

Access to Justice and the Future of Justice Work Conference

February 28 - March 1, 2024

ASU T. Denny Sanford School of
Social and Family Dynamics
Arizona State University

The Justice Futures Project

Thank you for your participation and to our sponsors:

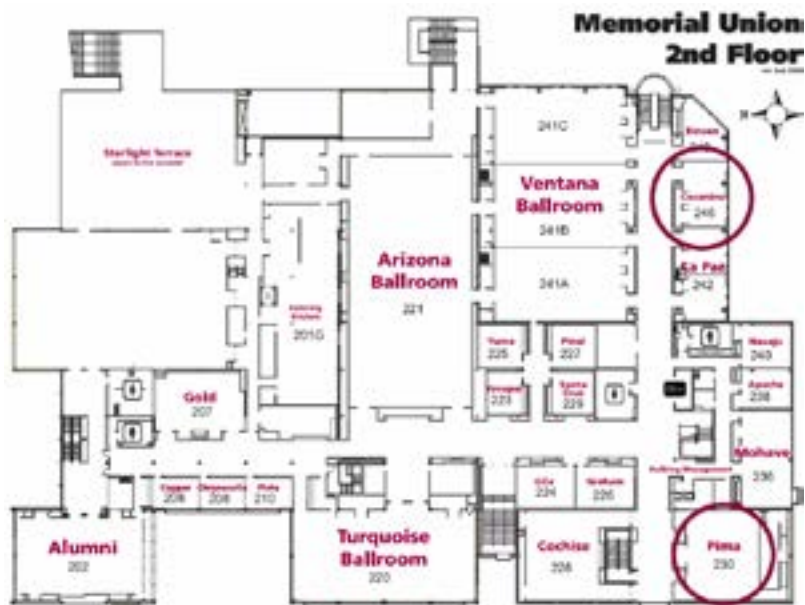


Arizona State University Land Acknowledgment



“ We acknowledge the twenty-two Native Nations that have inhabited this land for centuries. Arizona State University’s four campuses are located in the Salt River Valley on ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples, including the Akimel O’odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) Indian Communities, whose care and keeping of these lands allows us to be here today. ”

links.asu.edu/Justice-Futures-Conference



1 Wednesday, February 28, 2024

1:30 pm **Arrival and Registration - ASU Memorial Union**
Location: Pima Auditorium (MU 230)
ASU Memorial Union, 301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281 (On campus)

2:00-2:10 pm **Welcome**
Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Rebecca Sandefur (Conference Co-Chair)
Professor and Director, Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University; Faculty Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Matthew Burnett (Conference Co-Chair)
Senior Program Officer, Access to Justice Research Initiative, American Bar Foundation; Visiting Scholar, The Justice Futures Project, Arizona State University; Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

2:10-2:30 pm **Keynote**
Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Renee Knake Jefferson
Professor of Law and the Joanne and Larry Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics, University of Houston Law Center; Author, *Law Democratized: A Blueprint for Solving the Justice Crisis*

2:30-3:45 pm **Opening Plenary I: Access to Justice and the Future of Justice Work**
Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Nikole Nelson, Frontline Justice
Rachel Rossi, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice
Rebecca Sandefur, Arizona State University
Radhika Singh, National Legal Aid & Defender Association
Moderator: Jim Sandman, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

3:45-4:00 pm **Break**

4:00-5:00 pm **Opening Plenary II: A Conversation with Judicial Leaders About the Future of Access to Justice**
Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Justice Melissa Hart, Colorado Supreme Court
Justice Jennifer Henderson, Alaska Supreme Court
Chief Justice Meagan Flynn, Oregon Supreme Court
Chief Justice Bridget McCormick, Michigan Supreme Court (Retired)
Moderator: Rebecca Sandefur, Arizona State University

5:00-7:00 pm **Opening Reception - Hosted by Justice Futures at Arizona State University**
Location: Tempe Mission Palms, 60 E. 5th St, Tempe, Arizona 85281 (Off Campus; approximately 15-minute walk or 7 minutes by car from ASU Memorial Union)

2 Thursday, February 29, 2024

8:45 am **Arrive at ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)**

Location: 301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

9:00-10:00 am **Exploring the Evidence: Research and Data on Justice Work**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Matthew Burnett, American Bar Foundation
Herbert Kritzer, University of Minnesota Law School
Rebecca Sandefur, Arizona State University
James Teufel, American Bar Foundation
Moderator: Tanina Rostain, Georgetown University Law Center

10:00-11:00 am **Advocacy, Legislative, and Litigation Strategies**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Paul Avelar, Institute for Justice
Alicia Mitchell-Mercer, North Carolina Justice for All Project
Lucy Ricca, Stanford Law School
Joseph Schottenfeld, NAACP
Moderator: Jessica Steinberg, George Washington University

11:00-11:15 am **Break**

11:15-12:15 pm **Funder Perspectives on the Future of Justice Work**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Lynn Jennings, Legal Services Corporation
Ross Maclaren, Mott Foundation
Claire Solot, Bigglesworth Family Foundation
Betty Balli Torres, Texas Access to Justice Foundation
Moderator: Matthew Burnett, American Bar Foundation

12:15-1:30 pm **Lunch**

1:30-2:30 pm **Civil Justice Workers (Session A)**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Joy Anderson, Alaska Legal Services Corporation
Stacy Ruprecht Jane, Innovation for Justice
Hayley Cousin, Timpanogos Legal Center
Sacha Steinberger, Legal Link
Moderator: Elizabeth Chambliss, University of South Carolina

Justice Workers and Courts (Session B)

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Coconino Room (MU 246)

Panelists:

Lester Bird, The Pew Charitable Trusts
Mary McClymont, Georgetown Justice Lab
Jessica Steinberg, George Washington University
Moderator: David Udell, Fordham Law School

2:30-2:45 pm **Break**

2:45-3:45 pm **Immigrant Justice Workers (Session A)**

Location: Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Jane Lombardi, The Resurrection Project
Juan Pedroza, University of California, Santa Cruz
Erendira Rendon, The Resurrection Project
Laura Vasquez, UnidosUS

Moderator: Matthew Burnett, American Bar Foundation

Investing in the Next Generation of Justice Workers: A Conversation with Diana Imbert (Session B)

Location: Memorial Union, Coconino Room (MU 246)

Panelists:

Diana Imbert, Defying Legal Gravity
Moderator: Michele Statz, University of Minnesota Medical School

3:45-4:00 pm **Break**

4:00-5:00 pm **Criminal Justice and the Future of Justice Work (Session A)**

Location: Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Sabrina Charles, New York University
Darren Breeden, Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative
Jhody Polk, Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative/LEAH
Moderator: Luz Herrera, Texas A&M University

Paraprofessionals and Licensed Legal Advocates (Session B)

Location: Memorial Union, Coconino Room (MU 246)

Panelists:

Helen Hirschbiel, Oregon State Bar
Michael Houlberg, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System
S. M. Kernodle-Hodges, North Carolina Justice for All Project
Moderator: Alicia Mitchell-Mercer, North Carolina Justice for All Project

5:00 pm **Adjourn**

Dinner on your own. See list of nearby restaurants in the program.

8:45 am **Arrive at ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)**

Location: 301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

9:00-10:00 am **Global Perspectives on the Future of Justice Work**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Maaik de Langen, Arizona State University
 Ross Maclaren, Mott Foundation
 Jhody Polk, Namati
 Moderator: Rebecca Sandefur, Arizona State University

10:00-11:00 am **Indigenous Justice Workers (Session A)**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Michele Statz, University of Minnesota Medical School
 Valerie Falls Down, Montana Legal Services Association
 Adrienne Takak, Alaska Legal Services Corporation
 Moderator: Cody Nelson, Anishinabe Legal Services

Disaster Justice Workers (Session B)

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Coconino Room (MU 246)

Panelists:

Liz Keith, Pro Bono Net
 Shrushti Kothari, Legal Services Corporation
 Izzy Williamson, Project 60
 Moderator: Nikole Nelson, Frontline Justice

11:00-11:15 am **Break**

11:15 am-12:15 pm **Justice Workers in Administrative Proceedings (Session A)**

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium (MU 230)

Panelists:

Sarah Carver, Alaska Legal Services Corporation
 Charlie Gillig, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice
 Amy Widman, Rutgers Law School
 Moderator: Jim Sandman, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Health Justice Workers (Session B)

Location: ASU Memorial Union, Coconino Room (MU 246)

Panelists:

Ellen Lawton, Healthbegins
 Bob Onders, Maniilaq Association
 James Teufel, American Bar Foundation
 Moderator: Michele Statz, University of Minnesota Medical School

Welcome to Tempe, Arizona!



