

SPEAKER BIOS

REVEREND C. EDWARDS RHODES, II

The son of famed civil rights attorney Carroll Rhodes Sr., and being dedicated back to God by his mother Doris Rhodes when he was almost one year old, C. Edward Rhodes II exhibited exceptional, visionary leadership from an early age. Affectionately called CJ by family and friends, he is a graduate of Hazlehurst public schools. In 2004 CJ received a BA in Philosophy from the University of Mississippi, and in 2009 a Master of Divinity from Duke University.

In 2010 CJ became the youngest pastor of Mt Helm Baptist Church and in 2013 he became the Director of Student Religious Life and a professor at Alcorn State University. Presently, CJ is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry at Wesley Biblical Seminary. He is the host of The CJ Rhodes Show on **WRBJ 97.7 FM** and is the author of *Thy Kingdom Come: Reflections on Pastoral and Prophetic Ministry*.

Above all, CJ is a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and is the loving and blessed husband of his beloved Allison Rhodes. Together they are committed to glorifying God and raising their twin sons, Carroll Edward III (“Duke”) and Cornelius Josiah (“Jozy”).

DENNIS KEEFE

Dennis Keefe served as the elected public defender for Lancaster County, Nebraska (Lincoln) from 1979 to 2015. During his tenure, the office grew from a 5 attorney office to a 22 attorney office. He served on the Defender Council of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and was a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense, and served as Chair of the Indigent Defense Advisory Committee. As public defender, and over the period of 30 years, Keefe pioneered attorney time tracking as a method to control attorney workloads.

JAMES DAVIS, III

Jim Davis is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Mississippi College School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1984. He is a third generation lawyer: His father and grandfather were also attorneys. During his term as former president of the Mississippi Public Defenders’ Association, he was one of the major proponents and very active in establishing a full time public defender’s office in Harrison County. He now serves on the board of directors of the Mississippi Public Defenders Association, is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys and a charter member of Mississippi Association of Constitutional Justice. For over three decades, he has provided indigent defense services for individuals in Harrison and Stone Counties, serving as a public defender for Harrison County. He has represented thousands of clients and taken at least 100 jury trials to verdict in both state and federal courts. He has appealed cases to the Mississippi Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

JANET MOORE

Janet Moore teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Civil Rights Litigation at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. She received J.D. and M.A. (Philosophy) degrees from Duke University and a M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago. At Duke, she served as Editor-in-Chief of *Law & Contemporary Problems* and, after graduation, clerked for the Hon. J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her scholarship has been published in journals such as *Brooklyn Law Review*, *Utah Law Review*, and *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*. Professor Moore's scholarship identifies conditions that empower stakeholders to obtain greater transparency and accountability from carceral systems. Her work is informed by critical theory as well as long experience in capital defense and criminal justice reform research and advocacy. The impact of her scholarship is evident in her work co-convening the Indigent Defense Research Association, a national organization of indigent defenders, empirical researchers, and teachers who use data to improve public defense, and service as an advisor on empirical research for Michigan's Indigent Defense Commission. Professor Moore's scholarship also led to her roles co-chairing a national task force on discovery reform, drafting a model criminal discovery reform bill, and serving as an advisor during the drafting and passage of the groundbreaking Michael Morton Act, which reformed criminal discovery procedures in Texas. Awards include a 2007 Open Society Institute Senior Justice Advocacy Fellowship, two University of Cincinnati College of Law Goldman Prizes for Teaching Excellence (2012 and 2015) and a Junior Scholar Paper Competition Award sponsored by the Criminal Justice Section of the Association of American Law Schools.

PATRICK MCGUINNESS

Patrick McGuinness was born the fourth of seven sons and two daughters, in a hamlet beside the Hudson River – New York City. Thereafter, he grew in wisdom, age, beauty and grace under the tyranny of the “Catholic Sisters of Corporal Punishment” completing 12 years of parochial school education. At about that time, Mr. McGuinness abandoned his plans to join the priesthood, having finally learned what “nun” meant. His brief and undistinguished forays into boxing and football were cut short by an unfortunate tendency to bleed and break.

