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# Assembly California Legislature



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### INFORMATIONAL HEARING

## Driverless Disruption: Balancing the Safety Benefits and Concerns of Automated Vehicles

Monday, May 7, 2018  
2:30 P.M. ♦ State Capitol, Room 4202

### Hearing Participants' Biographies

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#### **Ben Husch, Senior Policy Director, National Resources and Infrastructure Committee National Conference of State Legislatures**

Ben Husch serves at the Senior Policy Director for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee. In this role, he leads NCSL's lobbying and advocacy work on transportation, environment, energy and agriculture issues before both Congress and the administration. He joined NCSL in March 2012 after nearly 4 years with the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO). He has a Masters of Public Policy from Rutgers University and Bachelor of Economics from Wake Forest University.

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#### **Jean Shiomoto, Director Department of Motor Vehicles**

Jean Shiomoto was appointed the Director of the California Department of Motor Vehicles by Governor Brown on November 5, 2013. Prior to that Jean was the Acting Director since January 2013 and the Chief Deputy Director from April 2012. Jean directs the statewide operations of the department with a budget of \$1 billion and over 9,000 employees. Statewide operations include driver licensing, vehicle registration, motor carrier licensing, driver safety, occupational licensing, and investigations. Jean also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and was appointed Chair in August 2016. Jean has been with the Department for over 29 years and has over 37 years of experience in administrative and fiscal management in State Government. In 2015, the department successfully implemented AB 60; the Safe and Responsible Driver Act to issue driver licenses to undocumented immigrants. The department has issued over 1 million AB 60 driver licenses to date. Jean earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the California State University, Sacramento in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. In addition, Jean is active in the Sacramento community with ACC Senior Services and served on the Board of Directors from 2007 to 2014 and the last two years as President.



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**Bernard Soriano, Deputy Director of Enterprise Risk Management  
Department of Motor Vehicles**

Bernard C. Soriano is a Deputy Director for the California Department of Motor Vehicles and is in charge of the department's autonomous vehicles program. He has over 35 years of engineering and management experience in the private and public sector. He previously held engineering and management positions at Hughes Space and Communications, Inc., where he designed spacecraft attitude control systems and was involved in their launch missions. Bernard holds a Ph.D. in Engineering from U.C. Irvine, a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southern California, and a B.S. in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering from U.C. Davis. He also holds an M.B.A. from California State University, Sacramento. Mr. Soriano was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve and has numerous publications and patents. His honors and achievements include selection as a finalist in the NASA astronaut program.

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**Assistant Chief Rich Desmond  
California Highway Patrol**

Assistant Chief Desmond has been a member of the California Highway Patrol for over 21 years. He worked as a patrol officer and supervisor in field commands in Los Angeles and Sacramento before rising in rank and serving as an investigator and manager in the Department's Office of Internal Affairs and Office of Legal Affairs. Assistant Chief Desmond oversaw all CHP field operations in eastern Sacramento County as a field commander before being assigned as the CHP's legislative representative in 2014. He was directly involved in the CHP's creation of an AMBER Alert system to locate abducted and missing children and helped develop the Department's Mental Illness Response Program that trains officers how to safely resolve encounters with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. He is a member of the Judicial Council of California's Traffic Advisory Committee, California Peace Officers' Association, and California State Bar. Assistant Chief Desmond holds a Bachelor of Arts from Santa Clara University and a Juris Doctor from McGeorge School of Law.

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**Jeremy Merz, Vice President, Western Region  
American Insurance Association**

Jeremy Merz serves as vice president for state affairs, Western region for the American Insurance Association. This includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Prior to joining AIA, Mr. Merz worked as a policy advocate at the California Chamber of Commerce, the largest business advocacy organization in the state. He represented over 14,000 company members before the California legislature, the governor's office, and regulatory agencies, specializing in workers' compensation, taxation, privacy, transportation, and infrastructure issues. He has also been an associate with Sacramento's largest law firm, Downey Brand, LLP, where he represented private defendants in state and federal courts on business litigation and employment law issues, and a judicial extern to the Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr., U.S.

District Court judge for the Eastern District of California. He also worked as a workers' compensation claims case manager for Liberty Mutual.

Mr. Merz received a B.A. in Economics from the University of California at Davis and a J.D. with distinction from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. While at McGeorge he served on the editorial board of the McGeorge Law Review.