"A" Mountain/Hayden Butte

Location: E Rio Salado Pkwy & S Mills Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Transport: Within walking distance of campus and hotels

Cost: Free

With its long history as a home to Native Americans, homage to ASU and central location, "A" Mountain, officially named Hayden Butte Preserve, is dear to many. Located on the southeast corner of Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway, Hayden Butte is one of Tempe's most popular outdoor areas and is a quick jaunt to take in a beautiful view of the city. The butte is culturally-significant to three communities: the people of Tempe, Arizona State University students and alumni, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



Desert Botanical Garden

Location: 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008

Hours: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Transport: Requires a car, taxi, or rideshare

Cost: \$25-\$30

Discover the tranquil vibrancy of desert plants nestled amid the red rocks of the Papago Buttes. Visitors can stroll through five thematic trails to explore the fascinating beauty of the Sonoran Desert, from towering cacti and alluring succulents to brilliant wildflowers and lush trees. Scroll through the Garden's calendar so not to miss festive events and dazzling exhibitions.



Heard Museum

Location: 2301 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Transport: Accessible by Light Rail from Tempe

Cost: Adults - \$25, Students w/ ID - \$10, American Indians w/ Tribal ID or CIB – Free

Since its founding in 1929, the Heard Museum has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, world-class exhibitions, educational programming and its unmatched festivals. Dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art, the Heard successfully presents the stories of American Indian people from a first-person perspective, as well as exhibitions that showcase the beauty and vitality of traditional and contemporary art.



Musical Instrument Museum

Location: 4725 E. Mayo Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Transport: Requires a car, taxi, or rideshare

MIM began with a vision to create a musical instrument museum that would be truly global. Realizing most musical museums featured historic, primarily Western classical instruments, MIM's founder Bob Ulrich (then CEO of Target Corporation) was inspired to develop a new kind of museum that would focus on the kind of instruments played every day by people worldwide. A focus on the guest experience shaped every aspect of the museum's development. From the beginning, our goal has been to deliver a musical experience that is enriching, inspiring, interesting, and fun. Today, MIM has a collection of more than 8,000 instruments from more than 200 world countries. The galleries reflect the rich diversity and history of many world cultures. But music and instruments also show us what we have in common – a thought powerfully expressed in our motto, music is the language of the soul.



Papago Park

Location: 4725 E. Mayo Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Transport: Requires a car, taxi, or rideshare

Just minutes from downtown, Papago Park offers exceptional hiking and a wide array of recreational facilities. Comprised primarily of sandstone, the range is known for its massive buttes that rise and fall throughout the park. The trails that interlace the area are generally easy treks. The smooth footing and low elevation gain make it a popular place for running and mountain biking. Papago Park is home two of the regions most visited attractions, the world-class Phoenix Zoo and the stunning Desert Botanical Garden. Additionally, the park boasts an archery range, orienteering course, Papago Ponds fishing lagoon, the Hall of Flame Museum, Papago Sports Complex, and the Papago Golf Course, home of the Arizona State Sun Devils' golf team.

Local Dining

Snooze

Vibrant, retro chain serving a seasonal menu of creative breakfast & lunch fare, plus cocktails.

Location: 615 South College Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 6:30 AM – 2:30 PM

The Chuck Box

Basic, **cash-only** burger joint turning out charcoal-broiled patties plus beer & wine.

Location: 202 E University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 10:30 AM – 10 PM

Pita Jungle

Chain for health-oriented Mediterranean dishes, including lots of veggie options, in sleek environs.

Location: 4 E University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Pedal Haus Brewery

Creative American eats pair with house beers & cocktails in industrial-chic surrounds with a patio.

Location: 730 S Mill Ave #102, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Caffe Boa

European fare with a market-driven focus served in an airy, contemporary space with brick accents.

Location: 398 S Mill Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Alter Ego

Stylish eatery & bar in the Hilton Canopy Hotel serving New American dishes, cocktails & beer on tap.

Location: 108 E University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Postino Annex

An industrial winecafé offering unique and approachable wines, simply scrumptious food prepared with local ingredients, and a warm, edgy culture that brings people together.

Location: 615 S College Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Culinary Dropout

Cool, British-style gastropub chain with quirky decor, serving inventive cocktails & comfort food.

Location: 149 S Farmer Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hours: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Conference Organizers and Steering Committee



Matthew Burnett

Conference Co-Chair

Senior Program Officer, Access to Justice Research Initiative, American Bar Foundation

Matthew Burnett is Senior Program Officer for the Access to Justice Research Initiative at the American Bar Foundation (ABF), a visiting scholar with the Justice Futures Project at Arizona State University, and an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to joining the ABF, Matthew was Senior Policy Officer at Open Society Foundations (OSF), where he worked to advance access to justice and legal empowerment through research, advocacy, litigation and grantmaking in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the United States. Earlier in his career he helped to launch and led the Immigration Advocates Network and served as law clerk to Justice ZM Yacoob of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Matthew's writing on access to civil justice and legal empowerment has appeared in more than 20 publications, and he has given more than 80 presentations and workshops around the world. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, the World Bank, and Canada's International Development Research Centre. He currently serves as an advisor to the National Center for Access to Justice and is co-founder, with Rebecca Sandefur, of Frontline Justice.



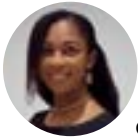
Luz Herrera

Conference Steering Committee Member

Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Experiential Education, Texas A&M University

Luz E. Herrera is a Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Experiential Education at Texas A&M School of Law. Dean Herrera promotes entrepreneurial efforts to address the access to civil justice gap. Before entering academia, Prof. Herrera ran her own practice and founded Community Lawyers, Inc., a non-profit organization that encourages access to affordable legal services and develops innovative opportunities for legal professionals in underserved communities. These experiences have influenced her scholarship that promotes legal "low bono" service delivery models and post-graduate support programs for lawyers starting their own law firms.

Dean Herrera currently serves as a special advisor for the American Bar Association's Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities. Prior to her current position, Dean Herrera was the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education, Experiential Learning and Public Service at UCLA School of Law. She has also taught as a visiting clinical professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, an assistant professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, a visiting professor at Chapman University School of Law and a Senior Clinical Fellow at Harvard Law School. Dean Herrera is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School.



Alicia Mitchell-Mercer

Conference Steering Committee Member

Director of Strategic Projects, North Carolina Justice for All Project

Alicia Mitchell-Mercer is the Director of Project Management at Lex Project Management Consulting Group. She also works as a Project Manager at a well-known litigation law firm in Charlotte, North Carolina. She's actively involved as a FINRA Securities Arbitrator, handling securities dispute resolutions with a very active caseload.

Mitchell-Mercer has a strong track record in the legal community. She served on the NCBA Internet and Regulations Task Force in 2016 and held roles such as Council Member and Chair of various committees, including Communications, Publications, and Technology. She currently leads the Utilization Committee. She was also part of the former NC State Bar Subcommittee that studied Regulatory Change from 2021 to 2022. Her contributions have earned her awards like the NC Judicial Branch Service Award for her Guardian ad Litem service and the 2021 Distinguished Paralegal Award from the North Carolina Bar Association.

