I hear from my prosecutors I just spoke to this 15 year old. She talks really tough, but we got to a point where I could see that she was just this little 14, 15 year old. Trying to get to that, to peel off those layers of tough

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talking street wise kids to where you can bring that out in front of the jury. It's great when we can build that kind of rapport, relationship with the victim to show that to the jury.

Unfortunately for us when we get in front of the jury, no matter how much we believe the victim, if we don't have the corroboration to back her up...The community, those 12 people, they're probably not going to believe her no matter how credible we may find here. That's why the corroboration is so important. These guys have done really well. They go into those phones. They get incredible evidence for us sometimes from cell phones. They use all kinds of different investigative tactics, and it keeps getting better and better.

Julian Sher: Vanessa if you could relate to what they're saying. A particular question I had to you, but you can ignore it. Feel free. I've always been fascinated by the challenge NGO's and all of you face but particularly NGO's in that a lot of the young girls, at least sex trafficking which I'm more familiar with. They have a false confidence, because they don't see themselves as victims. That they're out there, it's cool. That's the way they have to survive mentally. Your job in the rescue, the long time to heal, is to make them see that they are victims. How is that empowering them? There's almost an element of contradiction there, so how do you make somebody see the real face of their slavery but use that not to diminish them but in fact to strengthen them and empower them?

Vanessa Lanza: First I wanted to speak to the thing that you mentioned about the jury. I think that's really important. Part of what we do as a movement is to educate the community people, individuals about the complexities of these cases and the impact. Part of that is this long term vision of why we have to do broad based education with the community not only for identification but also to educated future jury polls so they are aware these are elements and that may be the hard face or as a symptom of their trauma.

I'm glad that you asked that question, because I think the most important part in recovery is it's easy to talk about empowerment. Obviously that's the end goal, but we also have as I mentioned earlier that healing. It is not linear and that it can be complex, and it can be long term. From our approach is we focus on strengths first, so it may be that case managers and therapists are really trying to bring out and break down once they have built that trust. Again trust is the most important thing to establish both with law enforcement and service providers. It's not like an NGO comes and all of a sudden they're so willing and cooperative. Trust, particularly with this population, can take a long time to build also for us.

Once trust is established, it is really about focusing on strengths and working with them to realize that they are strong. Perhaps something happened to them, but it doesn't define them. In CAST we provide these intensive case management and therapy. We connect clients with the therapy they need, but we also look beyond that. We have leadership programs, so for those people that do want to pursue, understand, or realize their true leadership this is also very important that NGO's and everyone is investing in. Really it starts in the beginning and focusing on strengths and building trust.

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Julian Sher: I'm going to ask Tricia to perform a difficult segway. I want to maybe look at going off of victims to look at the question of changing public attitudes and the question of demand. Tricia you had mentioned in the education point that it was also educating front line officers as well not just educating the public. Can you talk a bit about and to some degree maybe speak frankly. I know the elephant in the room is the people you have here are dedicated law enforcement people who have bought the Kool-Aid, but if you look at the tens of thousands of law enforcement and prosecutors, there are lots of people who either through ignorance or prejudice haven't bought into this paradigm shift. Can you talk about the challenges at least internally in law enforcement and then let's also lend about the challenges for the public and how we have to educate the public?

Tricia Whitehill: Again it's often in the sex trafficking cases where the front line officers come into contact with sex trafficking victims initially. I have seen a trend. Back when I first became an FBI agent, we had a big sex trafficking case involving Guatemalan minor girls and adult victims. They had actually been encountered by law enforcement several times. Some of them had even been arrested by local police, and ultimately that became an issue for the prosecutors, because if they encounter police, why didn't they just tell the police then? Help me, I'm a victim. Of course, anybody that works human trafficking understands why somebody wouldn't. They were under threat. They're families were under threat. The defendants were from the same town that the victims were from.

Looking back on it, and we've addressed this issue with the locals that were encountering back two years earlier when they had been arrested, we have to start thinking about whether these people that you're coming across might be victims not willing participants in this. As a result, I get calls now. There's Santa Ana Police Department, we have a sex trafficking case involving a pimp and adult domestic females. A Santa Ana police officer called and said that he'd encountered these women in a sting, and he could just tell. He said, he's been doing this for five years, and he said, *"I could just tell. There's something different about these women."*

Good on him. He pulled each one of them aside separately which is a key factor when you're trying to determine what the status of these victims is. He got their trust, and they each confessed that they needed help and that they were being forced to work as prostitutes. Its people like that who have the experience, seen enough of these cases to know. After I started working on this case, I realized that even I myself needed to change how I view these case, because frankly, I hadn't really focused a lot on pimping, sex trafficking cases until I came across this case. I really see now that sex trafficking involving U.S. Citizens, pimps I think you're always talking about a sex trafficking situation. I don't think there's any case where a pimp doesn't use some sort of force, fraud, or coercion to cause the women that work for them to be doing that work. The paradigm shift is happening, and it needs to continue to happen at all levels. I do see that it's working.