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**Rosemary Shahan, President  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS)**

Rosemary Shahan is the president and founder of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS), which is based in Sacramento. CARS is widely recognized as one of the nation's leading pro-consumer auto safety and consumer advocacy groups. CARS has spearheaded enactment of many landmark measures to improve protections for new and used car buyers and enhance auto safety, in California and in Washington, D.C. Rosemary has repeatedly testified before Congress, and is widely quoted by major news organizations, including the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Parade Magazine, Reader's Digest, National Public Radio, and major TV networks. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her pro-consumer achievements. For the past several decades, she has been re-elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Consumer Federation of California and the Consumer Federation of America, where she serves as Chair of CFA's Committee on Transportation. Rosemary has been participating in the autonomous vehicle workshops convened by the DMV, and has been invited to testify regarding autonomous vehicles by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and by the California Senate Committee on Transportation.

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**Seth Shoen, Senior Staff Technologist  
Electronic Frontier Foundation**

Seth Schoen is a Senior Staff Technologist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation in San Francisco, where he has worked for over 16 years. As the first Staff Technologist at EFF, Seth has helped attorneys and the public understand technology as it relates to litigation and public policy. He has published research on computer forensics, exposed Internet service provider misbehavior, and developed privacy software. He has testified before three Federal regulatory agencies and in several courts, trained judges in Latin America, and spoken in more than 10 countries.

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**Barry Broad, Managing Partner  
Broad & Gusman, LLP.**

Barry Broad is the managing partner of Broad & Gusman, LLP., a law and lobbying firm he founded in 1994. Broad & Gusman represent major labor organization such as the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, International Association of Machinists, Amalgamated Transit Union, and the International Longshore & Warehouse Union in the area of government relations and administrative law. Barry has served on a number of Boards and Commissions, including the California Industrial Welfare Commission, the California

Building Standards Commission and the California Employment Training Panel, where he currently serves as chairperson. He is very active in the community, having served as President of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region and on the board of directors of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking. Mr. Broad is also the author of three novels, *Eve of Destruction*, *Requiem for the Damned*, and the forthcoming *Dark Sea Rising*.

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**Justin A. Erlich**  
**Head of Policy, Autonomous Vehicles & Urban Aviation, Uber**

Justin Erlich is Uber's Global Head of Policy for Autonomous Vehicles. He spent the previous two years on the leadership team of former California Attorney General (now U.S. Senator) Kamala Harris overseeing technology policy, strategy, and operations. Prior to that role, he worked as a strategy consultant for McKinsey & Co. as a part of the Public Sector and Sustainability practices, focused on the future of cities. He has a law degree from NYU and a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard.

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**Paul Hemmersbaugh**  
**Chief Counsel and Policy Director, General Motors**

Paul Hemmersbaugh is the Chief Counsel and Policy Director – Transportation as a Service (TaaS) at General Motors. Mr. Hemmersbaugh has more than 30 years of experience as a transportation lawyer and advocate, and has played a key role at the intersection of law and public policy relating to autonomous vehicles, emerging transportation technologies and enhancing vehicle safety. He is based in Washington, D.C. Prior to GM, Hemmersbaugh was the Chief Counsel of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In that role, he was a principal author of the Department of Transportation's Federal Automated Vehicles Policy, which set the federal government's policy framework for the rapid development of advanced automated vehicle safety technologies. Prior to his service with NHTSA, Hemmersbaugh was appointed General Counsel of the District of Columbia Bar for five consecutive years. He also served as a partner at the law firm of Sidley Austin in Washington, D.C. Hemmersbaugh graduated magna cum laude with a J.D. from University of Minnesota Law School and received his bachelor's degree magna cum laude from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

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**Ron Medford, Director of Safety**  
**Waymo**

Ron Medford joined Google in January 2013 as its Safety Director for the Self-Driving Car Program (launched as Waymo, December of 2016). In this position Ron leads the program's safety team that is working with other program development teams to ensure the safety of Google's (now Waymo's) self-driving car. Prior to taking on his current role Mr. Medford served as the Deputy Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation from January 2010 until December 2012. Ron began his career at NHTSA in May 2003 as the Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety. In this position, he was responsible for overseeing all

aspects of the U.S. auto safety programs. This included vehicle safety research, regulations, enforcement as well as the National Center for Statistics and Analysis. Before joining NHTSA, Mr. Medford was the Assistant Executive Director for Hazard Identification & Reduction at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). He was responsible for the regulatory and technical work of the Agency, such as overseeing the Directorates for Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Economic Analysis as well as the Agency's Chemistry and Engineering Laboratories. Mr. Medford spent more than 25 years in a variety of technical management positions at the CPSC. Just prior to joining NHTSA, Mr. Medford spent 10 months on a government-sponsored sabbatical to work with Dean Kamen, an inventor from Manchester, New Hampshire. Mr. Kamen is president of Deka Research and Development Corporation and is known for his inventions of the IBOT™ wheel chair and the Segway™ Human Transporter. Mr. Medford holds a B.S. and M.S. from the University of Maryland. He currently lives in Santa Clara, California.