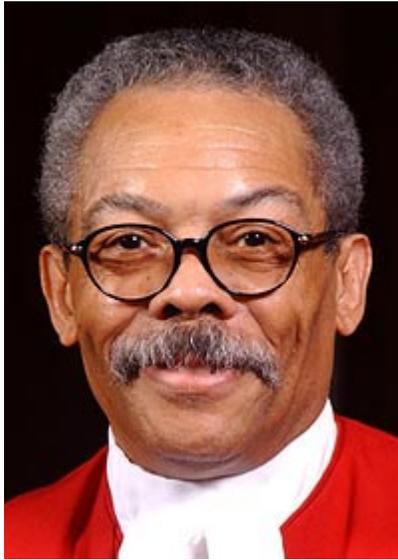


## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

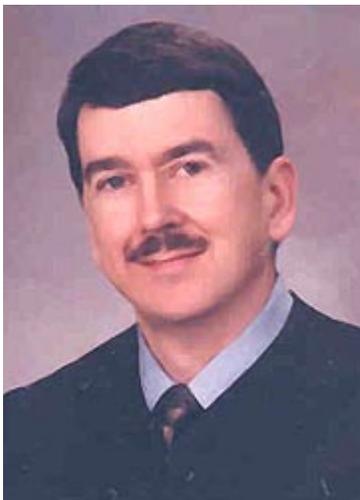
## CHIEF JUDGE



**ROBERT M. BELL, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals**, since 1996 (Judge, 6th Appellate Circuit, Baltimore City, May 16, 1991-). Chair, [Maryland Judicial Conference](#), 1996- (chair, judicial council, 2000-). Member, Executive Committee, 1996-2000, and [Judicial Compensation Committee](#), 1993-, Maryland Judicial Conference. Chair, [Library Committee, State Law Library](#), 1996-. Member, [Judges, Masters and Juvenile Justice Committee](#), 1996-. Chair, Committee on Building Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System, 1998-99. Chair, Maryland Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, 1998-2001. Chair, [Hall of Records Commission](#), 1998- (member, 1996-). Member, State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, 1999-2000. Chair, [Technology Oversight Board](#), 1999-. Member, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, 2000-02. Chair, [Public Trust and Confidence Implementation Committee](#), 2000-. Chair, Judicial Cabinet, 2000-. Chair, [Advisory Board, Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office](#), 2001-. Member, State Commission on Public Safety Technology and Critical Infrastructure, 2002-05; Task Force on Child Welfare System Accountability, 2003-04; Task Force to Study Criminal Offender Monitoring by Global Positioning Systems, 2004-05.

Board of Directors, National Center for State Courts, 2004-05. Board of Directors, Conference of Chief Justices (president-elect, 2005; 1st vice-president, 2005; vice-chair, committee on access to & fairness in the courts, 2005).

Judge, District Court of Maryland, District 1, Baltimore City, 1975-80. Member, Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1977-82; Commission to Revise the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1980-82. Associate Judge, Baltimore City Circuit Court, 8th Judicial Circuit, 1980-84. Board of Directors, Judicial Institute of Maryland, 1982-84. Judge, Court of Special Appeals, 6th Appellate Circuit (Baltimore City), 1984-91. *Born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, July 6, 1943. Attended Dunbar High School, Baltimore, Maryland; Morgan State College, A.B. (history & political science), 1966; Harvard University Law School, J.D., 1969. Admitted to Maryland Bar, 1969. Member, National and American Bar Associations; Maryland State Bar Association (judicial administration section), Baltimore City and Monumental City Bar Associations. Member, Legal Aid Society, 1973-75. Board of Directors, Villa Julie College, 1978-85; Sojourner-Douglass College, 1982-91. Chair, Board of Directors, Provident Hospital, 1983-84. Board of Directors, The African-American Community Foundation, 1994-. Board of Visitors, University of Maryland School of Law, 1994-. Board of Trustees, Johns Hopkins Medicine, 2000-. Special Award, Maryland State Bar Association, 1998. Legal Excellence Award for Advancement of Public Service Responsibility, Maryland Bar Foundation, 1999. Rosalyn B. Bell Award, Women's Law Center of Maryland, 1999. Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access, Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, American Bar Association, 2000. Access to Justice Tribute Award, Pro Bono Resource Center, 2001. Maryland Top Leadership in Law Award, Daily Record, 2001. Rita C. Davidson Award, Women's Bar Association of Maryland, 2001. D'Alemberte/Raven Award, Dispute Resolution Section, American Bar Association, 2003. First annual Robert M. Bell Award for Leadership in Public Service, Students for Public Interest, University of Baltimore School of Law, 2004. Medal for Access to Justice, Maryland Legal Services Corporation, 2004. Honorary Board Member, Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 2005. Baltimore Peacemaker Award, Community Mediation Program, 2005. Freedom Fighter Award, Frederick County Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 2006. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell Award for Outstanding Contribution to Alternative Dispute Resolution in Maryland, ADR Section, Maryland State Bar Association, 2006. Office: (410) 333-6396.*

