

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES - 2019

**Susan Adair** received her doctorate in Interdisciplinary Social Science at Syracuse University, with a focus in sociology and applied research. Her program evaluation consulting practice, Grounded Direction, provides evidence-based documentation of program activity and outcomes for continuous quality improvement. She has evaluated treatment court programs in Syracuse, Oswego, Binghamton and Auburn.

**Carmen Alcantara** is the current Program Coordinator in the Overdose Avoidance and Recovery program at Bronx Community Solutions, a project of the Center for Court Innovation. In that role, she oversees and manages all service touch-points for participants, which includes meaningful engagement referrals with Bronx Community Solutions community partners. Formerly, she worked as the Senior Resource Coordinator for Court Operations, providing judges with fair and proportionate sentencing option for an array of non-violent cases. As Senior Court Representative for the Court-based Intervention and Resource Team she assisted individuals detained at Rikers Island with behavioral health needs. She received her paralegal certificate from Bronx Community College and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In her current position, Carmen coordinates the scheduling of in-house and external providers to offer access to treatment, has created organizational policy and procedures regarding the OAR initiative, and maintains relationships with stakeholders to expand programmatic capacity

**Judge James Cecile** has been a Syracuse City Court Judge since 2002. Currently, he is designated an Acting County Court Judge by the New York State Unified Court System. Judge Cecile is the Presiding Judge of Syracuse Community Treatment Court and has worked as a judge in that court since 2007. He has presented at the State Drug Court Conference and at the New York State Unified Court System Training for Town and Village Justices. Currently, he serves as the President of the New York Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals. Previously, he worked as a criminal defense attorney and an Assistant District Attorney for ten years in the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office. Judge Cecile graduated from Syracuse University and Syracuse University College of Law.

**Shelly Cohen**, PhD, is the president and founder of Stony Brook Research & Evaluation Consulting for which she has been providing research and consultation services for criminal justice, substance abuse, educational, and child welfare projects since 2005. She is also a Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University, where she teaches and supervises doctoral students. Dr. Cohen has been the independent evaluator for numerous drug court programs funded by SAMHSA, BJA and OJJDP and has presented her work on the evaluation of problem solving courts at both national (NADCP, VetCon, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges) and statewide conferences (New York Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals, New York Highway Safety Symposium) and in peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Cohen received her PhD in Zoology from Oxford University and did her post-doctoral research in the Department of Psychiatry at Stony Brook University

**Sky L. Peña-Davis** joined the New York State Unified Court System, Office of Policy and Planning in 2007 as a Regional Project Manager where she utilizes over 20 years of experience as a criminal justice and addictions professional to plan, implement, and provide ongoing support to drug courts and veteran courts in New York State. Sky also provides statewide driving while intoxicated (DWI) and impaired driving training programs for judges and court staff. She is a member of the NYS Bar Association's Committee on Veterans, which creates programs for attorneys and the public on veterans' issues. Sky worked at the Center for Court Innovation and New York City Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities. She is a speaker on drug court and veterans court topics and serves on multiple

associations, committees, and advisory boards. She received her bachelor's degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and her master's degree from Long Island University/CW Post College.

**Liliane Drago** is the Director of the Outreach Training Institute, the largest provider of CASAC training in the New York region. In that capacity, she oversees the program in its two locations and serves on the teaching faculty. She is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), a certified trainer on Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), and an associate trainer in Seeking Safety Therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder. She was formerly Vice President and National Training Director for Phoenix House, where she was responsible for training and staff development, and the adoption of evidence-based practices into treatment programs. Previously, she directed the Riverside Center at Phoenix House, a treatment program for employed adults with substance use disorders and their families, the Director of Ambulatory Programs, where she provided oversight of adolescent outpatient services, and was Adjunct Instructor in Behavioral Science at Mercy College. Ms. Drago regularly facilitates professional development trainings for Outreach's own clinical staff, as well as clinicians throughout the wider substance abuse and behavioral health field and conducts workshops at professional conferences.

**Paul DuBois** is co-founder of Mountains to Miracles Veterans Foundation, Inc., an organization formed to assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) in obtaining needed services. Prior to the organization's founding in 2012, Mr. DuBois was National Vice President for Family Motor Coach Association and formed the Northeast Area Veteran's Outreach Program to aid veterans in locating services and securing transportation. He also served as a member of the Army National Guard from 1956 to 1963 and then as a driver for Hunter Motor Coach, a military transporter, following the events of September 11, 2001. In addition to his Veteran Affairs service history, Mr. DuBois has an extensive history of community service having been a member of the Ballston Spa Fire Department, a trustee of the Malta Presbyterian Church, a member of the Ballston Spa Central School Board of Education, an EMT and crew captain for the Malta Ambulance Corps, and President of Parents Without Partners (PWP) in Saratoga County, NY. As President, Mr. DuBois introduced a program he co-developed for children who lost a parent through death or divorce called "Banana Splits". This program is currently used nationwide. He also co-founded a support and counseling group for step families called "Step by Step". Mr. DuBois has been a professional driver since 1959 and has operated his own tour and travel business since 1989.