Dwayne Angebrandt: Just in the last ten months, we've put together two large seminars with Los Angeles Police Department. Some of the officers from the task force have put on

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presentations for police officers and prosecutors. Trying to change the attitudes of the prosecutors out on the line and the vice officers who may come across these cases. They don't know this, but my officer's planning another one for later in the year. I'll be talking to you guys later about that. Just to reinforce this. With the situation with Shyima, one of the senior agents who was on the scene at that house in Irvine comes in, sees it, and his first response was, *"This is a classic case of harboring."* It's like wait a minute. Take a step back. Look at the totality of it. This is more than just harboring.

Recently Homeland Security has instituted training for all special agents that's mandatory training that they go through a trafficking seminar. Within the department, we are making sure everybody from the greenest agent to the most senior agent has had training on how to identify trafficking, because quite frankly, you can have a 20 year old veteran beat cop who's done plenty of pimping, pandering cases come across a situation, and his first response is going to be that's the pimp. That's the prostitute. Let's go wrap them both up and call it a day and go get some breakfast. The reality of it is okay you've got a victim here. You've got to dig deeper and really see what is happening in front of you.

Dana Harris: Just with what you're saying, you might have a 20 year police officer and what Chris was saying, they're out there. They're seeing these things, but they don't know what they're seeing sometimes. Sometimes they just don't know. One of my officers who just walked in whose tired as well from our caper last night, Orlando [Levingston]. I'm so proud of him, and here's the reason why I'm proud of him. While most of us are asleep at 10:00PM, 11:00PM. 2:00AM this is your guy who's out there on the street. This is your guy who's up and down the street looking for these young girls, young women who are trafficked. He builds a trust with them as Tricia said. He talks with them, gains their trust, brings them in, and then starts the investigation which is so important.

Another part of his function in what he does with 20 years on the job not only is he conducting investigations but as a part of his daily routine, he is going to different Los Angeles Police Department patrol roll calls, hitting different watches, and talking to seasoned officers and detectives and telling them this is what you're seeing. This is what this investigation is. This is what this young girl looks like. This is what this victim this and explaining the crimes to them. It's not just explaining it to those of us who are in the game who want to listen but explaining it as Tricia said which can make or break your investigation. Explaining it to seasoned officers who are sometimes hardened, and they just want these young kids to go away.

He's explaining to them in a way that not only do they understand it but now unfortunately for him, they're blowing his phone up at 4:00AM and saying hey we've got a 15 year old girl. Come on down. He's calling me at 4:30AM and saying and now here we go. I want to take the time to recognize Officer [Levenston] for the work that he's done.

Julian Sher: Susan why don't you start it off giving us a broad view based on everything you've heard and also other things you can bring to the table. You talked about

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the difficulty the prosecution. Somebody once said to me that we're now at trafficking and human trafficking, sex trafficking in particular, where maybe we were with domestic sex violence, domestic abuse in the 1960s or the beginning of the realization and the change. The question I have for you is where do you see us? What is your dream, your hope in a couple of years from now, if we have this conference two years from now? What will have changed? What are some of the big improvements you're looking for that you think are realistic?

Susan DeWitt: Keep in mind that the first law making human trafficking a federal violation, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, was passed in 2000. Since that time, we've made not enough strides in any area, but we've made significant strides in the number of NGO's, the number of law enforcement people who are trained and understand these issues, prosecutors who are trained and understand these issues, law enforcement awareness, public awareness. Ten years after, so approximately two years ago, we saw major initiatives launched by the Department of Homeland Security. You guys are probably familiar with the Blue Campaign. The Department of Justice launched an interagency human trafficking initiative. The Department of Labor adopted a program for T Visas to help stabilize victims.

In Los Angeles, we have very robust human trafficking task forces that are working in Orange County and in Los Angeles. We've made great strides. In the last couple of years, I've seen major speeches by Secretary Clinton, Secretary Napolitano, the Attorney General. So we have buy in from our major policy leaders, and that's really significant. What that's led to is a greater amount of public awareness and money for public awareness, money for victims, and training of law enforcement officers at the ground level. Things are getting better. They're not getting better as fast as any of us would like or they're not dealing with, frankly, a problem that is not only huge but is growing as a multibillion dollar industry. I guess where do I want to see it in two years? I do think there has been a paradigm shift. I think that we're just now beginning to really see the benefits of that. I hope that you're right that we are in two years; we have a significant majority of law enforcement officers who don't see it as a victimless crime.

We have prosecutors who understand those things as well, and we have the resources that we need to continue things like the Trafficking Victims Protection Act which right now I think is still standing in limbo without reauthorization which is just a horrible shame. I think we're going to see those things, and I hope that two years from now, we're not sitting here saying the same things. This is the beginning. I hope we're getting to the tipping point.

Julian Sher: On that positive note, when the organizers first presented this panel to me, and I said six people that's a lot of people. I'm not sure if it could work, but I think you should give them a big hand. You've gotten tremendous insight from one of the best panels I've seen. Keep in touch with them all through the conference and we'll be back with more.

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