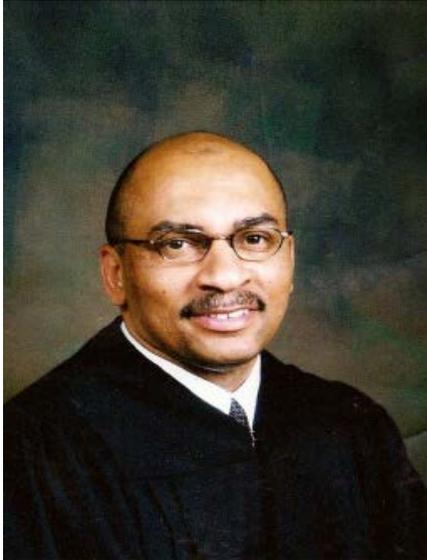


**PATRICK L. WOODWARD, Judge, Court of Special Appeals, 7th Appellate Circuit (Montgomery County), since May 26, 2005.**

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Associate Judge, Montgomery County Circuit Court, 6th Judicial Circuit, May 7, 1998 to May 25, 2005. Board of Directors, Judicial Institute of Maryland, 1997-. Chair, Foster-Care Court-Improvement Implementation Committee, 1997- (chair, representation subcommittee, 1997-2004; chair, statistics & judicial information systems subcommittee, 2004-). Member, Public Awareness Committee, Maryland Judicial Conference, 1998-2001.

Board of Appeals, City of Rockville, 1982-91 (chair, 1984, 1987). Chair, Neighborhood Planning Advisory Group, Planning Area 4, City of Rockville, 1986-88. Chair, Goals Task Force, City of Rockville, 1988-89. Member, Sensitivity Awareness Day Task Force of Montgomery County Council, 1988-91 (vice-chair, 1991). Associate Judge, District Court of Maryland, District 6, Montgomery County, March 8, 1991 to May 6, 1998. *Born in Bethesda, Maryland, November 28, 1948. Attended Landon School, Bethesda; Princeton University, A.B., 1970; Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D., 1973. Admitted to Maryland Bar, 1973. Law clerk to Chief Judge Edward S. Northrop, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, 1973-74. Served in U.S. Army Reserve (captain), 1974-75. Associate, Law Offices of Rourke J. Sheehan, 1974-78. Partner, Sheehan & Woodward, 1978-80. Partner, Jackson, Campbell & Parkinson, and Director, Jackson & Campbell, P.C., 1980-87. Sole practitioner, 1987-91. Member, Maryland State Bar Association; Montgomery County Bar Association (executive committee, 1981-82, 1988-90). President, West End Citizens Association, 1984-86. President, Rotary Club of Rockville, 1987-88. Vice-President, Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, 1987-91. President, Montgomery Inn of Court, 1996-97. Operating Vice-President, Montgomery County Historical Society, 1997-2000 (board of directors, 1988-90, 1991-2001). President's Citation, Montgomery County, Maryland Bar Foundation, 1986. Champion for Children Award, Maryland Citizen Board for Review of Foster Care for Children, 1996. Outstanding Jurist Award, Montgomery County Bar Association, 1997. Lifelong member, Rockville United Methodist Church. Office: (301) 217-8100.*



**Judge David W. Young**

Judge David W. Young is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. He received his Associate of Arts Degree from Hagerstown Junior College in 1971 and was awarded Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1974. Judge Young obtained his Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1977.

In 1978, he began an appellate clerkship with the late Honorable Judge David T. Mason, Associate Judge, Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. In 1980, Judge Young joined the staff of the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office as an Assistant City Solicitor. He was appointed by Governor Harry Hughes to the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City in December, 1985. In December 1995, Judge Young was appointed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore by Governor Parris N. Glendening and elected to a fifteen year term in 1996.

Judge Young is active in a number of civic and professional organizations. He is one of the founders of the Second Generation Foundation which was established to provide financial assistance to minority students at his alma mater, the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland; the Board of Managers of the Druid Hill YMCA and the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Central Maryland.