**Christine Edwards, Esq.** is the Assistant Deputy Counsel to the Office of Policy and Planning for the New York State Unified Court System. She is responsible for assisting the Chief of Policy and Planning, the Honorable Sherry Klein Heitler, in the implementation and oversight of statewide initiatives. In this capacity, she provides training and technical assistance to New York State's Human Trafficking Intervention Courts and Mental Health Courts and works on other special projects. Prior to joining the Office of Policy and Planning, she served for 12 years as the Principal Court Attorney to the Honorable Jo Ann Ferdinand, who presided over the Brooklyn Treatment Court. From 2002-2004, Christine worked as an Appellate Court Attorney in the Appellate Division, Second Department. From 1995 to 2000, she worked in the Kings County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney assigned to the Major Narcotics Investigations Unit. She is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and Harvard University

**Kirstin Frescoln** is a Senior Program Associate with Children and Family Futures where she supports implementation of Family Treatment Courts. She has more than 25 years' experience developing, implementing, and evaluating community-based programs and policies to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals and families. She has worked at the local, state, and federal level; former positions include North Carolina Drug Treatment Court Manager, Senior Consultant for the National Drug Court Institute, Senior Research Associate with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and Maternal, Infant, and Child Home Visiting Coordinator with the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Children, and Youth. Through her private consulting firm, Facilitated Community Solutions, she has provided technical assistance and training for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice, Center for Court Innovation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, National Drug Court Institute, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Children and Family Futures, and Reclaiming Futures, as well as numerous local and state entities. Publications include examination of the impacts of federal policy on treatment courts, the health impacts of relocation from distressed public housing, and evaluations of self-sufficiency initiatives within public housing in journals such as Social Science and Medicine, Housing Policy Debate, Intl Public Health Journal, and Housing Studies. She is a Certified Public Meetings Facilitator and Mediator and has a doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Public Manager Certification from North Carolina State University, and bachelor's in Foreign Affairs and History from the University of Virginia.

**Robert Fuller** graduated with his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University. He is the Case Manager for the Oneida County Drug Court, a position he has held since 2002. Since 2014, he has also been the Coordinator for the Herkimer County Treatment Court. The Oneida County and Herkimer County Courts include both felony and misdemeanor clients, and probation violation cases. Mr. Fuller served as the Director for the Syracuse Community Treatment Court, in Onondaga County from 4/17-2/18. While in that position, he managed the Syracuse Community Treatment Court, Family Treatment Court and Human Trafficking Court in Onondaga County. He has dedicated his entire career to the Treatment Court field.

**Dr. Jonathan Giftos** is the Clinical Director of Substance Use Treatment for the Division of Correctional Health Services at Rikers Island, where he oversees diversion, harm reduction, treatment and reentry services for incarcerated patients with substance use disorders. He is also the medical director of the opioid treatment program (OTP) for the NYC jail system, at which he also provides clinical care -- including the provision of methadone and buprenorphine maintenance treatment -- to incarcerated patients with opioid use disorders. Prior to this role, he served as the Director of Clinical Education for CHS, where he developed curriculum, provided clinical supervision and supported the educational goals of medical students, residents and attendings caring for patients affected by the criminal justice system. He remains closely affiliated with Montefiore and the Primary Care & Social Medicine residency program, and currently serves as a voluntary attending in the Bronx Transitions Clinic at Montefiore's Comprehensive Health Care Center (CHCC) in the South Bronx. Dr. Giftos completed medical school at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 2012. While there, he was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, of which he also served as President. He completed residency and chief residency in the Primary Care & Social Internal Medicine Residency Program at Montefiore Medical Center. During his training, he also completed the Harvard Macy Program for Postgraduate Trainees where he developed his skills as a clinician educator. In 2016 he became credentialed as an HIV specialist through the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

**Lloyd A. Goldsamt, Ph.D.** is an evaluator with more than twenty years of professional evaluation experience. He has conducted numerous evaluations of programs providing training and technical assistance to front-line substance abuse, mental health, and criminal justice service providers in New York City and throughout the United States. Projects have included the development and evaluation of a curriculum for new Veterans Treatment Courts in New York State; an evaluation of the national adult, family and juvenile drug court training programs; evaluations of school-based drug and violence programs in New York City; a national evaluation of the training activities conducted through the

SAMHSA-funded network of Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTC); and multiple evaluations of local drug court programs. In addition, he has worked with local community organizations in New York City conducting program evaluations of substance abuse and HIV prevention services provided to drug users, men who have sex with men and other populations infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Dr. Goldsamt is also a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and a NIDA-funded researcher who has conducted local, national and international studies focusing on HIV prevention among people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and other vulnerable populations.

