



BROOKS BAWDEN MOORE
LLC



Photo of the week: South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem appears before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee as President Elect Trump's Nominee to be Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security

Weekly Update and Analysis

January 17, 2025

Brooks Bawden Moore's Weekly Update and Analysis highlights congressional, administrative, and regulatory activity related to justice, public safety, and homeland security. Feel free to reach out to us if you would like to discuss any items described in the update. Additionally, please feel free to distribute this product as you see fit.

What Happened This Week?

This week, Congress continued organizing for the new session while hearings began for President-elect Trump's nominees. The Senate Judiciary Committee held two days of hearings for the nomination of Pam Bondi as the next Attorney General. Our newest team member, Joseph, watched the hearings and provided detailed notes, which you can read [here](#). Additionally, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hosted South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem today to review her nomination to lead the Department of Homeland Security. We are monitoring the proceedings and will provide further updates soon.

House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole announced the Republican subcommittee rosters, including members assigned to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Homeland Security funding panels. You can review the full list [here](#). House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Jaime Raskin also [announced the Democratic members](#) of the House Judiciary Committee, which include several new additions to the committee.

On Wednesday, Speaker Johnson [removed Rep. Mike Turner](#) as chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, citing the need for a "fresh start" in the new Congress. Politico reported that [Rep. Rick Crawford](#) of Arkansas is expected to be named the next chair. Meanwhile, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of [Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody](#) to fill Senator Marco Rubio's seat and Ohio Governor Mike Dewine picked Jon Husted, his lieutenant governor, to fill Vice President-elect JD Vance's seat.

With the new Congress underway, a wave of legislation has been introduced on topics relevant to the justice, public safety, and homeland security community. Among the notable bills: Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5) and Sen. John Curtis (R-UT) introduced legislation to codify the defense of qualified immunity for law enforcement; Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15) introduced a bill requiring the ATF to report on firearms trafficking along the I-95 corridor; and Sen. Ted Cruz proposed legislation to impose enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who target public safety officers. Senator Cornyn introduced the [Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act](#), which would allow individuals who are legally authorized to carry concealed firearms in one state to carry their firearms in other states. A complete list of newly introduced bills is available below.

BBM continues to monitor announcements regarding administration appointments. This week, it was reported that President-elect Trump plans to nominate his current Secret Service detail leader, [Sean Curran](#), as the new director of the U.S. Secret Service. [Sean Plankey](#) is reportedly being considered for the role of Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Additionally, we are tracking developments from the outgoing Biden administration. President Biden announced Friday that he would [commute the sentences](#) of nearly 2,500 individuals convicted of non-violent drug offenses as one of his final major actions. On Wednesday, the administration proposed significant [reductions to nicotine levels](#) in cigarettes. Meanwhile, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) judge [postponed a hearing](#) on the Biden administration's proposal to reclassify marijuana under federal drug laws. Allegations of improper communications between DEA officials and opposing witnesses have extended the process by at least three months, according to Marijuana Moment.

BBM Welcomes New Team Member



Joseph M. Fernando is a dedicated public service professional with extensive experience in constituent advocacy, legislative research, and policy analysis. From July 2023 to January 2025, he served as an Agency Liaison Analyst in the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House, where he managed workflows for over 65 federal agencies, resolving thousands of constituent cases. He specialized in expediting high-priority casework, including immigration challenges and disaster response, while organizing interagency collaboration events and generating data-driven reports and constituent trends for White House leadership. His work emphasized efficiency, collaboration, and federal agency relationship-building to deliver results for constituents across the country through the casework process. From April 2021 to June 2023, Joseph served as a Caseworker and Constituent Advocate for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the office of U.S. Senator Mark R. Warner, where he managed congressional correspondence with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as federal retirement benefits, passport emergencies, and postal service

issues. He also coordinated outreach efforts and advised on casework trends to inform policy recommendations.

His earlier roles on Capitol Hill include interning for Congressman Don Beyer and Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, where he honed his skills in constituent advocacy, policy research, and stakeholder communication. Beyond government roles, Joseph was a Research and Policy Analyst Intern at Forbes Tate Partners, where he conducted legislative research and drafted memos on policy issue areas in healthcare, energy, and criminal justice reform. He was also a Legislative Session Aide at Two Capitols Consulting, he focused on justice, broadband expansion, infrastructure, and transportation accountability issues.

Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from George Mason University.

Please join us in welcoming Joseph to the BBM team. You can reach him at jfernando@bbm-dc.com

BBM Blog Posts of the Week

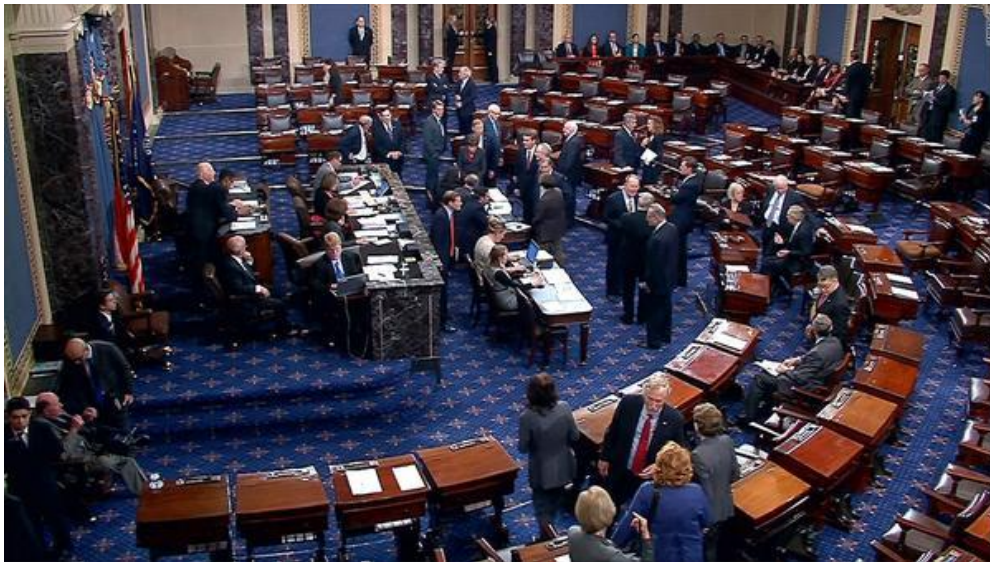
BBM posts timely updates on topics of interest to the public safety community. Please explore this week's blog posts below and click on any topic that interests you to stay updated. Email a member of the BBM team today to get our blog content delivered directly to your inbox.

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>The Hill: "Biden commutes the sentences of nearly 2,500 non-violent drug offenders"</u>• <u>Trump Expected to Pick Curran as Director of Secret Service</u>• <u>Trump Plans to Designate Cryptocurrency as a National Priority</u>• <u>POLITICO: Rep. Crawford to be Next House Intel Chair</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Trump's Likely Pick for Top Cyber Role: Sean Plankey</u>• <u>Forbes: "DEA Judge Cancels Marijuana Rescheduling Hearing Set For Next Week"</u>• <u>POLITICO: Johnson removes Mike Turner as Intel chair</u>• <u>Axios: FY 2025 Spending Talks Behind Schedule</u>• <u>The Hill: John Ratcliffe edges closer to CIA confirmation with Democratic support</u> |
|---|---|

- [Axios: DeSantis to pick Florida AG Ashley Moody to fill Rubio's Senate seat](#)
- [Washington Post: "Biden releases 11th-hour plan to lower nicotine in cigarettes"](#)
- [Congressman Tom Emmer Selected as the Vice Chairman of the Digital Assets Subcommittee](#)
- [DEA Moves to Ease Telehealth Requirements on Controlled Drugs](#)

- [Bondi Testifies Before Senate Judiciary Committee: Key Takeaways](#)
- [House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee Rosters](#)
- [Ranking Member Raskin Announces Democratic Members of House Judiciary Committee for the 119th Congress](#)
- [What's on Republicans' Border Security Wish List for the Budget Bill?](#)

Floor Activity



Senate

- No bills of interest were considered on the Senate floor this week.
- The Senate is working through negotiations and could bring the [Laken Riley Act- S.5-](#) up for a floor vote at some time either today or in the near future.

