



INDIANA ALCOHOL & TOBACCO COMMISSION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indiana Law Enforcement Officer Wins National Recognition *Officer confronts violence, enforces lawful operation at establishments*

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 15, 2025) — The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association has named Indiana State Excise Police Officer Adam Buckley as the 2025 Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year.

The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association is a nonprofit membership organization representing more than 1,700 federal, state, local and campus law enforcement professionals across more than 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Buckley was selected for the award for his professionalism, investigative skill and courage in high-risk situations. He has played a central role in investigating violent crimes at licensed establishments. In 2024, he served as lead or key investigator in nearly 100 violent-incident cases, contributing to 830 administrative violations and warnings, twice as many as any other district in the state.

“Officer Buckley represents the best of Indiana law enforcement,” said Governor Mike Braun. “His courage, professionalism, and commitment to keeping Hoosiers safe, especially in some of the most dangerous situations, is extraordinary. Indiana is grateful for officers like him who uphold the law, protect our communities, and ensure that businesses operate responsibly. This recognition is well deserved.”

While on patrol in Indianapolis one weekend, Buckley advanced toward an active shooter at a nightclub, assisted a gunshot victim and helped apprehend the armed suspect. His actions earned him a departmental commendation.

Additionally, Buckley’s work through the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission’s Proactive Alcohol Compliance Enforcement program helped turn a business plagued by frequent shootings into a compliant and safe operation.

Buckley’s investigative accomplishments include leading a major undercover case involving illegal alcohol sales that resulted in multi-agency search warrants and the seizure of thousands of prohibited products. He also played a critical role in resolving a mass shooting at an underage promoter event, which led to nearly 30 charges, including reckless homicide.

“Officer Buckley’s recognition underscores the vital role the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission plays in ensuring that licensed businesses operate responsibly and that communities remain safe,” said ATC Chairwoman Jessica Allen. “His work

demonstrates how strong enforcement, paired with a commitment to fairness and integrity, protects Hoosiers while strengthening confidence in the industries we regulate.”

The award was presented during the association’s annual conference, held Nov. 17–19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

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ABOUT THE INDIANA ALCOHOL & TOBACCO COMMISSION

The Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission is responsible for issuing and regulating alcoholic beverage permits throughout the State of Indiana. The Commission issues and regulates alcohol facility permits for businesses, as well as employee permits for bartenders, waiters, waitresses, salespersons, and clerks who wish to sell, serve, or dispense alcoholic beverages. The Commission is also charged with issuing tobacco sales certificates and regulating the sale of tobacco products in Indiana. The Commission is comprised of four (4) members who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Indiana, and no more than two (2) Commissioners may belong to the same political party. All citations issued by Indiana State Excise Police are subject to review by the ATC Prosecutor who ultimately has discretion on whether to file a formal administrative violation against a retailer regulated by the ATC. Additionally, all individuals charged with a criminal offense are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.