Mitchell-Mercer's impact extends to the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA), where she served on the Board of Directors in 2021-2022 and chaired the Continuing Education Council. With a focus on enhancing access to justice in North Carolina, she's now pursuing a doctorate in public policy and administration, leading her to step back from some previous roles.

In 2023, Mitchell-Mercer was appointed as a Special Advisor to the NC Equal Access to Justice Commission by Justice Richard Dietz.



Elizabeth Mucha

Conference Coordinator

Program Manager, Access to Justice Research Initiative, American Bar Foundation

Elizabeth Mucha is the program manager for the Access to Justice Research Initiative, where she supports the ABF/JPB Foundation Access to Justice Scholars Program and Initiative programming and events. Previously, Elizabeth was a senior program manager with the US-UK Fulbright Commission in London, UK, where she managed the Fulbright US Student Program to the UK. She holds an MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Nikole Nelson

Conference Steering Committee Member

CEO, Frontline Justice

Nikole Nelson is the founding CEO of Frontline Justice. Prior to joining Frontline Justice, Nikole was the Executive Director of Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Alaska's only statewide provider of free civil aid. During her 25 years in the field, she worked to build community-led, people-centered justice models and to expand the scope of who can provide legal help including a groundbreaking launch of Partnering for Native Health, a Medical-Legal Partnership involving non-lawyer justice workers that won the 2019 World Justice Challenge. She also spearheaded reforming restrictions on unauthorized practice of law for justice workers in Alaska; these reforms were approved in 2022 by both the Alaska Supreme Court and State Bar Board of Governors. Nikole is a special advisor to the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense (SCLAID) and is a member of the Legal Services Corporation's Rural Justice Task Force.

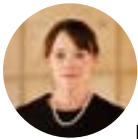


Jhody Polk

Conference Steering Committee Member

Founder, Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative

d'Alchemist, Jhody Polk, is the founder of the Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative (JLI) and the Legal Empowerment & Advocacy Hub (LEAH). She is the Legal Empowerment Fellow of the Global Justice Clinic at NYU Law School and she is a 2024 Global Freedom Fellow and the recipient of the 2019 Peacebuilder of the Year Award, the 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King's Jr. Legacy award and named a Soros Justice Fellow in 2018. She currently serves on the Board of Namati and the Leadership Council of Frontline Justice. Jhody is known as an inspirational public speaker and for her work as a central Florida Organizer on Amendment 4 and the former Director of Community Justice at the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. She served as the Director of the Alachua County Reentry Coalition and is the 2023 inaugural Pathways to Research and Advocacy Fellow with the Fortune Society and Center for Justice Innovation.



Lucy Ricca

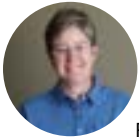
Conference Steering Committee Member

Executive Director, Deborah L. Rhode Center on the Legal Profession

Lucy Ricca is the Executive Director of the Deborah L. Rhode Center on the Legal Profession. Before starting this role, Ricca was the Director of Policy and Programs for the Center and served as the Executive Director from 2013-2018.

Ricca is a national expert in efforts to reform regulation of the legal profession to increase innovation, market diversification, and access to justice. She served as the first Executive Director of the Utah Office of Legal Services Innovation, a new regulator of legal services launched by the Utah Supreme Court. She is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System ("IAALS"). Ricca has written on the regulation of the profession, the changing practice of law, and diversity in the profession.

Ricca clerked for Judge James P. Jones of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. Before clerking, Ricca practiced white collar criminal defense, securities, antitrust, and complex commercial litigation as an associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Ricca received her B.A. cum laude in History from Dartmouth College and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.



Rebecca Sandefur

Conference Co-Chair

Director, Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University; Faculty Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Rebecca L. Sandefur is Professor in and Director of the Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University. She investigates access to civil justice from every angle -- from how legal services are delivered and consumed, to how civil legal aid is organized around the nation, to the role of pro bono, to the relative efficacy of lawyers, nonlawyers and digital tools as advisers and representatives, to how ordinary people think about their justice problems and try to resolve them. In addition to her appointment at ASU, Sandefur is Faculty Fellow at the American Bar Foundation, where she founded and leads the Access to Justice Research Initiative. Her public service includes her appointment by the Supreme Court of Utah to the state's Office of Legal Services Innovation and her appointment by the Supreme Court of Arizona to the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice.

She is co-founder, with Matthew Burnett, of Frontline Justice. In 2013, Sandefur was The Hague Visiting Chair in the Rule of Law. In 2015, she was named Champion of Justice by the National Center for Access to Justice. In 2018, she was named a MacArthur Fellow for her work on inequality and access to justice. In 2020, she was awarded the Warren E. Burger Award by the National Center for State Courts. Sandefur was born in and spent her early years in Oklahoma, and is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation.



Jim Sandman

Conference Steering Committee Member

Senior Advisor, Frontline Justice; Director of the Future of the Profession Lab, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Jim Sandman is Senior Advisor to and Chair of the National Leadership Council of Frontline Justice. He is Distinguished Lecturer and Director of the Future of the Profession Lab at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. He is also President Emeritus of the Legal Services Corporation, the United States' largest funder of civil legal aid. Jim was President of LSC from 2011 to 2020.

Jim practiced law for 30 years with Arnold & Porter and was the firm's Managing Partner for a decade. He has served as General Counsel of the District of Columbia Public Schools and is a past President of the 110,000-member District of Columbia Bar. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Max Rosenn of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Jim is Chair of the Executive Committee and of the Advisory Board of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Vice Chair of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Law Institute. He serves on the boards of the Pro Bono Institute and Albany Law School, among other organizations. He is a Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence.



Michele Statz

Conference Steering Committee Member

Associate Professor, University of Minnesota Medical School

Michele Statz is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is also affiliated faculty with the University of Minnesota Law School and an Affiliated Scholar with the American Bar Foundation. Michele is trained as an anthropologist of law and is a leading researcher in rural and Indigenous access to justice. Her work has appeared in *Law & Society Review*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Harvard Law & Policy Review*, and the *American Journal of Public Health*, among others, and is generously funded by the National Science Foundation and the Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity Center (RISE) at Northwestern University. Michele is the founder of the Law and Rurality Collaborative Research Network, and she is presently a member of the Federal Rural Justice Task Force and the National Advisory Council for Frontline Justice.

Michele's other ongoing work includes interdisciplinary and mixed-media projects on global youth and mobility; working class identity; rural housing precarity; and immigration lawyering. Her first book, *Lawyering an Uncertain Cause: Immigration Advocacy and Chinese Youth in the U.S.* (Vanderbilt U Press), was published in 2018. Statz holds a PhD in Anthropology and a graduate certificate in Comparative Law and Society Studies from the University of Washington.



Jessica Steinberg

Conference Steering Committee Member

Professor of Law, George Washington University

Jessica Steinberg's research interests are in the areas of civil procedure, state courts, access to justice, and poverty law, with an emphasis on original empirical research. Her recent scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in leading journals, including the *Columbia Law Review*, *NYU Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review*, *Harvard Law Review Forum*, and *UCLA Law Review*, among others. Professor Steinberg has been named a Bellow Scholar for her research on lawyerless courts and is a former Chair of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Poverty Law.

Professor Steinberg teaches civil procedure and criminal procedure. Prior to this, she taught the Prisoner & Reentry Clinic, which performed groundbreaking work on behalf of prisoners and returning citizens. Professor Steinberg is a primary author of several bills to promote a fair criminal justice system in the District of Columbia, including legislation to create compassionate release for older prisoners, expand good time credits for people serving long terms of incarceration, and increase employment opportunities for individuals with criminal records.

For her role in developing a Compassionate Release Clearinghouse to expand representation for prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Steinberg received the Wiley A. Brant Award for "dismantling injustice" from the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. Prior to joining the GW Law faculty, Professor Steinberg served as the Jay M. Spears Fellow at Stanford Law School, and an Equal Justice Works Fellow for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. Professor Steinberg earned a BA magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Barnard College and a JD from Stanford University.

