

NATIONAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IV ON CHILD WELFARE

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Summit Speakers

Tina Amberboy has served as the Executive Director of the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children’s Commission) and the Court Improvement Director for Texas since 2007. She is responsible for developing and executing strategies of the Children’s Commission, as well as the day to day operations of the Commission, which is charged with improving child welfare outcomes for children and families through judicial system reform and leadership. Prior to working for the Supreme Court, she worked as an attorney representing children and parents involved the Texas child welfare system. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Baylor Law School in 1996 and a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1993.

Justice Max Baer was elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in November of 2003, assumed his duties on January 5, 2004 and was retained in 2013. Prior to his elevation to the Supreme Court, Justice Baer served on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County from January of 1990 to December of 2003. He spent the first 9½ of those years in Family Division, and was the Administrative Judge of the Division for 5½ years. During his tenure, Justice Baer implemented far-reaching reforms to both Juvenile Court and Domestic Relations, earning him statewide and national recognition. Justice Baer eventually was assigned to the Civil Division, where he continued to distinguish himself until assuming his new duties on the Supreme Court. In acknowledgement of his innovations in family court, in 1997, Justice Baer was named Pennsylvania’s Adoption Advocate of the Year. In 1998, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services presented him with the Adoption 2002 Excellence Award for Judicial Innovation. He was honored for receipt of this award at a White House ceremony presided over by President and Mrs. Clinton. In 1998, the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania honored Justice Baer for his years of dedicated service to Pennsylvania families, and in 2000, the Pennsylvania Bar Association named him Child Advocate of the Year. In 2003, the Justice accepted the Champion of Children’s Award from the Homeless Children’s Education Fund, and in 2004, was recognized as “most valuable peacemaker” by Pennsylvania’s Council of Mediators. In 2005, he was awarded the Three Rivers Youth Nellie Award for Civic Leadership. Justice Baer is the former Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and an ex officio representative to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. He has served on the Joint State Government Commissions on Adoption Law and Services to Children and Youth, and is the former chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Family Law Section and a former member of the Conference’s Education Committee. The Justice has served as a guest professor at Carnegie Mellon University over the years, and has been a frequent lecturer to professional and lay groups throughout Pennsylvania on various issues. He has also served on numerous Boards, including Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, Catholic Charities and the Consumer Credit Counseling Corporation. Justice Baer was recognized for his leadership in helping dependent children find permanent, loving families in the Casey Family Program Report, “How are the Children? Inspiring Hope. Renewing Vision. Influencing Action.” (May 2010) Judge Baer wrote two chapters for The Judge’s Book, a publication of the National Conference of State Trial Judges; authored “Custody Wars – The Creation of a New Weapon of Mass Destruction,” 21 PA Family Lawyer, Issue No. 4, 1999, and Family Law and Civility; Can They Coexist? 24 Family Lawyer, Issue No. 1, 2002; and was a guest columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, commenting on the Elian Gonzales case. Justice Baer is now leading far-reaching reforms to Pennsylvania’s courts and child welfare system’s efforts to assist its most

vulnerable citizens - our abused and neglected children. Since these innovations began, Pennsylvania has safely reduced the number of children in foster care from almost 22,000 to less than 14,000, giving these children permanent homes and a far better chance at life. The State has also reduced the number of children entering the child welfare system and the length of time a child spends there, resulting in healthier and better adjusted youth. Concomitantly, these accomplishments have saved taxpayers in excess of \$300 million. Because of these successes, which continue unabated, Pennsylvania has become recognized nationally as a model system, and multiple states are now attempting to implement the innovative reforms that began here.

J. Joseph Baxter was appointed State Court Administrator for Rhode Island in May of 2004, after serving as Assistant State Court Administrator from 2001-2004. Preceding his appointment to the Administrative Office of State Courts, Mr. Baxter served in various capacities for the Rhode Island Family Court, including Administrator from 1999-2001. Mr. Baxter was elected as Town Moderator for Smithfield, Rhode Island from 1984-1986. He was appointed to the Smithfield Board of Canvassers from 1989-1992, serving as Chair from 1990-1992. He served on the inaugural Smithfield Charter Review Commission. He received his B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University and M.P.A. from the University of Rhode Island. He is a certificate recipient in Effective Caseload Management from the National Judicial College and is a certificate recipient in Divorce Mediation Training from Roger Williams University. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) from 2014-present. He served as a member of the Conference of Chief Justices' (CCJ) Pandemic and Emergency Response Task Force. He is Co-Chair of the CCJ/COSCA Joint Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness. He has served on numerous committees for various initiatives of the Administrative Office of State Courts. He is a member of the National Association of Court Management. Mr. Baxter is a recipient of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Employee of the Year Award and is a recipient of the 2016 Neil J. Houston, Jr. Memorial Award. Mr. Baxter is currently serving as the President of the Conference of State Court Administrators.