House of Representatives

[H.R. 30- Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act](#)

This bill establishes certain criminal grounds for making non-U.S. nationals (aliens under federal law) inadmissible and expands the crimes for which a non-U.S. national is deportable. First, the bill establishes that a non-U.S. national is inadmissible if the individual has admitted to or is convicted of acts constituting the essential elements of stalking, child abuse, child neglect, child abandonment, a sex offense, conspiracy to commit a sex offense, a violation of certain protection orders, or domestic violence (including physical or sexual abuse or a pattern of coercive behavior when it occurs within certain close relationships). Next, the bill establishes additional grounds for deportation. Under current law, a non-U.S. national is deportable for certain criminal convictions, including domestic violence, stalking, and child abuse. The bill makes any sex offense (including crimes against minors) or conspiracy to commit a sex offense a basis for deportation. The bill also expands the domestic violence crimes that make a non-U.S. national deportable to include physical or sexual abuse or a pattern of coercive behavior when it occurs within certain close relationships.

[Passed 274-145](#)



Hearings This Past Week

Tuesday, January 14

- Senate Armed Services Committee- *Hearing to Examine the Nomination of Peter Hegseth to be Secretary of Defense*

Wednesday, January 15

- Senate Judiciary Committee- *Hearing to Examine Pam Bondi to be Attorney General, Department of Justice*
- Senate Select Committee on Intelligence- *Hearing to Examine the Nomination of John Ratcliffe to be*

Hearings Next Week

Wednesday, January 22

- Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement (Committee on the Judiciary)- *Restoring Immigration Enforcement in America*

Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

- Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee- *Hearing to Examine the Nomination of Sean Duffy to be Secretary of Transportation*
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee- *Hearing to Examine the Nomination of Russell Vought to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget*

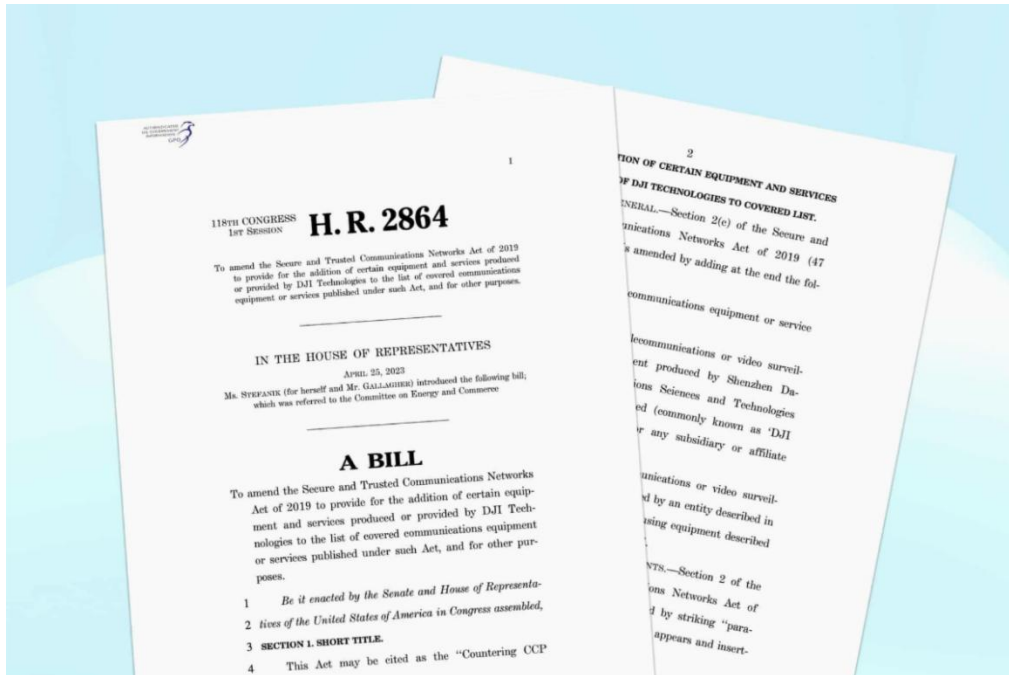
Thursday, January 16

- Senate Judiciary Committee- *Hearing to Examine Pam Bondi to be Attorney General, Department of Justice*

Friday, January 17

- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee- *Hearing to Examine the Nomination of Kristi Noem to be Secretary of Homeland Security*

New Bill Introductions



- BBM has compiled a list of this week's newly introduced legislation relevant to Justice, Public Safety, and Homeland Security in the 119th Congress. You can download the information as an Excel spreadsheet by clicking [here](#).

