



ASIRT 2021 Gala Speaker and Honoree Bios

Andrew D. Koblenz

Andrew D. Koblenz, an ASIRT Board of Directors Vice President, is the National Automobile Dealers Association's (NADA) Executive Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel. He directs the association's Legal and Regulatory Group, which represents NADA and dealer interests before federal agencies. Koblenz supervises a staff of eight attorneys specializing in franchise and state law, corporate law and federal regulatory affairs.

Prior to his current position, Koblenz was vice president of industry affairs from June 2001 to February 2006, directing the activities of NADA's Industry Relations and Industry Analysis departments, as well as the association's American Truck Dealers Division. Previously, he served as NADA's executive director and special counsel for industry affairs for two years, representing the interests of franchised automobile dealers in policy, operational and other discussions with vehicle manufacturers.

Before joining NADA, Koblenz served for five years as a senior attorney with the American Manufacturers Association. There, he advised the association on a variety of issue areas including sales, credit, leasing, and finance law, product safety and liability, intellectual property and benefits and taxation. From 1990 through 1994, Koblenz was a partner at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Richardson, Berlin & Morvillo where he specialized in corporate and securities matters.

The Rt Hon Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT GCMG HonFRSE PC

Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen was the 10th Secretary General of NATO from 1999-2003 and UK Secretary of State for Defence from 1997-1999. He was a member of the UK House of Commons for 21 years representing Hamilton in Lanarkshire and was elected a member of the Shadow Cabinet in 1992.

Lord Robertson was one of the pioneers of the compulsory use of seat belts in cars. He is now Chairman of the FIA Foundation, one of the world's premier road safety campaigning organisations. He is a member of the FIA High Level Panel on Road Safety and on the Advisory Board of the UN Road Safety Fund. He is a Senior Counsellor with The Cohen Group based in Washington DC and Special Adviser at BP plc. He is one of the Sixteen Knights of the Thistle, Scotland's highest honour and was presented with the US Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W Bush in 2003.

Robin Hutcheson

Robin Hutcheson is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Safety Policy for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Prior to being appointed to the Biden-Harris Administration, she was the Director of Public Works for the City of Minneapolis, where she focused on leveraging public right of way investments for broader equity, environmental, and economic outcomes. She served as the Transportation Director for Salt Lake City, UT, working to improve all modes of transportation. Robin was also a consultant specializing in transportation and transit, and has worked in cities throughout the western United States, in London and France, and for the European Union Commission on Sustainability. She believes deeply in collaboration, partnership, and communication, and brings these values in to her daily work. Robin served for seven years on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Transportation Officials (NACTO), most recently serving as its President.

Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN)

Congressman Steve Cohen is a fourth-generation Memphian who has dedicated his life to public service. As a child, the challenges of living with polio taught him how to overcome obstacles through persistence and determination, values which would shape his career as a legislator. Filing to run for office on the same day he first registered to vote, Congressman Cohen stepped onto the path that has defined his life and affected the lives of people in Memphis, across Tennessee and now across America throughout his career in national, state and local politics.

During his term as a Shelby County Commissioner, Congressman Cohen cast the deciding vote for the creation of The MED which today, as Regional One Health, has one of the finest trauma care and burn center units in the Mid-South. This would be the first in a long line of votes during his career that would define his legislative philosophy: fighting to ensure the basic human rights of every American, such as access to health care.

During his 24 years in the Tennessee State Senate, Congressman Cohen amassed a strong record of passionate, honest and unselfish service. He consistently spurned special interests to stand up for the people's interests. In 1984, he drafted and passed a resolution creating one of the first state Holocaust Commissions in America to educate others about and to commemorate the Holocaust. On issues ranging from civil rights to funding for the arts to women's rights to animal welfare, Congressman Cohen was a relentless advocate in the Tennessee State Senate even in the face of overwhelming opposition. Before he was elected to Congress, he became known throughout the state as the "Father of the Tennessee Lottery," after leading the referendum effort that instituted arguably the most successful education initiative in Tennessee history. In November of 2015, Congressman Cohen was named a member of the Highway Bill Conference Committee where he worked with his colleagues from the House and Senate to craft the first bipartisan, long-term surface transportation bill in a decade to improve our nation's infrastructure.

Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC)

Richard Hudson is serving his fifth term representing North Carolina's 8th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He currently serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and in House leadership as the Republican Conference Secretary.

Rated the most effective legislator from North Carolina according to the Center for Effective Lawmaking, Rep. Hudson has also been named the 12th most conservative Member of the House by National Journal, demonstrating a commitment to delivering results without compromising principles.

In Congress, Rep. Hudson is dedicated to working across the aisle on solutions to support our veterans, defend our Constitutional rights, create jobs and improve our quality of life.

As Fort Bragg's Congressman and a voice for North Carolina veterans, Rep. Hudson remains committed to supporting our active-duty military, veterans and their families. In Congress, Rep. Hudson has led legislation to ensure warfighters and Special Forces who are serving in combat receive the pay and tax relief they deserve, no matter where they see combat. He introduced bipartisan legislation to improve veterans' access to health care and break up the bureaucracy at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Rep. Hudson also sponsored legislation to support wounded veteran caregivers and increase military family education and support.