Justice Dawn H. Beam, the daughter of a minister, was born in Marks in the Mississippi Delta and as a child lived in numerous communities across the state. She graduated from Caldwell High School in Columbus, Mississippi. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business from the University of Mississippi, and a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. She was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1989. She has spent most of her legal career in the Pine Belt area. She was elected to and served for three years as county prosecutor for Lamar County, and for five years as a chancellor of the Tenth Chancery District, which includes Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River and Perry counties. Her work as a chancellor and as a county prosecutor included protection of abused and neglected children. After her appointment to the Supreme Court, she continued work for the protection of children and families as co-chair of the Commission on Children's Justice, co-chair of the Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships and co-chair of Mississippi's Family First Initiative. She makes her home in Sumrall. She is a member of Sumrall United Methodist Church in Lamar County. She is married to Dr. Stephen Beam. They have five children. Justice Beam and her husband are very active in their community.

Cindy Bricker has been the Court Improvement Program Director for Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts for the past 6 years. She has a passion for children and families and understands the importance of hearing their voice and involving them in system change.

Angela Olivia Burton is the Director of Quality Enhancement for Parent Representation, New York State Office of Indigent Legal Service. She received her B.S. from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and her J.D. from New York University School of Law. She started her legal career while still in law school, representing children in New York City Family Court as a student attorney in NYU Law's Juvenile Rights Clinic. Upon graduation, she clerked at the New York State Court of Appeals with the Hon. Fritz W. Alexander II from 1991-1992. She was an associate at the law firm of Debevoise and Plimpton from 1992-1995, and an Instructor of Law at New York University School of Law from 1995-1998. She joined the faculty at Syracuse University College of Law in 1998 as the Director of the Children's Rights and Family Law Clinic, and from 2003 – 2012 she was an Associate Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, teaching courses on

lawyering practice, family law, children's rights, and the child welfare system. She currently serves as Special Advisor to the NYS Commission on Parental Legal Representation (the "DiFiore Commission"), and is a member of the NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children and the NYS Bar Association Committee on Families and the Law.

Hon. Mark S. Cady was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1998 and was named Chief Justice in 2011. His current term expires December 31, 2024. Elected Chief Judge, Iowa Court of Appeals, 1997. Appointed: Iowa Court of Appeals, 1994; District Court Judge, 1986; District Associate Judge, 1983; Assistant Webster County Attorney. Attorney in private practice. Law Clerk, Second Judicial District, 1978. Adjunct faculty, Buena Vista University (serves on President's Advisory Council). Member: Order of Coif (honorary), Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, and Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers (honorary). Iowa Chair, iCivics Inc. Served as Chair of the Iowa Supreme Court Task Force on the Court's and Communities' Response to Domestic

Abuse. Outstanding Alumnus Award, Drake University Law School (2011); Alumni Achievement Award, Drake University (2012); Iowa Judges Association Award of Merit (2015); Iowa Association of Justice Judicial Achievement Award (2016). Coauthor, of Iowa Practice: Lawyer and Judicial Ethics (Thomson-West 2007); "Preserving the Delicate Balance Between Judicial Accountability and Independence: Merit Selection in the Post-White World," Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy (2008). Author, "The Iowa Judiciary, Funding, and the Poor," 60 Drake Law Review 1127 (2012); "A Pioneer's Constitution: How Iowa's Constitutional History Uniquely Shapes Our Pioneering Tradition in Recognizing Civil Rights and Civil Liberties," 60 Drake Law Review 1133 (2012). Honorary Doctorate of Public Service, Buena Vista University (2012). Undergraduate and law degrees, Drake University. Born in Rapid City, South Dakota. Married, two children, three grandchildren. Chief Justice Cady also currently serves as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, and he co-chairs the CCI/COSCA Standing Committee on Children and Families in the Courts.

