

Illinois Mental Health Task Force
A Special Screening of the Newly Released Documentary
“The Definition of Insanity” and Family Panel

Panel Biographies

Tonya Brown is the mother of Tyree Demone Davis Jr. who was shot and killed by the Chicago Police Department on January 4, 2020. Tyree was raised in the Chicago area. Tyree suffered from Schizoaffective Disorder which was diagnosed at age 18. From then until he was killed at the age of 26, Tonya fought to help him survive the mental health system and the criminal justice system. She now lives in Las Vegas, NV.

Mindy Greiling served in the House of Representatives in Minnesota for 20 years, including 14 after her son was diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder in 1999. She initiated the first state bipartisan mental health caucus where legislators worked together to pass legislation, including allocating the most annual funding for mental health in Minnesota history. She served on national and state National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) boards and currently serves on the University of Minnesota Psychiatry Community Advisory Council. Greiling's memoir, "Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for Her Son," about her family's experience and legislative work was published by the University of Minnesota Press in October. The best place for information about the book is Mindy's website: mindygreiling.org

Judith L. Harris recently retired after 45 years of practicing law in DC, both in the private sector and in the Federal government, to work full-time as President of the Foundation that she, her husband, and her surviving son established 5 1/2 years ago following the death, at age 34, of her older son Matthew, a graduate of Princeton, who died as the result of an undiagnosed and untreated serious mental illness.

Norman Ornstein is Vice President of the Matthew Harris Ornstein Memorial Foundation, <http://mornstein.org>, which was the catalyst for creation of the film. He is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He is a contributing editor and writer for The Atlantic and has been an election eve analyst for CBS News and BBC News. He is also Chairman of the Board of the Campaign Legal Center. He served as a senior counselor to the Continuity of Government Commission and co-directed the AEI-Brookings Project on alternatives to the Independent Counsel Act. Mr. Ornstein led a working group of scholars and practitioners that helped shape the law, known as McCain-Feingold, which reformed the campaign financing system. He was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004. His many books include Intensive Care: How Congress Shapes Health Policy; The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track, with Tom Mann; and The New York Times bestseller, It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism, also with Tom Mann (2012, named Book of the Year by Ezra Klein's Wonkblog, one of the ten best books on politics in 2012 by The New Yorker, and one of the best books of 2012 by The Washington Post. An expanded edition, retitled It's Even Worse Than It Was, was published in 2016. His latest book, with EJ Dionne and Tom Mann, One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate and the Not-Yet-Deported (2017) was immediately on The New York Times and Washington Post bestseller lists. Ornstein has a BA from the University of Minnesota and an MA and PhD from the University of Michigan. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from his alma mater in 2007. Ornstein was spotlighted as one of 2012's 100 Top Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy Magazine.

Patricia Tobias has been with the NCSC's Court Consulting Services division as a Principal Court Management Consultant since August 2014. Ms. Tobias has experience working in a wide variety of national, statewide, and local projects including those involving leadership and governance, caseflow management, strategic planning, child welfare, criminal justice reform, and improving the justice system response to mental illness. She works with national court organizations and often presents at state and national conferences. As part of a NCSC team she currently supports the work of the National Judicial Task Force to Examine the State Courts' Response to Mental Illness. Prior to becoming a Principal Court Management Consultant, Ms. Tobias served as the Administrative Director of the Idaho Courts for 20+ years, since November 1993. She previously served as the Clerk of the Court, St. Louis County, Missouri (1986-1993); Director of Court Services Division, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Missouri Supreme Court (1980-1986); and Adult and Juvenile Probation Services, Champaign County Circuit Court, Illinois (1976-1979). Ms. Tobias served as President of the Conference of State Court Administrators and as Vice-Chair of the NCSC's Board of Directors (2002-2003) and on the Council of State Governments' Justice Center Board of Directors (2009-2011). She received the NCSC's Warren E. Burger Award for Administrative Excellence, 2012; the Robert L. Doss, Jr., Memorial Scholarship, 2011; the Justice Management Institute's Ernest C. Friesen Award of Excellence, 2008; the Idaho State Bar's Award of Distinction, 2003; the Public Policy Leadership Award, 2003; and the Kramer Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration, 2001. Ms. Tobias received her M.S.J.A. from the University of Denver College of Law and her B.S. from the University of Illinois.