

2026 AI Summit Speaker Bios

Day 1:

Welcome Remarks:

- Maria Cardiello, Executive Director IJIS Institute
 - Prior to her tenure with IJIS, she served in an executive level position as Chief of Staff (COS) of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI). In this role she directed executive staff / consultants / resources provided by sponsor partners to include DOJ, DHS, FBI, ODNI and the White House. She was previously Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS) within the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the largest state department in NJ. Her office supported the Information Technology (IT) needs of more than a dozen divisions / in-but-not-off offices, ranging in scope from the Division of State Police to the Division of Consumer Affairs. Ms. Cardiello led cutting edge integration jobs for the public sector community including an Integrated Justice Project for the Province of Ontario, Canada, as well as the first privatized/functionally outsourced emergency communication operation in North America for Northampton County, Pennsylvania.
- Paul Goldenberg, Senior Fellow for Transnational Security at the Rutgers University Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience
 - Paul Goldenberg is a highly decorated former law enforcement and national security professional recognized globally as an objective and principled advisor. Through his work as member of the United States Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), the former head of the Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) transnational policing program, and Senior Fellow with the Miller Center, Mr. Goldenberg has played a key role in setting domestic and international policy for the legislation and investigation of hate crimes, countering violent extremism, and has been an international thought leader in information sharing, conflict resolution, public safety, cyber security policy, and creating and managing public-private partnerships among federal, state and local governments. At the direct request of the United States Secretary of Homeland Security Mr. Goldenberg has chaired several highly sensitive national DHS efforts, such as the 2019 Subcommittee for the Prevention of Targeted Violence Against Faith Based Communities, the National Cyber Security and Foreign Fighter Task Forces.

His public career includes more than two decades as a former senior member of the New Jersey State Attorney General's Office, Commissioner/Director of the nation's 6th largest county social service and juvenile justice system, and as a law enforcement official who headed investigation efforts for significant cases of domestic terrorism, hate crimes, political corruption, and organized crime. Following a series of highly publicized occurrences of domestic terrorism and hate crimes, the Governor and NJ State Attorney General appointed Mr. Goldenberg as the nation's first statewide Chief of Office for bias crimes, domestic terrorism and state community relations efforts. Throughout the 1980s, Mr. Goldenberg headed several major organized crime investigations as part of the State's Organized Crime Task Force in central New Jersey.

Presentation – How FBI CJIS Division is leveraging AI in supporting the Criminal Justice community:

- Joshua Holcomb, Unit Chief, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, FBI
 - Joshua A. Holcomb is the Senior Level (SL) Information Technology Specialist within the FBI Field Services Response Branch, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, IT Management Section where he serves as a Sr. IT Specialist. In his current position, Mr. Holcomb is responsible for the technical advancement and strategic planning for CJIS IT systems as they evolve to address emerging needs within the criminal justice community. Previously, he served as the IT solutions architect for the National Data Exchange (N-DEx) and the Next Generation Identification (NGI) systems as they progressed through development to operational deployment. Immediately prior his selection to the SL position, he led the Enterprise Technology Services Unit within the IT Management Section.

Mr. Holcomb holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Master of Business Administration, both from West Virginia University. He is also a certified Project Management Professional.

Keynote:

- Kevin Miller, Director, Trusted Technology Group, Microsoft
 - Using his twenty-five years of experience in a variety of industries, Kevin Miller has had success as a sales professional and technical specialist. His drive is to find solutions to support small to large enterprise to distill technical challenges into working solutions. When he began his career as a technical trainer, he recognized his passion to helping others understand complex topics and to discover innovative solutions to their business challenges.

He speaks to my wide range of experience from design of complex directory and messaging solutions for state government to more recent work inclusive Microsoft in information security. He had the privilege of working with the group at Microsoft that incubates new technologies including those which are today known as Office 365 and our Identity and Access (IdM) solutions. Presently, he is supporting customers address their Security & Compliance challenges using Microsoft technology and services.