**Hon. George A. Grasso** was admitted to the NYS Bar in 1985. Judge Grasso dedicated over 30 years of his life to public service as a member of the NYPD. Starting as a Police Officer in 1979, he rose through the ranks to become the First Deputy Police Commissioner. In 2010, he retired from the NYPD and was appointed to a five-year term by Mayor Bloomberg as a Judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York and was subsequently reappointed to a ten-year term by Mayor de Blasio in January 2015. In 2012, Judge Grasso was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice and assigned as the Supervising Judge for Arraignments for the NYC Criminal Court. He created the “CourtStat” system and radically increased court efficiency leading to unprecedented decreases in arrest to arraignment time. In 2014, Judge Grasso was appointed as co-chair of Mayor de Blasio’s Behavioral Health Task Force and was a leader in conceiving and implementing New York City’s Supervised Release Program. In 2016, Judge Grasso was appointed as the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Court in Bronx County. During his tenure, he introduced innovations that resulted in trials and dispositions increasing dramatically while backlogged cases over one year old decreased by over 80%. In December 2017, in partnership with the Bronx District Attorney, and key stakeholders, Judge Grasso created a specialized Court to address the high risk of drug overdose resulting from the rise in opioid usage, including the deadly fentanyl. Overseen by Judge Grasso, the Overdose Avoidance and Recovery Court (OAR) was launched in Bronx Criminal Court to serve the needs of defendants who are at high risk of overdose and agree to treatment. OAR was the first court of its kind in New York City. In February of 2018, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore charged Judge Grasso with spearheading an expansion of the OAR Court citywide. Judge Grasso has successfully led efforts to expand the OAR Court to Manhattan and Staten Island.

**Hon. Craig D. Hannah** is the presiding Judge of the Buffalo City Court’s Opiate Intervention and Adolescent Diversion Parts. The Opiate Intervention Court is the first of its kind in the nation. He is also the Supervising Judge of the Lackawanna, North Tonawanda and Tonawanda City Courts. Judge Hannah has served on the City Court Bench since 2006 and has been an Acting Erie County Court Judge since 2008. He serves as an Adjunct Professor at the State University at Buffalo Law School where he lectures in Trial Advocacy and Procedure and is a member of the prestigious Franklin H. Williams’ Judicial Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness. Judge Hannah is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee of the University at Buffalo Law School, a former Vice President of its alumni association and a recipient of the its distinguished alumni award.

**Brad Hansen** is the Public Policy Director for Families Together in New York State. He has over five years of experience mobilizing a statewide network of families impacted by multiple child-serving systems to influence state agencies and advance a diverse range of legislation in the interest of families and young people. Brad serves on the Raise the Age NY Campaign lead workgroup, co-leads the CHAMPS-NY Initiative and worked as Program Director of the SAMHSA-funded NY Peer Network for Recovery and Resiliency. Brad earned his bachelor’s degree in Public Policy & Management from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany and earned a minor in Business Administration.

**Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler** was elected as a Judge of the New York City Civil Court for a term beginning in 1994. She was designated an Acting State Supreme Court Justice in 1996, and in 2000 was elected to begin a term in 2001 as a State Supreme Court Justice. As a trial judge she evaluated, settled and tried all types of cases. In 2007 she was designated to sit as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the State Supreme Court, First Department. In August 2008 she was assigned to the Court's Center for Complex Litigation to administer the asbestos mass tort cases in the City of New York. In December of 2009 she left the Appellate Term when she was appointed as Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District. She also continued to administer asbestos-related matters. In March of 2015, Justice Heitler was appointed as Chief of the Office of Policy and Planning for the New York State Courts. In addition, she maintains an IAS Part. Justice Heitler has chaired and lectured at various programs established by professional groups of which she is a member and has received numerous awards. She has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law for many years. Justice Heitler received her B.A. from Hunter College, her M.A. from New York University, and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

**Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch** is the Presiding Judge of the Queens Drug Treatment Court, the DWI Treatment Court, the Mental Health Court, the Veterans Court, and the Drug Diversion Court. She was appointed to the New York Court of Claims in March 2005 and was assigned to Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term. She presided over hearings and trials before she was assigned to the therapeutic courts in October 2005. Judge Hirsch has lectured extensively on therapeutic justice, trauma-informed courts, and procedural justice. She is a past president of the New York Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals. She joined the faculty of the National Judicial College in 2015. Judge Hirsch is a graduate of Union College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law. She served for nine years on the Rockville Centre School Board and was a member of her community's Drug & Alcohol Task Force. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Hirsch was the General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal. Before that, she was in private practice for many years.

