

# Interstate Compact Success Stories: Why do compacts work so well?

## Speaker Bio

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### **Don Blackburn**

September 1, 2003 Mr. Don Blackburn became the first Executive Director of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision. Prior to this he had more than 30 years experience in law enforcement and corrections. Over the years his duties have included: Patrol Deputy, Patrol Division Commander, Detective, Narcotics Investigation Task Force Commander, Probation/Parole Agent, Probation/ Parole Regional Administrator, Compact Administrator, and Assistant Director of Probation and Parole. From 1987 to 1989 Mr. Blackburn served as President of the Utah Alliance of Police and Probation and Parole Administrators Association. He has received numerous awards and certifications during his career including: Utah Department of Corrections Executive Director's Award, Division Director's Achievement Award, 3-time recipient of the Utah DC Medal of Merit, and the William Frederick Award for outstanding service to the Interstate Compact. Mr. Blackburn is a graduate of Weber State University with a BS in Criminal Justice and Communications. Don can be reached at: [dblackburn@interstatecompact.org](mailto:dblackburn@interstatecompact.org).

### **William S. Morrow, Jr.**

Bill Morrow is Executive Director and General Counsel of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, an interstate compact agency regulating private sector passenger carriers in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Before joining WMATC as its General Counsel in 1991, Mr. Morrow was an associate with the Washington, DC, law firm of Brand & Leckie, which specialized in regulated industry antitrust litigation before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in various U.S. District Courts around the country. He serves as an advisor to the National Center for Interstate Compacts and is co-chair of the Interstate Compact APA Project sponsored by the Section of Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice of the American Bar Association. He appeared on behalf of the Transit Commission in *Old Town Trolley Tours, Inc. v. WMATC*, 129 F.3d 201 (DC Cir. 1997), a leading case in the development of interstate compact administrative law. Mr. Morrow has written extensively on administrative and regulatory law topics in general and has served as editor in chief of the ABA's Administrative & Regulatory Law News since August 2002. He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Maryland in 1980 with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Economics and received his J.D. from Georgetown in 1986, where he was a member of the *American Criminal Law Review*. He is admitted to practice in Maryland and in the federal and local courts in the District of Columbia. Bill can be reached at: [wmorrow@wmatc.gov](mailto:wmorrow@wmatc.gov).

### **Elizabeth Oppenheim**

Up until May 2006, Ms. Oppenheim worked for the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). She directed the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (AAICAMA) for which APHSA serves as the secretariat. In her position as Program Director of AAICAMA, she oversaw the administration of the compact and provided technical and legal assistance for the states with the goal of enhancing practice and policy in special needs adoption both intrastate and interstate cases. In her last 3 years at

APHSA, she also oversaw the administration of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and led APHSA's efforts to improve interstate practice and policy including its national effort to write a comprehensive amended new Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children.

Prior to joining APHSA in 1996, Ms. Oppenheim worked at Neighborhood Legal Services Program where she represented indigent families and children in cases concerning the provision of public benefits. She has also worked at the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) representing children and families in the foster care system. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Ms. Oppenheim established and directed an alternative therapeutic educational program for children in foster care. She has also served as a case manager for children in foster care. She is the author of numerous articles including: *Delays in the Interstate Home Study Process*, *U.C. Davis Journal of Juvenile Law and Policy* (with Ursula Gilmore and Daniel Pollack), Winter 2004; *Funding for Children in Foster Care: The Keffeler Case*, *Policy and Practice*, March 2003; and *Adoption Assistance for children with Special Needs* (with Alice Bussiere and Ellen Segal), *Adoption Law and Practice*, May 1999. Ms. Oppenheim received her J.D. degree from the Washington College of Law at the American University and her B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She wrote her legal thesis on *the Potential of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-27)*. She can be reached at: [loppenheim21@yahoo.com](mailto:loppenheim21@yahoo.com).

## **Michael H. McCabe**

Mike McCabe is the director of the Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments. In that role, he oversees the efforts of a twelve-member team that provides research and staff support services to several groups of state officials, including primarily the Midwestern Legislative Conference and the Midwestern Governors Association. Prior to assuming his current duties, he served first as a policy analyst and later as the assistant director of the Midwestern Office. Over the years, The Council of State Governments has played an instrumental role in the creation of numerous interstate compacts. During his tenure at CSG, Mike has provided drafting and consulting assistance in connection with several such agreements, including the Interstate Agricultural Grain Marketing Compact, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, the Interstate Insurance Receivership Compact, the Interstate Compact on Mental Health and the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. More recently, he participated in the development of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and the Interstate Compact for Juveniles. He is also the co-author of *The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts – A Practitioner's Guide*, published by the American Bar Association in 2006. Before joining CSG, Mike worked as an attorney with a private law firm in Des Moines, Iowa. A graduate of Iowa State University, he earned his law degree at the University of Illinois. Mike can be reached at: [mmccabe@cs.org](mailto:mmccabe@cs.org).

## **M. Diane Koken**

Pennsylvania's 45<sup>th</sup> Governor Edward G. Rendell nominated Diane Koken on April 22, 2003 to continue her service to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as Insurance Commissioner. Her nomination was confirmed by the Senate on June 18, 2003. Koken's tenure as Insurance Commissioner dates back to August 1997 when former Governor Tom Ridge first appointed her Acting Commissioner. The Pennsylvania Senate confirmed Koken in December 1997, and again in February 1999. This latest confirmation marks the third consecutive confirmation to this position since having first been appointed in 1997. As a member of the Governor's Cabinet, the Commissioner is responsible for the regulation of the insurance industry in the Commonwealth, and the protection of the insurance consumer. Pennsylvania ranks in the

top five in insurance premium volume in the country. In September 2004, and again in December 2004, Commissioner Koken was elected President of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), the first time a Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has held an officer position in the NAIC. Her term was completed in December, 2005. As President, Commissioner Koken was committed to working with insurance regulators around the country to protect consumers and maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry. At the present time, Commissioner Koken chairs the Interstate Compact Implementation Taskforce of the NAIC. Commissioner Koken's commitment to consumers and the industry has spanned her entire professional career and continues today. Prior to her state service, she was Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for a major life insurer. Diana can be reached at: [tseneca@state.pa.us](mailto:tseneca@state.pa.us).