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## **Speakers’ Bios for Global Meetings Industry Day Philadelphia**

## **Windy K. Christner, CMP**

Windy K. Christner, CMP has made meeting planning her career; the past 21 years with the American Pharmacists Association where she is the Senior Director of Meetings and Expositions. With her dynamic staff, she has primary responsibility for the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition (6,000 attendees and 200+ exhibitors), the Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar (850 attendees and 150+ exhibitors), and rental of APhA’s beautiful Potomac View Terrace on the National Mall.

Windy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology from Auburn University (War Eagle!) and received the designation of Certified Meetings Professional (CMP) in 1996.

A lover of live music, handmade crafts, her German heritage, animals, and all types of cuisine, Windy lives in Annandale, Virginia with her husband Randy, and their lab, Tillie.

**Michelle Guelbart, MSW, Director, Private Sector Engagement**

Michelle leads program development and strategy for ECPAT-USA’s private sector work. She advises companies on corporate social responsibility efforts to protect children from trafficking. ECPAT-USA partners include American Airlines, CWT, Delta Air Lines, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Uber, Marriott International, and Hilton Worldwide. She has contributed to Congressional testimony, presented to the World Economic Forum, Institute of Medicine, and the White House National Action Plan on Responsible Business.

Michelle wrote the American Hotel and Lodging Association Educational Institute’s e-learning module to combat human trafficking in the hospitality industry. She has been interviewed about her work by CNN, the New York Times, Thomson Reuters, and Forbes, among other publications. She was named a Changemaker by MeetingsNet, a Hero by MeetGreen, and one of the Top 500 People in Events for Social Responsibility by BizBash.

Michelle received her Master’s degree in Social Work from Columbia University’s School of Social Work with a focus in international social work and social policy. She was recently appointed to the United States Department of Transportation's Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking.

**Liz Hersh**Liz Hersh, director of the Office of Homeless Services is dedicated to serving poor and marginalized people, with a focus on creating affordable, decent homes where families can flourish. In her 14 years as director, she built the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania into a national model of effective advocacy. She led the building of numerous bipartisan initiatives in Pennsylvania designed to create good housing opportunities by investing public and private funding across the Commonwealth. Under her leadership, the Housing Alliance leveraged nearly a half-billion dollars for housing, community development, and support for homeless individuals and families across Pennsylvania.

Hersh earned a master’s degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago. She serves on Pittsburgh’s Affordable Housing Task Force and the board of directors of the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations. She served on the transition teams for Governor Rendell and Governor Wolf.

**Alexis Krieger, Victim Specialist, Philadelphia Division of the FBI**

Alexis Krieger graduated from Indiana University in May 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, Alexis worked for the State of Ohio as a Child Abuse Investigator, specializing in serious physical and sexual abuse investigations.

Alexis began her Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) career in 2004 as an Investigative Specialist and was assigned to the Philadelphia Division. One of Alexis’ highlights as an Investigative Specialist was participating in the “Fort Dix Six” investigation, which resulted in the arrest and successful prosecution of six individuals who plotted to attack US military personnel stationed at Fort Dix, NJ.

In 2010, Alexis became a Victim Specialist and was assigned to the Newark Division of the FBI. Alexis provides victim assistance to victims of federal crimes that the FBI investigates. Alexis served as a member of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking as well as several sub-committees. Alexis also assisted in creating various training protocols for human trafficking. In 2013 and 2014, Alexis participated in joint, coordinated operations with the FBI, state and local law enforcement agencies targeting child sex trafficking leading up to Super Bowl XLVIII. Alexis also participated in child sex trafficking operations leading up to Super Bowl 50 in San Francisco. Alexis and her co-workers received the 2014 Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association National Group Achievement Award. In 2015, Alexis received the Commissioner’s Partnership Award from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. In 2016, Alexis received a Certificate of Honorable Mention from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for her work on the recovery of a 14-year-old sex trafficking victim in Atlantic City, NJ. As of January 2016, Alexis transferred to the Philadelphia Division of the FBI as a Victim Specialist where she sits on local and Federal anti-trafficking task forces. Alexis currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty Instructor for the FBI.

