

Biographies

EDITORS

Arian Avila



Arian Avila currently leads Workplace Services Technology and Security Operations for a major technology and financial institution. Her journey into corporate security began while pursuing her Ph.D. in Criminology at Northeastern University, when Bank of America offered her a position as their first crime analyst, charged with reducing bank robbery numbers. That opportunity launched her into a distinguished career in private sector safety and security.

Her leadership extends beyond corporate walls as a founding member of Global Security Pride, an organization dedicated to supporting and elevating the LGBTQIA+ community within the security field. She also supports private-public partnerships through leadership involvement in the FBI's Domestic Security Alliance Council (DSAC) and increasing engagement and advancement through her work with The Security Foundation (TSF). In 2024, she was named by Security Magazine as one of the Most Influential People in Security.

She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Master's degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Long Beach, and is currently finishing her Doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. When not immersed in security strategy or doctoral studies, she enjoys gaming with her kids, browsing independent bookstores, and indulging in musical theater and 80s pop culture.

Jennifer Walters



Jennifer Walters is a security leader based in Charlotte, NC. Her decades-long career leading corporate security teams—focused on strategy, innovation, and risk mitigation—has been fueled by her core values: protecting the people, operations, and assets of major financial institutions.

She is a vocal champion for advancing diversity in the security industry, working to challenge traditional norms and empower underrepresented professionals to thrive in security roles.

Through her writing, speaking engagements, and mentorship, she inspires current and future security leaders to think differently and embrace diversity not only as a value—but as a strategic advantage.

Jennifer is a single mother of four, with a grandchild on the way. She is an avid reader, enjoys writing whimsical short stories about her life's adventures, and maintains a rotating catalogue of hobbies. She strives to live by the words "find joy," and enthusiastically encourages everyone in her life to do the same.

FOREWORD

Lauren Bean Buitta



[Girl Security](#)'s mission is to empower girls and young women from underrepresented communities with the skills, experiences, networks, and support to pursue national security careers, which lead to job sustainability and greater societal impact.

Prior to founding Girl Security, Lauren served as a management consultant, providing strategic and analytical support to clients on local policy issues, including exclusionary land use policies and racial segregation in Chicago for over a decade. From 2002-2007, Lauren served as a national security policy analyst with a Chicago-based think tank, where she specialized in national security law.

In 2022, Lauren was named "One of the Most Influential People in Security" by Security Magazine. She was named "One of 50 Women Making the World a Better Place" by Instyle Magazine in 2021 and awarded the 21st Century Leader Award by the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Lauren is a former Fellow with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2003), Truman National Security Project (2006), American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security (2012) and a former Emerging Leader with Chicago Council on Global Affairs (2017).