|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Belinda Hill**  **First Assistant**  Immediate Release:  **Harris County District Attorney**  September 17th, 2013 |  | **Criminal Justice Center**  **1201 Franklin, Suite 600**  **Houston, Texas 77002 901**  **Contact**  Camille Hepola  Jeff McShan  W: (713) 755-0122 |

Assistant DA Recognized For Human Trafficking Efforts

*ADA Ann Johnson will be a guest speaker at the 43rd Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference on September 19th*

Acting District Attorney Belinda Hill announced today Assistant District Attorney Ann Johnson will address human trafficking issues at the national level as a speaker at the 43rd annual Congressional Black Caucus’ Legislative Conference. Johnson, who specializes in investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes in Houston, will be a panelist at the four-day conference in Washington, D.C. She will provide input and advice on how to develop and further policies aimed at ending modern-day slavery when she speaks on September 19th.

“Human trafficking affects every social class and all ages,” says Johnson. “Addressing and combating this issue is complex and requires in-depth investigations, prosecutions, and services for victims. This requires the assistance and cooperation of multiple governmental agencies, non-profits, and the community at large.”

“Human trafficking has become the second fastest growing criminal enterprise in the U.S., second only to drug trafficking.” Johnson says. “Having continued support and resources for law enforcement and the understanding of our legislative bodies is critical.” Tragically, Houston is known as a hub for human trafficking where most victims are minors and approximately 70% end up in the sex trade. “We are thrilled to have the support of the leadership of our Texas delegation, and the opportunity to speak with the Congressional Black Caucus as they consider this important issue.”

Late District Attorney Mike Anderson hired Johnson in February to specialize and combat human trafficking.

Houston Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee will lead the human trafficking portion of the conference. For more information, please visit <http://www.cbcfinc.org/newsreleases/105-news-releases/2013-newsarchive/684-cbcf-announces-43rd-annual-legislative-conference.html>.