Day 2:

Opening Announcements:

- Ashwini JarraI, Founder and Lead AI Center of Excellence, Senior Advisor, IJIS Institute
 - Ashwini JarraI is currently engaged with various resources to launch his new venture focused on new and innovative approaches focused on a digital transformation. Mr. JarraI also provides consulting services for non-profits and not-for-profit organizations to help advise them on the issues associated with the business and digital transformation strategies.

Prior to his current role, JarraI was the co-founder of an innovative health care technology company, IDYA4, serving as the Chief Operating Officer. Mr. JarraI grew this company from the startup stages to over \$7 million in revenue over a period of 18 months. JarraI also provided oversight on business development and day-to-day administrative and operational functions before the acquisition of IDYA4 by CloudMD in 2021.

Prior to IDYA4, JarraI served as the Executive Director (CEO) of the IJIS Institute, a nonprofit corporation formed by the U.S. Department of Justice, to help state and local governments develop ways to share information among disciplines engaged in homeland security, justice, and public safety. At the Institute, Mr. JarraI led the organization to the largest growth period in the history of the Institute, demonstrated by a 700% increase in funding through diversification to a market presence beyond justice.

With more than 25 years of experience in IT consulting and operations management, acquired through various executive roles, JarraI has been recognized nationally, and internationally for his work in information sharing since the tragic event of 9/11.

Panel – AI Practical Use Cases:

- Missouri State Highway Patrol - Steven White, Chief Information Officer, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Vice-Chair IJIS Institute AI Working Group
 - Mr. Steven C. White has been named director of the Patrol's newly created Cybersecurity and Technology Division. White joined the Patrol on July 1, 2010. White was named assistant director of the Criminal Justice and Information Services Division in November 2018.

Director White was born in Kirksville, MO, and graduated from South Callaway High School in 1988. He earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from University of Missouri-Rolla in Rolla, MO, in 1992. He earned a Master's degree in Information Science and Technology from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 2006.

- South Carolina Department of Corrections - Rita Crapps - Assistant Deputy Director of Programs and Reentry
 - 25+ years' experience in management. 15 years in private business. 10 years working with at risk youth. 14+ years in corrections. 8 years teaching and training the incarcerated to facilitate programs. Recipient of multiple civic awards.
- O'Fallon Police Department, MO – Officer Mike Nunnery, Operations Manager
 - Mike Nunnery specializes in managing and optimizing technology systems that empower public safety professionals to work more efficiently and effectively. With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to seamless operations, he oversees the implementation, maintenance, and enhancement of mission-critical software, ensuring reliability when it matters most.

From configuring software solutions to providing technical support and training for first responders, he takes pride in bridging the gap between technology and public safety. His role involves not only managing complex systems but also building collaborative relationships with diverse stakeholders, from emergency personnel to IT teams, to ensure smooth communication and system performance.

Driven by a passion for innovation and public service, he thrives in dynamic environments where precision and adaptability are paramount. He continuously seeks opportunities to enhance system functionality, streamline processes, and contribute to the safety and security of our communities.

- County of Sonoma - Carolyn Staats, Director of Innovation, Enterprise I.T., County of Sonoma
 - Carolyn Staats is the Director of Innovation for the County of Sonoma, Enterprise I.T., and has worked on several enterprise data sharing and collaboration initiatives

with both Justice and Safety Net departments as well as community partners. These initiatives have won multiple awards for Innovation in both the private and public sector. Carolyn was named one of the Top 40 women in the world in Artificial Intelligence by IBM at the joint IBM and NY Times New Rules Summit in June 2019.

Prior to coming to the County of Sonoma, Carolyn spent 30 years in the private sector in information technology, specializing in manufacturing, distribution and supply chain systems and including 13 years as the CIO for Birkenstock USA. Carolyn is an active member of the National Association of Counties (NACo), Information Technology Steering Committee as well as a Vice Chair of the NACo Tools and Innovations Subcommittee. She also serves on the education committee for the California County Information Services Directors Association (CCISDA).