**Avi Israel** is a retired electrician, turned full-time advocate. Avi has 30 years industry experience, and most recently was a General Foreman working for Frey Electric Construction Company Inc. Avi is the father of Michael David Israel, and with his wife Julie Israel, is co-founder and President of Save The Michaels of the World, Inc. Avi is the recipient of multiple recognitions for his activism, including the 2012 WNY Chemical Dependency Consortium Community Award, the 2014 Public Citizen of the Year Award (National Association of Social Workers, NYS chapter) and the 2016 Community Crusaders Award from the Foundation for a Drug Free World. He also received the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner's Award in 2017. One of Avi's greatest accomplishments is creating and assisting to pass the 2013 I-STOP Legislation and the Michael David Israel Laws. Avi testified before the US Senate on the dangers of prescription drug abuse and provided testimony in front of several FDA panels on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Avi strives to maintain consistent communication and collaboration with local and federal legislators on advocating for a full range of addiction and mental health services for the WNY community. He was an initiator of local CME Classes for the 8 Counties of WNY. Avi founded the Save the Michaels *House of Hope and Community Resources* in January 2017. Their location in the medical corridor of downtown Buffalo is beneficial to all residents of Erie County. The House of Hope provides training for Peer Recovery Coaches and sends them into the community to work with family members of addicted individuals. The House of Hope also engages the public by providing free classes on understanding the complex nature of addiction, and by assisting to place and transport addicted individuals into treatment facilities all over NYS, through the NYS 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court System, and through individual requests for help. Avi also serves on the NYS

Suicide Prevention Board in Albany and speaks out about suicide prevention all over NYS. Avi's mission is altruistic in nature; he never wants another parent to experience the loss of a child as he and Julie did. Avi resides in North Buffalo, with his wife Julie and their daughter, Rachel.

**Caitlin Kraska, LMHC--Program Director of Family Connections, Best Self Behavioral Health** is a licensed mental health counselor who graduated from Canisius College with her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Caitlin has clinical experience working with adults and families who are chemically dependent, incarcerated, and/or severely mentally ill. Previously working as a mental health counselor with the mobile unit at BestSelf Behavioral Health, Caitlin provided individual counseling to adults in the community, who were physically or mentally unable to obtain consistent mental health counseling appointments at a traditional clinic. Caitlin is currently employed at BestSelf Behavioral Health in Buffalo, NY, where she oversees the Family Connections program and facilitates Celebrating Families, an evidenced-based parenting group utilized by the Erie County Family Treatment Drug Court.

**Julia Kretzmann, Esq.** is a graduate of Vermont law School and is admitted to the bar in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York. She practices law in Ithaca, New York, specializing in family law and criminal defense. She has been the respondents' attorney for the Tompkins County Family Treatment Court for 15 years and the county liaison for Tompkins County representing the attorneys for children for 10 years.

**Judge Steven Leifman** is the Associate Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court's Criminal Division. He also chairs the Florida Supreme Court's Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Court and the Mental Health Committee for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, where he created the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project. This highly successful program diverts non-violent defendants with mental illnesses away from the criminal justice system. Judge Leifman has received numerous awards, including the 2015 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. One of the nation's highest judicial honors, the Rehnquist Award is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. presented the award to Leifman during a ceremony at the U.S. Supreme Court in November 2015. He received his JD from Florida State University College of Law and his BS from American University.

**Cortney Lovell**, a person in sustained recovery since 2008, is one of America's foremost leaders on recovery coaching and author of "Recovery: A Coaching Workbook." She has spent the past decade consulting with federal, state, private and non-profit entities on addiction and recovery supports. Cortney has worked as a substance use disorder clinician, implemented prevention programs for the military, and developed recovery community organizations across the country. However, it was in recovery coaching that Cortney discovered her purpose. Since then, she has directly trained hundreds of individuals in the art and science of recovery coaching and has worked to implement these services throughout healthcare systems. Today, she is the Co-Founder of Our Wellness Collective, an international recovery coach and trainer, sits on numerous boards and advisory councils, and works to make recovery support accessible to everyone.

**Lawrence K. Marks**, Chief Administrative Judge has performed a key management, policy and legal role in the state court system for many years. In July 2015, he was appointed Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State. As Chief Administrative Judge, he oversees the day-to-day administration and operation of the statewide court system, with a budget of over \$2.5 billion, 3,600 state and local judges and 15,000 nonjudicial employees in over 300 locations across the state. Judge Marks previously served as First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, the second-ranking administrative official

in the court system. He also served as Administrative Director of the Office of Court Administration, responsible for day-to-day management of that office, as Special Counsel to the Chief Administrative Judge and as OCA's Criminal Justice Counsel. Prior to joining the court system, he was a senior supervising attorney with the Legal Aid Society in New York City, in private practice and a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Thomas C. Platt. In 2009, he was appointed by Governor David Paterson as a Judge of the Court of Claims; he was re-appointed to that position in 2015 by Governor Andrew Cuomo. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Judge Marks hears cases in the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court, New York County. Judge Marks is the editor and co-author of New York Pretrial Criminal Procedure (Volume 7 of West's New York Practice Series), and the author of numerous government reports and several law review articles. He also has been an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School and John Jay College of Criminal Justice graduate program. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany (magna cum laude) and Cornell Law School (cum laude), where he was an editor of the law review.

