



## AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program

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### Regional Structure

The AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) mission is to safely recover missing, endangered, or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, media, transportation, and other partners by using training and technology to enhance response capacities and capabilities and increase public participation. In an effort to promote effective outreach and collaboration, the AATTAP has organized the continental U.S. and Canada into three regions. AATTAP Regional Liaisons work closely with AMBER Alert Coordinators, Missing Children Clearinghouse Managers, Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Leaders and other child protection partners within their respective areas to share information and resources, connect programs and personnel to needed training, and assist in the coordination of technical assistance events and services. **The three AATTAP regions are comprised of the following states, provinces and territories:**

**Region 1:** Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, DC, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands

**Region2:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Canada (National Plan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, New Foundland/Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon) Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

**Region 3 / Tribal Liaison:** The AMBER in Indian Country (AIIC) Liaison acts as a resource to all federally recognized tribes as well as state, local and federal entities which serve Native American or Alaskan Native populations. The AIIC Liaison is responsible for providing information and assistance to facilitate access to training and technical assistance programs designed to improve the capability and capacity of tribal



communities to respond to incidents of missing, endangered, abducted and exploited children in Indian Country.

### **AMBER Alert's Regional Liaisons:**

#### **REGION 1:**

**Yesenia "Jesi" Leon-Baron ([leonbaro@fvtc.edu](mailto:leonbaro@fvtc.edu))**

Mrs. Leon-Baron is a Project Coordinator with Fox Valley Technical College's National Criminal Justice Training Center. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University in Miami, Florida, and a Masters in Science in General Management from St. Thomas University. Leon-Baron was a sworn law enforcement officer beginning in 1997 in the State of Florida and retired from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in 2012. During her career, she was assigned to the Orlando Regional Operations Center Cyber High-Tech Crimes Squad. Leon-Baron was a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigations Innocent Images Task Force, investigating the online exploitation of children and a member of the Florida Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. Under her leadership as the Central Florida Child abduction Response Team Coordinator, their greatest achievement was the recovery Nadia Bloom in 2010. Leon-Baron was also able to successfully lead the team through their first State of Florida certification in 2011. The team became the 13th in the nation and the 4th in the State of Florida to be certified. Yesenia Leon-Baron has collaborated with various local police departments in investigating high-profile missing person investigations to include Jennifer Kesse, Christopher Onda George and most recently, Michelle Parker.

#### **REGION 2:**

**Melissa Hansen-Blasing ([hansenme@fvtc.edu](mailto:hansenme@fvtc.edu))**

Melissa Hansen-Blasing has been a Project Specialist for Fox Valley Technical College's National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) since October 2010. As Project Specialist, she has worked with NCJTC's Washington D.C. Office on federal grants through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These grants include training and technical assistance (TTA) programs for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Office of Juvenile



Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). She now serves as the AMBER Alert Region 2 Liaison for the OJJDP's AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (ATTAP). Melissa's current responsibilities include managing and facilitating the design and delivery of training and technical assistance for state, local and tribal law enforcement, nonprofit organizations and other criminal justice practitioners. Ms. Hansen-Blasing also manages the AMBER Alert in Indian Country webinar series, the National Symposium on Tribal Child Protection, AMBER Alert task orders, evaluations, and product development for AMBER Alert course offerings. Her previous experience at NCJTC also includes researching and planning intricate community awareness and outreach projects, such as national publications, e-learning courses and toolkits to serve the criminal justice field.

Prior to joining the staff at FVTC, Ms. Hansen worked with multiple organizations on sexual assault victim assistance and leadership development programs with at-risk youth. As an advocate for the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, she was responsible for assisting victims and enhancing collaborations among hospital personnel and local law enforcement. She also helped coordinate and develop presentations to bring awareness of sexual assault issues through trainings and community awareness events.

Ms. Hansen-Blasing's experiences with at-risk youth helped develop a partnership among outdoor experiential learning and promoting leadership and personal development among at-risk youth. As a manager and lead facilitator for leadership and teambuilding development for Outdoor Endeavors at Saint Cloud State University in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, she developed trainings, coordinated presentations and helped with the program implementation that is currently used today.

Ms. Hansen-Blasing graduated with honors from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota and holds a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice.

### **REGION 3:**

**Hedi Bogda ([askamber@fvtc.edu](mailto:askamber@fvtc.edu))**

Hedi Bogda is an associate employee with Fox Valley Technical College's National Criminal Justice Training Center. Ms. Bogda has a long history working in tribal law. She not only has her own law office, but is currently the Appellate Justice for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Court of Appeals in Belcourt, ND; the General Counsel for the Native American Tribal Energy Association



in Las Vegas, NV; and is the Attorney/Consultant for the Pauma Band of Mission Indians in Pauma Valley, CA.

As Appellate Justice for Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Court of Appeals, she presides over and adjudicates appellate cases in the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Appeals Court. She prepares clear and concise court orders based on decisions rendered in all appeal hearings.

As General Counsel for Native American Tribal Energy in Las Vegas, NV, Hedi specializes in providing legal advice and representation on a variety of issues, including but not limited to: matters of Indian law; tribal, state and federal regulatory law; tribal sovereignty; energy law; environmental law; water and natural resource law; land use planning; employment law; commercial, business and economic development matters; taxation; land into trust; and cultural resources. She negotiates and drafts numerous agreements, drafts legal documents, legal instruments, legal memoranda and opinions for and on behalf of the Native American Tribal Energy Association. She also researches and interprets case law, statutes, legislation, regulations and various legal documents concerning a variety of legal issues.

As the Attorney/Consultant for Pauma Band of Mission Indians, Hedi specializes in providing legal advice and representation to departments, divisions and entities of the Pauma Band of Mission Indians on a variety of issues, including matters of Indian law; tribal, state and federal regulatory law; tribal sovereignty; environmental law; water and natural resource law; land use planning; employment law; commercial, business and economic development matters; gaming; taxation; land into trust; criminal and civil law; domestic violence and sexual assault; and cultural resources. Negotiates and drafts numerous agreements, tribal codes, policies and ordinances on behalf of the Pauma Band of Mission Indians. She also specialized in the development of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Prepares and drafts legal documents, legal instruments, legal memoranda and opinions, researches and interprets case law, statutes, legislation, regulations and various legal documents concerning a variety of legal issues.

Prior to her current positions, Hedi worked as an attorney, specializing in tribal law.

Ms. Bogda earned her Juris Doctor Degree, May 1997 from University of North Dakota School of Law, Grand Forks, North Dakota. She also attended Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. Hedi is also a member of both the Minnesota State Bar Association and South Dakota Bar Association.