- Subhankar Sarkar, Managing Director, Technology Consulting, Ernst & Young LLP
 - 20+ years of technology consulting experience across US Federal, State and Local Government. Trusted client advisor on data platforms, hybrid cloud and interoperability. Architect of the EY Unified Justice Platform, which connects justice ecosystems in state and local government. Creator of an interoperability framework for Whole Person Care that has been adopted by Health and Human Services agencies nationally and internationally. Led performance & capacity analysis for large DoD systems. Supported the Federal Housing Administration with alternatives analysis and investment planning pursuant to OMB Exhibit-300. Advisor to the FHA Commissioner's office during the housing crisis of 2007-2008.

Keynote - Aligning Use of AI in Justice and Public Safety with Human Rights:

- Dirk Allaerts, Fundamental Rights Officer, EUROPOL
 - After attending the Belgian Royal Military Academy, Mr. Allaerts graduated in 1986 as an officer in the Gendarmerie. As a major, he contributed to the police reorganization and in 2001 transitioned to the Federal Police, where he served as Chief of Staff from 2012. His international career began in 2019 at Interpol, initially as Director and later as Director-General. After three years, he moved to Europol, first as an advisor and then as the Fundamental Rights Officer.

Keynote – Judge Schlegel will share insights on the responsible use of AI in the justice system:

- Hon. Scott U. Schlegel, Judge, Division "F" Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal
 - Judge Scott Schlegel, an inductee into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, was elected to the 24th Judicial District Court in 2013 and to the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal in 2023. While serving on the trial court, he led a court

modernization initiative widely recognized as one of the most advanced in the country for delivering justice online. He also established Jefferson Parish's Reentry Court and Swift & Certain Probation programs to reduce recidivism and improve community safety.

He writes and speaks nationally on artificial intelligence, court modernization, and the future of the justice system, and is a co-founder of the Judicial AI Consortium, a network of state and federal judges across the country working through the practical challenges artificial intelligence presents for the courts.

Judge Schlegel chairs Louisiana's Integrated Criminal Justice Information System Policy Board, chairs the Louisiana Supreme Court Uniform E-Filing Task Force, and serves on the National Center for State Courts Joint Technology Committee. He previously chaired the Louisiana Supreme Court Technology Commission, served as President of the Louisiana District Judges Association, and was a member of the American Bar Association and Louisiana State Bar Association task forces on artificial intelligence and the law.

He is the first Louisiana judge to receive the National Center for State Courts' William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. He was also featured on the cover of the ABA Journal after being named an ABA Legal Rebel.

Before taking the bench, Judge Schlegel was a felony prosecutor in the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office and practiced civil law with an emphasis on products liability. He graduated with honors from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he served as President of the Student Bar Association.

Panel – On-Going Monitoring and Evaluation of implemented AI agents (shared responsibility):

- Casey Riley, Chief Technology Officer, Vant4ge, Chair IJIS Institute AI Working Group (Moderator)
 - Casey's career began in computational engineering and predictive systems, including traffic and road-safety analysis for the Idaho Transportation Department and analytical engineering systems in semiconductor manufacturing. Since then, he has led and built technology spanning natural-language search, distributed data systems, SaaS platforms, business intelligence, predictive modeling, decision support, machine learning, generative AI, and agentic systems.

Today he serves as Chief Technologist at Vant4ge, where he leads technology and engineering initiatives in justice and public safety. For more than a decade, he has worked with researchers and agencies to operationalize predictive models in environments where traceability, security, reliability, bias, human oversight, and the consequences of automated decisions matter. He is personally named as an inventor on two pending patent applications.

He also chairs the IJIS Institute Artificial Intelligence Working Group and regularly speak to justice, corrections, public-safety, technology, and judicial audiences about responsible AI adoption, predictive-model bias, AI vendor evaluation, human oversight, and agentic AI/development.

