

## The WFSA at the IWA 2017

### PRESS RELEASE

The annual Plenary Session of the World Forum on Shooting Activities was held in conjunction with IWA, The International Trade Fair for Hunting and Sport Shooting, on March 2, 2017, under the title: **“BREAKING STEREOTYPES”**

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Tiffany Johnson - attorney, teacher and firearms safety instructor, spoke on how she became a firearms safety instructor, a handgun permit holder, and a fervent advocate of the rights of individuals to defend themselves, despite the sufferings she experienced during her life due to more than one gun-related personal loss.

After law school, Tiffany's career began in litigation, but she later founded her own business as a legal research and writing consultant. She drafts appellate briefs for other attorneys and conducts professional development seminars on persuasive writing, legal analysis, document design, and visual rhetoric. She also teaches several classes at the University of Memphis and manages the Legal Studies Program there.

In her early twenties, Tiffany was first introduced to the world of firearms. As an atypical newcomer to the shooting community, she once again recalled the themes of Harper Lee's novel and strove to remain open-minded. The effort paid off, and Tiffany has since accumulated hundreds of hours of advanced training in firearm safety, marksmanship, and personal defensive tactics through her affiliation with Rangemaster Firearms Training Services. She is now a certified handgun instructor, a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, a member of the Second Amendment Foundation, and a vocal advocate for the individual right to self-defense for all global citizens.

#### **WFSA Vito Genco Shooting Ambassador Award**

Mr. Torbjörn Lindskog – WFSA President, opened the WFSA Plenary Session and welcomed all participants.

The WFSA Vito Genco Shooting Ambassador Award 2017 was granted to Ms. Kim Rhode – American double trap and skeet shooter, six-time Olympic medal winner, including three gold medals, and six-time national champion in double trap.

She is the most successful female shooter at the Olympics as the only triple Olympic Champion and the only woman to have won two Olympic gold medals for Double Trap. She won a gold medal in skeet shooting at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, equaling the world record of 99 out of 100 clays. Most recently, she won the bronze medal at the Rio 2016 Olympics making her the first Olympian to win a medal on five different continents and the first Summer Olympian to win an individual medal at six consecutive summer games.

Two panel discussions followed.

The first panel, entitled: **“Legislation at UN and EU level”** included the following speakers:

*NGO in Roster Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*

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- Mauro Silvis (Italy) – Member of the European Shooting Sports Forum, who spoke on the latest developments regarding the EC proposal to reopen the firearms directive”
- William Kullman (USA) – Senior Adviser for International Affairs of the U.S. Bureau ATF, who spoke on “The activities at UN level related to firearms and ammunition”.
- Rick Patterson (USA) – SAAMI Executive Director, who spoke about the issue of lead in ammunition

The second panel, entitled: “Academia and Reality of Legally Held Firearms and Firearms Crime” included the following speakers:

- Sophie André (Belgium) – Assistant Professor, University of Liege, Criminology dept.
- Marina Mancuso (Italy) – Assistant Professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Transcrime dept.

A Very interesting Questions & Answers session with the audience followed.

### **Call to action**

The closing Call to Action address was given by Mr. Juergen Kohlheim on behalf of Jörg Brokamp from Deutscher Schützenbund e.V.