Congressional Calendar

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

House and Senate in Session
 Senate in Session Only

House in Session Only
 Federal Holidays

Community and Client News



New Episode Released on IACP Critical Dispatch Podcast

Lessons Learned from the Parkland and Pulse Mass Shootings

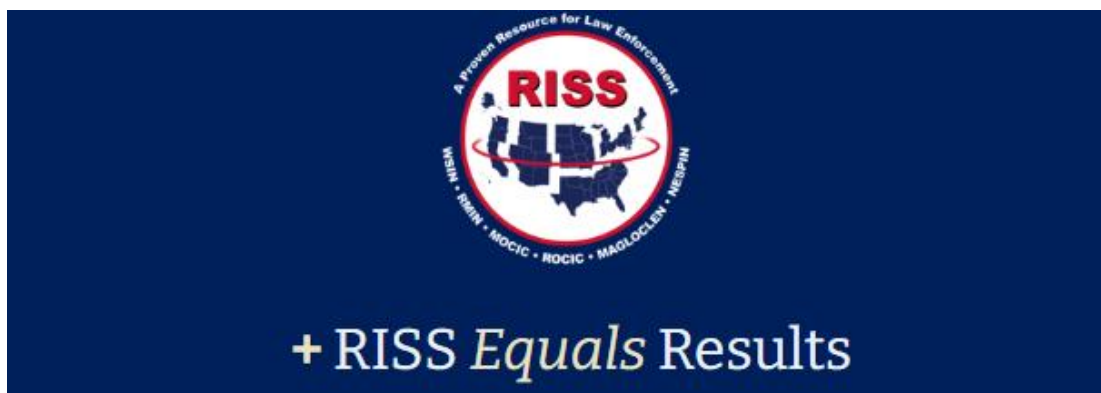
There were 83 school shootings in 2024 with the most recent being the shooting in Madison, Wisconsin, where a 15-year-old girl killed a teacher and a student, and also injured six others.

Since the pandemic when schools were largely shut down, there has been a stark increase in mass shootings nationwide, with more than 500 mass shootings across the country, as of December 25 according to the gun violence archive.

Host Jeff Pegues speaks with **Orange County Sheriff John Mina**, who was the Orlando Police Chief when the Pulse shooting happened in 2016, where 49 people were murdered and more than 50 others injured. “[The Pulse Nightclub attack] did start as an active shooter type of situation, but then quickly morphed into a barricade, but also there was a terrorism nexus as well as the threat of explosives...The shooter was threatening to blow up half a city block and everyone inside or around the nightclub at Pulse,” says Sheriff Mina.

Then, you will hear from **Max Schachter**, whose son Alex was murdered in the Parkland School shooting in 2018. Schachter says, “I know what these families are going through and having your child predecease you in a mass shooting, there is nothing worse than that.” Both Mina and Schachter share lessons learned from these terrible tragedies and offer their perspectives on the best practices needed to minimize and mitigate mass shootings.

[Listen Here](#)



RISS Success Story- Identity Theft

A female subject claimed that an unidentified female was using her identity in another state. The investigation led to the location of the unidentified female. Officials partnered with another law

enforcement agency that identified the unknown female. Authorities contacted MOCIC staff for assistance in the investigation.

The MOCIC staff provided authorities with investigative leads and the background of the unidentified female's companion and associates, which led to an arrest warrant being obtained for the female suspect. The female was identified as a Cambodian National who entered the United States more than 10 years ago. The Cambodian National obtained the victim's birth certificate and social security number to obtain a state identification card, enabling her to assume control of the victim's identity.

The Cambodian National was arrested and charged with identity theft, forgery, and making false information. She was subsequently transferred into the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

To view other shared successes submitted by agencies and officers on how RISS helped their investigations, visit: www.riss.net/impact



Where have all the bullets gone?

Could a NIBIN strategy for bullets benefit the public?