- Steven White, Chief Information Officer, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Vice-Chair IJIS Institute AI Working Group
 - Bio up above
- Rich Littlehale, Assistant Director, Technology and Innovation Division, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
 - Throughout Richard's career, he has gravitated towards specialties where his investigative background, legal training, and technical aptitude can come together to serve the policing profession. He also serves as an advocate for the state and local law enforcement community on lawful access to digital evidence, because he believes that digital evidence is a critical driver of more just, unbiased, and timely public safety outcomes.
- Jim Cabral, Principal, Cabral Consulting
 - Jim is a technology executive and management consultant that has been developing, integrating and managing information technology systems since 1992. His areas of expertise include justice integration, technology, management, systems architecture, software development and information security. He has also lectured at the university level on topics including system engineering, multimedia systems design and telemedicine.

Keynote – Who's Defining the Rules of the Road? A Certification Framework for Defensible AI-Assisted Investigation:

- Morgan Wright, CEO and Founder, National Center for Open and Unsolved Cases
 - Investigative intelligence expert and founder of the National Center for Open and Unsolved Cases. Editor of the Open and Unsolved - Crime: Reconstructed Substack and Podcast. Former detective and national security advisor applying modern intelligence, behavioral analysis, and AI to reveal the truth buried inside the world's

most enduring cold cases. Member of the International Homicide Investigators Association and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.

Panel – Beyond the Pilot: Governing AI Through the Mission-Critical Lifecycle:

- John Chiaramonte, President, Enterprise AI Strategy, Mission Critical Partners
 - John works in the service of public safety and justice agencies, helping leaders make safe, informed, and defensible decisions about technology in mission-critical environments.

For more than 30 years, he has supported state, local, and federal agencies in planning, implementing, and operating mission-critical systems. John currently serves as President of Enterprise AI Strategy at Mission Critical Partners, where he focuses on helping agencies navigate the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence across public safety and justice ecosystems.

His work centers on aligning AI with real-world operations. This includes assessing readiness, strengthening data foundations, establishing governance and risk frameworks, and ensuring AI is applied in ways that enhance, not disrupt, critical services. In high-consequence environments, AI must be transparent, validated, and accountable.

Prior to this role, he served as President of Consulting Services at MCP, supporting multidisciplinary teams across 911 and NG911, emergency communications operations and facilities, wireless and broadband, public safety applications, and justice and courts programs.

Throughout his career, he has advised agencies on system procurements, implementations, and modernization efforts involving CAD, RMS, mobile data, mapping, and integrated public safety solutions. He have also contributed to national initiatives with the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National 911 Program, and emergency communications programs at DHS FEMA.

Credentials include Project Management Professional (PMP), NENA-certified Emergency Number Professional (ENP), and DHS FEMA Certified Professional Continuity Practitioner.

Areas of focus include enterprise AI strategy, AI governance and risk, 911 and NG911, public safety technology modernization, and executive advisory services.

- Scott Brillman, Director of 9-1-1, Fairfax County, VA Dept of Public Safety Communications
 - Working with the best 9-1-1 First Responders in the nation, Scott Brillman is the 9-1-1 director for Fairfax County, Virginia, one of the largest & busiest 9-1-1 centers in the United States. Scott is a public safety leader with expertise in emergency management, emergency 9-1-1 communications, and organizational change.

For more than 2 decades, Brillman proudly served the City of Baltimore and helped maintain the highest level of readiness, protecting Baltimore's citizens, workers, and visitors from the impacts of emergencies. Brillman managed many of Baltimore's large-scale emergencies, including multiple hurricanes, record-breaking snowstorms, earthquakes, and the catastrophic derechos, multiple-alarm fires, mass evacuations, pandemics, cyber attacks, and active shooter, and mass shooting incidents.

In March 2020, Brillman was appointed as the Deputy Director of Emergency Management to help lead the COVID-19 response for the City of Baltimore. There, during COVID, he built one the most state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in the State.