Conference Speakers and Panelists



Joy Anderson

Co-Director, CJW Resource Center, Alaska Legal Services Corporation

Joy Anderson is a Co-Director for the Community Justice Worker Resource Center, an initiative of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC). Previously, Joy served as the General Counsel of the Association of Village Council Presidents, a large non-profit tribal consortium of 56 federally recognized tribes in Western Alaska. Joy is experienced in representing and supporting tribes and tribal organizations, particularly in the areas of corporate governance, Indian child welfare, and rural public safety. She is excited to return to ALSC in a new capacity focused on expanding access to justice, particularly in rural communities. Joy is a graduate of Oakwood University and Vanderbilt University Law School; originally from Alabama, she has lived in Bethel, Alaska for the past ten years.



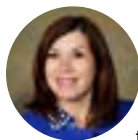
Paul Avelar

Managing Attorney, Institute for Justice AZ

Paul Avelar is the Managing Attorney of the Institute for Justice's Arizona Office. He litigates free speech, property rights, economic liberty, school choice and other constitutional cases in federal and state courts nationwide. He also advocates in state capitals across the country for reforms to protect these and other civil rights.

Paul's work includes IJ's "occupational speech" efforts, in which he represents entrepreneurs to challenge licensing laws that restrict speech, information, and advice regarding medicine, nutrition, death, counseling, engineering, surveying, the law, and many other fields. He served on the Arizona Supreme Court's Task Force on the Review of the Role and Governance Structure of the State Bar of Arizona. He is on the policy advisory council of Responsive Law, which works to reform the legal system. He often speaks at law schools across the country about constitutional issues.

Prior to joining IJ, Paul worked as an attorney at a large firm in Philadelphia. He clerked for judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York, the Arizona Supreme Court, and the Arizona Court of Appeals. Paul earned his law degree from the Arizona State University College of Law and his undergraduate degree from Princeton University.



Betty Balli Torres

Executive Director, Texas Access to Justice Foundation

Betty has dedicated her professional career as an advocate for civil legal services for the poor. She has served as the Executive Director of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, the largest funding source for legal services to the poor in Texas, since 2001. Betty started as a staff attorney at Legal Aid of Central Texas after graduating from the University of Texas School of Law. She has held various public interest law positions, including: Executive Director of Laredo Legal Aid Society, Inc., Legal Director of Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas, Managing Attorney of Legal Aid of Central Texas and as a staff attorney at Advocacy, Inc.

Betty has served on many local, statewide and national committees, boards and task forces. She is the immediate Past President of the ABA's Hispanic Commission, a Past President of the National Association of IOLTA Programs, and Past-Chair of the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas. Betty serves on the boards of Management Information Exchange (MIE) and is board chair of ProBonoNet.

Betty is a recipient of the Distinguished Lawyer Award, Tower of Justice Award, Outstanding Public Interest Attorney Award, the Regina Rogoff Award, the "Nonny" Award for Outstanding Nonprofit Leadership in Austin, the "Star of Justice" Award, the Harold Kleinman Award, the Community Service Award and Chair's Award (Hispanic Issues Section), the ABA's Grassroots Advocacy Award and she just received the Emily C. Jones Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Access to Justice Commission.



Lester Bird

Senior Manager, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Lester Bird is a senior manager for Pew's courts and communities project, providing technical assistance to state courts and legal organizations throughout the U.S. to reform how millions of people, especially those without representation, navigate the legal system.

His focus includes encouraging data-driven reforms of court policy by using research to identify problems and solutions in the legal system. Bird previously worked on the voting information project at Pew, where he helped voters find their polling place and ballot information. Before joining Pew, Bird worked in state and local governments in Florida and Washington, D.C., and he holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Florida.



Darren Breeden

Community Justice Fellow, Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative

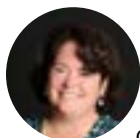
Darren Breeden serves as the Community Justice Fellow with the Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative (JLI) at the Robert and Helen Bernstein Institute for Human Rights at the NYU School of Law. As a Legal Empowerment professional with JLI, he advocates for the rights of current and formerly incarcerated persons to learn and use the law without obstruction. Darren is also the Community Intake Advocate with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem—Civil Defense Practice. He currently serves on the New Jersey Community Health Study Advisory Board (identifying environmental and social factors that affect the health of communities and their relationship to New Jersey's Bail Reform Legislation). Darren graduated from Bard College with a Specialization in Public Health, earned New York State Paralegal Certification and a Paralegal Certification from Columbia University School of Law.



Sarah Carver

Co-Director, CJW Resource Center, Alaska Legal Services Corporation

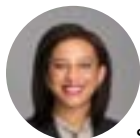
Sarah Carver is Co-Director of Alaska Legal Services Corporation's Community Justice Worker Resource Center (CJWRC). She started her legal career with ALSC as the sole staff attorney in the rural Nome, Alaska office. Since 2018, she has worked to build up the Community Justice Worker program, growing it to over 400 volunteers in 42 communities throughout Alaska.



Elizabeth Chambliss

Henry Harman Edens Professor of Law and Director, NMRS Center on Professionalism, University of South Carolina

Elizabeth Chambliss is the Henry Harman Edens Professor of Law and Director of the NMRS Center on Professionalism at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Her scholarship focuses on access to justice and the regulation of the legal profession. Her most recent research is a mixed methods study of private practice in rural South Carolina. Professor Chambliss is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the American Law Institute. She serves on the SC Access to Justice Commission and the Editorial Advisory Board of Law & Society Review.



Sabrina Charles

Doctoral Student, New York University

Sabrina Charles, a doctoral candidate in Sociology at NYU, has a JD from Yale Law School and an MPA from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Sabrina's academic interests include law and society, the sociology of legal knowledge, the administrative state and social theory. The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Sabrina's dissertation research is in immigration court. Sabrina also uses qualitative methods to investigate how incarcerated legal experts acquire and make meaning of their legal expertise; how embodied legal expertise diverges from technical legal expertise; and the implications of these divergences on legal practice. Outside of her academic work, Sabrina provides qualitative research support to organizations that democratize access to legal knowledge, both in the United States and abroad.



Hayley Cousin

Program Director & Attorney, Timpanogos Legal Center

Hayley Cousin is a Staff Attorney and the Grants Director at Timpanogos Legal Center, a legal services nonprofit in Utah that supports self-represented litigants in family law, housing law, and protective order cases. She helped develop and now runs the Certified Advocate

Partners Program, authorized in the Utah Legal Regulatory Sandbox, wherein victim advocates are trained to provide legal services to victims of abuse seeking protective orders. Her professional focus is on finding innovative ways to deliver legal services in order to address the access to justice gap. Hayley received her undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in English language with minors in editing and business management. She graduated with honors from the BYU Law School and is a member of the Utah State Bar.



Maaïke De Langen

Visiting Scholar, Justice Futures Project, Arizona State University

Maaïke de Langen works as a researcher and consultant on people-centered justice and a responsive rule of law. She is a Visiting Scholar with the Justice Futures project at Arizona State University and a Senior Fellow at New York University's Center on International

Cooperation. Maaïke started her career as a researcher and project manager with the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance, and Development (Leiden University), and later worked for UNDP in Chad. At UNDP HQ in New York she had a key role in drafting the Report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor. Back in the Netherlands, she was first advisor to the National ombudsman for eight years, creating and leading the Department for Strategy and Policy. In 2018, she joined the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies at NYU, and its Task Force on Justice, to oversee the research for the Justice for All report. She subsequently founded and directed the Pathfinders for Justice Program until 2022, creating the Justice Action Coalition, the Ibero-American Justice Alliance and the Young Justice Leaders, and publishing the Justice in a Pandemic briefing series, amongst others.



Valerie Falls Down

Tribal Advocacy Incubator Project Coordinator, Montana Legal Services Association

Valerie Falls Down joined Montana Legal Services Association in July 2021 as a Tribal Advocacy Coordinator for Montana Legal Services Association. Valerie has been appointed to the Montana Supreme Court–Access to Justice Commission to develop, coordinate and implement initiatives to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters.