During his undergraduate career at the University of Connecticut, Mr. McGuinness acquired most of the vices he has since honed to near perfection.

Law school was undertaken at the University of Miami where he graduated in 1977. Mr. McGuinness financed his post-graduate education by moving furniture, tending bar, taxi driving and the judicious application of probability theory to poker and Jai Alai.

Following law school, Mr. McGuinness married his first wife, who is now ensconced in a home for the incurably tall. He also began his career as a Public Defender working for Lou Frost in Jacksonville, Florida. In the years that followed, Mr. McGuinness enjoyed a measure of success, not anticipated in light of his meager talents. He has been involved in defending between four and five hundred murder cases as first or second chair during the past three decades. He enjoys the work largely because the prosecution is invariably short at least one witness.

In 1988, Mr. McGuinness married Alice Beardsley and, in 1990, his only child, Sean, was born. After McGuinness threatened to sue the Public Defenders Office, a paternity leave policy was implemented--a happy co-incidence, no doubt. In 2008, Mr. McGuinness was terminated (along with 26 of his colleagues) when a talentless invertebrate was elected Public Defender on the Republican ticket. Since that time Mr. McGuinness formed a private firm with three other former Public Defenders and they remain a thorn in the prosecution's side. Mr. McGuinness devotes the majority of his trial preparation efforts to facts and forensics, which he believes are the key to victory at trial.

ROBERT BORUCHOWITZ

Robert C. Boruchowitz is Professor from Practice and Director of The Defender Initiative at Seattle University School of Law. Before joining the faculty in 2007, he was Director of The Defender Association in Seattle for 28 years. He founded the Racial Disparity Project at The Defender Association. He has appeared at every level of state and federal court. He was an expert witness in the Hurrell Haring case in New York State and in the Best v. Grant County case in Washington. Professor Boruchowitz was co-principal investigator on the recently released report, "An Analysis of the Economic Costs of Seeking the Death Penalty in Washington State."

Professor Boruchowitz developed a Right to Counsel Clinic, which won a writ of mandamus on right to counsel in Department of Corrections revocation hearings. He has taught in the Youth Advocacy Clinic where he pursued due process rights for children in truancy proceedings. He has taught criminal procedure and a seminar on Right to Counsel. He wrote "Diverting and Reclassifying Misdemeanors Could Save \$1 Billion per Year: Reducing the Need For and Cost of Appointed Counsel," published by the American Constitution Society. As the founding president of the Washington Defender Association and a former member of the Executive Committee of the American Council of Chief Defenders, he has been instrumental in developing defender standards in Washington and nationally. He was a Soros Senior Fellow working on access to counsel in misdemeanor and juvenile cases. He worked on a similar project on a grant from the Foundation to Promote Open Society, working in Kentucky, South Carolina, and New Hampshire as well as in Washington. He has received numerous awards including the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Champion of Indigent Defense Award, the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers William O. Douglas Award, and the Washington Defender Association Gideon Award.

The Defender Initiative is working with the Sixth Amendment Center on a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in Utah and Mississippi. One of the Initiative's first projects was a study of misdemeanor defense, resulting in the report "Minor Crimes, Massive Waste: The Terrible Toll of America's Broken Misdemeanor Courts", published by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

LESLIE LEE

A native of Bay St. Louis, Leslie Lee graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Mississippi in 1983, and also received her law degree from Ole Miss in 1986. She served three years on active duty as a military attorney in the Judge Advocate

General's Corps in the United States Army before returning to Mississippi and joining the Attorney General's Office where she worked for ten years. She served in the divisions of consumer protection, public integrity, Medicaid fraud, and capital litigation. Leslie argued 19 death penalty cases before the Mississippi Supreme Court, and was recognized in 1999 with the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation's award for outstanding appellate advocacy. She left the AG's Office in 1999 to join the Hinds County District Attorney Office. She returned to the AG's Office Prosecutors Training Division in June of 2001. She was called back into the military in 2003 for a year of active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom. In October of 2006, Governor Haley Barbour appointed Leslie to be the Director of the new Mississippi Office of Indigent Appeals. Leslie retired from the Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in 2009. She was named Mississippi's first State Public Defender in 2011. Leslie has also taught criminal procedure at Mississippi College School of Law as an adjunct professor. She is married to author Joe Lee of Brandon and they have one son, John.