In 1996, Judge Young served on the Maryland Foster Care Court Improvement Project Implementation Committee and in 2006, was named the Committee's Vice-Chairman and has chaired its Training Subcommittee since 1996.

He has received numerous honors and awards including being selected as one of the Outstanding Young Men in American in 1977 and, in 1992, Outstanding Alumnus by University

of Maryland Baltimore County. In February 1996, Judge Young received the Harrison J. Bryant Religious Service Award from Bethel AME Church. In September 1996, he was named outstanding alumnus by Hagerstown Junior College. In 1998, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the YMCA of Central Maryland. In 2006, Judge Young received The American Bar Associations Scripps Howard Foundation Distinguished Service to Literacy Award. In 2009, he received the 2009 Leadership in Law Award from the Maryland Daily Record.

Judge Young previously served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law where he taught legal writing and Moot Court.

Since 1996, Judge Young has been a member of the Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCIPP) Implementation Committee which endeavors to improve the performance of juvenile courts in child abuse and neglect cases. He also serves on the Juvenile Law Subcommittee of the Family Law Committee which seeks to enhance the performance of the juvenile courts in delinquency cases.

For the past seventeen years he has been chair of the Training Subcommittee of the Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP) which oversees the specialized training of judges and masters who preside in juvenile cases.

In addition to his civic activities, Judge Young is the Pastor of Adams Chapel A.M.E. Church. He was licensed to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in May 1996 and Ordained an Itinerant Elder in April 2003. Judge Young was awarded a Master of Divinity Degree by Virginia Union University in May 2003.

Judge Young resides in Baltimore City, and is the proud father of two daughters, Daina and Tereina and one son, Anthony, the grandfather of five adorable grandchildren, and is the loving husband of Berneda Logan Young.

## **Presenter Information**

### **Honorable Theresa M. Adams**

Judge Theresa M. Adams was appointed to the Circuit Court for Frederick County, Maryland on December 16, 2003. Since her appointment, Judge Adams has handled a general trial rotation. She is the judge on her court, however, assigned to handle the CINA and delinquency dockets since 2006. She is the chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, and is a member of the Implementation Committee, of the Maryland Foster Care Court Improvement Project.

Judge Adams is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College, now University, and the University of Baltimore School of Law. She began her legal career as a judicial clerk to the Circuit Court for Frederick County, and to the Hon. William W. Wenner of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. Thereafter, she entered private practice where she engaged in criminal defense and the practice of domestic relations. In 1990, she began her career as a criminal prosecutor. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Adams served as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Frederick County, Carroll County, and Washington County, States' Attorneys' Offices.

Her service to the community has included serving on the boards of directors of Central Maryland Catholic Charities, The Frederick County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Frederick County Family Life Center. In 2008, she was recognized as one of Maryland's 100 Top Women.

Judge Adams is married to Michael R. Adams. They live in Frederick, Maryland with their three children.

### **Jennifer Antolick**

Jennifer Antolick is the Senior Case Supervisor at CASA of Montgomery County. She has been with CASA for 4 ½ years and was the Program Director for Children's Resources, Inc., a group home in Hagerstown, Md., for 7 years before coming to CASA.

### **Erica B. Byrne, LCSW-C**

Erica Byrne earned her Master's In Social Work from the University of Maryland Baltimore. She worked at a pregnancy clinic in College Park, which mainly served low-income Latino women, followed by a group home in Baltimore where she provided individual and group therapy and case management services. For 4 years she was the Clinical Coordinator for the Respite and Residential Treatment Center Programs at Sheppard Pratt at Ellicott City. She has been working at Voices for Children, Howard County's CASA Program for 7 years, as the Supervisor of Volunteers. Her responsibilities include interviewing and training potential

volunteers, supervising volunteers, and co-leading the Independent Living Program with the Howard County DSS.

### **Rita Cameron-Wedding, Ph.D.**

Rita Cameron-Wedding, Ph.D. is the Chair of the Department of Women's Studies and a professor of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Cameron-Wedding's scholarship focuses on race and gender disproportionality in institutions like child welfare, and its implications to the education and the criminal justice system.

Dr. Cameron-Wedding has taught courses and developed curricula for social workers, clerks, supervisors and judges in child welfare services for over five years. She wrote the curriculum for *Addressing Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare, One Social Worker, One Solution at a Time*. She has made presentations to the Children's Bureau in Washington D.C., and has taught nationally for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and for the annual meeting of *Beyond the Bench* a statewide conference devoted to children in the court system. Her curriculum on disproportionality was integrated into the California State Framework which is used to train all social workers in the State of California.