Valerie currently holds a license to practice in Tribal Court. Her prior work experience includes fifteen years working within the Crow Tribal community in different capacities as a Domestic Violence Director, Victim Advocate, Addiction Counselor and Youth Empowerment Coordinator. Valerie has experience as a five-year Board Member for difference organizations including the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force, Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains and Montana Native Women's Coalition. Through her work and board member experience she has assisted in the areas of strategic planning, policy development, program development & management, forming and linking collaborative networks as well as strengthening and fostering community partnerships.



Meagan Flynn

Chief Justice, Oregon Supreme Court

Meagan Aileen Flynn was elected by her colleagues as Oregon's 44th Chief Justice and began service on January 1, 2023. Chief Justice Flynn was initially appointed as an Associate Justice on the Oregon Supreme Court by Governor Kate Brown and sworn in April 4, 2017.

She was elected to the position in the May 2018 primary in a competitive race.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Flynn served on the Oregon Court of Appeals beginning in November 2014.

Chief Justice Flynn received her undergraduate degree from Willamette University (B.A. cum laude in Philosophy and Political Science, 1989) and her law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law (J.D. magna cum laude, 1992), which she attended as a Thomas More Scholar.

Her current extracurricular activities include serving as a member of the board of the Classroom Law Project and as a coach for the We the People team at Franklin High School in Portland and as a regular speaker on issues of professionalism for the Oregon Bench & Bar Commission on Professionalism.



Charlie Gillig

Senior Counsel, DOJ Office for Access to Justice

Charlie Gillig is Senior Counsel in the Office for Access to Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice. He sits on the civil justice policy, international and innovation teams and has contributed to the Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable work on increasing access to justice in federal administrative proceedings. Prior to this position, he was Vice-President at Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County (NLSLA) and adjunct professor at Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. Charlie also supervised NLSLA's Health Consumer Center. Prior to NLSLA, Charlie founded RemitRight, a social enterprise aimed at reducing predatory practices against consumers in the remittance industry and was a Skadden Fellow at the immigration legal services organization Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego. Charlie is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Prior to law school, he served in the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa.



Margaret Hagan

Executive Director, Legal Design Lab, Stanford Law School

Margaret Hagan is the executive director of the Legal Design Lab, an R&D lab for more accessible, intuitive, and engaging legal services at Stanford. She is a lecturer at Stanford Law School and Institute of Design (the d.school). She is a lawyer (JD, Stanford Law 2013)

She teaches project-based classes, with interdisciplinary student groups tackling legal challenges through user-focused research and design of new legal products and services. Explore more about the Legal Design Lab <http://legaltechdesign.com> and see the AI & Access to Justice Initiative at <https://justiceinnovation.law.stanford.edu/projects/ai-access-to-justice/>.



Melissa Hart

Justice, Colorado Supreme Court

Justice Hart has served on the Colorado Supreme Court since 2017. Prior to joining the Court, Justice Hart was a professor at the University of Colorado Law School, where she directed the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law. Throughout

her years as a professor, Justice Hart maintained an active pro bono practice, writing amicus briefs in appellate courts and representing clients through Metro Volunteer Lawyers. Her teaching and scholarship focused on access to justice, constitutional law, judicial decision making, legal ethics, employment discrimination, and civil procedure.



Jennifer Henderson

Justice, Alaska Supreme Court

Justice Jennifer Henderson was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in July 2021. She was born and raised in California and attended Claremont McKenna College and Yale Law School. After graduation from law school in 2001, she worked as a law clerk for both state and federal court judges before beginning work as a prosecutor in the Anchorage District Attorney's Office in 2003. She transitioned to private practice in 2007, where her work centered on defense of individuals, municipalities, and other entities in a variety of civil case types. Justice Henderson was subsequently appointed to the Anchorage District Court in November 2012 and to the Anchorage Superior Court in May 2017. While serving on those trial courts, Justice Henderson participated as a presiding judge with the Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project, also known as the Mental Health Court, and presided over the Anchorage Centralized Competency Calendar from 2018 through 2021. She also assisted in creating a mediation program focused upon Forcible Entry and Detainer matters. Justice Henderson currently co-chairs the Alaska Court System's Access to Justice Committee, chairs that group's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, and is a member of the Alaska Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee. She also chairs the Alaska Court System's Civil Rules Committee and the Judicial Conference Committee, and participates in the Court System's working group on caseflow management and in the Alaska Bar Association's CLE Committee.



Helen Hierschbiel

Chief Executive Officer, Oregon State Bar

Helen M. Hierschbiel has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Oregon State Bar since January 2016. She started at the bar in December 2003, as one of the Client Assistance Office attorneys and Assistant General Counsel. She took the position of Deputy General Counsel in 2006 and became the OSB General Counsel in 2010. Prior to working for the Bar, she worked at Dunn Carney Allen Higgins and Tongue in Portland, Oregon and for DNA-Peoples Legal Services on the Navajo and Hopi Nations in Arizona. She received her JD from Lewis & Clark Law School in 1991 and is licensed to practice law in Oregon and Arizona (inactive). Her professional volunteer activities include service on the Multnomah Bar Association Board of Directors (2011-2014), on the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility Policy and Implementation Committee (2015-2019), on the International Institute for Law Association Chief Executives (IILACE) Program Committee (2021-2023), as the Secretary for the Western States Bar Conference (2019-2022), and on the St. Andrew Legal Clinic Board of Directors (2023-present).



Michael Houlberg

Director of Special Projects, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System

Michael Houlberg is the Director of Special Projects at IAALS, focusing on family justice and regulatory reform work, and promoting greater accessibility, efficiency, and fairness to everyone involved in the legal system. Houlberg leads our Allied Legal Professionals project, our work on unbundled legal services, and IAALS' partnership on the Cady Initiative for Family Justice Reform.

Houlberg joined IAALS in 2018 after working for both private and nonprofit organizations. He started his legal career working with Towards Justice, a Colorado nonprofit organization that fights for workers who have experienced wage theft. Houlberg then transitioned to workers' compensation defense with Pollart Miller, LLC, where he litigated claims on behalf of employers and insurance companies. Desiring to return to nonprofit work and help provide others with greater access to the courts, Houlberg joined the National Center for State Courts and worked on projects that involved the implementation of a statewide case management system and the creation of a juvenile court specifically tailored to youth involved in gun violence. He is excited to increase the reach of his work to both state and federal courts through his work at IAALS.

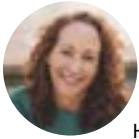
Houlberg graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2015. He received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Brigham Young University and is a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.



Diana Imbert

Executive Director, Defying Legal Gravity

Diana Imbert is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Defying Legal Gravity (DLG), where she is responsible for DLG's overall direction, operation, and vision of empowering New York City youth with the same legal foundation as every lawyer in America. She is also an education attorney at Advocates for Children, where she fights to ensure a high-quality education for low-income New York students who face barriers to academic success. Prior to going to law school, Diana Imbert served as a middle school teacher in North Philadelphia, where she organized against the school-to-prison pipeline, mass incarceration, and family policing. Diana Imbert is a Bronx-bred, first-generation immigrant from the Dominican Republic. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. She enjoys dancing, poetry, reading, and celebrating life and community.



Stacy Jane

Director, Innovation for Justice

Stacy Rupprecht Jane is the Director of i4J and has two decades of experience in community advocacy and expanding the reach of civil legal services for under-represented populations. Her research focuses on the application of human-centered design and innovation to social justice issues including eviction, debt collection, domestic violence, regulatory reform, and online dispute resolution. Prior to launching i4J, she worked in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Stacy was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission in 2021. She received the Association of American Law Schools' Deborah L. Rhode Award in 2022, which honors the contributions, service, and leadership of Deborah Rhode by recognizing new trailblazers in legal education and the legal profession. Stacy received the Arizona State Bar Award of Special Merit in 2020 for her contributions to the furtherance of public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice, and confidence in the legal profession. Stacy earned a B.A. from Trinity University and a J.D. from the University of Arizona.