He has created & facilitated large-scale emergency exercises, built Continuity of Operations Plans, & has planned multiple major events, bringing local, state, federal, military, non-profit, and business sectors together.

Brillman was appointed & commissioned by the Governor and Maryland Senate to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, the Governor's Statewide interoperability committee, and the Governor's Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 in Maryland, which coordinates policy, promotes interoperability, & funds enhancements for 911 systems across the state of Maryland.

Captain Brillman also served as a paramedic, and mentor with the BCFD & has served as a Medical Specialist on Maryland's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (MD-TF2), twice deploying to assist New Orleans, for Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Gustav. In 2018, Captain Brillman was again deployed with a multi-agency Incident Management Team (IMT) to assist in the response to hurricane Irma in the devastated Florida Keys.

Brillman serves on multiple advisory committees as well as a director on the Boards of multiple nonprofits, and public safety technology organizations. He received a B.S. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and an M.S. in Management from the Johns Hopkins University, and is a International Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) & a Emergency Number Professional (ENP).

- Cass Collins, Director, Enterprise AI Strategy, Mission Critical Partners
 - Cass is a modernization and AI-enabled transformation leader with deep experience driving mission-critical operations and enterprise-scale change within a highly matrixed environment. Her background includes 11 years at Microsoft, where she developed a leadership approach grounded in clarity, cross-functional alignment, and operational excellence.

She's passionate about helping organizations evolve with purpose, precision, and scalable, AI-driven operating models. She enjoys connecting with leaders and teams who are focused on innovation, modernization, and meaningful impact. Always open to professional conversations and expanding my network in the transformation and AI strategy space.

She's known for calm, decisive leadership in high-stakes global crises and for building scalable, privacy-compliant operating models that integrate AI, cloud, and workflow redesign. Cass brings a deep understanding of risk, safety, and human impact in technology deployment, and she serves as a trusted advisor to executives, legal teams, and engineering partners on AI readiness, governance, and operational execution.

- Mike Baltrosky, Assistant Chief, Communications and Technical Operations, Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue
 - A dedicated public servant with over 30 years of public safety experience, bringing a diverse and comprehensive background across multiple disciplines. Expertise includes Fire Service Management, Information Technology Management, Cybersecurity, and 911 Communications Center Operations and Management. Skilled in Homeland Security and Emergency Management, with a strong focus on Community Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness—spanning Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation.

Experienced in Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials, Public Safety Administration, Personnel Development, Collective Bargaining, Organizational Management, Strategic Innovation, Accreditation, Training, Budgeting, and Infrastructure Management.

Additionally, as an FAA-certificated commercial pilot with an instrument rating and an FAA-certificated UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) pilot, brings specialized aviation expertise to public safety operations. Proficient in integrating manned and unmanned aircraft into emergency response, search and rescue, disaster assessment, and critical infrastructure inspections, leveraging aviation technology to enhance situational awareness and operational effectiveness.

Day 3:

Presentation - AI agents can reach across courts, corrections, law enforcement, and public-safety systems. Will they operate through governed architecture or bypass it?:

- Casey Riley, Chief Technology Officer, Vant4ge, Chair IJIS Institute AI Working Group
 - Bio up above
- Rolando Nooks, IJIS Technology Advisory Committee
 - As CEO of Compassionate Reprieve, Rolando leads a national movement to humanize corrections through secure, trauma-informed technology and family connection access. Their mission is to ensure that grief, rehabilitation, and reconnection are built into every stage of the justice process from incarceration to reentry.

With a background in enterprise technology, systems architecture, and organizational transformation, he has built Compassionate Reprieve at the intersection of innovation, public safety, and human wellbeing. Their work spans “GriefTech” and “Correctional Innovation,” designing secure streaming and virtual access platforms that allow incarcerated individuals to attend funerals, family services, and counseling sessions safely and compliantly.