**John J. McNichol**

John J. McNichol is President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority (PCCA). With more than 1 million-square feet of meeting space in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, the Center is the economic driver of the region’s hospitality industry. The Center hosts approximately 250 events annually that attract more than 1.2 million planners, attendees, and exhibitors annually, resulting in a regional economic impact or more than $750 million each year and growing.

As President and CEO of the PCCA, McNichol is responsible for the administrative oversight of the authority’s staff and SMG, the world-class facility operator responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Center. McNichol also interacts and coordinates the Center’s activities with a wide-range of stakeholders, including the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, customers, labor unions, and contractors. McNichol is focused on making certain that the Center exceeds customer expectations, increasing business and bookings at the Center, and ensuring the expanded Center fulfills its promise as a driver of the regional economy.

John has played a leadership role at the Center since 2007, when he was appointed by the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority Board of Directors. His work ethic, experience and commitment to the success of the Center earned him the respect of his colleagues on the Board, who elected him to serve as the Board’s vice chairman. In that capacity, he helped implement a range of Board initiatives designed to make the Center more attractive and friendly to customers, including the elimination of an 8 percent labor management fee on customers, changes to the labor supply model, and the hiring of private management firm SMG provide greater depth and breadth of experience in the operations of the Center.

As part of the transition to SMG, the Board of Directors called upon McNichol -- given his experience and familiarity with the Center -- to serve in an expanded role as President and CEO of the PCCA, a position he has held since 2013. McNichol immediately worked to implement important administrative and operational changes, including the successful negotiation of a new Customer Satisfaction Agreement with four show labor unions. That agreement included the adoption of progressive new work rules and expanded exhibitor rights that have made the Pennsylvania Convention Center more competitive resulting in record-setting growth in new business for the Center.

Prior to becoming President and CEO of the PCCA, McNichol served as a partner in the government relations firm of Greenlee Partners for 14 years. He also served in the capacity of managing partner for its affiliate political consulting company Keystone Strategies. Prior to joining Greenlee, McNichol served for six years as a Senior Vice President and Director of Government Affairs for Tierney Communications in Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

John is proud to serve as a member of the PHLCVB Board of Directors, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, PHLSports Executive Committee, Pennsylvania Tourism Partnership Steering Committee, Reading Terminal Market Board of Directors, and Mayor Jim Kenney’s Shared Public Spaces Task Force – where he serves as co-chair of the Chronic Homelessness Subcommittee.

**Caroline Meledo, Director, Corporate Responsibility & Human Rights, Hilton**Caroline is Hilton’s global lead on human rights, including strategy development and implementation across Hilton’s portfolio of 5,600 hotels in 109 countries. Caroline sits in the global Corporate Responsibility strategy team, covering responsible travel and tourism, destination stewardship, local sourcing, and inclusive growth. She established Hilton’s corporate responsibility function for Europe Middle East and Africa upon joining the company in 2013, and joined HQ in McLean, VA in 2017. Previously, Caroline looked after Corporate Responsibility for Sodexo UK & Ireland for three years. In 2009, Caroline was part of the team of the UN Special Representative for Business and Human Rights, providing gender expertise to the development of the Ruggie Framework. Caroline holds a Masters of Arts in International Relations, International Economics and International Law from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, and a double Diploma in Political Science from the Institut d’Etudes Politique in Lille, France (Sciences Po), and the Westfaelische Universitaet Muenster, Germany. She is an unconditional cyclist and passionate amateur dancer.

**Hugh Organ, Associate Executive Director, Covenant House Pennsylvania**

After graduating with degrees from Alvernia University and St. Joseph’s University, Mr. Organ has spent the last two decades working in child welfare.  He has been with Covenant House Pennsylvania since 2000, rising from the Community Service and Residential Coordinator to the Program Director to his current position as Associate Executive Director in May 2007.  For the last ten years, Mr. Organ has overseen all of our programs and services including our 76-bed emergency housing program, 20-bed Rights of Passage transitional housing program, new scattered site apartment living program, street outreach program, and drop-in center and shelter located in York, PA.  Mr. Organ chairs the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition, leading its advocacy and collaborative service efforts, as well as participating in multiple statewide and county-based anti-trafficking coalitions.  Mr. Organ is also a sought-after trainer, delivering trainings on human trafficking to thousands of participants from government, the nonprofit sector, and other stakeholders over the years.