

## NRF 2009 Awards & Recognition Program



Sponsored by



## **2009 Law Enforcement Retail Partnership Award (LERPA)**

### **LERPA Winners:**

David Hill, Detective, Montgomery County Police Department

Philip Soto, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service



From Left to Right: Melissa Mitchell, Director, Loss Prevention, LifeWay Christian Stores; David Hill, Detective, Montgomery County Police Department (MD); Rhett Asher, Vice President, Loss Prevention, National Retail Federation

### **Case Description:**

In May of 2008, Detective David Hill received a tip from a local retailer about awkward purchases made in their store. By working with Special Agent Philip Soto, Detective Hill uncovered that the credit cards being used to purchase the gift cards were still in the possession by the original owners, thus it tipped them off that there was a potential skimming case in existence. Detective Hill collaborated with retail Asset Protection Investigators from Target and Wal-Mart while Special Agent Soto utilized his extensive contacts with the banks to gather information on how the suspects were operating. The tenacity, investigative skills and dedication to this case highlight both Detective Hill and Special Agent Soto's absolute commitment to the business community, retail industry and Greater Washington, DC Metro Area. Both Detective Hill and Special Agent Soto displayed exemplary leadership on the case.

### **Nominated by:**

Chad Affrunti, Asset Protection Field Investigator, Wal-Mart  
Leah Palmer, Investigator, Loss Prevention, Target

## 2009 Loss Prevention Case of the Year Award

### Loss Prevention Case of the Year Winners:

Kausha Bass, Assistant Distribution Center, Loss Prevention Manager, GameStop

John Gay, Distribution Center, Loss Prevention Manager, GameStop



From Left to Right: Adel Sayegh, President and CEO, United Surveillance Systems; Laurie Sorensen, Regional Vice President, Macy's Inc.; Melissa Mitchell, Director, Loss Prevention, LifeWay Christian Stores; Kausha Bass, Assistant Distribution Center Loss Prevention Manager, GameStop; John Gay, Distribution Center Loss Prevention Manager, GameStop; Tina Seller, Vice President, Loss Prevention, GameStop; Rhett Asher, Vice President, National Retail Federation

### Case Description:

In October 2008, GameStop Loss Prevention Managers John Gay and Kausha Bass received information from an employee about a warehouse worker acting suspiciously. During the first day of video surveillance, the suspect was observed with two other employees concealing almost 100 PlayStation Portable games and several PSP game systems. Interviews with the suspects revealed the involvement of five employees. Consistent, independent admissions, supported by documented inventory losses resulted in the successful organized crime prosecution of all suspects for causing over \$257,000 in theft-related losses during a four-month period.

## 2009 Loss Prevention Ring of Excellence



**2009 Inductees:**  
**Sandy Katz**  
**Gary Manson**  
**George Slich**



From Left to Right: Melissa Mitchell, Director, Loss Prevention, LifeWay Christian Stores; Gary Manson, Sandy Katz, George Slich, Rhett Asher, Vice President, Loss Prevention, National Retail Federation; Adel Sayegh, President & CEO, Universal Surveillance Systems

### **Sandy Katz**

Sandy Katz, a twenty-four year veteran of loss prevention, has been viewed by his peers as a man of distinguished integrity. Currently, Sandy serves as the Founder of SFK Consulting and works alongside retailers assisting with their loss prevention strategies and operation controls. Prior to founding this organization, he led the loss prevention and control activities of the major international retailer, Talbots, Inc., and consistently developed innovative programs. Sandy is very engaged in the loss prevention community, speaking at numerous conferences and liaising between the NRF, retail and vendor communities. Sandy Katz has contributed so much to the common good of the loss prevention industry for many years with great dedication and passion.

### **Gary Manson**

Gary Manson, recently retired with over 35 years in retail loss prevention. For the past 25 years, Gary was responsible for the loss prevention program at one of the most prestigious, luxury retailers, Neiman Marcus Group for the past 25 years. As the Vice President for Neiman Marcus Group, which includes Neiman Marcus Direct and Bergdorf Goodman locations, he enjoyed incredible success. He developed and implemented loss prevention strategies and programs consistently yield low shrink rate of well under 1%. There are many in the industry today, who are now Vice-Presidents, Directors, Regional and District level managers that have been fortunate to have been mentored by Gary.

### **George Slich**

George J. Slich, a pioneer in loss prevention, recently retired after 17 years with Zale Corporation. George began his career with Zale in March 1991 as Vice President of Loss Prevention and was promoted to Senior Vice President of Loss Prevention in 2000. Prior to joining Zale, George held various positions in corporate security, including Vice President of Loss Prevention and Audit for P.A. Bergner & Company. Additionally, he served as a special agent in various field offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition, He was instrumental in fighting legislation across the country related to Verified Response. His efforts benefited all retailers and educated retailers, law enforcement and legislators. Finally, through the Jewelers Security Alliance (JSA), George was an advocate for information sharing between authorized LP professionals using an e-mail based real time alert system.

## Loss Prevention Volunteers in Action

Recognizing Loss Prevention professionals making significant and measurable contributions to charitable organizations. These contributions include fundraising, outreach, volunteering and activities that have made a positive impact in the community. Many thanks to the companies below for dedicating time and support to these organizations.

CheckPoint	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Cracker Barrel	Tornado Relief: Murfreesboro, TN
Gander Mountain Foundation	Courage Center & Starkey Hearing
Genesco	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Hibbett Sports	Habitat for Humanity
Kohl's	Alex Rodriguez Educational Center, Texas Food Bank Headstart Programs, Empressa Elementary Schools Special Education
LifeWay Christian Stores	Benefit Concert for Traveling Clinic for Impoverished Families
Luxottica	One Sight International
TJX	Charity Bike-a-thon
Universal Surveillance Systems	Christmas for needy families
Winn Dixie	Hurricane Relief