Opinion Piece by Pete Gagliardi

With the utmost respect for the value that NIBIN and its partners bring to U.S. law enforcement and the public it serves, and in the spirit of constructive input for continuous improvement, I raise two questions:

1. Are we unintentionally missing something - is NIBIN's highly successful focus on the collection and processing of fired cartridge cases impacting the development of a NIBIN strategy for extracting useful CGI from fired bullet evidence, especially in cases where only bullet evidence is recovered (e.g. revolvers were used, the scene was cleaned)?
2. Recognizing that the recovery, collection, and processing of bullet evidence and test fires presents additional challenges beyond those associated with cartridge cases, what information would be useful for developing a NIBIN strategy to generate CGI from cases involving bullets in a way that provides substantial and sustainable crime solving and prevention benefits to ATF, its NIBIN partners and the public it serves?

The United States Attorney General has labeled the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), "one of the most powerful tools the Department has in the fight against gun violence.

It will take relentless follow-up for continuous improvement to keep it that way.

Subscribe to the RF Fact Insights to read the full article and other posts [here](#)



Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center Teams Up with The Retired Investigators Guild to Solve Cold Case Homicides

The Ramapo College of New Jersey Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center (RCNJ IGG Center) and the Retired Investigators Guild (RIG) are proud to announce a groundbreaking partnership aimed at addressing one of the most pressing challenges in law enforcement: unsolved violent crime. The collaboration, formalized through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), brings together the expertise of the RCNJ IGG Center with the decades of field experience held by members of the RIG.

This partnership leverages the unique strengths of both organizations to pursue justice for victims and provide answers for families affected by unsolved crimes. Under the terms of the MOU, the RCNJ IGG Center will provide pro bono IGG services on RIG cases. The collaboration will also provide hands-on learning opportunities for Ramapo College students studying criminal justice, forensic science, and related fields.

“Investigative genetic genealogy is a game-changer in cold and active cases, and this partnership will allow our expert team to expand the reach of this powerful investigative tool,” said Cairenn Binder, assistant director of the RCNJ IGG Center. “We are proud to work with an organization with the expertise and national reach of RIG,” said David Gurney, director of the RCNJ IGG Center.

The partnership’s efforts will include collaborative case reviews, public awareness campaigns, and joint training sessions for students and investigators. By combining the expertise of seasoned detectives with the groundbreaking investigative method of IGG, the initiative aims to uncover new evidence, revisit investigative strategies, and use advanced investigative techniques to crack these challenging cases.

“Our RIG Investigators have spent their careers pursuing justice, and this partnership with Ramapo College allows us to continue that mission in a meaningful way,” said Mike Marty, CEO of the Retired Investigators Guild. “Together, we can provide fresh perspectives and resources to bring resolution to cases that have gone unsolved for far too long.”

The Retired Investigators Guild, a nonprofit organization comprises former law enforcement professionals who bring unparalleled investigative skills and dedication to this endeavor. With a mission to apply their expertise to cold cases, RIG members work tirelessly to uncover new leads and collaborate with law enforcement agencies nationwide.

To learn more about the of the Ramapo College IGG Center, visit ramapo.edu/igg. To learn more about the work of The Retired Investigators Guild, visit therig.org.



NTER 2025 Dave Sobczyk Memorial Award Nominations are Open

On behalf of the National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Program Office, the Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI) Program Management Office is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2025 Dave Sobczyk Memorial Award, which honors Fusion Center personnel that have applied and advanced the SAR process in innovative ways to achieve mission success.

Nomination submissions are intended to articulate how you—or others—have optimized the utility from SARs to support analytic production and strategic reporting processes. Fusion Center personnel are eligible to nominate a staff member of the Fusion Center network that works in a SAR-based or adjacent portfolio.

The Dave Sobczyk Memorial Award recognizes Fusion Center analysts that exemplify exceptional adherence to the Suspicious Activity Reporting mission. Your nomination should include specific examples of excellence based on the awards criteria.

[Learn More Here](#)

Articles We Read This Week



US must not become complacent to a growing terrorism threat, a Counterterrorism Center official says

Holmgren cites multiple factors for why the threat is higher than before, including passions arising from the Israel-Hamas war — a conflict that he says has been a driving factor in some 45 attacks worldwide since October 2023. He also points to mass migration from the Russia-Ukraine war that has sent central Asians, some with ties to the Islamic State group, to countries including Turkey, Syria, Iraq and even the U.S.