Dr. Cameron-Wedding has conducted county-wide trainings for Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Santa Clara and Ventura counties (in California), provided numerous keynote addresses throughout California including the Annie E. Casey *Family to Family* Initiative on topics such as domestic violence, poverty and social class and substance abuse. She is a faculty for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and a consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

### **James P. Casey**

James Casey has been a master in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City since 1987. He is a member of the Training Subcommittee of the Foster Care Court Improvement Project and the Chair of the Juvenile Law Subcommittee for the Judicial Conference. Master Casey has been a consultant to the Juvenile Law Subcommittee of the Rules Committee and was the legal advisor to the Maryland Child Welfare Bench Book. He has helped to plan each of the annual **Child Abuse Neglect and Delinquency Options (C.A.N.D.O.)** Conferences and has frequently taught sections at those conferences. Master Casey is currently pursuing a masters degree in Judicial Studies at the University of Nevada.

### **Francha Davis**

CASA's Executive Director, Francha Davis, has been with the Montgomery County CASA Program for 23 years and Executive Director since January of 2002. During her tenure at CASA, CASA of Montgomery County has doubled the number of volunteers available to serve children

and the number of children served.

**Ann Marie Foley Binsner**

Ms. Foley Binsner is the Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/ Prince George's County, Inc. She began her tenure in 2001 as the organization's first Executive Director and has concentrated her time on program development, expansion and capacity building. Ms. Foley Binsner developed programs and advocacy services for homeless and low income children and families for nearly seven years prior to joining CASA/ Prince George's County.

Ms. Foley Binsner holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Villanova University and completed a graduate leadership program in Non-Profit Management at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Currently, Ms. Foley Binsner serves on the National CASA Association's Inclusiveness and Outreach Committee of the Board of Directors, the Prince George's County Child Welfare Commission Team, the Prince George's County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth Task Force and is an active steering committee member of the Prince George's County Model Court. Ms. Foley Binsner was awarded the 2009 Bridge Builders Award from the Prince George's Community Foundation.

**Debra S. Holbrook, RNC, SANE-A, FNE A/P**

Mrs. Holbrook founded a Forensic Nurse Examiner Program in Delaware that became a model of the United States (US Senate, 2002). She has testified before the US Senate, is the recipient of numerous international awards, including the Delaware Nurse of the year, and the International Association of Forensic Nurses Pioneer Award, and has authored grants totaling over 6 million dollars. Holbrook lectures nationally for the Office for Victims of Crime and has conducted over 300 educational offerings nationally and internationally. Her research on the use of ALS in strangulation cases has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Forensic Nursing.

Holbrook is currently Director of Forensic Nursing at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore which coordinates care to victims of interpersonal violence for all hospitals in Baltimore City.

**Kary A. James**

Mrs. James is the Director of Technical Assistance Services at Casey Family Programs in their Washington, DC Office. Prior to joining Casey Family Programs in 2004, Mrs. James worked for the Philadelphia Health Care Management Corporation as Coordinator of their Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program - Parenting Program and general therapist. Additionally, she supervised the Child Social Work Unit within the Albert Einstein Health Care Network/Jefferson University Health Systems Crisis Response Center and worked as a social worker for the Portsmouth Department of Social Services Foster Care Unit in Portsmouth, Virginia. Her professional experience includes the provision of technical assistance to state child welfare

systems, direct service, program development and management as well as strategic planning and implementation. Kary holds an Master's degree from the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University, with a concentration in Clinical Social Work and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Old Dominion University.

### **Ashley Johnson**

Ashley Johnson is a successful former foster youth who advocates on the behalf of youth currently in care. Ashley Johnson is 23 years old and I was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. Ashley has three siblings: two sisters and a brother. Ashley graduated from Baltimore Freedom Academy. Ashley is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Baltimore. I am studying political science with intentions on becoming a lawyer. In high school, Ashley co-founded the group Foster Youth Incorporated (FYI). FYI is basically a group that advocates for foster youth in the greater Baltimore area. This group has given me the opportunity to volunteer for the Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center. Ashley Johnson also a Sunday school teacher at my church, Charity Community Church of God. The children really love me and I love working with them. Working with children is my passion along with advocating for foster youth. Ashley recently testified before the state legislature on several key bills concerning both foster & homeless youth. Her continuous passion to serve foster youth as made her a strong ally to the Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center