JUSTIN COOK

A Jackson-native, Justin has been at the Office of State Public Defender since January of 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Justin attended law school at the University of Mississippi. He lives in Jackson with his wife, Ginger, his daughter, Eloise, his son Oliver and their two dogs, Stella and Banjo.

KEITH BELZER

Keith Belzer is a nationally recognized lecturer and teacher on criminal defense issues, trial techniques and strategies. In addition to his position on the faculty at the National Criminal Defense College in Macon, Georgia, and the Wisconsin Trial Skills Academy, Mr. Belzer has lectured or taught criminal defense lawyers in most of the 50 states. He also has presented to the Israeli National Public Defender, the Puerto Rican CJA Panel and The People's Republic of China, where Mr. Belzer was the keynote speaker at the first public defender regional training ever held in China.

Mr. Belzer has been named a Wisconsin Super Lawyer by his peers every year since its inception in 2005. In 2006 Mr. Belzer received one of 12 statewide *Leaders in the Law* awards from the Wisconsin Law Journal. Mr. Belzer is also a frequent commentator on national, statewide and local legal issues and has appeared on such nationally syndicated shows as 48 Hours, Good Morning America, Crime Scene Investigation, The O'Reilly Factor and Geraldo at Large.

Mr. Belzer has had the honor and privilege of representing three Wisconsin Innocence Project clients who were ultimately exonerated. One of these clients, Evan Zimmerman, a man previously falsely convicted and sentenced to life in prison for a homicide that he did not commit, was the subject of a feature length documentary, *Facing Life, the Retrial of Evan Zimmerman*, which can be seen in syndication on the *Arts and Entertainment Network* and the *History Channel*. Keith has also worked as an actor, director and playwright. Keith has acted in Illinois, Wisconsin, Vermont and Connecticut. Plays he has written have been produced in California, Illinois, Connecticut, and Wisconsin. Prior to law school, Keith co-founded one theater company and managed two others and devoted close to a decade of his life exclusively to the world of theater.

PHILIP GAINES

Philip Gaines studied Philosophy and Law at Millsaps College and Ole Miss. He was admitted as a Provisional Member of the Mississippi Bar in 1985, serving in Externships with the Grenada County Public Defender's Office and with Judges Andy Baker and George Carlson of the 17th Circuit Court District.

Philip then practiced law in the Jackson area for over twenty-five years with a focus on civil defense litigation, insurance, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. He was President of The Mississippi Law Institute and has served as a leader for numerous Service and Bar Commissions and Organizations. He presently serves as The Court Liaison Director for Forensic Services at the Mississippi State Hospital.

DR. REB MCMICHAEL

Dr. Reb McMichael grew up in Jackson County near Ocean Springs. He went to St. Martin Elementary and Junior High School, where he had some wonderful teachers. Then he went to Biloxi High School, where he also had some great teachers. Then he went to Ole Miss and some pretty good schools until he came back to Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield in 1985.

He has been the Service Chief of Forensic Services there since 1990. After all that education and experience, anything he still does not know about his job is pretty much directly attributable to laziness, character defects, and other personal shortcomings.

BO CHASTAIN

James G. (Bo) Chastain is director of Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield and has served in that role for the past 23 years.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mississippi State University and his Master's degree from the Else School of Management at Millsaps College.

Mr. Chastain is a past Chairman of the Mississippi Hospital Association Board of Governors. He represented Mississippi on the Board of Directors of the Southern States Psychiatric Hospital Association and is a past member of the American Hospital Association Section for Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Services Governing Council.

He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and is a licensed nursing home administrator.

He is married to the former Connie Coakley of Pascagoula, Mississippi. They have two children, Charlie and Anna Claire. He is a member of the St. Richard's Catholic Church.

ANNA BULKIN

Anna Bulkin, MSW, LICSW is the Director of Social Work for the Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (Massachusetts' statewide public defender's office). She oversees the Social Service Advocates in the 9 offices around the state. She previously worked at YAD when it was the Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) in the late 90s as the supervising social worker. She returned in 2014 after 11 years working in private practice doing death penalty mitigation work, primarily in the federal courts, and sentencing advocacy in the state and federal courts. From 1994-1997, she assessed and helped determine the most appropriate treatment placements for juvenile males in a secure juvenile detention facility who were among the most serious offenders in the state.

