

SPEAKER BIO

KIRA FONTENEAU

Kira Fonteneau was born in Detroit, Michigan and raised in Chesapeake, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law. Ms. Fonteneau is Licensed to practice law in Alabama, Georgia and Virginia, but focuses her practice in Alabama. Prior to becoming the Jefferson County Birmingham Division Public Defender, she regularly represented clients in proceedings throughout the Birmingham area particularly in the areas of criminal law, personal injury, landlord tenant, employment law and other civil matters. She is a frequent speaker on many topics like the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Racial and Sexual Harassment, Proper Discharge Procedures, Law Office Management Strategies, and Leadership. Kira is also a graduate of both the Birmingham Bar Future Leaders Forum and the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Kira spent several years managing projects and employers for a large regional bank in the southeast.

JUSTIN T. 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 dog, Stella.

ANDREW NORTHRUP

Andrew Northrup has been an attorney in the Forensics Division of the Maryland Public Defender's Office since August 2010. Before that he handled complex cases throughout Minnesota on the Board of Public Defense's trial team. He was also a founding member of the Cook County Public Defender's Forensic Science Division in 2000. He received his law degree from the College of William and Mary, and his undergraduate degree in German and International Studies from Earlham College. Mr. Northrup is a frequent lecturer on forensic and trial advocacy issues.

JEFFREY GILLERAN

Mr. Gilleran is a founding member of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender's Forensics Division. Mr. Gilleran's expertise includes emerging trends in DNA analysis, eyewitness identification and "shaken baby syndrome." He has presented nationally on topics such as complex DNA mixtures and so-called Drug Recognition Experts. He also participated in litigating capital cases before Maryland repealed the senseless, barbaric death penalty. He continues to train attorneys in forensics and trial skills. He also rides his bike to work every day

DREW FINDLING

Drew spent the first three years of his legal career as a Fulton County, Georgia, assistant public defender. In 1987, Drew started The Findling Law Firm. Since then, Drew has represented clients in state and federal courts throughout the United States and has handled international matters in the Middle East and Europe.

Drew has enjoyed great success as a trial lawyer representing clients with charges ranging from minor offenses to multi-million dollar federal conspiracy cases. His reputation for zealous and skilled representation has resulted in his being retained to represent numerous high-profile clients, including Grammy-nominee Faith Evans, Former Douglas County District Attorney David McDade, Former Fulton County, Georgia, Sheriff Jackie Barrett, current Clayton County Sheriff Victor Hill, Former President of Morris Brown College Dolores Cross, NBA Superstar Shaquille O'Neal, former NBA great Dennis Rodman and NBA first-round draft choices Al-Farouq Aminu and Roshown McLeod and retired baseball slugger Oscar Gamble, and rap superstars Gucci Mane and Waka Flocka Flame.

In his over 30 years of practice, Drew has spoken in over 35 states, published numerous articles, and is on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College and Tulane University Law School's Intersession federal criminal trial practice class. Drew is also regularly invited by Shepard Smith of Fox News and Brook Baldwin of CNN to serve as legal analyst on their programs. In Atlanta he is also the exclusive legal analyst of Atlanta's All News 106.7.

Drew's professional memberships include the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers where he was recently elected Secretary and the American Board of Criminal Lawyers where he is on the Board of Governors. Drew also serves on the Board of Advisors for the National Clearing House on Science and Technology of Law. He has been named as one of Georgia's Legal Elite, Georgia "Super Lawyer," and the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Top Lawyers in Georgia. He recently received the NAACP's Civil and Human Right's Award.

MERRIDA COXWELL

Merrida Coxwell has developed a reputation as a fierce critic of social and legal injustice. This drive has compelled him to accept many criminal cases that other lawyers shunned or were afraid to accept. When a person has a legal problem and needs help, Mr. Coxwell believes it is his job to set aside personal views in order to provide quality and aggressive legal representation. His dedication and drive has earned him a strong reputation in the fields of criminal defense law, personal injury law, and in financial fraud litigation.

The criminal defense work of Mr. Coxwell has been recognized for its consistency by a listing for over ten consecutive years in the publication The Best Lawyers in America. Recently, he was listed in the publication Super Lawyers of the Deep South. He is also an AV rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell. An AV rating is the highest rating an attorney can receive for skill and ethical conduct.

When Merrida was a new lawyer, he represented eighteen (18) death penalty clients. Through hard work and dedication, Merrida developed a reputation for honesty, aggressiveness and fairness. He was asked by the Hinds County Circuit Court to defend Byron De La Beckwith, who was charged in the 1964 murder of Medgar Evers. This was a high profile case that became a major movie. Merrida also had successes defending two major alleged drug conspiracies in Federal Court. In both cases, set approximately one year apart, the juries found the defendants not guilty.

REGINALD JONES

Reginald Jones received his certification from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1993. He has worked for State Capitol Police (1990 - 1995), served as Campus Police Chief at Hinds Community College Academic and Technical Center (1995 - 2003), and worked for the Mississippi Department of Corrections Probation and Parole (2006 - 2013). He presently works for the Hinds County Public Defender's Office as an Investigator.

Reginald is a graduate of Murrah High School (1984), and served in the United States Navy (1985 - 1988). He received his AA in Criminal Justice in 2004 from Hinds Community College, and went on to received his BA in Criminal Justice in 2006 from Jackson State University. Reginald holds a national certification in Criminal Defense Investigation from the Department of Public Advocacy located in Faubush, KY (2015).

He is a member of T.C. Almore Lodge #242, Jackson Consistory #117, St. John Commandery #3, Stewart Phillip #46A, Rissah Temple #130, and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

TOSCHA DUBOSE

Toscha is a native of Moss Point, MS where she grew up with her family and still currently resides. She is a proud mother of her only child Nyaia Liddell who is currently a senior and cheerleader captain for her high school. She is a self-driven professional woman, who not only does great things for herself and others but also guides her daughter to even greater challenges. In her spare time, Toscha enjoys spending time with her family, friends and her lovable Cocker Spaniel named Doretz.

Toscha is currently working as an investigator with the 19th Judicial District Public Defender's Office. She previously worked as a Court Clerk for the City of Moss Point Municipal Court where she spent over a decade supervising and managing the municipal court services in the city. During her time with the City of Moss Point, Toscha, saw the need for more volunteers for abused and neglected children and became a trained Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Toscha is also a board member for the Moss Point High School Cheerleader Booster Club. Toscha is a graduate of William Carey University, where she received a BS in Business Administration.

MATT A. BALDRIDGE

Matt is the principal attorney with Baldrige Law Firm, PLLC, located in Ridgeland, Mississippi. His practice is primarily focused in the areas of family law, corporate law and criminal defense; sometimes all in the same case! Matt's experience is diverse. He was raised as a "PK" in a Pentecostal pastor's home in Oklahoma, attended Bible College in Mississippi, worked extensively in the technology sector, and ultimately pursued higher education which lead to his entry into the practice of law in 2007.

As a result of his multifaceted background, Matt has been blessed with a successful practice and frequently lectures on a wide range of topics, including family law and on the effective use of technology in a solo practice and in small to medium size law firms. He currently resides in Madison, Mississippi with his wife and 3 children and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Mississippi Bar Association, Rankin County Bar Association, and the Capital Area Bar Association. Matt earned his Bachelors in Business Administration degree from Mississippi State University and his J.D. degree from Mississippi College School of Law.

CLIFF JOHNSON

Cliff Johnson joined the law school faculty in 2014 after being selected as the first Director of the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Professor Johnson oversees the Center's litigation efforts, focusing primarily in the areas of civil rights, social justice, and human rights, and he supervises law students participating in the MacArthur Justice Clinic.

Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Johnson practiced law in Mississippi for more than 20 years. After a federal clerkship and three years as an associate at the Jackson, Mississippi law firm of Butler Snow, Professor Johnson worked for five years as an Assistant United States Attorney during the Clinton administration. Immediately prior to coming to Ole Miss, he was a partner for 13 years at the Jackson law firm of Pigott & Johnson, where he handled a wide variety of complex civil and criminal matters.

During 2005-2006, Professor Johnson was a Fulbright Scholar at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Lund, Sweden. While in Sweden, he taught Law and History of the American Civil Rights Movement at the Institute and Lund University Law School. Professor Johnson also conducted research and lectured throughout Sweden on the political and social challenges resulting from Sweden's immigration policy and integration efforts. Since 2006, Professor Johnson has lectured in Sweden on numerous occasions, including speeches at the Nobel Museum and Wallenberg Institute graduation ceremonies. He returns to Stockholm each year to serve as moderator of an international symposium for human rights lawyers from developing countries.

Professor Johnson received his B.A. in Political Science, with high honors and special distinction, from Mississippi College in 1989 and his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1992, where he was a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow and a member of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review.

Professor Johnson is a member of the University of Mississippi Allies Program – a network of faculty and staff who visibly support students who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. The members of Allies also work to foster a campus climate in which all students, regardless of

sexual orientation or gender identity, may feel safe, supported, respected, and affirmed.

JAKE HOWARD

Jake Howard splits his time between the Law Office of McDuff & Byrd, where he has been an associate since 2012, and the MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Mississippi, where he has been Of Counsel since January of 2015. Jake has litigated civil rights and criminal cases at the trial, appellate, and post-conviction stages in state and federal court. Since 2012, he has been the co-coordinator of an effort to ensure that all juvenile offenders serving life sentences in Mississippi's prisons receive an opportunity for release on parole pursuant to the United States Supreme Court's decisions in *Graham v. Florida* and *Miller v. Alabama*.

Prior to moving to Mississippi, Jake was an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow in the Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center and a law clerk for the Honorable Myron H. Thompson in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

Jake earned a masters of laws degree in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center and graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School. He also received a master's in teaching from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan.

NATHAN ADAMS

Nathan Adams is a Systems Engineer at Forensic Bioinformatics in Dayton, Ohio, where he reviews DNA evidence in criminal cases. His areas of focus include mixture interpretation, guidelines and standards, statistical calculations, and expert systems. He is also a graduate student, studying computer science at Wright State University.

CARRIE ROWLAND

Carrie Rowland, (M.S.) is employed by Forensic Bioinformatic Services, Inc., in Dayton, Ohio as an analyst for which she has served since the company's inception in 2001. Her primary duty is to review all case files for which DNA is a component and provide consulting services. To date, she has consulted with lead attorneys on over 1,000 cases. Carrie received her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from The Ohio State University and her Master's degree, also, in Biological Science from Wright State University.

STEPHEN F. HANLON

Stephen F. Hanlon has a long history of handling public interest and civil rights cases. In 1989, he founded the Community Services Team (CST) at Holland & Knight and for the next 23 years he served as the Partner in Charge of the CST, which during Mr. Hanlon's tenure was the largest full-time private practice pro bono department in the nation. In 1997, Holland and Knight received the ABA Pro Bono Publico Award. The American Lawyer described Holland and Knight as a "pro bono

champion.” In 2006, Mr. Hanlon received the Chesterfield Smith Award from Holland & Knight, the firm's highest individual recognition given to a firm partner.

Since his retirement from Holland & Knight at the end of 2012, Mr. Hanlon has confined his practice to assisting and representing public defenders with excessive caseloads. He now serves as general counsel to the National Association for Public Defense in Washington, D.C. and is a Professor of Practice at Saint Louis University School of Law.

Mr. Hanlon was lead counsel for the Missouri Public Defender in State ex rel. Mo. Public Defender Commission, 370 S.W.3d 592 (Mo.banc 2012), which was the first state supreme court case to uphold the right of a public defender organization to refuse additional cases when confronted with excessive caseloads. The Waters case has been described as a “watershed moment” in indigent defense. Davies, Andrew Lucas Blaize Davies, “How Do We ‘Do Data’ in Public Defense?,” 78 Albany Law Review 1179.

Mr. Hanlon was the project director for the American Bar Association in the critically acclaimed study of the workload of the Missouri Public Defender undertaken by RubinBrown on behalf of the American Bar Association, known as “The Missouri Project,” available at www.indigentdefense.org. He currently serves as the project director for similar studies in several states

After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Law in 1966, Mr. Hanlon practiced law with his father in St. Louis. He then served as the executive vice president and general counsel of a joint venture subsidiary of Marathon Oil Company before moving to Florida to begin his civil rights practice with Bay Area Legal Services in Tampa in 1976. In the decade of the 1980s Mr. Hanlon engaged in a wide variety of civil trial practice while continuing his civil rights work.

Mr. Hanlon has represented many individuals in housing, employment and HIV/AIDS discrimination cases, as well as two inmates on Florida's death row.