Under his leadership, they’ve partnered with public and private correctional agencies to implement solutions aligned with CJIS, ISO 27001, and NIST frameworks, ensuring that digital access never compromises security. He also oversees initiatives in AI-assisted grief support, digital inclusion, and predictive analytics for correctional wellness, bringing technology and empathy into spaces that have traditionally lacked both.

- Samuel Rostam, IJIS Technology Advisory Committee
 - A technology architecture and education leader specializing in digital transformation, ethical AI integration, and cybersecurity governance. Samuel brings a strategic, systems-level perspective grounded in real-world experience across enterprise systems, and data-driven architectures and cloud computing. His work

bridges technical depth with executive advisory insight—helping organizations adopt emerging technologies responsibly, securely, and with measurable business impact.

He combines extensive academic and industry experience to guide teams, leaders, and learners in navigating complex environments with modernization initiatives. His approach is focused on establishing clarity, simplify complexity, build consensus for risk-aware innovation, by applying governance frameworks that ensure AI, cloud, and data systems remain trustworthy and compliant in rapidly evolving environments.

Keynote - AI in Action: Priorities and Perspectives from State CIOs:

- Doug Robinson, Executive Director, National Association of Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)
 - Experienced national association leader and chief executive with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit, state government and higher education sectors. A recognized national expert representing state technology leaders, information technology policy issues, priorities and trends in state government IT. Strong business development professional skilled in relationship management, public policy, enterprise architecture and cybersecurity. A frequent speaker, panelist, author and member of several national advisory boards and committees. A fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Panel – From Talk to Action: How Courts Are Using AI Right Now:

- Michael Navin, Principal Court Management Consultant, Court Consulting Services, National Center for State Courts
 - As a certified Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional (AIGP) through the IAPP, Michael helps organizations operationalize AI governance by translating strategy, risk, and policy into practical implementation plans. His work focuses on executive advisory, AI roadmaps, governance frameworks, stakeholder alignment, adoption planning, and responsible AI execution in regulated environments.

His experience in the court sector has been shaped in an environment where trust, accountability, transparency, due process, and operational resilience are essential. Working in that setting has required balancing innovation with governance, risk management, stakeholder alignment, and public confidence. That experience translates well beyond courts to any regulated or mission-critical organization that

needs to adopt AI responsibly, make sound implementation decisions, and build structures that support both innovation and oversight.

- Brett Howard, Chief Information Officer at the Orange County CA Superior Court
 - Experienced and dynamic IT executive with over 28 years of experience applying technology solutions to business challenges. Passionate about using his strengths in leadership, team building and project management to lead teams in successful delivery of exciting projects.

Over 28 years of IT software development industry experience

18 years of experience managing all aspects of full lifecycle software development

7 years of experience in the Health Insurance industry and 20 years of experience in the Telecommunications industry

Successfully managed all facets of an IT and Software Development organization including Enterprise Architecture, Software Development (SDLC), Application Lifecycle Management (ALM), Quality Assurance, Business Analysis, Project Management, Application Certification, Technical Publications, Sustaining Engineering and IT Operations

Presentation – AI Funding and Legislation – National Perspective:

- Ben Bawden, Partner, Brooks Bawden Moore
 - Ben Bawden has supported companies and professional associations in the public safety space for nearly two decades. Formerly a Senior Vice President at a leading Washington, DC based consulting and government relations firm from 2000-2012, Ben led numerous legislative, policy development, and business development engagements for leading national law enforcement professional associations and innovative technology providers to the public safety, homeland security, and defense markets.

Ben has worked on cutting-edge technology and policy issues affecting public safety and homeland security including data collection and analysis, tech privacy, interoperable communications, digital evidence access, encryption, forensics, information sharing, and criminal intelligence. He has coordinated coalitions to drive legislative change and has managed nationwide legislative efforts in state capitals and Congress to preserve access to critical technology, systems, and data for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.



Ben is an Iowa native and earned a BA from Dartmouth College and an MBA from the University of Maryland.