**Hon. Amy Martoche** is a Buffalo City Court judge who is also an Acting County Court Judge. In her capacity as an Acting County Court Judge, she presides over the Human Trafficking Intervention HUB Court, handling cases from throughout Erie County. She previously presided over Buffalo's Domestic Violence Part, where she adjudicated more than 8,000 cases. Mayor Byron Brown appointed Judge Martoche to the bench in 2011. She was then elected to a ten-year term in 2012. Before she became a judge, she was a partner at the law firm of Connors & Vilardo, LLP, where she worked from 2001 to 2011; her practice there focused on civil litigation, professional defense, and white-collar criminal defense. Before she returned to Buffalo in 2001, Judge Martoche worked in Washington, DC and she also she served as a confidential law clerk to the Hon. Frederick J. Scullin, Jr. (N.D.N.Y.) from 1999-2000. Judge Martoche received her B.S. from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. After completing her undergraduate degree, she spent three years in rural Louisiana as a teacher, corps member, and program director with the Teach for America program. Judge Martoche is a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Law.

**Tracey McCafferty, FTC Liaison, Erie County Department of Social Services** brings over twenty years of County experience to the Family Treatment Court team (FTC). She has worked with many diverse programs and populations throughout her career at DSS. Besides being the Senior caseworker of the Children's Services division --Court Team, she has worked with adolescents who were involved in foster care. She has taught independent living skills, linked teens to necessary services, and provided a voice for children in foster care. Tracey holds a BA in Psychology from the State University College at Buffalo and is an integral part of the FTC team. Her familiarity and knowledge of the working programs within Department of Social Services allow for a positive collaboration between the Department and Family Treatment Court, ultimately benefitting the participants of the program.

**Tari McGinty, LMSW, GC-C**, is a graduate of SUNY at Fredonia and the University at Buffalo School of Social Work where she received her Master of Social Work. She is the Coordinator of the Family Treatment Court Program within Erie County Family Court. Prior to coming to the Unified Court System, Ms. McGinty was employed as a chemical dependency counselor working with clients in outpatient, inpatient and residential treatment settings. She is well-experienced and knowledgeable with respect to chemical dependency issues and the effects of addiction on all life areas.

**Brian L. Meyer, PhD, LCP** is a Clinical Psychologist and the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Substance Use Disorders Specialist at the H.H. McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University. He obtained his A.B. from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a specialization in adolescents and

families from Duke University. Dr. Meyer has worked in the child welfare and child and adult mental health fields as a clinician, administrator, teacher, policy maker, program developer, expert witness, researcher, and trainer. He has served as the Deputy Clinical Director of the New Mexico CYFD Protective Services Division, the Executive Director of the Albuquerque Child and Family Guidance Center, and the Executive Director of the Virginia Treatment Center Drug Courts: Where Justice, Treatment and Recovery Meet PAGE 25 PLENARY BIOGRAPHIES for Children. In his current roles, Dr. Meyer provides evidence-based treatments for Veterans who have problems with PTSD, substance abuse, depression, TBI, and other co-occurring conditions; works with Veterans and their families to address post-combat adaptations; supervises psychology trainees; and develops and conducts research on treatments for PTSD and co-morbid conditions. Dr. Meyer is also a nationally-known speaker on a wide range of content areas, including the treatment of trauma and co-morbid conditions, complex trauma, the effects of trauma and substance abuse on families, Veterans' mental health, mindfulness meditation, secondary traumatization and self-care, and collaborative courts. He has been happily married to his wife Sharla for 31 years and has three adult children whom he adores.

**Jack O'Connor, Veteran Mentor Boot Camp Consultant** is a combat infantry veteran who served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Vietnam. Upon discharge from the service, he received a bachelors and master's degree in counseling (1974) from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Jack was the Director of Medicaid Services for the Erie County Department of Social Services. In 2007, when Judge Robert Russell decided to start a unique court to assist veterans, Jack was asked to pull together a group of veterans to act as "Mentors". He continues as the Mentor Coordinator for the Buffalo Veterans Court. He is also on the Advisory Board of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y. Jack is also a trainer for Justice for Vets. He has been married to Pat for 50 years and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

**Dennis A. Reilly Esq.** is the Statewide Drug Court Coordinator for the New York Unified Court System's Office of Policy and Planning. Previously, Mr. Reilly served as the Director of Operations for Treatment Court Programs at the Center for Court Innovation and Project Director at the National Drug Court Institute. Mr. Reilly has served as Director of the Brooklyn Treatment Court and the Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator for the Kings Supreme Court. Prior to joining the Unified Court System, Mr. Reilly worked for the Connecticut Judicial Branch as a Special Deputy Sheriff, Trial Court Clerk, Pretrial Services Officer, Supervision Officer, and Court Planner, and was a founding team member of Connecticut's first three drug courts. Mr. Reilly is a Reclaiming Futures National Fellow, has served as an expert consultant for OJJDP, BJA and SAMHSA, and has provided technical assistance to numerous adult, juvenile, veterans and tribal treatment courts. Mr. Reilly, is a graduate of the University of Connecticut's School of Administration and Management, the University of Denver College of Law and the University of Amsterdam School for Executive Development in International Relations.

