



**For Immediate Release:**

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**The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association Announces: 2025 Alcohol Law Enforcement Award Recipients**

The NLLEA is a nonprofit membership-based association with more than 1,700 members. Membership represents federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies from more than 40 states and the District of Columbia. The NLLEA is governed by an elected Executive Board. Part of the mission of the NLLEA is to improve the standards of liquor law enforcement and foster an environment of collaboration between law enforcement agencies. One way the NLLEA strives to do this is by providing best practice recommendations and guidance on alcohol policies, procedures, and protocols.

At their Annual Conference held November 17-19, 2025, in Fort Worth, Texas several agencies and individuals received awards for their hard work and dedication to the field of alcohol law enforcement. Over forty agencies were represented at the Conference to include federal, state, local and campus law enforcement along with exhibitors and public health partners.

The theme of this year's conference was: ***Bridging Tradition and Innovation: Advancing Alcohol Law Enforcement for Tomorrow***. In the welcome, President Jim Diana emphasized that the conference theme reflects the balance our profession must strike every day. As alcohol regulation continues to evolve, our commitment to protecting public health and safety remains rooted in strong partnerships, evidence-based practices, and a shared dedication to continuous improvement.

NLLEA President, Jim Diana, welcomed attendees to the conference and thanked his fellow board members; Marc Haalman, Vice President, Kellette Mayberry, Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Temple Sergeant-at-Arms, Israel Morrow, Immediate Past President and Carrie Christofes, Executive Director for their hard work throughout the year.

The NLLEA announced the recipients of the annual awards given in 5 categories: ***Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year, Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year, Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year, John W. Britt Community Service Award, and the Meritorious Service Award***.

**North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division** was selected for this year's ***Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year*** award. The NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year award is given to an agency that has demonstrated agency effectiveness through the implementation of innovative programs, community and media recognition, and model training programs, practices, and strategies. The North Carolina ALE Division demonstrated exceptional dedication to enforcing alcohol laws, enhancing public safety, and engaging communities statewide. Between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025, ALE special agents served **256 search warrants**, closed **126 illegal alcohol outlets**, and seized **577 firearms**, many tied to alcohol-related businesses. Agents conducted more than **9,300 inspections**, resulting in hundreds of ABC violations and suspensions, and filed over **8,600 criminal charges** related to alcohol and controlled substances.

ALE also prioritized **education and training**, delivering nearly **300 presentations** to retailers and community groups, and hosting a **week-long statewide training** for local law enforcement officers to promote consistent ABC law enforcement practices.

Through its **Gaming Enforcement Initiative**, ALE strengthened investigations into illegal gambling—disabling **174 illegal machines**, seizing **\$690,000**, and making **140 arrests**. The agency's **Nuisance Abatement Team** investigated **30 properties**, securing long-term remedies to improve community safety, while its leader earned national recognition from the IACP's "40 Under 40" award.

In 2025, ALE introduced an innovative **Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS)** program using **virtual reality technology** to educate parents on detecting underage substance use, developed in collaboration with High Point University.

Major case successes included dismantling illegal import operations, combating violent gang and drug activity, and suspending problematic ABC establishments following shootings and fatalities linked to alcohol use.

Through enforcement, education, and innovation, ALE continues to uphold the highest standards of **excellence, integrity, and professionalism**, protecting North Carolina's communities and advancing the mission of alcohol law enforcement.

**Officer Adam Buckley, Indiana State Excise Police, Alcohol and Tobacco Commission** was selected for this year's ***Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year*** award. The NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year award is given to an agent for acts of heroism or bravery, creativity resulting in innovative programs, recognition by peers and/or the local community, or other actions that enhance the image of an agency or alcohol law enforcement in general.

In just two years with the Indiana State Excise Police, Officer Adam Buckley has emerged as a model of professionalism, dedication, and skill, significantly enhancing the agency's reputation within law enforcement circles. Exclusively assigned to the Marion County Alcohol Task Force, he investigates violent crimes in licensed establishments throughout Indianapolis and Marion County. Known as the "glue" of the Task Force, Buckley demonstrates leadership, adaptability, and a team-first approach.