[Text Link](#)



Cruz introduces bill to increase penalties for those who target law enforcement

It's already illegal under federal law to kill or attempt to kill federal law enforcement officers, judges and correctional officers. Current law allows for an aggravating factor to be considered when deciding whether to impose the death penalty in a federal charge. The bill would add to the aggregating factor list if the defendant killed or attempted to kill state and local police officers, firefighters and other first responders.

[Text Link](#)



Law enforcement can't detect cannabis use on the road, researchers hope to change that

Cannabis has been legalized in some form across 38 states, but law enforcement still don't have a reliable way to test for cannabis use on the road. For the past year, a team of researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder has been trying to solve this issue by developing research on a breathalyzer for the psychoactive drug.

[Text Link](#)



A tough-on-crime approach is back in US state capitols

After a period of relaxed sentencing laws, a tough-on-crime approach is back in political favor in the U.S. Republicans and Democrats alike are promoting anti-crime initiatives as a new year of lawmaking gets underway in state capitols. That comes after voters in several states approved ballot measures in the fall imposing stricter penalties for crimes ranging from shoplifting to deadly drug dealing.

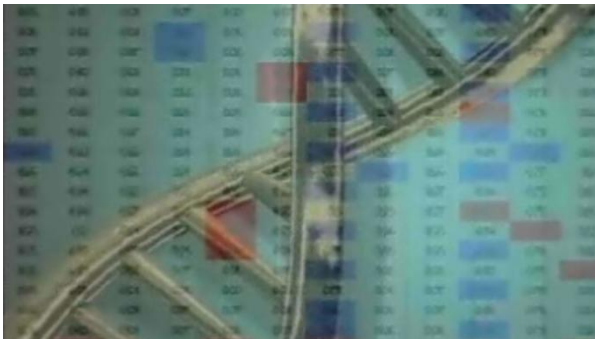
[Text Link](#)



DJI ends software to stop drones from flying in restricted areas

DJI, a Chinese-based technology company, got rid of its geofence software, which stopped people from flying drones over the White House, runways, power plants and during public emergencies.

[Text Link](#)



Governor proposes first-in-US Crime Analysis Joint Special Operations Command

As part of her 2025 State of the State agenda, Governor Kathy Hochul proposed on Saturday creating the nation's first-ever Crime Analysis Joint Special Operations Command (CA-JSOC) Headquarters to help fight crime and coordinate intelligence sharing among hundreds of local, state and federal law enforcement entities.

[Text Link](#)



Kern County response to Los Angeles fires includes much more than firefighters

The Kern County Fire Department joined the fight in Los Angeles last week along with additional county departments that are doing their part to assist residents down south. While containing the fire is of the utmost importance, different county departments are assisting in other areas like Kern County Sheriff's Office, who is helping identify remains of fire victims.

[Text Link](#)

Upcoming Events



American Correctional Association Winter Meeting

Orlando, Florida

January 10 - January 15, 2025



Major County Sheriffs of America 2025 Policy Conference

Washington, D.C.

January 27- January 29, 2025



2025 National Sheriffs Association Winter Conference

Washington, D.C.

February 3- February 5, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



**2025 National Sheriffs
Association Winter Conference**

Washington, D.C.

February 1 - February 5, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

[Learn More Here](#)



**National Fusion Center
Association Annual Training
Event 2025**

Washington, D.C.

April 22- April 24, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

[Learn More Here](#)



**2025 Association of State
Criminal Investigative
Agencies Spring Conference**

Biloxi, Mississippi

April 27- April 30, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



**2025 Major Cities Chief Association
Winter Conference**

Washington, D.C.



**2025 SEARCH Winter Membership
Group Meeting**

Columbia, SC

February 5 - February 7, 2025

January 28- January 30, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

[Learn More Here](#)

About BBM



Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC is a team of experienced professionals who serve as trusted advisors to law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence practitioners and solution providers.

Our government relations practice helps clients advance critical policy priorities with Congress, federal agencies, and state legislatures. Our business strategy consulting practice enables companies to connect innovative products and services with market needs.

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