Christopher Church is the Staff Attorney for the CHAMPS Clinic at the University of South Carolina School of Law, a pediatric medicolegal partnership. At the Clinic, Christopher represents parents in various civil matters to promote the social determinates of family health. His practice includes pediatric disability, education, housing, and public benefits cases. He is also the owner of Palmetto Family Advocacy, LLC, a child welfare consulting organization that works with federal, state, and local child welfare professionals to use data to better serve children and families. Christopher holds a Masters in Mathematics from the University of North Texas and a JD from Gonzaga University School of Law. He completed his undergraduate studies at Concordia College in New York. Christopher is licensed to practice law in GA and SC and is certified by NACC as Child Welfare Law Specialist. He lives in Columbia, SC with his wife, Amanda, and their two dogs, Frances & Beauregard.

William "Bill" DeLisio, MSLS, BSAS, Family Law Programs Manager at Colorado's State Court Administrator's Office, has twenty years of experience as a judicial administrator and court program manager at the local and state level. Bill is responsible for leading child and family initiatives, building teams, catalyzing new way of thinking, and improving the administration of justice through collaboration. Prior to joining the State Court Administrator's Office, Bill worked in Colorado's Seventeenth Judicial District from December 1999 – August 2005 as Domestic Relation Case Manager, Juvenile Family Court Facilitator and Juvenile Court Programs Manager. Bill is a podcaster. In July 2017 he attended the Podcast Movement and began applying what he learned to developing an internal podcast for the Colorado Judicial Department. The podcast is titled Beyond the *Collabobabble* and the focus is collaboration. As June of 2019 thirty-three episodes have been completed and episodes began being released in July 2019. Bill oversees numerous programs in his role at the State Court Administrator's Office, including Distance Learning/Online Training, Court Improvement Program – Juvenile Dependency and Neglect, Child Support Services, Probate, Office of Dispute Resolution, Domestic Relations Programs, and Access to Justice.

Judge Leonard Edwards is a retired Superior Court Judge now working as a consultant and teacher. In his work he provides technical assistance to the courts of California, courts across the country, and in a number of foreign countries, particularly in areas involving children and families. Judge Edwards served for 26 years as a Superior

Court Judge in Santa Clara County, California. He sat as a domestic relations judge and as a juvenile court judge. He also served for six years as Judge-in-Residence with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, a division of the California Judicial Council. During his judicial career, Judge Edwards founded and was the first president of the Juvenile Court Judges of California, was founder of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council, was founder of Kids In Common, and founder of the Child Advocates of Santa Clara County. Judge Edwards was the President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2002-2003. Judge Edwards has taught at the University of Santa Clara Law School, Stanford Law School, and the California Judicial College. He has provided judicial trainings in over 47 states and 11 foreign countries. Judge Edwards has written widely including two recent books entitled *The Role of the Juvenile Court Judge: Practice and Ethics* and *Reasonable Efforts: A Judicial Perspective*. Judge Edwards has received many awards for his work. He was the recipient of the 2004 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

Judge Trent Favre was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant in late 2017 to serve as Hancock County's first County Court Judge. His role includes youth court matters involving child abuse and neglect as well as delinquency matters in addition to a civil litigation docket. Prior to his appointment, Judge Favre practiced for 19 years focusing primarily on civil litigation and governmental law. Judge Favre graduated from Millsaps College in 1996 and The University of Mississippi School of Law in 1999, where he was a member of the Mississippi Law Journal and Moot Court Board. He is a 2009 graduate of Hancock Leadership, a 2010 graduate of Leadership Mississippi, and a 2011 graduate of the Gulf Coast Business Counsel Masters Program. He has served as a board member to various organizations including United Way of South Mississippi, Hancock Chamber and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, which he chaired. In 2011, he was named one of Hancock County's Top 10 Outstanding Citizens and in 2013, he was recognized by The Sun Herald as a Top 10 Under 40. That same year, he was also recognized as a Mississippi Business Journal Top 40 Under 40. In March, he was named as Mississippi's 2019 Champion for Children for the judicial branch and in June 2019 the Child Welfare and Child Advocacy Committee of The Mississippi Bar recognized him as a Reunification Hero for the State of Mississippi. This year, he also served on Mississippi's performance improvement planning committee. When he took the bench in January 2018, there were close to 400 children in custody. Today, there are 138 children in custody, which is a 65 percent decrease in the number of children in foster care. He is married to Shannon and they are the proud parents of Katie and Sam.