**Dr. Merrill Rotter** is a forensic psychiatrist working at Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he is Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Law and Psychiatry for the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Rotter received his B.A. /M.D. from the Boston University Six-Year Combined Liberal Arts Medical Education Program. Trained in clinical psychiatry at Columbia University and in forensic psychiatry at Yale, Dr. Rotter leads a program of teaching, research and clinical service for Einstein as well as the New York State Office of Mental Health. In his OMH role, Dr. Rotter is Director of the Division of Forensic Services at Bronx Psychiatric Center and Senior Forensic



Advisor to the Commissioner. In addition, Dr. Rotter is the Medical Director of the EAC and its NYC TASC Mental Health Programs. Dr. Rotter is Project Director of SPECTRM, a nationally-recognized research, training and treatment program aimed at helping to meet the needs individuals with mental illness who have a history of incarceration. Dr. Rotter has presented and published in areas related to forensic training, risk assessment, treatment and management of mentally ill offenders, the insanity defense and mental health diversion. In 2009, Dr. Rotter received the Award for Outstanding Teacher in a Forensic Fellowship Program from the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.

**Hon. John C. Rowley**, Tompkins County Judge, Ithaca, New York is a graduate of Cornell University, With Distinction in all Subjects, and the S.U.N.Y Buffalo School of Law, cum laude. He was first elected to his current position, Tompkins County Judge, Family Court Judge and Surrogate in 2000, and re-elected in 2010. He has served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice since 2003 while presiding over an Integrated Domestic Violence part. In addition to his criminal court, family court, and surrogate court caseloads, he presides in two other specialty courts which he founded: the Family Treatment Court and the Sexual Offender Compliance Court. Judge Rowley was the founding chairperson of the NYSBA Judicial Wellness Committee. He speaks frequently on issues of domestic violence, lawyer and judicial alcoholism and addiction, stress management, vicarious trauma, and problem-solving courts.

**Judge Robert Russell** is an Associate Judge for Buffalo City Court and serves by appointment, as an Erie County Court Judge. Judge Russell has been presiding over Treatment Courts since December of 1995, having created during his tenure, Buffalo's Drug Treatment Court, Mental Health Treatment Court, and Veterans Treatment Court. In January of 2008, he created and began presiding over this country's first "Veterans' Treatment Court". His work in the Treatment Court field led to his induction into the "Hall of Fame" of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, and the "Hall of Fame" of Justice for Vets. He is the recipient of the "2014 White House Advocates for Action Award", presented by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and is the recipient of Awards of Merit from the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, and the Erie County Bar Association.

#### **Scott Tirocchi – Director, Justice for Vets**

**Kevin A. Sabet, PhD.** Dubbed the “prodigy of drug politics” by NBC News, author, consultant, former advisor to three U.S. presidential administrations, affiliated fellow at Yale University, and adjunct professor, Kevin A. Sabet, PhD., has researched and implemented drug policy for 20 years. In 2011, he stepped down as senior advisor in President Obama’s drug policy office, having been the only drug policy staffer to have ever served as a political appointee in a Democratic and Republican administration. He has been featured in virtually every major media publication and news channel about drug policy and in 2013 published his first book, *Reefer Sanity: Seven Great Myths About Marijuana*, (Beaufort). He is the co-founder, with former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, and President of SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana), the only national organization with a staff in Washington DC working exclusively on smart marijuana policy issues. He has a doctorate from Oxford University and a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Hon. Toko Serita** is an Asian American judge who is recognized as a leading judicial expert on human trafficking. She is currently a New York State Acting Supreme Court Justice who has presided over the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court (HTIC) since 2008, nationally and internationally recognized for its innovative work serving trafficking victims and survivors. This pioneering court served as the model for a statewide initiative in 2013 that created eight new courts designed to address human trafficking cases throughout New York State. In 2015, Justice Serita became the chair of the New York

State Judicial Committee on Human Trafficking, whose judicial members represent each of the 11 trafficking intervention courts, including the five counties comprising New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Westchester, Suffolk & Nassau Counties. Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Serita worked in the court system for several years as an Executive Assistant to the Administrative Judges of the Supreme Court, Queens County, and was also a criminal appellate attorney for the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau for many years. She is a graduate of Vassar College and the City University of New York School of Law.

**Jeffrey D. Smith** is the Project Director for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. He has been the Project Director and/or Coordinator for multiple courts within the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District since 1996. Currently, Jeff is assisting with the development and operation of all problem-solving courts within the 8<sup>th</sup> District. He continues to be a member of several initiatives within NYS and the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, including the planning and implementation of the Opiate Intervention Court in the City of Buffalo.

