



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS



Sheriff Sue Rahr (Ret.) **King County Sheriff's Office, Washington** **Seattle, WA**

Sue Rahr began her 42-year law enforcement career as a deputy with the King County Sheriff's Office in 1979 and worked her way up through the ranks until she was elected Sheriff in 2005. Rahr's tenure as Sheriff was marked by a focus in de-escalation tactics, a notable example being the implementation of the L.E.E.D. Program (listen, explain, equity and dignity), which stresses the importance of providing officers with verbal communication training. She retired in 2012, after serving for seven years.

In 2012, Rahr left the King County Sheriff's Office to become the Executive Director of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. Her leadership saw the L.E.E.D. program instituted as a central component of the training curriculum, allowing her to re-configure the role of police officers from "warriors" to "guardians" of the community.

She was later named to President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which was created in the aftermath of a series of officer-involved shootings.

She served as a member of the "Executive Session on Policing" at the Harvard Kennedy School from 2011-2014; is a consultant with the NYU Law School Policing Project to Reimagine Policing; is the Co-Founder of the Center on Police Culture; serves as an advisor to many national police reform programs and organizations including the Council on Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration, and the Innovative Policing Program at Georgetown University with ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement) and Police for Tomorrow.

Rahr holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Washington State University and is a graduate of the National Sheriffs' Institute and the F.B.I. National Executive Institute. She has served as President of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Commissioner on the Washington State Forensics Investigation Council, executive board member of the National Sheriffs' Association, and as a board member for the National Police Foundation. She co-authored the seminal academic paper about transforming the training culture at the WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission - published in 2015 by the Harvard Kennedy School and the National Institute of Justice – introducing the national dialogue on shifting police culture from warriors to guardians.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 150 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews..

For event bookings, contact Speakers@LawEnforcementAction.org

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Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition