

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

DR. D JOE OLMI

D. Joe Olmi is beginning his 25th year as faculty in the USM Department of Psychology and serves as Department Chair and faculty in the School Psychology Program. He is licensed as a Psychologist in Mississippi and has 36+ years' experience in educational settings (2 ½ years as a secondary social studies teacher and the remainder as a school psychologist and university professor). He consults with school districts and state departments in Mississippi and Louisiana on issues pertaining to juvenile detention center redesign, alternative education, positive behavioral support, system-wide intervention for disruptive behavior, classroom management, risk assessment, and classroom/family intervention for children with ADHD and other disorders/disabilities. He also sees cases in the USM School Psychology Service Center in order to model effective practice for his students.

NADIA SEERATAN

Nadia N. Seeratan is the Senior Staff Attorney & Policy Advocate with the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC). Prior to joining NJDC in 2010, Nadia served as the Racial Justice Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ) where she engaged in advocacy, public education, and lawsuits designed to positively impact communities of color. Nadia came to the ACLU-NJ from New York City's Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division where she represented children in child protective and juvenile delinquency proceedings. Ms. Seeratan works to build the capacity of the juvenile defense bar through national, state and local advocacy. She provides training and technical assistance to juvenile justice system professionals, conducts appellate advocacy, is involved in assessment of state juvenile justice systems, and participates in various other aspects of juvenile indigent defense advocacy and reform efforts. She is committed to challenging racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system. She received her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law and her Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto. Nadia is a Certified JTIP Trainer.

CHRISTINA GILBERT

Christina became Staff Attorney and Policy Counsel at NJDC in 2016 after initially joining the organization in 2012 to direct the Equity Project, a collaborative initiative of the National Juvenile Defender Center, Legal Services for Children, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, providing training and technical assistance to enhance policies and practices related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) and ensure fair, equitable and dignified treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in the delinquency courts. In 2015, she also took over managing a national organizing campaign housed at NJDC seeking to amend state laws, court rules, policies and practices that permit the automatic shackling of children in delinquency court. Prior to joining NJDC, Christina worked with a variety of advocacy organizations, educational institutions and state government. In those roles she provided training, technical assistance, policy advocacy, and research on a wide range of issues, such as school discipline cases and education law, restorative justice, implicit bias, and civil and international human rights, among others. She holds a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and a B.A. in Social Thought and Political Economy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

BRENDA LOCKE

Brenda Locke is a retired public defender who spent nearly 15 years in Jackson County representing minors charged with delinquent acts in youth court and adults charged with felony crimes in circuit court. She is currently employed as Juvenile Resource Attorney in the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender. Brenda serves on the Advisory Committee of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and on the Advisory Committee for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Task Force. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Paralegal Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Brenda is a longtime member of MPDA and previously served on the board of directors. Brenda is also a Certified JTIP Trainer.

ELIZABETH MCDOWELL

Elizabeth received a B.S. in Psychology and a Master's of Social Work from the University of Southern Mississippi. She currently is a Licensed Master Social Worker. Her professional work history includes children's case manager, school-based clinician, Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (MYPAC) therapist and MYPAC supervisor. MYPAC started her passion for wraparound and led to her current position with the University of Southern Mississippi as the State Wraparound Coordinator. Elizabeth is certified as a coach and trainer through the National Wraparound Implementation Center and currently provides coaching and training throughout Mississippi to agencies providing wraparound.

VANESSA HUSTON

Vanessa Huston is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Board Qualified Supervisor in the state of Mississippi. She received her B.A. from Northwestern University and her Master's Degree in Psychology from Benedictine University in Chicago. Vanessa has worked in the mental health field for over 15 years in supervisory and front-line positions across outpatient, crisis, residential and day treatment settings with children, families and adults in Illinois, California and Mississippi. She joined the Mississippi Wraparound Institute at The University of Southern Mississippi in November of 2014 where she has been excited to work in partnership with the Department of Medicaid and the Department of Mental Health to implement Wraparound across the state. Vanessa is certified as a Wraparound Trainer and Coach through the National Wraparound Implementation Center.

STACI O'NEAL

Staci O'Neal is the public defender for the Madison County Juvenile Drug Court since 2006 and one of two public defenders for the Madison County Youth Court since 2010. She is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Mississippi College School of Law in 2000 where she was an Editor of the Law Review, a member of the Moot Court Board and a Justice on the Honor Court. After graduating from law school Staci began her law career doing various types of litigation in Federal, Circuit, Chancery and County Court. In 2006 she founded O'Neal Law Firm in Madison, Mississippi. She is currently a candidate for Madison County Court Judge.

TIM TUCKER

Tim, a native of Pontotoc, Mississippi is a sole practitioner with law offices in Pontotoc and New Albany, Mississippi. He attended Jackson College of Ministries and has served as a youth pastor and interim pastor for churches in Indiana and Mississippi before earning his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 2001 at the age of thirty-six; he presently is an administrative pastor at Bethlehem Church in Marshall County, Mississippi where he works with campus ministries at Ole Miss. He continues to serve the Youth Court of Pontotoc County, Mississippi as a guardian *ad litem* and a public defender where he has worked since 2002. He is the salaried public defender for Pontotoc County Justice Court and one of two salaried public defenders for the Circuit Court of Pontotoc County, Mississippi. Tim has shown a commitment to indigent defense for juveniles and adults throughout his law career.

RANDEE WALDMAN

Randee J. Waldman serves as the Director of the Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic at Emory University School of Law. In this role, she supervises law students in holistic representation of young people charged with delinquent and status offenses. In addition to representing these clients in their juvenile court cases, she and her students also represent them in special education proceedings, school suspension proceedings, and other forums according to the clients' needs. Professor Waldman also engages in policy work related to juvenile justice issues and teaches courses in juvenile justice and education law.

Professor Waldman is a widely respected trainer, speaker and writer. She is a NITA certified trial skills trainer, and is a certified trainer for the National Juvenile Defender Center's Juvenile Training Immersion Program. She has presented on trial skills, delinquency representation and education advocacy at numerous local, regional and national conferences. Professor Waldman serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children and on the Advisory Board for the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and for PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health. She is also on the Executive Committee of the Child Protection and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

Professor Waldman received her BA from Haverford College and her JD from the University of Chicago Law School. She was admitted to practice in New York in 1998 and in Georgia in 2006.