**Nick Stefanovic** Nicholas Stefanovic currently serves as Director of Monroe County's Veterans Service Agency (VSA). A combat Veteran, Mr. Stefanovic has established a successful career in veteran's affairs and public service. He served honorably in the Marine Corps through multiple deployments to Afghanistan, where he gained invaluable skills, knowledge, and leadership ability. Mr. Stefanovic possesses an extensive background in military service, criminal justice, counseling, and veterans' affairs. Prior to his current position, Mr. Stefanovic served on the Board of Directors as the Vice Chair of Rochester's Veterans Outreach Center. He also served as a Veteran Substance Abuse Counselor at Warrior Salute Veterans Services and as a Veteran Services Representative at Monroe Community College. Stefanovic received a B.S. in Health Science and Master of Public Administration from the College at Brockport. He currently resides in Penfield.

**Honorable Margaret O. Szczur-** is a graduate of Manhattanville College and Syracuse University College of Law. She was first elected to the Family Court Bench in 1993, taking office in January 1994. Since being elected, she has handled thousands of cases of all types in Family Court, including past presiding Judge of the Juvenile Treatment Court. She is currently the presiding Judge over the Family Treatment Court and has been since the program's inception in 2001.

**Kathleen A. Sullivan, Esq.** is the Managing Attorney for Citizens Concerned for Children, Inc., an office of attorneys representing the children of Tompkins County and Cortland County in neglect and abuse proceedings, custody proceedings, PINS and Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings, and other Family Court matters. She is presently a member of the Tompkins County Family Treatment Court team, an innovative family treatment court focused on parents with substance abuse issues that is emulated statewide. Prior to her current role, Kathleen was the Chief Attorney for the Cortland County Department of Social Services for nearly five years. Her legal experience also includes private practice at Pomeroy, Armstrong, Casullo & Monty, LLP in Cortland, New York and as an Associate Attorney at Burns & Levinson, LLP in Boston, Massachusetts. She is an alumna of New England Law in Boston and earned her Master's in Social Work at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and her bachelor's degrees in Social Work and Spanish from Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York. Prior to becoming an attorney, Kathleen worked in the child welfare world for ten years at provider agencies, at an elementary school, and as a child protective caseworker. In 2018, she was designated as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children.

**Alicia Tabliago** is the Resource Coordinator for the Human Trafficking Intervention Hub Court for the Eighth Judicial District of New York. She is responsible for screening potential HTIHC cases and creating case plans for defendants in the court. Ms. Tabliago also coordinates all transfers into HTIHC throughout the eight counties of the Eighth Judicial District. Ms. Tabliago began working with survivors

of sexual assault in 2001 as a Crisis Services Sexual Assault Case Manager stationed at the Buffalo Police Department, Sex Offense Squad. She subsequently became the Resource Coordinator of the Erie County Sex Offense Court and served as the co-chair of the Erie County Sex Offense Court and Community Management Team. Ms. Tabliago also worked as the Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator for the Fifth Judicial District in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she managed the overall operations of seven problem-solving courts. Ms. Tabliago received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Justice from SUNY Oswego.

**Mindy Thomas** serves as the Family Treatment Court Coordinator of Tompkins County, New York, which serves approximately 65-70 parents and their families who suffer from trauma and substance abuse disorders. Ms. Thomas coordinates a collaborative team of 25-30 members to facilitate the engagement in community resources to achieve increased health, safety and permanency for all families. Ms. Thomas has been in the field for over 13 years working within family treatment court, drug court, residential treatment, and outpatient treatment providing empowerment for families to achieve their hopes, dreams and goals.

**Carol Venditto** is currently a part-time senior consultant for the National Drug Court Institute working primarily on the Operational TuneUp Training project. Ms. Venditto retired in August 2014 as New Jersey's first Statewide Drug Court Manager, a position she held since January 2002. She managed state drug court funding and provided the leadership for the NJ Statewide Drug Court Implementation Project and subsequent expansion efforts. Ms. Venditto began her judiciary career in the Union County, NJ Superior Court system in 1981 as a probation officer. In 1997 she led the administration's efforts to bring two grant funded pilot drug court programs to Union County starting in 1998. Ms. Venditto served as faculty on numerous occasions for the National Drug Court Institute's Comprehensive Drug Court Coordinator Training, Drug Court Planning Initiative, and at several annual NADCP conferences. As a member of the Adult Drug Court Standards Committee, she worked with NADCP staff and other professionals in the drug court field to develop the "Adult Drug Court Standards". Ms. Venditto has a BA in Psychology from Montclair State (College) University and an MPA from Seton Hall University.

**Terrence D. Walton, Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)** is among the nation's leading experts in providing training and technical assistance to drug courts and other problem-solving courts. Prior to being named COO in October 2015, Terrence Walton was the NADCP Chief of Standards. In addition to being responsible for the daily operation of NADCP and planning the national conference, he retains his responsibility for establishing and implementing best practice standards nationwide. Previously, Terrence Walton was Director of Treatment for the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA), in Washington, D.C. During his nearly 15 years at PSA, he was responsible for directing the PSA operations that provide substance use disorder and mental health assessment, treatment, and social services for all adults released under PSA supervision in the District of Columbia. His responsibilities included overseeing the city's adult Drug Court, the DWI Initiative, the Mental Health units and various other programs for assessing, treating and supervising justice system involved men and women. Previously, he excelled as the director of what was then the District of Columbia's leading adolescent outpatient substance abuse treatment center.

