Kirsta Leeburg Melton is the Founder and CEO of Institute to Combat Trafficking, a strike team dedicated to providing on-location training, investigation and prosecution assistance as well as community specific anti-trafficking assessment and solutions. For the last five years Melton served as the Deputy Criminal Chief of the Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section of the Office of the Texas Attorney General and for the 15 years prior to that she prosecuted human trafficking, physical and sexual abuse of children, adult sex cases and family violence in San Antonio, Texas. It was during her time in San Antonio that she helped establish and lead the Bexar County District Attorney’s Human Trafficking Unit as well as reinvigorating and leading the Alamo Area Coalition against Trafficking. Melton is responsible for several of the State’s first life sentences for trafficking and served as the lead prosecutor for the State of Texas in the takedown of Backpage.com in April 2018. Melton also chaired the Texas Statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and Coordinating Council, the Alamo Area Coalition against Trafficking, and served as a member of the steering committee for the Central Texas Coalition against Trafficking. She has trained more than 20,000 people in person on human trafficking and has been featured in multiple training films utilized by hundreds of thousands of additional people. Melton played a critical role in the restructuring of Texas trafficking law and procedure and is regularly called to consult with and testify before the Texas legislature on trafficking issues. Melton graduated from Cornell University in 1993 and received her JD and Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas in 1998.