In 2024, Buckley was lead or key investigator in nearly 100 violent incident cases at permit premises, contributing to 830 administrative violations and warnings issued—nearly double any other district. His work on the PACE program transformed a high-risk business plagued by shootings into a compliant, violence-free establishment through persistent outreach and collaboration.

Buckley's investigative excellence is evident in a major months-long undercover case involving unlicensed alcohol sales, culminating in multi-agency search warrants and the seizure of thousands of illegal alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, pharmaceuticals, and cash. He also played a critical role in high-profile violent crime cases, including a mass shooting at an underage promoter party that led to nearly 30 charges, including reckless homicide.

His bravery was most visible during the 2024 NBA All-Star Weekend, when he advanced toward an active shooter at the Onyx Night Club, assisting a gunshot victim and helping take an armed suspect into custody, an act for which he received departmental recognition. In preparation for the event, Buckley met with numerous permit premises to educate on compliance, reducing violence risk.

Beyond casework, Buckley assists with district compliance checks, provides STOPS training, and maintains a calm, respectful demeanor even in confrontational situations, earning praise as a “voice of calm” in conflicts. His consistent professionalism, investigative acumen, leadership under pressure, and commitment to public safety make him an exemplary candidate for NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year.

**Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco** was selected for this year’s *Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year* award. The NLLEA Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year award is given to an agency that demonstrates program effectiveness through exemplary practices and enforcement.

The ABT achievements exemplify the innovation and adaptability that define the Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year Award. ABT has gone beyond traditional regulatory enforcement by proactively identifying emerging threats such as alcohol delivery to minors via mobile apps, the sale of Tianeptine and nitrous oxide in retail locations, and the trafficking of hemp products to underage consumers and developing targeted operations to eliminate them. Their integration of specialized investigative strategies, interagency collaboration, and legislative advocacy has not only addressed immediate criminal activity but also reshaped enforcement tools for lasting impact. From dismantling organized criminal networks and intercepting human trafficking operations in licensed establishments to deploying a Special Response Team equipped for disaster response, ABT has demonstrated a capacity to pivot quickly, employ creative problem-solving, and deliver results that enhance both public safety and industry integrity. This forward-thinking approach and ability to operationalize new enforcement methods place ABT at the forefront of innovative alcohol law enforcement practices.

**Texas Impaired Driving Task Force and Texan’s for Safe and Drug Free Youth** were both selected for this year’s *John W. Britt Community Service* award. The NLLEA John W. Britt Community Service award is given to a non-law enforcement agency/entity that makes a significant contribution to the efforts of liquor and/or tobacco enforcement and demonstrates program effectiveness through underlying efforts and practices.

**The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force** - Your work as a partnership of impaired driving safety stakeholders representing law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, advocacy, education, treatment, research, alcohol service, driver licensing, employers, public health, and more embodies the spirit of this award.

**Texans for Safe and Drug Free Youth** - Your nomination reflects your exceptional leadership as a statewide force for healthier, safer communities where youth alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use have no place. Your role as a leader in evidence-based, environmental community

change strategies. From updating the public on policy developments to educating communities on the latest research, your work ensures Texans have the knowledge and tools to create lasting prevention efforts. Your training, technical assistance, and Youth Leadership Council engagement not only develop skills but also empower the next generation to be part of the solution.

***NLLEA 2024-25 President, Jim Diana***, received the ***Meritorious Service Award*** for his four-year dedication to the association. Jim's leadership and commitment to the NLLEA have been instrumental in advancing our mission and improving the services we provide to our members. We are proud to honor him with this award of service and dedication.

***Special recognition was given to Charles Sumner***, not only for his service as a Past President of the NLLEA-2008-2009, but also for his many years of commitment and support of the NLLEA Conference as an exhibitor and sponsor in his role as District Sales Manager at GLOCK

Award recipients were honored at the 2025 NLLEA Annual Conference held in Fort Worth, TX in partnership with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

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