### **Mimi Laver, JD**

Mimi Laver is the Director of Legal Education as well as **the** Director of the Opening Doors: Improving the Legal System's Approach to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Foster Care Project, the Director of **the National Project to Improve Representation for Parents Involved in the Child Welfare System**, Assistant Director of the Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project, and the Assistant Director of the National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. In this position, she provides training, technical assistance and written resources on a number of issues including representation of parties, permanency issues, and improving outcomes for LGBTQ youth. Mimi published a book entitled *Opening Doors for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care: A Guide for Lawyers and Judges* and edited *It's My Life*. She also wrote *Foundations for Success: Strengthening Your Agency Attorney Office* and edited *Representing Parents in Child Welfare Cases: A Basic Introduction for Attorneys*. In collaboration with two expert work groups, Mimi drafted Standards of Representation for Child Welfare Agency Attorneys and Standards of Practice for Attorneys Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases which were approved by the ABA House of Delegates.

Prior to joining the ABA, Mimi was a Deputy City Solicitor in the Health and Human Services Unit of the Philadelphia Law Department for seven years. Mimi earned her JD from Temple University School of Law in 1990 and her BA in Psychology from Vassar College in 1987.

## **Honorable Larnzell Martin**

Judge Larnzell Martin, Jr. has been a member of the Prince George's County Circuit Court since December 1990. September 30, 2001, he concluded a term as Coordinating Judge for the Court's Family Division. A former Chair, he is currently a member of the Maryland Judicial Conference's Committee on Family Law and its Custody Subcommittee. Among his current primary assignments is the review of the status of children in foster care once the permanency plan has become adoption and termination of parental rights. His extra-judicial activities include working closely with the Teen Court Program. Judge Martin served as a member of the District Court of Maryland from May 1988 until he became a member of the Circuit Court. Prior to his appointment to the Judiciary, Judge Martin was County Attorney for Prince George's County. Born in Dallas, Texas, he is a 1972 graduate of Carleton College and a 1975 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.



## **John McGinnis**

“Life is a journey, and love is what makes that journey worthwhile.” 中國古代作家  
This philosophy is a guidepost in my daily life. Following a career in education as a teacher, school counselor, pupil personnel worker, Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools and Coordinator of Student Services in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis, Maryland, Mr. McGinnis continues his career as a Specialist in Pupil Personnel and School Social Work with the Maryland State Department of Education. He provides leadership, consultation, development, and coordination of technical assistance in student service to the local school systems in Maryland. This provides Mr. McGinnis the opportunity to offer leadership for the student services, alternative programs in student discipline, truancy, and safe schools for students and leadership for child abuse and neglect programs in Maryland. He brings leadership to kinship and foster care programs with the Department of Human Resources as well as working with the Department of Juvenile Services on collaborative initiatives to serve children. He is involved with dropout programs such as the National Guard ChalleNGe Academy to assist students to obtain their GED.

Serving on the Governor's Task Forces on Child Abuse and Neglect has presented him the

occasion to provided leadership and technical assistance for working with the social service agencies in Maryland. Currently, he is involved with the Maryland Department of Human Resources on the Alternative Response Advisory Council and the Children and Family Services Review Board.

Additionally, Mr. McGinnis actively provides leadership and technical assistance to the Department of Juvenile Services and the Local School Systems to provide transition services for committed youth returning to community schools. He is also a member of the Foster Care Court Improvement Project, and the joint project on Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act with the Out-of-Home Education Consortium, the Casey Foundation and Foster Care Education Team.

### **Kathleen McNaught**

Kathleen McNaught, J.D., is an Assistant Staff Director of Child Welfare at the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law. Kathleen provides training and technical assistance around the country on a variety of legal child welfare issues, in particular issues related to the educational needs of children in foster care. She is the Project Director for the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, a collaboration between the ABA and Casey Family Programs and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in conjunction with the Juvenile Law Center and the Education Law Center-PA. She has authored several publications on the topic, including *Learning Curves: Education Advocacy for Children in Foster Care*, and *Mythbusting: Breaking Down Confidentiality and Decision-Making Barriers to Meet the Education Needs of Children in Foster Care*. Kathleen has also written on the issue of achieving permanency for older adolescents in care including a guide for judges and attorneys on the unique needs and issues faces by older youth aging out of the foster care system.

Prior to joining the Center, Kathleen spent 7 years practicing law in the state of Maryland. She was a staff attorney for three years for Maryland's Legal Aid Bureau in their Child Advocacy Unit. She then went on to private practice, representing parents and children in child welfare cases, as well as in education, delinquency and custody matters. She received her J.D. from The American University, Washington College of Law in 1994, and her B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College in 1991.