Honorable Anita Fineday (White Earth) became the Managing Director of the Indian Child Welfare Program for the Casey Family Programs in 2011. She previously served as the Chief Judge for the White Earth Tribal Nation for 14 years. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado School of Law. She has previously served as an associate judge for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa. She has also taught federal Indian law and policy at the tribal college, university and law school levels. She is an enrolled member of the White Earth Tribal Nation.

Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez is the vice president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Center for Systems Innovation which entails overseeing national and state reform efforts in three key areas: child welfare, young people transitioning into adulthood, and juvenile justice. Prior to assuming this role in 2018, Gasca-Gonzalez served as the director of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. She previously worked at KVC Health Systems, a national leader in behavioral health care, child welfare, and community health and wellness. As the nonprofit's executive vice president of practice and leadership integration, Gasca-Gonzalez led efforts to transform child welfare systems with results-based decision making and clinical best practices. Gasca-Gonzalez's earlier career stops include the Child and Family Services Agency in Washington, D.C., KVC Nebraska and EmberHope, a Kansas-based nonprofit serving at-risk youth and families.

Justice Ingrid Gustafson was appointed to the Montana Supreme Court in December 2017. Prior to that she presided over a general jurisdiction court serving Montanans for 14 years as a District Court Judge for the 13th Judicial District, Yellowstone County, Montana, the largest judicial district in Montana. She was appointed to the District Court bench in 2004 and was elected 3 subsequent times. Prior to taking the bench in 2004, Judge

Gustafson practiced law for 16 years maintaining a broad based private practice which included state and federal criminal defense, personal injury, and domestic relations cases. In 2011, Judge Gustafson started the 13th Judicial District's felony drug court and worked with individuals with substance abuse disorders to help them gain the tools and incentives necessary to conquer their substance abuse problems to become productive, law-abiding citizens. From 2011 until her appointment to the Montana Supreme Court Judge Gustafson also operated a pilot court in the area of child dependency successfully reunifying families. She is currently Vice President of the Montana Judges Association and recently served as a Commissioner on the Montana Commission on Sentencing, a legislatively created commission formed to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Montana's criminal justice system and make recommendations for Justice Reinvestment. She is also serving on the National Center for State Courts Evidence Based Sentencing Judicial Peer Group as well as Montana's Pre-Trial Advisory Committee, the Court Assessment Program and the State Bar's Fee Arbitration Committee. Justice Gustafson is a graduate of Montana State University where she majored in Business Marketing and was a four-year varsity alpine ski racer. She is an NCAA All-American and member of the Montana State University Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1988 she received her law degree from the University of Montana graduating with honors.

Mark Hardin, JD, served for almost 30 years on the staff of the ABA Center on Children and the Law as director of child welfare. Mark was an early innovator in the child welfare legal field and led the effort to develop and enact the national Court Improvement Program. His research and scholarship and his work on legislative, regulatory, and court rule reform affecting abused and neglected children helped shape child welfare legal policy and practice. He continues to be involved in child welfare issues.

Sarah Jacobs is a native of Florida with an extensive background in law and policy surrounding juvenile justice and child welfare. Sarah studied law at Ave Maria School of Law and the University of New Mexico School of Law, and she has been licensed to practice law in the State of New Mexico since 2012. After passing the bar, Sarah worked in domestic violence and sexual assault survivor advocacy, and as the Children's Court Attorney in New Mexico's First Judicial District, where she co-chaired the regional juvenile justice board and focused her practice on progressive alternatives to traditional juvenile justice issues. Sarah currently serves as the juvenile justice and child welfare attorney for the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts where she works as the Court Improvement Project Director which seeks to improve children's court processes, manages the parent and child attorney contracts statewide for abuse and neglect cases, and currently serves as the project director for the Strengthening Child Welfare Systems Grant which seeks to expand interdisciplinary legal practice in child welfare cases statewide. She lives in Santa Fe with her french bulldogs, Roy and Eleanor.

David P. Kelly, Special Assistant, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, oversees the U.S. Children's Bureau's work with courts and the legal community, including the State and Tribal Court Improvement Programs. Prior to joining the federal government, David was an Assistant Staff Director at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law and a Senior Assistant Child Advocate at the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate.

