

## The Landscape of Human Trafficking in the Criminal Justice System

Friday, October 21, 2022  
1:45 – 3:00 PM



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\*\*We recommend that participants preview ‘Break the Chain’ documentary prior to this session.

Link to the documentary: <https://vimeo.com/728205721>

This session will address the global problem of human trafficking, as well as sharing actionable steps to help end the cycle. Panelists will educate attendees on what human trafficking encompasses, common misconceptions, and warning signs. The panel will focus on how human trafficking is dealt with in the court system.

At the end of the session, participants should be able to:

1. Understand what is included in the term “human trafficking”.
2. Educate on the importance of recognizing the signs of HT and common misconceptions.
3. Understand how the judicial system factors into combatting these crimes.
4. Identify next steps and what we can all do to help end human trafficking.

### Speakers:

#### **Kelly Carter, Assistant Attorney General, Michigan Department of the Attorney General**



Kelly Carter has been an Assistant Attorney General for over 20 years in the Criminal Division with past assignments including the High Tech Crime Unit, Child Protection Unit and the Mortgage Fraud Unit. For the past 10 years she has focused on prosecuting human traffickers, having convicted over 2 dozen people under the state’s human trafficking statute.

In 2017, she was appointed by the Governor as Chair of the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission, and works on behalf of the Attorney General with several human trafficking task forces throughout the state.

She regularly contributes to the Attorney General’s efforts to improve Michigan’s criminal law, testifying on over a dozen occasions before Michigan House and Senate subcommittees considering legislation involving child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She also frequently trains on human trafficking throughout Michigan.

**Hon. Shauna Dunnings, Chief Probate and Chief Judge Pro Tempore, 30<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Michigan**



Judge Shauna Dunnings is a Probate Judge in Ingham County. She currently serves as the Chief Judge of Probate Court and Chief Judge Pro Tempore of Circuit Court. Her docket includes family law matters and probate matters. She also presides over the Phoenix Treatment Court which is a specialty court that serves youth who have a history of sexual abuse, exploitation, and/or commercial sex trafficking.

Prior to being elected to the Probate Court in 2018, Judge Dunnings served as the Assistant Friend of the Court and Attorney Referee in Eaton County, the Friend of the Court and Deputy Court Administrator in Ingham County, and the Circuit Court Administrator in Ingham County. She was also in private practice for over a decade before working for the courts.

Throughout her career, Judge Dunnings has been actively involved with various professional organizations. She currently serves on the Michigan Probate Judges Association Board of Directors, and she is a member of the State Bar of Michigan Probate and Estate Planning Section Council.

**Laura Swanson, Executive Director, Creative Embers**



Laura E. Swanson is an independent filmmaker, professional speaker, and the Executive Director of the nonprofit, 'Creative Embers.' Her work is rooted in building awareness for societal issues using a non-sensationalized and victim-centered artistic approach. Swanson is best known for her 2017 film, ['Break the Chain,'](#) bringing greater attention to the issue of Human Trafficking within Michigan communities. Her work has been screened in university classrooms around the U.S., International Film Festivals, State Supreme Courts, and employed as educational and training resources for first-responders and nonprofit organizations. With a passion for using art

and media to shift perspectives and influence change, she continues to work towards building a strong community of independent artists creating initiatives that inspire action.