

NTSB

National Transportation Safety Board
MOST WANTED LIST
VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

.05 BAC

Part 2

Legislative Primer

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

Moderator

Thomas B. Chapman

NTSB Member

Biographies

MODERATOR



The Honorable **Thomas B. Chapman** took the oath of office as the 46th **Member** of the **NTSB** on January 6, 2020. Member Chapman has spoken extensively on alcohol and drug impairment, rail worker and highway-rail

grade crossing safety, and the Safe System Approach to highway traffic safety. He is the lead Board Member for advocacy related to the Most Wanted List safety item, [Prevent Alcohol- and Other Drug-Impaired Driving](#). Read his full bio [here](#).

PANELISTS



Norm Thurston is currently serving as a **State Representative** from District 64 in **Utah**. His service started in 2015.

Dr. Thurston has a Master's degree and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University, and an undergraduate

degree in Spanish and Agribusiness Management from Brigham Young University.

Dr. Thurston is currently the executive director at the National Association of Health Data Organizations, a national non-profit membership and educational organization dedicated to improving the collection and use of healthcare data. Dr. Thurston was a policy analyst and health economist for the Utah Department of Health from 2003 until 2019. From 2013 to 2019 he was the Director of the Office of Health Care Statistics, and in previous roles he served as policy adviser and executive staff for health system reform efforts in the State of Utah.

Before joining the state, Dr. Thurston worked for eight years as an assistant professor of economics at Brigham Young University. He has published several articles on health care markets in nationally recognized economics journals. He is a life-long resident of Utah, growing up in Morgan County. He has native-level fluency in Spanish and was a Fulbright Scholar teaching economics in Argentina in 2001. He and his wife Maria have three children and three grandchildren.



Utah Department of Public Safety Commissioner appointed Major **Michael Rapich** to **Colonel of the Utah Highway Patrol** (UHP) in 2016. A native of Green River, Utah, he graduated from Green River High School, and then

enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. Following his military service he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College, and joined the UHP in 1992. Colonel Rapich progressed up through the ranks of the Patrol, and has been stationed throughout Utah, including rural and urban communities. Colonel Rapich was one of the first members of the UHP DUI squad when it was originally established in 1994.

Prior to serving a six year term as Major of the Highway Patrol, Rapich was the Bureau Commander of the State Bureau of Investigations. In 2010, Colonel Rapich graduated from the FBI's National Academy. He is also graduate of the Northwestern School of Staff and Command. He recently completed his Masters in Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University. Rapich lives in Tooele County with his wife and two sons.



MADD National President Alex Otte came to MADD in 2010, not long after a drunk driver forever changed Alex's young life, when she was run over by an intoxicated boat operator two days before the July 4th holiday. Although

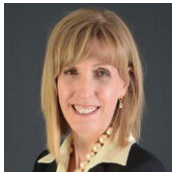
Alex was only 13 years old at the time of her crash, she soon dedicated her life to ensuring that there will come a day when no other child is forced to face such a tragedy. Before becoming National President in 2021, Alex worked with MADD Kentucky staff and many other dedicated volunteers to pass state legislation requiring the use of ignition interlocks for drunk driving offenders — first in 2015 and again in 2019, making Kentucky the 34th state with an all-offender ignition interlock law.

Continued ►

Biographies *(continued)*

Alex served as a National Teen Influence for MADD in 2014 and was awarded MADD's National Youth Activist of the Year award in 2015 for her tireless efforts to pass ignition interlock legislation in her state. Alex has spent the past decade telling her devastating story, and the stories of so many like her, across the country at schools, churches, law enforcement groups and in the media.

In addition to her volunteer work with MADD, Alex spent two years as a Research Associate for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, focusing her attention on boating and water safety and preventing boating under the influence. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Journalism. Alex lives in Lexington with her husband, Zach.



M. Kimberly Brown is a **Senior Attorney** at the **National District Attorneys Association's National Traffic Law Center** in Arlington, Virginia. She has served as presenter and faculty at numerous state, regional, and

national conferences and training courses pertaining to impaired driving and other traffic safety issues. Ms. Brown also participates in the development of and updates to trial advocacy curriculum as well as the creation of new written resource materials for prosecutors and law enforcement. Prior to her employment at NDAA/NTLC, she served as the Chief of the Criminal Section at the District of Columbia's Office of the Attorney General (DC OAG).

Before Ms. Brown worked in the District of Columbia, she also prosecuted felony offenses on behalf of the State of Michigan while at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office in Pontiac, Michigan. While an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, she also participated in a Fellowship at Michigan Attorney General's High-Tech Crime Unit where she gained specialized training and experience relating to complex technology-focused criminal offenses. Her previous experience also includes civil litigation work at Covington & Burling in Washington, DC, and criminal defense work in Michigan and Washington, DC.



Tara Leystra Ackerman is the **State and Local Government Affairs Specialist** for the **NTSB**. She is an experienced government affairs professional, with over 15 years of experience working with government officials on transportation

safety and healthcare initiatives. In her current role, she coordinates the NTSB's relationships with state and local officials and agencies. In her previous role at the National Safety Council, Tara led state lobbying efforts, focusing on eliminating motor vehicle crashes, fighting the opioid overdose epidemic, and improving workplace safety.

Prior to joining NSC, Tara was a state affairs associate at the American College of Surgeons. In this role, she advocated for policies to improve trauma care, prevent injuries, and ensure patient access to quality surgical care. She graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and later received her Master of Public Health in Health Policy from The George Washington University. She currently lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, two daughters, and dog.