



**Human Sex Trafficking in Minnesota
September 22, 2008
Presenter Biographies**



Robin Phillips, Executive Director, The Advocates for Human Rights. Ms Phillips formerly served as the Director of the Women's Human Rights Program and as Deputy Director. Ms. Phillips is an attorney and has written on a variety of topics related to women's human rights including trafficking in women, employment discrimination, sexual harassment and domestic violence. She has also edited numerous reports on human rights issues in the U.S. and around the world. She has taught courses on women's international human rights at the University of Minnesota Law School and a general course on human rights at St. Thomas University Law School. Ms. Phillips has led and conducted fact-finding missions to document human rights violations in Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Macedonia, Poland, Armenia, Moldova, Nepal, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. In 2007 she led a delegation to Ghana to conduct statement-taking for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She has organized international conferences and trainings on human rights and NGO development issues. She also helped lead The Advocates' delegation to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in September 1995. Prior to The Advocates, Ms. Phillips practiced law with the firm of Briggs and Morgan in St. Paul, Minnesota. She received her law degree from Northwestern University School of Law and her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Pepperdine University.



Cheryl A. Thomas is an attorney and Director of the Women's Human Rights Program, a program she founded at The Advocates for Human Rights in 1993. Ms. Thomas has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School teaching women's international human rights law. Ms. Thomas has traveled extensively throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Latin America working with local groups and individuals to promote women's human rights. In 1995, she led The Advocates' delegation of 20 legal professionals to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing China. She has published numerous articles and reports on violence against women as a human rights abuse. Her most recent publication discusses judicial response to violence against women in the criminal justice system. After receiving her law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1983, Ms. Thomas practiced law at the Minnesota Attorney General's office and was a partner at the law firm, Briggs and Morgan. From 1999 to 2001 she served as Executive Director of WATCH, a court monitoring organization focused on cases of violence against women and children.

Celebrating 25 Years of Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Danette Buskovick is the Director of the Statistical Analysis Center in the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs where she is responsible for analyzing and reporting criminal justice data as well evaluating criminal justice intervention and prevention programs. Ms. Buskovick is responsible for completing the Department of Public Safety's annual Statewide Human Trafficking in Minnesota report as well as providing staff support to the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force. Danette received her undergraduate degree at the University of St. Thomas and is a 1998 graduate from the University of Minnesota's Masters in Social Work program.

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