The Honorable Anne K. McKeig joined the Minnesota Supreme Court in September 2016, making her the first female American Indian appointed to any of the state's highest courts in all of the United States. Justice McKeig previously served as an assistant Hennepin County Attorney and district court judge. She teaches as an adjunct professor at both St. Thomas School of Law and Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and has spoken at numerous conferences regarding child protection, domestic violence, and tribal community issues. A descendant of the White Earth Nation, Justice McKeig is a native of Northern Minnesota, married, and a proud mother of five children.

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Edwina G. Mendelson was appointed in 2017 to head the newly expanded Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI), which is tasked with ensuring meaningful access to justice for all New Yorkers in civil, criminal and family courts, regardless of income, background, or special needs. In service of this mission, the OJI's Access to Justice Program administers pro bono attorney and other volunteer programs, self-help services, Help Centers, and many other resources designed to serve unrepresented litigants. Additionally, Judge

Mendelson directs several juvenile and family justice court initiatives, including the Office of Court Administration's Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, and the implementation of the seminal new law raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York State. Judge Mendelson also remains active on the bench. She travels to New York State's correctional facilities to preside over pro se trials in her capacity as a Court of Claims judge and serves in Supreme Criminal Term, NY County. She most recently presided over the Youth Part in NY County Supreme Court, hearing cases of youth charged as adults. After representing clients in New York City Housing Court, Supreme Court and Family Court, Judge Mendelson joined the court system as a Court Attorney-Referee in Queens County Family Court. She later became a Family Court Judge in 2003, a Queens County Supervising Family Court Judge in 2008, and a year later, she was elevated to Administrative Judge of all New York City Family Courts. She maintains active membership and leadership positions in several bar associations and committees involving criminal law, family law, and juvenile justice.

Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer, LISW is the founder and CEO of the national non-profit, *Alia: innovations for people and systems impacted by childhood trauma*. Alia is building a Proof of Concept that public child welfare agencies can serve as primary prevention agencies with a newly redesigned purpose of keeping children safe *with*, not *from*, their families. Alia works with child welfare leaders who are innovators and early adapters in jurisdictions around the country and the globe to create transformational change child welfare. Amelia was named as one of *People Magazine's "25 Women Changing the World"* in 2018 and has a widely viewed TEDx Talk on the Human Need for Belonging. Amelia has also been honored was a Bush Fellow and an Ashoka Fellow. Amelia and Team Alia are leading a national movement to create a child welfare system across the country where all people - youth *and* their caregivers - can thrive.

Jerry Milner is the Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau. Jerry began his career as a case carrying social worker, served as the state child welfare agency director in Alabama, and previously worked for the Children's Bureau designing and implementing the CFSR. Immediately prior to his appointment, he served as the Vice President for Child Welfare Practice at the Center for the Support of Families.

The Honorable Amy L. Nechtem is the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court Department. As Chief Justice, she advances the administration and management of policy and practice affecting juvenile justice and child welfare in the juvenile courts throughout the Commonwealth. Chief Justice Nechtem is the Past President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), the country's leading voice for women jurists committed to diversity and equality in the system of justice. Chief Justice Nechtem

has served on the NAWJ Board of Directors for over fifteen years, and she currently serves on its Juvenile Justice/Child Welfare Committee. Chief Justice Nechtem was awarded the Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Award, which is given to honor a judge who brings distinction to his or her office and exemplifies the mission of NAWJ. Chief Justice Nechtem speaks nationally on issues relating to youth and families and is a member of the Casey Family Program 21 Century Child Welfare System Steering Committee focusing

on prevention, safety, stability and permanency for the youth in the system. Chief Justice Nechtem served as a Assistant District Attorney for many years in Boston prosecuting child abuse and major felony cases. Chief Justice Nechtem is a graduate of Simmons University where she received the Outstanding Community Service Award, and graduated with honors from Suffolk University Law School where she currently serves on its Board of Trustees. Chief Justice Nechtem was recently named Top Women in Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and is a recipient of Massachusetts Judges Conference Judicial Excellent Award.

Jeyanthi Rajaraman, Esq., is the Chief Council and chief attorney of Legal Services of New Jersey's Family Representation Project (FRP). The FRP provides parents in child abuse or neglect and termination of parental rights litigation with information, advice and representation. Additionally, the FRP provides advice and representation to youth in DCP's care, both those who have become parent defendants themselves and those who are seeking aging-out services from the Division. The FRP participates in many child welfare committees, including the statewide Children in Court Committee along with the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee.