Lynn Jennings

Vice President for Grants Management, Legal Services Corporation

Lynn Jennings serves as the Vice President for Grants Management at the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In this capacity, she has responsibility for planning, developing, and implementing systems for LSC's nationwide grant-making and grants management. Ms. Jennings focuses on promoting effective and efficient delivery of legal services to the low-income individuals and families, ensuring sound fiscal and management oversight, and ensuring compliance with the LSC Act, other governing provisions of the law, and LSC's guidelines, policies, and grant conditions.

Prior to joining LSC, Ms. Jennings served as the Executive Director of Big City Emergency Managers, Inc. (BCEM). Since 2005, the BCEM has brought together the directors of emergency management from the largest, most at-risk cities from across the country to foster the development and growth of robust and nimble emergency management operations in the nation's largest, most at-risk metropolitan jurisdictions so that the country is better positioned to prevent, protect against, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from major incidents and catastrophic emergencies.



Liz Keith

Program Director, Pro Bono Net

Liz is Chief Partnerships Officer at Pro Bono Net, a national nonprofit that creates innovative and sustainable digital solutions and partnerships to bring free, safe, high-quality help to millions of people. Liz has played a key role in Pro Bono Net's strategy for more than a decade and began as a LawHelp Program Coordinator to help build the first free online legal help resources for low-income communities in 25 states. Liz's prior experience includes roles in digital equity initiatives centered on increasing access to information, rights, and opportunity, and in public policy campaigns on issues impacting women's health, civil rights, economic security and freedom from violence. Liz holds a master's degree focused on public interest technology from the University of Michigan and was selected to participate in the inaugural Legal Empowerment Leadership program at Central European University's School of Public Policy. She hails from South Jersey originally and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.



S. M. Kernodle-Hodges

Executive Director, North Carolina Justice for All Project

S. M. Kernodle-Hodges is responsible for the development and implementation of comprehensive strategic plans that align with the organization's core mission. These plans are not just blueprints for action but a roadmap toward significant legal system transformation in North Carolina.

An essential aspect of her role involves coordinating with a diverse array of stakeholders. This includes legal professionals, policymakers, community leaders, and the beneficiaries of the organization's work. Through these collaborations, she ensures that JFAP's initiatives are comprehensive, inclusive, and representative of the needs of those they aim to serve.



Renee Knake Jefferson

Professor of Law & Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics, University of Houston

Renee Knake Jefferson is the Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics and a Professor of Law at the University of Houston. In 2019, she held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia, and during 2015 she was a Scholar-in-Residence at Stanford Law School's Center on the Legal Profession. From 2014-16 she served as a reporter for the American Bar Association Presidential Commission on the Future of Legal Services. In 2013, she was awarded the title "Legal Rebel" by the ABA Journal and included in the Fastcase50. Professor Jefferson is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. She is an award-winning author of numerous articles and books including *Law Democratized: A Blueprint for Solving the Justice Crisis* (NYU Press, 2024). Her Legal Ethics Roundup newsletter is viewed by more than 1,000 readers around the globe each week. She frequently consults on legal ethics matters and regularly appears in media such as CNN Opinion, MSNBC, National Public Radio, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post.



Shrushti Kothari

Program Counsel, Legal Services Corporation

Shrushti Kothari is the Disaster Grants Program Counsel in the Office of Program Performance at Legal Services Corporation (LSC). She previously served as Project Manager of National Disaster Content and Resources and as a Staff Attorney in the Disaster Relief Unit at Lone Star Legal Aid in Houston, TX. She also served as a Subject-Matter Expert and Content Manager for LSC's multi-partner Legal Aid Disaster Resource Center website and the Disaster Assistance Recovery Tool. Ms. Kothari is a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness and the Vice Director of Implementations ABA Young Lawyers Division's Disaster Legal Services Program.



Bert Kritzer

Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Law School

Herbert M. Kritzer (Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1974; B.A. Haverford College 1969) is the Marvin J. Sonosky Chair of Law and Public Policy emeritus at the University of Minnesota Law School and Professor of Political Science and Law emeritus at the University of Wisconsin – Madison where he taught from 1977 through 2007. He also held positions at the William Mitchell College of Law (2007-09), Rice University (1975-77), and Indiana University (1974-75). He is the recipient of multiple awards from the Law and Society Association: the Ronald Pipkin Service Award (2015), the Legacy Award (2019), and the Harry J. Kalven, Jr. Prize which is awarded annually for “empirical scholarship that has contributed most effectively to the advancement of research in law and society.” From 2003 to 2007 he served as editor of *Law & Society Review*. His empirical research has focused on civil justice, judicial behavior, and judicial selection. At an early phase of his career he also wrote on research methods, which is reflected in his recent book, *Advanced Introduction to Empirical Legal Research* (Edward Elgar Publishing 2021). Over the last 15 years his research has focused heavily on judicial selection resulting in three books, all published by Cambridge University Press, *Justices on the Ballot: Continuity and Change in State Supreme Court Elections* (2015), *Judicial Selection in the States: Politics and the Struggle for Reform* (2020), and *Litigating Judicial Selection* (2024). He is the author or coauthor for seven other books, including a study comparing lawyers and nonlawyers as legal advocates, *Legal Advocacy: Lawyers and Nonlawyers at Work* (University of Michigan Press, 1998). He is also the editor or coeditor of three other books.



Ellen Lawton

Senior Fellow, HealthBegins

Ellen Lawton, JD leads training and technical assistance for the national Health Housing & Justice Initiative, a partnership with Kaiser Permanente and the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. A national expert in the integration of legal professionals into the health care setting to address the social determinants of health, Ellen helped found and then led the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership at George Washington University from 2001-2020. Ellen is internationally recognized for her leadership in developing the medical-legal partnership model, and has published an array of articles describing this work in clinical and legal journals. She received the Innovations in Legal Services Award from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and was a member of the Legal Services Corporation’s 2019 Opioid Use Task Force. She is a member of the board of directors of the Institute for Community Health. Ellen lives in Boston with her husband Jon and two sons.



Jane Lombardi

Sr. Director of Partnerships, The Resurrection Project

Jane Lombardi - Senior Director of Immigrant Justice Partnerships joined The Resurrection Project in December 2019. She oversees TRP’s grant programs that fund community-based legal and immigrant justice organizations, as well as the Immigrant Justice Leadership Academy. Prior to joining TRP, Jane managed Erie Neighborhood House’s legal service department as a partial DOJ accredited representative. In 2012, she was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Guadalajara, México. Jane holds a BA in Spanish and Latin American & Caribbean Studies from Rollins College and a MS in Public Service Management from DePaul University. Jane is passionate about developing nonprofit immigration legal service providers and increasing their capacity through training and systems development.



Ross Maclaren

Program Officer, Mott Foundation

Ross Maclaren is a program officer responsible for grantmaking in the Increasing Access to Justice program area. Based in the Foundation’s London office, he previously managed grantmaking in Russia and Ukraine. Prior to joining Mott in 2006, he worked as director of the Institute for Sustainable Communities’ Russian Far East office in Khabarovsk, ISAR in Central Asia, and with Charity Know How – a public/private donor consortium supporting civil society development. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Toronto and a master’s degree in Central/Eastern European and Russian area studies from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.



Milan Markovic

Professor, Texas A&M University School of Law

Milan Markovic is a Professor of Law, Presidential Impact Fellow, and a Co-Convener of the Program in Law and Social Science at Texas A&M University School of Law. Professor Markovic's scholarship focuses on the duties of lawyers and judges in transnational contexts and the future of the legal profession. He is widely recognized for his work on the use of technology in the legal profession, including in access to justice initiatives, and has been cited in law school textbooks, testimony before congressional subcommittees, and in case law before American and International courts. Prior to joining Texas A&M, Professor Markovic practiced law in New York City with Sidley Austin LLP and Baker Hostetler LLP and clerked for the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court.



