

IAPSC 2026 – All Speaker Biographies

Sean A. Ahrens is a nationally recognized security consultant and the leader of the Security Consulting Practice at Affiliated Engineers, Inc.. With more than two decades of experience, he specializes in uncovering and mitigating Vulnerability across complex environments, connecting them to Threats, Risk, and tailored control strategies. Drawing on extensive field assessments, Sean provides practical, real-world insights into how overlooked vulnerabilities can escalate into security incidents and how layered, defense in depth controls can prevent them before they occur.

Shannon M. Kos, Esq. is a Principal of McCoy Leavitt Laskey and is the managing partner of the Ann Arbor, MI office. She has tried cases in Michigan and throughout the United States. Shannon is a certified Fire and Explosion Investigator and voting member of the ASTM E58 Committee on Forensic Engineering. Shannon also provides personal representation and defense to expert witnesses throughout the country in challenges to expert fees, scope of work and retainer agreement disputes, discovery issues, and Daubert and Frye attacks. Shannon has achieved the highest Martindale Hubbell rating (AV)(5.0 out of 5.0) and has been recognized for her expertise in Product Liability litigation including being awarded Lawyer of the Year, Product Liability Litigation - Defendant (2021) by Best Lawyers of America, DBusiness Top Lawyer – Product Liability, and Women in the Law Award, Michigan Lawyers Weekly (2015). Shannon received a B.A. in Economics from Colorado College, where she played Division I soccer and was inducted with her teammates into the Colorado College Athletics Hall of Fame. She received her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, graduating with magna cum laude honors.

Eric L. Piza, Ph.D. is the Lipman Family Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Director of Crime Analysis Initiatives, and Co-Director of the Crime Prevention Lab at Northeastern University. His research agenda focuses on the spatial analysis of crime patterns, evidence-based policing, crime control technology, and the integration of academic research and police practice. Dr. Piza has published over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and 3 books. In support of his research, Dr. Piza has secured over \$6.7 M in competitive grants. Before entering academia, Dr. Piza served as the GIS Specialist of the Newark, New Jersey Police Department, responsible for the day-to-day crime analysis and program evaluation activities of the agency. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University.

Michael A. Silva is an independent security consultant that has been practicing since 1985. During the more than 35 years he has been a consultant, Michael has served a wide variety of clients in industries including healthcare, research and development, biotechnology, manufacturing, insurance and financial services, warehousing and distribution, and multifamily housing.

Michael is board-certified as a Certified Protection Professional (CPP) by ASIS International, and is a member of the International Association of Professional Security Consultants (IAPSC) and holds the Certified Security Consultant (CSC) certification issued by that organization. Michael is currently serving as IAPSC President.

Michael is author of the book “Becoming an Independent Security Consultant – A Practical Guide to Starting and Running a Successful Security Consulting Practice” (published May 2016), and regularly serves as a mentor to people who wish to enter the security consulting profession.

Michèle Stuart is an owner, investigator, and instructor at JAG Investigations, Inc., with over three decades of investigative and counterintelligence experience with a proven record of providing specialized training for law enforcement, homeland security, and military intelligence communities. Expertise in Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), social media exploitation, counterintelligence operations, and threat assessment methodologies. [Click here](#) to see more of Michèle’s achievements.