SARAH FORTE

Sarah Forte, paralegal/investigator, joined SCHR in June 2006 upon graduating from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. At SCHR Sarah investigates death penalty cases, at the trial level and in post-conviction proceedings. Prior to joining SCHR, Sarah worked for the Medill Innocence Project investigating possible wrongful murder convictions and other miscarriages of justice. In July 2015, Sarah became a member of the Executive Committee of the National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists, a branch of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association.

LYNDSY IRWIN

After graduating from Mississippi College School of Law, Lyndsy worked for the Mississippi House of Representatives for one legislative session before joining the Mississippi Department of Human Services. For four years, she served in the Division of Family and Children's Services coordinating federal grants and working on the Youth Court Improvement team. One year ago, she transitioned into the Division of Field Operations as the Director of Child Support Legal Services which includes approximately 55 attorneys and 15 support staff. Since joining the agency in 2011, she has also served as a legislative liaison advocating on behalf of the Department and the clients we serve. Lyndsy is a native of Vancleave, MS which will always be home because you can never truly leave the coast, but she currently lives in Yazoo County with her husband, two cats and a yellow lab.

JULIANNE BAILEY

After earning her J.D. in 2010 from the University of Mississippi School of Law, Julianne moved and was admitted to practice law in Florida. During her time there, she clerked for the Rocket Launch Services Program at NASA's Kennedy Space Center before moving back to Mississippi in 2012. Julianne worked for the Department of Human Services as the Child Support Enforcement Attorney in Sunflower County before becoming a Regional Senior Attorney for the Department in 2014. She now supervises 21 counties, which includes all of the Delta. Julianne is blessed to be able to work in public interest law and is committed to the mission of the organization. She currently lives in Cleveland with her husband, Christopher, who is also an attorney, and their daughter, Faulkner.

RACHEL GODSIL

Professor Rachel D. Godsil is the Eleanor Bontecou Professor of Law at Seton Hall. She is a co-founder and director of research for the Perception Institute, a national consortium of social scientists, law professors, and advocates focusing on the role of the mind sciences in law, policy, and institutional practices. She collaborates with social scientists on empirical research to identify the efficacy of interventions to address implicit bias and racial anxiety. She regularly provides training and lectures to a wide range of private and public institutions seeking to address the role of bias and anxiety associated with race, ethnicity, religion, and gender and including trainings on implicit bias to state judges across the country on behalf of the National Association of State Judges. Godsil writes widely on the topic of the mind sciences, including acting as a lead author of the report: "The Science of Equality Volume 1: Addressing Implicit Bias, Racial Anxiety, and Stereotype Threat in Education and Healthcare" (2014); A Tale of Two Neighborhoods: Implicit Bias in Environmental Decision-Making, in *IMPLICIT RACIAL BIAS IN THE LAW* (Cambridge University Press 2011), and co-author of the forthcoming *The Moral Ecology of Policing: A Mind Science Approach to Race and Policing in the United States Handbook of Criminal Justice Ethics*.

Professor Godsil has co-authored amicus briefs on behalf of empirical social psychologists in *Fisher v. Texas* and the National Parent Teacher Association in the *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District* litigation at the Supreme Court. She is the co-editor of *AWAKENING FROM THE DREAM: CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER SIEGE AND THE NEW STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL JUSTICE* (Carolina Academic Press, 2005).

After graduating from law school, she clerked for John M. Walker of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Professor Godsil was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. She was an Associate Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, focusing on environmental justice, as well as an associate with Berle, Kass & Case and Arnold & Porter in New York City.

She joined Seton Hall University School of Law in 2000 and has been recognized for her teaching by being nominated for Professor of the Year in 2011, 2002 and 2003. In 2003-2004, she was awarded the Researcher of the Year in Law by Seton Hall University. During the fall of 2007, Professor Godsil was a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and she taught property at New York University Law School in the spring of 2009.