Mary McClymont

Senior Fellow, Georgetown Justice Lab

Mary McClymont has held leadership positions in the non-profit, philanthropic and government sectors, focused on social justice, human rights and humanitarian issues in both the domestic and global arenas.

McClymont is Senior Fellow at Georgetown Justice Lab, and was Adjunct Professor in 2018-19 at Georgetown Law. Previously, she served as president and CEO, and member of the board of directors of the Public Welfare Foundation, a national private philanthropy with a \$500 million endowment working to advance justice and opportunity for people in need. Its grantmaking focused on criminal and youth justice reform, workers' rights and the initiative she created and led--civil justice reform.

Prior to joining Public Welfare, she served as executive director of Global Rights; and as president and CEO of InterAction. She held various executive positions at the Ford Foundation, including as vice president of the Peace and Social Justice Program. While there, among other areas, she led work on immigrants' rights and civil legal aid, both domestically and globally, and she launched the criminal justice reform portfolio.

Earlier, McClymont served as the national director for legalization of the Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Catholic Conference; as senior staff counsel for the National Prison Project of the ACLU; and as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

A member of the D.C. bar, McClymont holds an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from American University's Washington College of Law, and a J.D. from Georgetown Law.



Bridget McCormack

President and CEO, American Arbitration Association

Bridget Mary McCormack is President and CEO of the American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution. She is also a Strategic Advisor to the Future of the Profession Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Until the end of 2022, McCormack was Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, a position her peers selected her for in January 2019 after she served for six years as a Justice. While on the Court, she championed innovation and the use of technology to improve access to justice.

A graduate of New York University Law School, McCormack started her legal career in New York City. In 1996, she joined the Yale Law School faculty. She then joined the University of Michigan Law School faculty in 1998, where she taught criminal law, legal ethics, and numerous clinics. She was Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs from 2002 until 2012.



Cody Nelson

Executive Director, Anishinabe Legal Services

Cody Nelson is the Executive Director of Anishinabe Legal Services, a 501(c)(3) non-profit civil legal aid law firm providing free legal assistance to low-income Native Americans residing on or near the Leech Lake, White Earth, and Red Lake Reservations in northern Minnesota. Cody graduated magna cum laude from the University of St. Thomas School of Law (Minneapolis, Minnesota) in 2006 and commenced employment with Anishinabe Legal Services as a staff attorney shortly thereafter. He is licensed to practice law in Minnesota as well as before the Leech Lake, White Earth, Mille Lacs, and Red Lake Band Tribal Courts. Cody has performed Executive Director duties for the program for over 10 years and has provided legal services directly to program clients for over 15.



Robert Onders

Medical Director, Maniilaq Association

Dr. Robert Onders is currently the Medical Director for Maniilaq Health Center. Previously he worked for Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) as the Alaska Native Medical Center Administrator (2020-2022), President of Alaska Pacific University (APU) when APU affiliated with the ANTHC (2017-2020), and Medical Director of Health Systems Improvements (2015-2020). Prior to joining ANTHC in 2015, Dr. Onders worked as clinical director for Kodiak Area Native Association and emergency department director at West Park Hospital in Cody, Wyoming. Dr. Onders graduated from a combined six-year B.S./M.D. program through Kent State University and Northeast Ohio Medical University in 1997. He completed his Family Medicine residency, Juris Doctorate, and Master of Public Administration with the University of Wyoming.



Juan Pedroza

Assistant Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz

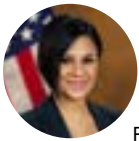
Juan Manuel Pedroza is Assistant Professor in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Pedroza is a scholar of the changing landscape of immigration in the United States. His research leverages quantitative, demographic tools and novel data sources to answer pressing questions about where immigrants thrive and how exclusionary contexts stunt immigrant communities' potential. He investigates the vast inequalities of immigrants' access to justice, the social safety net, and multiple forms of hardship (e.g., poverty, housing instability, health difficulties).



Eréndira Rendón

Vice-President, Immigrant Justice, The Resurrection Project

Eréndira (Ere) Rendón, Vice President of Immigrant Justice, joined TRP in July 2010. Ere created TRP's Immigrant Justice Department and serves as the organization's lead strategist and manager on local and state-wide campaigns impacting the lives of immigrants. Ere has played a leading role in the successful passage of pro-immigrant legislation in Illinois, including Temporary Visitor's Driver's Licenses, the expansion of healthcare to undocumented adults in Illinois, the Chicago Legal Protection Fund, the creation of the immigration unit in the law office of the Cook County Public Defender, and Illinois Access to Justice. Ere is an undocumented immigrant with DACA protection. She was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1990 to be reunited with her dad. Ere is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an alumna of the Civic Leadership Academy at the University of Chicago and Leadership Greater Chicago.



Rachel Rossi

Director, Office for Access to Justice

Rachel Rossi was appointed to serve as Director of the Office for Access to Justice in May 2022.

Prior to her appointment, Director Rossi served as Deputy Associate Attorney General in the Office of the Associate Attorney General, Vanita Gupta. In that role, she also served as the inaugural Anti-Hate Coordinator for the Justice Department.

Director Rossi began her career as a public defender in Los Angeles, where she served for almost a decade. She then served as Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Richard J. Durbin, where she was the lead staffer on the First Step Act and then transitioned to the role of Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, working for then Crime Subcommittee Chair Karen Bass.

In 2020, Director Rossi was the first former public defender to run for the nonpartisan seat of District Attorney of Los Angeles County, where she was only five points shy of qualifying for the runoff election, receiving almost half a million votes. She then served as the Legal Director for the REFORM Alliance, where she launched the development of a litigation program for direct representation in matters surrounding issues of probation, parole, supervised release, and community supervision.

Director Rossi received her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law, and attended Azusa Pacific University, Vanguard University and Bethany University, where she received her bachelor's degree.



Tanina Rostain

*Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Justice Innovation,
Georgetown University Law Center*

Tanina Rostain is the Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Justice Innovation at Georgetown Law Center. Her scholarship focuses on access to justice, the American legal profession, and legal ethics. Current projects explore innovative approaches to improving the transparency, equity, and accessibility of the civil justice system, including through the use of digital technologies, non-lawyer service delivery models, and court modernization. At Georgetown, Professor Rostain launched the Justice Lab, a research center dedicated to investigating new modalities to address people's everyday justice problems. She is the Faculty Director of the South Carolina Justice Navigators Network, a project that trains social service organizations in "Legal First Aid." She also co-directs the Judicial Innovation Program, a program that places early career designers, data scientists, and other technologists in state courts to pursue court modernization projects. In 2021, Professor Rostain launched the Georgetown Civil Justice Data Commons, a secure court data repository created to facilitate research on evictions and debt collection cases.



Joe Schottenfeld

Assistant General Counsel, NAACP

Joe Schottenfeld is an assistant general counsel for the NAACP, where he litigates a variety of constitutional and civil rights cases and helps develop new policies and programs. In addition to his work at the NAACP, he co-teaches a civil rights clinic at NYU and is a senior affiliated research scholar in the law school's Community Equity Lab.



Radhika Singh

Vice President, Civil Legal Services & Strategic Policy Initiatives, National Legal Aid & Defender Association

Radhika leads NLADA's civil legal services and policy divisions. She represents the civil legal aid and public defense communities in advocacy and education efforts in national conversations and with government entities, advocating for federal policies to integrate civil legal aid into cross-sector collaborations that serve low-income and vulnerable populations and advance federal objectives. Her focus is both on substantive issues in the delivery of legal services and increasing resources to support legal assistance.