At the Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNC), Jey also provides advice, support, and trainings statewide for other attorneys who represent parents, and provides community trainings on various areas of advocacy. She is also responsible for training and mentoring all of New Jersey Legal Services staff and pro bono attorneys. Additionally, she is the co-chief section counsel of LSNJ's Youth Law Project, which provides legal advice and information to New Jersey youth. As part of her work with the FRP, Jey has argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court in *Re D.C.* and co-authored several LSNJ's amicus briefs such in *Division of Youth and Family Services v. L.L.* Jey serves as a member of the National Alliance for Parent Representation. She has been a presenter at the ABA national child welfare conference and at other state child welfare training conferences. In addition, Jey is the coordinator and primary trainer at Legal Services of New Jersey's annual seminar on New Jersey child welfare litigation.

Sandra E. Moore *Sandy assumed the position of Director for the Office of Children & Families in the Courts (OCFC), Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in January 2008. In this role, Sandy works closely with the Honorable Max Baer, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Justice overseeing the state's Dependency Court Improvement Project. This oversight includes providing leadership for Pennsylvania's Children's Roundtable Initiative, the overarching structure of the state's court improvement initiative. Additionally, the office coordinates specific court improvement activities including a Statewide Dependency Court Management/Data system, a Dependency Bench Book, the Family Engagement Initiative, a graduated educational curriculum for Dependency Judges, and training for Guardian ad Litem and Parent Attorneys. Most recent priorities have included enhanced youth and parent voice in court proceedings, reducing the use of congregate care, and a revised focus on reasonable effort judicial findings. Prior to her current position, Sandy held the dual position of Dauphin County (home to the state's capitol, Harrisburg) Children & Youth Administrator/Human Services Director where she supervised a \$200 million budget and a workforce of 400. Beginning her career in the late 1980s as a social worker in the California Child Welfare system, Sandy has over 20 years of direct casework and administrative experience. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Welfare and a Master's of Social Work. She has presented at local, national and international conferences. Sandy has taught at various colleges and universities, including California State University at Fresno and Temple University.*

Joan E. Ohl serves as a Senior Director for Casey Family Programs, leading Strategic Consulting work in Virginia and West Virginia, as well as other jurisdictions. From 2001-2009, she served as Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Family (ACYF) in the Administration for Children and Families (AFC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During her tenure, Child and Family Service Reviews were implemented, Rounds 1 & 2, and resource centers were established to provide technical assistance; AdoptUSKids was initiated; Court Improvement Programs were expanded; and the Fostering Connections legislation was enacted, giving Tribal Nations direct access to Title IV-E funding. Prior to joining ACYF, Joan served four years as West Virginia's Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). She successfully implemented TANF, certified three statewide information systems, vacated two federal court orders, and oversaw the establishment of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Judge Kathleen Quigley was raised in Tucson, Arizona. She attended Northern Arizona University and University of Arizona Law School. She was admitted to the Arizona State bar in 1987. She was employed by the Pima County Attorney's Office in November of 1987 and worked there in various capacities, including supervisory, until September of 2003. In September of 2003 she was appointed as a hearing officer at the Pima County Juvenile Court and then in April of 2009 she was appointed by the Honorable Patricia Escher to serve as a Commissioner at the Pima County Juvenile Court. In October of 2012 she was appointed by Governor Jan Brewer to the Pima County Superior Court Bench. She was appointed as the Presiding Judge of Pima County Juvenile Court in July of 2014. Kathleen is deeply committed to improvements in the Child Welfare system for children and families and towards that end, chairs statewide committees and is a member of many other committees. She is a long-time member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and has been a board member since July 2018. Kathleen is married to Chris Wassenberg, and they have four children.

Jennifer Renne, J.D. is the Director of the Capacity Building Center for Courts at the American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law. In her 20 years at the ABA, Jennifer has provided training and technical assistance in almost every state on a wide variety of issues including improving permanency outcomes, achieving permanency for older youth, child safety, and collaboration between court systems and the child welfare agency. Her publications include books titled Making it Permanent: Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plans for Foster Children, Legal Ethics in Child Welfare Cases, and Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Lawyers. She is a former supervising attorney of the Child Advocacy Unit at Maryland Legal Aid, and a former adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Jennifer received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Rodriguez, J.D., is Executive Director of the Youth Law Center (YLC), a public interest law firm that has worked for 4 decades to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the nation so every child and youth can thrive. YLC is currently implementing the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI), a systems change strategy to strengthen foster care by focusing policy, practice and culture around excellent parenting for children, in over 75 jurisdictions in 10 states. Jennifer's advocacy began as a former foster youth who spent too much of her childhood in foster care and juvenile justice institutions, and has resulted in significant national policy, practice and culture changes around the needs of youth and including system involved youth as part of all policy processes. Jennifer received her J.D. from UC Davis, and is the proud mother of two beautiful children.