### **Jacqueline Powell**

Jacqueline Powell has been working in the field of social work for eighteen years. She received her undergraduate degree from Morgan State University and her graduate degree from Howard University, Washington DC. Both degrees are for social work.

Jacqueline has worked in the Public Administration field for fifteen years. Prior to coming to work for DHR/SSA, she was employed at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene/Mental Hygiene Administration, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services/Division of Correction, and Family & Children's Services of Central MD. She has experience working with both the adult and child & adolescent populations.

Currently, Jacqueline “Jacki” Powell is the Education/Health Specialist for DHR/SSA. She is assertively accepting the responsibilities that strengthen our Child Welfare System. She finds her position both challenging and rewarding.

### **Deborah Ramelmeier**

Deborah Ramelmeier is the Deputy Executive Director at the Social Services Administration, within Maryland’s Department of Human Resources. Her responsibilities include the oversight of Child Welfare and Adult Services policies and programs. Prior to joining the SSA team in 2008, Ms Ramelmeier served 21 years at the local department level, most recently as the Assistant Director for Services at the Frederick County Department of Social Services. Ms Ramelmeier received her MSW at the University of Maryland’s School of Social Work and her JD at the University of Maryland’s School of Law.



### **Shantel Randolph**

Shantel Randolph is the Deputy Director the Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center. She is also a former foster youth that aged-out of Baltimore City’s foster care system at the age of 21. In 2007 Shantel was awarded the Open Society Institute Community Fellowship to start work with Foster Youth Inc. Shantel used her OSI Baltimore Community Fellowship to help other young people in foster care successfully move to adulthood, working with a group of 15 to 18 students at the Baltimore Freedom Academy who are either in foster care or aging out of care. They participate in her program called "Foster Youth Incorporated" or FYI, which empowers foster youth to advocate for improvements to Maryland's foster care system.

In 2009, Shantel became the Director of Youth Advocacy at the Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center where the FYI program now operates. Shantel’s list of experience comes with forming collaborations and partnerships with other Community organizations and businesses to assist foster youth with life skill trainings and advocacy. Shantel along with FYI made a film entitled “Youth Entering Foster Care” which can be used as an educational/advocacy tool to educate

foster youth about the court system. Shantel and the MFYRC are also working to expand the FYI program to other Baltimore high schools. The plan is to train FYI's original members to act as liaisons between MFYRC and the new high school sites. These paid youth liaisons would counsel other youth about getting the most out of the foster care system. Shantel feels that by creating a safe place for our foster youth to express themselves, they can creatively strive toward maintaining a stable, balanced life after high school.

### **Honorable Gayle P. Roberts**

Judge Gayle P. Roberts was first appointed to the New York City Family Court bench in 1997 by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. She was reappointed in January of 2006 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. She has been assigned to Bronx County since her initial appointment, and has worked in all three of Family Court's specialty divisions. After handling custody, visitation and family offense matters for several years, she presided over child protective proceedings, including abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights cases. She is currently assigned to handle juvenile delinquency and PINS cases.

Judge Roberts has been selected to preside over several Model Court parts and special initiatives. Early in her tenure as a judge, she was assigned to implement the Abandonment Project, which put all appropriate cases of abandoned babies in the Bronx on a fast track to adoption. She worked with local mental health professionals on the Babies Can't Wait initiative, which sought to ensure that all young children involved in child protective cases in the Bronx received necessary medical, mental health, and Early Intervention services.

Judge Roberts is involved in numerous professional and civic organizations. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Black Bar Association of Bronx County. She has served on the New York State Bar Association's President's Committee on Access to Justice.

Judge Roberts was elected President of the New York State Family Court Judges Association in 2005. As President, one of her goals was to increase awareness of the disproportionate representation of minority children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. She was instrumental in hosting a day long program at the New York State Judicial Institute which brought together judges, attorneys, professors, mental health professionals and community leaders to examine strategies to reduce disproportionality.

Since then, she has endeavored to keep the issue of disproportionality at the forefront in the court system. She has presented on the issue of disproportionality at the National Center for State Courts Chief Justices' Summit in Austin, Texas, and at the annual conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) in San Diego. She gave a keynote address on this issue at the Practicing Law Institute in 2011.

In May of 2011, Judge Roberts was honored as Jurist of the Year by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association based upon her leadership in this area. In May 2012, Judge Roberts was given the Justice Ivan Warner Community Service Award for her efforts to reduce the number of minority

children entering the foster care system.