Recognized as a national leader on defending the Second Amendment, Rep. Hudson authored H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, to ensure law-abiding citizens do not become criminals when crossing an invisible state line. He is also an avid hunter and outdoorsman who serves as a co-chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. Rep. Hudson has an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association (NRA) and continues to lead efforts in Congress to end gun violence and protect schools. As a Christian and father, Rep. Hudson defends the right to life and has consistently been awarded the "True Blue" award from the Family Research Council Action and a 100% rating from National Right to Life.

To grow our economy, Rep. Hudson championed middle-class tax cuts and is focused on solutions to create jobs. As a member of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Hudson is also committed to making health care more affordable and accessible, improving health care for our veterans, addressing the tragedy of veteran suicide, and harnessing all sources of American energy to lower costs for everyone and create jobs in North Carolina. He has also led efforts to clean up chemicals in drinking water which impact our overall quality of life.

Richard grew up in Charlotte, graduated from Myers Park High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, while serving as Student Body President. His past volunteer leadership service includes membership on the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Board of Trustees, Board of Governors of the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association, Board of Managers of the West Cabarrus YMCA and Board of Directors of the Cabarrus Jaycees.

Edward B. Cohen

Edward B. Cohen is an attorney whose 45-year career in public policy and law in Washington, D.C. includes service in both the public and private sectors.

In the private sector, Mr. Cohen was Vice President for Government and Industry Relations for Honda North America, responsible for legislative and major regulatory policy issues at the federal and state level for all of Honda's products including motor vehicles, power equipment and aircraft.

Mr. Cohen also practiced law as a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Davis Wright Tremaine. He specialized in regulatory law before myriad federal regulatory agencies. He also maintained a practice in legislative advocacy, helping clients to achieve their business objectives before Congress.

In the public sector, Mr. Cohen was appointed by Secretary Bruce Babbitt as Deputy Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, managing a staff of 250 attorneys in 11 separate locations. He also served as Deputy Special Assistant to President Jimmy Carter with a focus on domestic policy issues affecting the American consumer. Mr. Cohen began his career as a member of the professional staff and Staff Counsel to the United States Senate Committee on Commerce where he was responsible for issues related to transportation and consumer safety.

Mr. Cohen is a lecturer in the University of Wisconsin – Madison's Washington, D.C. program, teaching a seminar on Congress. He is a member of the Board of Visitors of Wisconsin's Department of Political Science and has served on the Boards of a number of not-for-profit organizations.

Michael Dreznes

Mike Dreznes has spent the last thirty-six years working to make the roads safe around the world. He is recognized as one of the world's leading specialists on roadside/median safety promoting the concepts of the "Safe System Approach" and "Forgiving Roads." As a big believer in capacity building, Mr. Dreznes has conducted scores of road safety training seminars on roadside safety, work zone safety, vulnerable user safety and road safety audit in more than seventy countries around the world.

Mr. Dreznes was the Co-Chairman of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) AFB20 (2) Roadside Safety Subcommittee on International Research Activities from 2001-2019. He is the Co-Chairman of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) Decade of Action Pillar 2: Safer Roads and Mobility Project Group.

In January 2015, Mr. Dreznes was named the winner of the TRB AFB20 Roadside Safety Design Committee Kenneth Stonex Lifetime Achievement Award. In September 2020, Mr. Dreznes was named the Road Safety International Ambassador for the Decade of Action by the Puerto Rico Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Mr. Dreznes retired as the Executive Vice President of the International Road Federation (IRF) on December 31, 2020.

Joy Sturm

Joy Sturm is a partner in the Government Contracts practice at Hogan Lovells, a leading global law firm.

Over the last two decades, Ms. Sturm has built a practice focused on government contracts in the life sciences sector. She advises companies – from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups – on the full range of issues associated with their contracts and funding agreements with the federal government.

As a recognized leader in the life sciences procurement area, Ms. Sturm is called on to assist in the negotiation of contracts for the most critical medical products – including, most recently, contracts for the sale of COVID-19 vaccines to the United States Government.

Ms. Sturm writes and speaks frequently on federal procurement topics, including domestic preference and “Buy American” programs, and she has co-authored a comprehensive monograph on federal contracting for drugs and biologics.

Donna Price

Donna Price founded the Irish Road Victims’ Association (IRVA) in 2012 following the Coroner’s inquest into the sudden death of her 18-year old son Darren in a road crash in March 2006, and is chairperson of this organisation which is the national charity for road crash victims in Ireland.

IRVA provides free information and support including bereavement counselling and legal advice to victims and their families and assists families at every stage of Garda investigations, coroner’s inquests and civil and criminal legal proceedings. IRVA hosts an event to mark World Day of Remembrance for Road Victims every year which is attended by hundreds of bereaved families from all around the country.

Donna is also Founder and Co-Chair of the International Road Victims’ Partnership (IRVP), a partnership of some 150 NGOs from all regions of the world – a member of the UNRSC, United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and ETSC, European Transport Safety Council.

Donna is also a board member of the Road Safety Authority, recently reappointed by the Minister and serving a second term.

Donna is the winner of the Road Safety Authority’s ‘Ambassador of the year for road safety leading light award’ in Ireland in 2015 and the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety FedEx award in 2021.