Dawn Marie Rubio, J.D., joined the Washington AOC as State Court Administrator on January 1, 2019. Prior to Washington, Ms. Rubio worked with the Utah AOC as Administrator for the statewide Juvenile Court and Commissioner for the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. Dawn Marie also worked as Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. For 11 years, Ms. Rubio worked as a NCSC Principal Court Management Consultant during which she directed national, state, and local projects improving court organization and operations with emphasis on children, families, and problem-solving courts. Ms. Rubio began her career with the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida holding various administrative and legal positions in the family and juvenile court. Ms. Rubio earned a Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor from the University of Florida. She is a member of the Florida Bar Association, an ICM fellow, and the recipient of the 2006 NCSC Staff Excellence Award.

David Sanders, Ph.D., Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement, joined Casey Family Programs in July 2006. He provides strategic direction over the foundation's work with child welfare systems to improve practice, with an emphasis on safely reducing the number of children in foster care. Prior to joining Casey Family Programs, he directed all operations for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the largest county system in the country, with about 6,000 staff serving approximately 22,000 children in foster care. He previously served 10 years as director of the Hennepin County (Minn.) Children, Family and Adult Services Department, managing a staff of 1,450. In 2013, Dr. Sanders was appointed by President Obama to a key administrative post as chair of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. The same year Dr. Sanders also was selected to chair the Los Angeles Blue Ribbon Commission. Dr. Sanders is the recipient of the 2008 Grace B. Flandreau Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, recognizing his significant contributions to juvenile justice and child welfare. The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrations honored Dr. Sanders in 2007 with the Peter W. Forsythe Award for Leadership in Public Child Welfare.

Professor Vivek Sankaran, a clinical professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School, directs both the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic, through which law students represent children and parents in trial and appellate proceedings. Professor Sankaran has written numerous articles focused on improving the child welfare system and has litigated cases before the Michigan Supreme Court. In addition, he conducts state and national trainings and works on child welfare initiatives with various national groups, including the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, and the National Center for State Courts. After graduating from Michigan Law in 2001, Professor Sankaran received a Skadden Fellowship to represent children at The Children's Law Center in Washington, D.C., where he remained until 2005, when he joined the Law School

faculty. In 2009, Professor Sankaran founded the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, the first organization in the country to provide multidisciplinary legal assistance to families to prevent the unnecessary entry of children into foster care. Most recently, Professor Sankaran co-edited both the first national book for family defense lawyers and the third edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice*, a widely recognized resource used by child welfare lawyers across the country.

Kevonne Small is a senior attorney advisor in the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section (FCS) in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Ms. Small leads investigations into allegations of discrimination in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities. Prior to joining FCS, she was a trial attorney in the Division's Criminal Section prosecuting alleged offenses involving law enforcement, hate crimes, and human trafficking. Before joining DOJ, she worked at the Urban Institute and ICF International managing social science studies. Prior to that, she was a criminal justice professor at California State University, San Bernardino. She has authored numerous reports and journal articles and presented study findings at national conferences. Ms. Small obtained her law degree from Villanova University and her Ph.D. in Justice, Law & Society from American University.

Shannon E. Smith is the Executive Director of the ICWA Law Center since July 1, 2004. The mission of the ICWA Law Center, a non-profit legal service organization, is to strengthen, preserve and reunite Indian families consistent with the mandates and spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Shannon started with the ICWA Law Center in 2000 as a Staff Attorney. She has over 19 years of experience working in the field of Indian child welfare. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School class of 1999 with honors. In 1999, she earned the Minnesota Justice Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award. Immediately after graduating from Law School, Shannon clerked for the Honorable Robert A. Blaeser of the Hennepin County Juvenile Court. As an Anishinaabe from the White Earth Reservation, Robert Blaeser was the first Native American Indian judge appointed in the Minnesota metro area. Judge Blaeser is a well-known expert on the Indian Child Welfare Act. As a law clerk, the intersection of stories at the center of ICWA proceedings and the legal complexities of federal, tribal and state law inspired Shannon to pursue a career in ICWA work. Shannon is highly regarded as a leader in this field and serves on several committees affecting the interests of Indian children and their families. She continues to provide direct legal representation to Indian families. She has represented over two thousand families in ICWA proceedings. Through advocacy and collaboration with tribes, the ICWA Law Center is committed to the best interests of Indian children and their families and in turn the creation of stronger communities.