In 2012, Judge Roberts was designated the Lead Judge in New York State to develop strategies to reduce disproportionality. She is coordinating efforts to reduce over-representation statewide through various workshops and programs. Judge Roberts is working with the NCJFCJ on the Courts Catalyzing Change initiative. She is the chairperson of an interdisciplinary group of advocates and other players involved with child welfare cases in the Bronx that is working to develop and implement strategies for reducing disproportionality.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Roberts was an assistant district attorney in Bronx County. Judge Roberts graduated with honors from Tulane University School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh.

### **Honorable Janice M. Rosa**

New York State Supreme Court Justice Janice M. Rosa of Buffalo, N.Y., has served on the New York Supreme Court, Eighth Judicial District since 2003, where she is also the Supervising Judge for Matrimonial Matters. In that capacity, she has worked to introduce alternative dispute settlement techniques in divorce and custody cases. From 1994-2002, Justice Rosa served on the Erie County Family Court bench where she presided over the Dependency/Permanency Part and worked to initiate improvements in the handling of cases involving abused and neglected children. She has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges since 2006.

Justice Rosa has served as a faculty member for the NCJFCJ and other local and state organizations on topics including domestic violence, the effects of violence on children, child custody and permanency mediation. She is a graduate of the State University of New York (Buffalo) School of Law, the University of Rochester, and Holy Angels Academy. Justice Rosa is married to Raymond J. Stapell, managing partner in the Buffalo office of the law firm of Harris Beach.

### **Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr.**

Judge Louis A. Trosch, Jr., serves on the District Court bench in Charlotte, N.C. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) in July 2008.

Judge Trosch was appointed to the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court bench in Mecklenburg County, N.C., in 1999, and currently presides in Juvenile Court, Family Court, and Criminal Court. Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Trosch worked in private practice in the firm of Conrad, Trosch & Kemmy, P.A., as a lecturer at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, at the Children's Law Center in Charlotte, and as Assistant Public Defender in Cumberland County.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, Judge Trosch has led a number of collaborative reform efforts in Mecklenburg County designed to improve outcomes for children and families. Such initiatives include: development of a Permanency Mediation Project first utilized in Mecklenburg County and eventually adopted statewide to improve the outcomes for children and families in cases involving abuse, neglect, and/or dependency; a Truancy Court Program held in selected elementary and middle schools; a Youth Treatment Court for Juvenile Offenders; the development and implementation of a Juvenile Court automated data system; and better coordination of multi-system and community collaborative efforts in Mecklenburg County.

Judge Trosch is active in a variety of state, local and national reform efforts, including: serving as Chair of the Institute for Social Capital in partnership with the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, and other child welfare agencies; serving as a Steering Committee Member of NCJFCJ's Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care initiative; and as a Board member of the North Carolina Bar Association "4ALL" Task Force, an initiative to increase civil legal services for the poor in North Carolina. Judge Trosch is a former Lead Judge in the NCJFCJ's Child Victims Act Model Courts Project in Mecklenburg County, one of 36 Model Courts nationwide implementing strategies designed to improve the courts' handling of child abuse and neglect cases. Most recently, in July of 2010 Judge Trosch was the first Judge in North Carolina to be certified by the National Association of Counsel for Children as a Child Welfare Law Specialist.

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Genre: Country Music  
Label: Independent  
Website: [www.jimmywayne.com](http://www.jimmywayne.com)  
Booking: [SpeakerJimmyWayne@gmail.com](mailto:SpeakerJimmyWayne@gmail.com)

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## Jimmy Wayne

Jimmy Wayne has a public persona that is half right. He is determined, generous, serious-minded, talented, selfless and an activist. But those who know him well also see a different side: playful, self-deprecating, sometimes bawdy and off color and often a bit of a jokester — and they are perplexed by the oh-so-serious image that has followed Wayne since his breakthrough hit "Stay Gone" captivated country music fans and critics alike with its release in 2002.

But Wayne himself gets it. His personal history dictates that there would be a serious air attached to him. And his story has been repeated enough that even he sometimes tires of hearing it.

"I get why people might say, 'oh no, there's that Jimmy 'Wah' story again.' It's human nature — no one wants to hear sad songs ALL the time," he laughs. But while Wayne will sometimes downplay his turbulent childhood and the difficulties and challenges he faced, he will always give credit to those who gave him a hand up and helped him turn what could have been a bad ending at 16 years of age into just the beginning, which then led to a career filled with success.