Radhika has served on various national task forces, including the American Bar Association Task Force on Legal Needs Arising out of the 2020 Pandemic and the Legal Services Corporation's Opioid and Rural Justice Task Forces. She currently serves as a liaison to the ABA's Standing Committees on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense and Pro Bono and Public Service, and its Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and serves on the ABA's Task Force on Eviction, Housing Stability, and Equity. Prior to her current role, Radhika served as NLADA's chief of civil legal services. She previously worked in engagement and advocacy at Equal Justice Works and as a staff attorney at the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, focusing on constitutional and civil rights litigation and advocacy. She received her B.A. from American University and her J.D. from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.



Claire Solt

Managing Director, Bigglesworth Family Foundation/LSFN

Since 2011, Claire has served as the Managing Director of the Bigglesworth Family Foundation, a private family foundation based in San Francisco that focuses on supporting legal services organizations and increasing access to justice. In 2014 she co-founded the Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN). As of 2024, LSFN participants include over 150 private and public organizations that fund civil legal aid organizations and issues. The LSFN hosts monthly programs, a website and an annual Signature Event. Since 2020 the LSFN has run the LSFN Public Interest Law Bar Fellowship. Claire serves on the LSC Leaders Council, the University of San Francisco School of Law Board of Counselors, and the California Access to Justice Commission Grants, Public Policy, Fundraising Committees. Additionally, she had served on numerous for-profit and non-profit boards. Claire is an 2015 One Justice Opening Doors to Justice Honoree, and received the University of San Francisco School of Law 2017 Alumni Distinguished Public Service Award and the 2022 Alumnus of the Year Award. She is a frequent presenter at philanthropy and public interest law conferences, as well as bar associations and commissions. A member of the California State Bar, prior to entering the field of philanthropy Claire worked as an attorney in both the private and public sectors. She received her JD and MSOD (Masters of Science in Organization Development) from the University of San Francisco, and completed her undergraduate education at Mills College and Tufts University. A member of the disabled community, Claire is deaf on her left side.



Sacha Steinberger

Founder + Co-Executive Director, Legal Link

Sacha Steinberger is the Founder and Co-Executive Director of Legal Link. Prior to founding Legal Link, Sacha litigated worker's rights and civil rights cases at Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson, P.C. in Oakland, clerked for Federal District Court Judge Martin J. Jenkins, and worked with Bay Area legal non-profits on worker's rights and benefits issues. Prior to law school, Sacha did community, labor, and electoral organizing, and uses her community organizing background to employ the law as a tool to help clients move out of poverty. Sacha received her J.D. from UC Law SF (Formerly UC Hastings), and her B.A. from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. She is a member of the State Bar of California.



Adrienne Takak

Community Justice Worker, Alaska Legal Services Corporation

Adrienne (Addy) Takak works as a Community Justice Worker for Alaska Legal Services. In her role, she works as part of the ALSC's Holistic Defense Project, training to provide limited scope civil legal aid to people impacted by the justice system.

She is a descendant and enrolled member of the Native Village of Shaktoolik, where she spent a small part of her childhood. She spent the rest of her childhood and currently lives in what is now known as Anchorage, Alaska where she attended grade school, high school and received a BA in Anthropology.

Outside of work, Addy enjoys spending time with her family and pup, Charlie.



James Teufel

Senior Researcher, American Bar Foundation

James Teufel, MPH, PhD, is Senior Researcher with the Access to Justice Research Initiative at the American Bar Foundation and a Visiting Scholar of Arizona State University's Justice Futures Initiative. James also currently advises the Delaware Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) on right to representation and nonlawyer representation (i.e., Qualified Tenant Advocates as permitted by Delaware Supreme Court Rule 57.1) in landlord-tenant cases and is a contributor to the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. Dr. Teufel was the founding Director of Data of the Utah Supreme Court's Office of Legal Services Innovation (OLSI) and is currently the founding Data Analyst of Law Society of Ontario's (LSO) Access to Innovation (A2I). James has recently acted as an evaluator for Georgetown University's Institute for Technology Law & Policy and as an Evaluation and a Regulatory Reform Consultant of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS). Dr. Teufel contributed to the business case for medical-legal partnerships and the social return on investment of legal services. Dr. Teufel received the 2015 National Medical-Legal Partnership Advocate of the Year Award in recognition for innovating the financial and social return on investment model for medical-legal partnerships and currently consults for the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnerships. He was a former Associate Professor of Public Health who established two undergraduate programs. Until July 2021, Dr. Teufel was the President of the Board of the Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley, a federally-qualified health center. James is particularly interested in scaling and sustaining innovative solutions to social problems and in developing just solutions that empower people to prevent and intervene in justiciable events.



David Udell

Executive Director, National Center for Access to Justice, Fordham Law School

David Udell is the Founder and Executive Director of the National Center for Access to Justice -- the national nonprofit organization at Fordham Law School that is working to bring rigorous, principled research and analysis to the task of creating a fairer civil and criminal legal system and a more just society. David guides NCAJ's projects including the Justice Index with its Civil Legal Aid Attorney Count and Fines & Fees Index, as well as NCAJ's 2023 Project to create a new Consumer Debt Litigation Policy Index. David also guides NCAJ's Legal Empowerment Project with its research based advocacy initiative to update the laws and rules that prevent people from obtaining basic legal advice from social workers and other trained social services professionals working in local communities. David is a member of the advisory boards of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel and of the Justice Center of the New York County Lawyers' Association. He is a former member of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Professional Responsibility for which he chaired a process that authored Narrowing the Justice Gap: New Roles for Non-lawyer Practitioners; he served on the Chief Judge of New York's Committee on Nonlawyers and the Justice Gap; and he is a co-author of New Roles for Non-Lawyers to Increase Access to Justice. David is a co-teacher of the Access to Justice Seminar at Fordham Law, where he also serves as a co-director of the Law School's A2J Initiative. David was the Founder and Executive Director of the Justice Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, and also served as a Senior Attorney at Legal Services for the Elderly (NYC) and a Managing Attorney at Mobilization for Justice (NYC). He is a graduate of NYU Law School.



Laura Vazquez

Director, Immigrant Integration, UnidosUS

Laura Vazquez is the Director for Immigrant Integration at UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza). Laura works with Affiliates to expand and sustain their immigration legal services programs. Previously she conducted legislative and administrative advocacy to advance just and humane reforms to the current immigration system.

Prior to UnidosUS, Laura served as a constituent caseworker for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, assisting D.C. residents with their immigration applications. As a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellow, she monitored efforts to address laws passed in 1996 that impacted immigrants. Her background includes research on Mexican migration to the United States and the role of nonprofits in advocating for Latino immigrants.

Laura holds a master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of California, San Diego and a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish from Kenyon College.



Amy Widman

Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School

Amy Widman teaches administrative law, torts, and law and inequality at Rutgers Law School. Her research focuses on increasing access to justice in administrative decision-making processes at the federal, state, and local levels. She has recently written on what administrative law can learn from the access to justice movement generally, the role of state ALJs in increasing access to justice in their hearing rooms, and best practices for federal agencies to identify and reduce burdens on the public. She is currently working on a project to analyze possibilities for expanding justice workers in federal agency decision-making processes. Additionally, she worked as a law faculty fellow in the Office of General Counsel at the Office of Management and Budget in 2022 and as a research consultant with the Administrative Conference of the United States throughout 2022-2024.



Izzy Williamson

Disaster Relief Project Manager, Project 60

Izzy Williamson is the Disaster Relief Program Manager at Project 60 in partnership with the Community Justice Worker Resource Center (CJWRC) at Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC). Izzy provides oversight and management to the five-state legal aid cohort with a mission to recruit new culturally appropriate Community Justice Workers throughout Indian Country. Izzy worked for DNA-People's Legal Services for eight years overseeing the Partnering for Native Health (PNH) AmeriCorps project, a Medical-Legal Partnership collaborative starting in the Navajo Nation and expanding throughout tribal communities in the United States. Previously, Izzy served as the Elder Rights Program Manager for Northern Arizona Council of Government, as well as nine years at the Arthritis Foundation Great West Region as the Vice President of Programs.