Corey Steel was appointed by Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican as Nebraska State Court Administrator on May 2, 2014. Mr. Steel previously filled the position of Deputy Administrator for the Nebraska Office of Probation Administration in charge of the Juvenile Services Division. He has served at the Office of Probation Administration for the State of Nebraska since October 2007. Some of his duties with Probation Administration include implementation of evidence-based practices, juvenile justice priorities, collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate access to services, oversight of juvenile service delivery, oversight of Nebraska's statewide JDAI initiative, implementation of the Cross Over Youth Practice Model, development and recommendations of innovative strategies concerning access to services, disposition options and probation practices related to juvenile and restorative justice, and policy and programming concerning support services for juveniles. In addition to having a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in business management, he is a Fellow of the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. He also serves as co-chair of the CCJ/COSCA Standing Committee on Children and Families in the Courts.

Deborah Taylor Tate serves as the Director of the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts. From being known as the "Children's Commissioner" while serving as a Presidential appointee to the FCC, to her role as President of CASA and representing children as a Guardian ad litem, Director Deborah Taylor Tate has spent her 30+ years in public service being a champion for children and families. As a legal counsel to 2 Tennessee Governors, she served on numerous Juvenile justice initiatives and was instrumental in the rewrite of the Mental Health code insuring a specific chapter for children. In her present role as CEO for the court system, she served

on 2 Juvenile Justice Reform Task Forces, the Child Improvement Program, and was recently honored by End Slavery TN for her young victims' work. Her child-centered board service includes Co-Chair of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force, National Advisor, Common Sense Media, Family and Children's Services, Centerstone, Inc., Community Foundation, Junior League, and CASA.

Judge William A. Thorne, Jr. (ret.), a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian from northern California, was appointed to the Utah Court of Appeals in May 2000 by Gov. Michael O. Leavitt. He retired in September of 2013. He was a judge in the Third Circuit Court for eight years, having been appointed by Governor Norman Bangerter in 1986, and then served in the Third District Court for six years, having been appointed by Governor Leavitt in 1994. Judge Thorne received a B.A. from the University of Santa Clara in 1974 and a J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1977. Judge Thorne has served for over 34 years as a tribal court judge in Utah, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nevada, California, Nebraska, and Michigan. He is the former president and current vice-president of the National Indian Justice Center (a nonprofit that trains tribal court and other personnel around the country), and a former member of the Board of Directors for National CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates, a nonprofit group that provides volunteer representation for abused and neglected children in court). He was formerly a member of PEW Commission on Children in Foster Care. In 2016 the National Center for State Courts recognized Judge Thorne with their Distinguished Service Award.

Dan Wilde, JD, Deputy, Guardian ad Litem Division, Office of the Wyoming State Public Defender has a BS in Political Science with a minor in Native American Studies from Brigham Young University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Wyoming, College of Law. Dan was the principal attorney in two successful federal class action suits to reduce the populations and improve services at the Wyoming State Hospital and the Wyoming State Training School. He joined the Wyoming Office of the Attorney General in 1996, and spent the next ten years striving to improve the delivery of services to children and families from within state government. Initially, Dan's duties included representing the Departments of Education and Family Services. In 2004, Dan created the Children's Permanency Unit within the Office of the Attorney General and successfully wrote and submitted the Grant Application for the Court Improvement Project with the Wyoming Supreme Court. In 2006, Dan was appointed to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Family Services. In 2013, Dan became the Deputy Director of the Wyoming Guardian ad Litem Division.

Rob Wyman is an attorney consultant with the Judicial Engagement Team of Casey Family Programs, currently working in Maricopa County Juvenile Court in Arizona to further the goal of safely reducing the number of children and youth in the foster care system. Rob Wyman is also the Co-Director of the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) at the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts where he works with judges, commissioners, court staff, attorneys, social workers, CASA and other stakeholders in child welfare to improve dependency court practice.