Jimmy Wayne grew up in Kings Mountain, NC. By the time he was 14, he had been in and out of the foster care system and attended 12 different schools in two years. His mother was in prison, and he had only his older sister, Patricia. It was not an easy life for a bright and gifted child. When he was 15 years old, he found himself in juvenile detention for running away from a group home. At 16, he was still surviving by his wits, and living on the streets, until one fateful day when he met Bea and Russell Costner. The older couple (they were in their 70s when they met Jimmy) gave him a home, the ability to complete his education, encouragement and most of all, stability and love.

"If the Costner's hadn't stepped up and given me a home, I would not have survived," Wayne says. "Every good thing that has happened for me, I owe to them taking a chance on a pissed off, long haired, tattooed kid. The day I rode my bike by their place, and stopped and asked if they had any work I could do was a turning point in my life."

Wayne had always been a writer, journaling his experiences from a young age. He had always loved music, but never had the means to indulge that passion. With stability now a part of his life, and with the encouragement of Bea, Jimmy began learning guitar, and writing songs. He soon found that he was a natural storyteller, weaving complete tales into three-minute lyrics.

Jimmy continued his writing while solidifying his education, getting a degree in Criminal Justice, and going to work upon graduation at the North Carolina Department of Corrections in Dallas, NC.

"It was a natural step for me to work there, because I already knew a lot of the inmates," Jimmy jokes. "It was a tough place, but I had lots of encouragement for my music from some of the staff and inmates."

Whelan, he decided to give it a shot. While he didn't win the competition, he did attract the attention of Whelan, who encouraged him to move to Nashville and give songwriting a shot. So, a then 25-year-old Wayne packed up his few belongings and headed west to Music City.

It didn't take long for others to hear what Whelan had heard. He quickly signed Jimmy to Acuff-Rose Publishing, where the budding writer soon had his first hit, a Top 10 single called "Put Your Hand In Mine," recorded by Tracy Byrd. Soon after, Jimmy signed his first label deal,

based on his performance of the pop classic "Sara Smile" in the office of music executive Scott Borchetta. A self-titled debut album with the hit singles "Stay Gone," "I Love You This Much" and "Paper Angels" soon followed. And after that, his biggest hit to date, the three-week #1 hit single "Do You Believe Me Now."

Wayne has never been one to stand by and remain silent when he felt something needed to be said. He has always spoken up and out through his music. Addressing society's downfalls has not been something he has ever shied away from. Songs like "Where You're Going," "Kerosene Kid" and "Paper Angels" deftly spoke to issues faced by young children, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds. But in 2010 Wayne did more than write about it. He not only talked the talk, he walked the walk, literally.

On January 1, 2010, he began a 1700-mile walk from Nashville to Phoenix, AZ to raise awareness of at risk youth in the Foster Care system who age out at 18, and without any support, often find themselves homeless. He walked through big cities and small towns. He joined politicians in capitol cities and the Nation's Capitol to rally Representatives for support. He joined organizations like CASA and FosterClubs of America to speak out for these kids. And he created an organization called Project Meet Me Halfway to keep the message going long after he crossed the finish line in Phoenix on August 1, 2010.

Jimmy Wayne is all of the things the public sees. He is all of the things those closest to him see. He is a songwriter and advocate; a first-tier vocalist and an activist. He will be a published author on Nov 1, 2011 when his debut novella is released, a work of fiction titled "Paper Angels" and inspired by his own childhood. He is a much sought-after speaker. His live concert performances are filled with energy and passion. He is the youngest-ever recipient of the Salvation Army's William Booth Award. He is a neglected child and a concerned adult.

Jimmy Wayne is the sum of his experiences — the good and the bad. And he will tell you he is grateful for every one of those experiences because they made him the complex man he is today.

### **Erica Joyce Wolfe**

Erica Wolfe is a Master in Chancery for the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. She has served as a Master for more than 28 years, the last 19 as Administrative Master. Before her appointment as Master, she was an Assistant State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County, and Chief of the Juvenile Division. She is a member of, and past president and vice president of the Maryland Council of Masters. She has also served as an instructor at the Natural Resources Police Academy since 1987, as well as other police agencies and the Judicial Institute. She has been a consultant to the Rules Committee's Juvenile Rules Subcommittee. She is a longstanding member of the Foster Care Court Improvement Training Subcommittee, and a member and past chair of the Judicial Conference's Juvenile Law Subcommittee. She was appointed by the Governor to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services in 2004, and co-chairs its clinical subcommittee.