Terrence Walton has directed programs in Dayton, Ohio and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has helped evaluate a multi-million-dollar White House Anti-Drug Media Campaign and served on the substance abuse task force as a part of the White House Best Practices Collaborative. In

addition to his extensive work domestically, he has assisted addiction treatment programs in Bangladesh, Barbados, Guam, Mexico and Bermuda.

Terrence Walton is an internationally certified alcohol and other drug abuse counselor with over twenty-five years of experience helping individuals and organizations champion positive change. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a Master of Social Work degree with specializations in program administration and substance abuse. Noted for his practical strength-based approaches to complex issues, Terrence Walton is actively sought out for insight on treating and supervising justice system involved individuals who are living with substance use and mental health disorders. Terrence Walton is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). A gifted and entertaining speaker, Terrence Walton travels extensively informing and inspiring audiences across the globe.

**Patrick Welsh** -Veteran Mentor Boot Camp Consultant Veterans Advocate – Educator – Public Speaker started his military career at 17 when he enlisted in the US Marine Corps. While serving as an Infantry Squad Leader in Vietnam he was severely wounded in action and was hospitalized for 2 years recovering from his wounds. Dr. Welch was an international hospitality industry executive for 48 years, has worked in over 50 countries and has been a CFO (Chief Financial Officer), COO (Chief Operating Officer), CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and owner of several businesses. He has served as Director of Veterans Services for Erie County, New York and as an Adjunct Professor at Daemen College. In January 2008, Dr. Welch became involved in the Buffalo Veterans Treatment court as one of the first Veteran Mentors in the country. In 2010, he founded The Center for Veterans and Veteran Family Services at Daemen College in Amherst, NY. Now retired, he concentrates his efforts working with veterans involved in the criminal justice system with the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court and Justice for Vets.

**Kelly D. Whitman, LCSW, Vice President of Substance Use Disorder Services and Housing, Best Self Behavioral Health** is a licensed clinical social worker, has over 16 years of experience in human services working with the homeless, chemically dependent, developmentally disabled, severely mentally ill, and youth. Kelly is currently employed with Best Self Behavioral Health in Buffalo, NY where she oversees the substance use programs including outpatient clinics, mobile clinic services, intensive residential services for pregnant/parenting women and adults with severe mental health disorders, family treatment court services, Recovery Center, Homeless and Housing services.

**Erin Wiggins** is a Certified Recovery Coach, who participates in the Peer collaborative at Center for Family Life and Recovery and is working towards obtaining her CRPA. Erin uses her life experience in recovery from substance abuse issues to guide and support others who are experiencing similar substance abuse issues, to achieve a healthy, balanced life in recovery. Erin believes success in long term recovery is achievable by the compassion, encouragement, guidance, motivation, and support of peer advocates. It's the advocates' life experiences and their ability to accompany an individual on their journey to healthy living that makes an advocate's purpose unique to the individual's recovery plan. Erin is a graduate of Utica City Drug Court, Oneida County, August 2018. Erin has received her Recovery Coach Certification from Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery and Peer Ethics/CCAR Ethical Consideration Certificate of Completion instructed by Lila Bower. She has presented peer services to McPike Inpatient Treatment Facility and to physicians and residents at Mohawk Valley Health Systems. Erin has lead and facilitated Utica's first Heroin Anonymous meetings successfully. She is currently the secretary to all four meetings at various locations in Utica.

**Anthony Zenkus** has over 25 years' experience in the fields of child welfare and victims' services. As the Senior Director of Education and Communications at VIBS, he trains professionals both regionally and nationally on the impact of abuse and trauma on individuals, families, and communities. In 2016, he did a TED talk on the effects of poverty and inequality on the developing brains of children. Anthony is also an adjunct professor teaching graduate social work courses at Columbia University and Adelphi University.

Debra Young graduated from Albany Law School in 1996 and began her career at the Appellate Division, Third Department as an Appellate Court Attorney. Subsequently, she became an associate and later a partner with the law firm of Thuillez, Ford, Gold, Butler and Young specializing in personal injury defense. In that capacity, she represented numerous hospitals, nurses, physicians and other medical personnel in complex medical malpractice actions.

In 2012, Judge Young became the first woman elected to sit in Rensselaer County Court where she primarily handles criminal cases. In 2015, she was selected to serve as the Supervising Judge for Criminal Courts in the Third Judicial District. She also presides over the Rensselaer County Recovery Court, also known as drug court, and is currently the President of the New York State Association of County Court Judges and a board member for the New York State Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals.