

Presenter Bios

Richard Abbott is the Director of Juvenile and Family Services for the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts. He previously served as Deputy Court Administrator, Family Law Administrator and DCM Coordinator for the Circuit Court of Baltimore County from 1995-2018. Before coming to Maryland, Richard was the District Court Administrator for the 56th Judicial District, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, from 1992 to 1995. Richard's other professional work experiences include the following: Law Clerk for Riley and DeFalice, P.C. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Legislative Intern and Office Assistant for United States Senator H. John Heinz; and Budget Analyst for the Alexandria Community Mental Health Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Richard obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, a Master of Public Administration, with a Certificate in Personnel and Labor Relations, from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Scranton.

Emily Angel is a staff attorney at the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Maryland Legal Aid. She has worked for 6 years advising pro se litigants at the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center. Prior to joining Maryland Legal Aid, Ms. Angel was the Consumer Protection Project Manager at the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, providing assistance to Maryland Consumers in debt collection cases. She also worked at The Coca-Cola Company in Sports Marketing before attending law school. She earned her J.D. in 2011 from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, and her B.S. in 2002 from the University of Maryland, College Park. She was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 2011.

Grant Bacon graduated from University of Delaware in 1998 and worked as a Drug Court Coordinator and drug treatment counselor, in Wilmington, DE for just over 2 years, out of college. Mr. Bacon was then hired by the University of Delaware, in the Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies (now known as the Center for Drug and Health Studies) in January of 2001. Hired as a Research Associate, Mr. Bacon began assisting on research projects focused on drug court programs, and prison-based treatment programs, as well multiple community-based outreach and awareness projects that focused on HIV, and disease spread mitigation (such as the project – “Integrating an HIV/HCV Brief Intervention in Prisoner Reentry”). In his time with the University of Delaware, Mr. Bacon was a key researcher and published author on many studies related to drug courts. Mr. Bacon worked for the University of Delaware until March of 2016, when he was hired as the Court Researcher for the 2nd Circuit and based in Cecil County.

Ksenia Boitsova joined the Maryland Judiciary as the Court Interpreter Program Administrator in 2008. Ms. Boitsova has been specializing in the field of court interpreting since 1994. She was employed by Berlitz GlobalNet Languages as an Interpreter Coordinator and Quality Assurance Manager from 1994 to 2004. During those years she also served as a certified court interpreter in New York City, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, and as an interpreter trainer and coach. Under Ksenia Boitsova's leadership and guidance since 2008, the Maryland Court Interpreter Program has significantly grown and evolved. Hundreds of new qualified and certified interpreters were added to the Court Registry and various language access tools were implemented in the Maryland courts. The Registry currently has 480 freelance interpreters in 65 languages. Ms. Boitsova works closely with court staff, interpreters, other Judiciary departments, and outside stakeholders to maintain and strengthen the existing language access programs and tools in the Maryland Judiciary. Ksenia has presented about Judiciary language services at various conferences within the Judiciary and nationally. Ksenia is originally from St. Petersburg, Russia. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from the State University of St. Petersburg. Additionally, she attended Columbia University in New York City where she studied psychology.

Dan Cardile graduated from University of Notre Dame in 1996 and worked as a Social Worker in Washington, D.C. for several years out of college. Mr. Cardile graduated from Catholic University School of Law in 2005 and served as a Law Clerk first to the Honorable Ann Sundt and then for a second year for the Honorable S. Michael Pincus. After working in Family Law for about four years at the law firm of Kuder, Smollar, Friedman and Mihalik. Mr. Cardile came to the Family Law Self-Help Center in Montgomery County as a staff attorney in 2010. He has worked at the Montgomery County Self-Help Center ever since. Mr. Cardile became the supervising attorney in 2016 and presently supervises four other attorneys. The Montgomery Center handles about 10,000 client contacts per year.

Adrienne Eagan began working as a Court Researcher for the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County in May of 2017. Prior to serving in this capacity, she was a Drug Treatment Court Case Manager for a District Court in Detroit, Michigan and a Court Assisted Rehabilitative Efforts Officer (state certified probation officer) for several years in Indiana. Adrienne obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from Arizona State University in 2012 and in 2010 she earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University in Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Digital Forensics. While in graduate school she was able to work as a Research Assistant at Arizona State University's Center for Applied

Behavioral Health Policy on the Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies II (CJ DATS II) and her role at the center was focused on the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) protocol. Some of her current professional involvements include; serving on the National Association for Court Management Early Career Professionals Committee (NACM), the NACM CORE Committee, the MDEC Event Code Workgroup, the Reporting, Analysis, and Data (RAP) Group, the Self-Represented Litigation Network Research Workgroup, and serving as the coordinator of the Courthouse Dog Child and Witness Pilot Program. She was also featured as an Early Career Professional in the NACM Court Manager magazine 2018 publication.

Kelly Franks has been the Family Services Program and Policy Manager at the Department of Juvenile and Family Services for the past nine years. In this role, she oversees the department's grant program. Prior to joining the Maryland Judiciary, Kelly was the Program Coordinator at CASA/Prince George's County, a non-profit that provides advocacy to children in foster care. Her past professional experiences also include serving as a Mediation Liaison for the Baltimore City Community Mediation Center and serving as a law clerk for the presiding judge in Denver Juvenile Court in Colorado and the presiding judge in the Family Part in Atlantic and Cape May counties in New Jersey. During law school at Rutgers Camden, Kelly worked at the legal center in Atlantic City's Covenant House shelter and volunteered as an advocate for domestic violence victims, as a small claims mediator and as a parenting plan mediator in the Camden County courts.

Lou Gieszl is Assistant Administrator for Programs at the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts, where he oversees innovative Judicial Departments that support mediation and conflict resolution, juvenile and family services, problem-solving courts, access to justice, and policy research for trial and appellate courts statewide. Prior to this, Lou served for 16 years as the Deputy Director of the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO), a statewide resource for conflict resolution programs and mediator excellence. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore's Master's Degree Program on Negotiations and Conflict Management. Lou completed his undergraduate degree with a triple major in English, Philosophy, and Political Science, and has a Masters of Public Policy degree, all from University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Caroline Harmon-Darrow is a PhD Candidate at the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work, where she also earned her MSW in 2002, following a BA from UC Berkeley. She is the former Executive Director of Community Mediation Program and Development Director for Community Mediation Maryland. She led a group of 22 families as founding President of

Creative City Public Charter School, a place-based elementary school in Baltimore City, including raising nearly \$1M in grants and loans. Her dissertation topic is "Comparing the impact of community-based mediation vs. prosecution on violence reduction among non-intimate adults." Caroline is a Graduate Research Assistant with the Maryland Human Trafficking Initiative, and teaches Social Policy and Community Practice at the MSW and BSW levels. Caroline is a community mediator of 21 years, and trains, coaches, and certifies other mediators around the state.

Pamela Harris was appointed by Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera as the first female Maryland State Court Administrator as of August 5, 2013. In 1989, she was appointed as the first woman to hold the Court Administrator position for the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland and held that position until 2013. Ms. Harris is committed to infusing evaluation-based practices into every aspect of court administration so that quality initiatives achieve intended results while meeting the needs of court personnel and clientele. Ms. Harris is a Fellow of the National Center for State Courts' Institute for Court Management (ICM); has taught national programs on ethics, leadership, and differentiated case management. She serves on the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice & Procedure. She is also Past President of the National Association for Court Management (NACM). Having previously served as the Vice President - International Associations on the board of the International Association for Court Administration (IACA), she has now assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Harris recently served a four-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts, still serving on their Programs and International committees. She has been active in various rule-of-law initiatives in Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Sri Lanka, India, China, and Ukraine, and served on the Board of the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium. She also serves on the Justice Management Institute Board and the Board of the Maryland International Coordinating Council, Inc., (MICCI).

Hon. Melvin J. Jews presently serves as the Judge for the District Court of Maryland for Dorchester County. While serving as a District Court Judge, Judge Jews expanded Adult Drug Court and started the first Regional Veterans Treatment Court in the State of Maryland. Judge Jews is the second African American Judge appointed on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Prior to his appointment to the bench by Governor Martin O'Malley, he was licensed to practice law before all Maryland Courts, the United States District Court for Maryland, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He previously worked as an attorney for the Legal Aid Bureau, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore City Law Department, and prior to being appointed to the District Court, Judge Jews was in private practice with his wife on the Eastern Shore. He graduated from the

University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

Sarah R. Kaplan, Esq., is an attorney and the Juvenile Law Manager for the Administrative Office of the Courts. She develops and implements policy initiatives to improve the Judiciary's handling of matters involving juveniles and staffs the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee and the Juvenile Law Committee. Her duties include monitoring Department of Juvenile and Family Services grants to programs that provide services to juveniles. Prior to joining the Judiciary, Ms. Kaplan's career included serving as an Assistant Attorney General in Washington, D.C. (representing the child welfare and child support agencies), as an Assistant Attorney General in Maryland (representing the Social Services Administration), and as an attorney and project manager with the ABA Center on Children and the Law.

Kevin Kelly joined the Administrative Office of the Courts in January 2018 as Director of Procurement, Contract and Grant Administration. Prior to joining the AOC, Kevin worked for GlaxoSmithKline (Global Pharmaceutical & Vaccine Company) for twenty five years in various international Procurement roles including the Head of North American Procurement, Global Director of Procurement for HR and Learning & Development Services, and Head of Global Procurement for R&D Clinical Services. Prior to joining GSK, Kevin worked for several consumer products companies including PepsiCo and Reckitt & Colman. Kevin has a BS in Business Logistics and Supply Chain from Pennsylvania State University and an MBA in Finance from LaSalle University. He and his wife relocated to Annapolis from the Philadelphia area in 2015 to be closer to family.

Jovonne Lewis is the Family and Court Program Evaluation Manager for the Department of Juvenile and Family Services for the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Baltimore City Community College. She was previously the Research Evaluation and Development Manager for Baltimore City Court Appointed Special Advocates from 2014 -2016 and a Volunteer Manager from 2010 – 2014. Jovonne's professional experience includes having served as an AmeriCorps member from 2008 – 2009 and a Student Clerk for the United States Attorney's Office District of Maryland 2006 – 2008. Jovonne obtained a Master of Public Administration and BA in Government and Public Policy from the University of Baltimore.

Mary L. McGeady, MBA, is the Chief Operating Officer for House of Ruth Maryland, Inc., Maryland's largest provider of services to victims of intimate partner violence and their families. Mary received her MBA from University of Baltimore and has over 25 years' experience working in non-profit administration. As COO, Mary wears many hats overseeing Grant

Administration, Finance and Accounting, Facilities, IT and Data Management, and Social Enterprise, and has only recently relinquished oversight of Human Resources. Mary serves as the liaison to the Board of Directors for Finance Committee and its Investment subcommittee, leads the staff 403B Retirement Committee and was an active member of the construction team for HRM's new Community Engagement Center. Currently, Mary oversees HRM's grant portfolio of 30+ local, state, federal and foundation grants and contracts and the agency's \$8.2 Million operating budget. As part of the internal grants team, Mary helps to identify and close funding gaps, analyze service trends, assure database support for programs and track program outcomes for compliance reporting. Mary's team actively supports HRM's 125 staff working out of 12 service locations.

Latasha Nichols is the Problem-Solving Court Coordinator for the District Court for Dorchester County Adult Drug Court and the Regional Veterans Treatment Court Programs. She previously held positions with the District Court for Prince George's County, Maryland as the Adult Drug Court Program Coordinator as well as the Mental Health Court Coordinator, and the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland as the Juvenile Drug Court Program Coordinator. She has served as a Director of a Partial Hospital Program of a private outpatient mental health clinic. She has served as a counselor and a crisis intervention specialist which provided training, counseling and support for crisis prevention, identification, and intervention to law enforcement, correction facilities and community settings. She has experience in program development, composing grant proposals, developing and managing budgets, grants, financial reports and data collection for program evaluation and management reports. She currently is a member of the Maryland Judiciary Office of Problem-Solving Courts Training Workgroup and the Office of Problem-Solving Courts Performance Measures Workgroup. Latasha is a graduate of both the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management: Certified Court Manager and Certified Court Executive Programs. Latasha holds a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Wilmington University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Christopher Page is the Executive Director of the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County. He has over twenty years of experience in community programming, marketing, and financial management. He obtained a Master's Degree in Divinity from the Howard University School of Divinity. Christopher is also an award-winning songwriter whose songs have been featured on HBO, nominated for a Stellar Award, and considered for a Grammy.

Alecia Parker is the Grants and Strategic Initiatives Director for the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO). Alecia serves as MACRO's specialist

on community mediation, the office's largest initiative outside of courts. Alecia works closely with staff from community mediation centers around the state to help them improve and expand their services, utilize best practices, and meet MACRO's 10-Point Model of Community Mediation. In addition, Alecia is responsible for managing MACRO's grant programs – which encompass grants for courts and community conflict resolution programs, as well as community mediation performance grants. Alecia also works closely with MACRO's Director to strategize the office's annual priorities and activities, as well as manage MACRO's budget and expenses. Alecia enjoys using her people and math skills in supporting mediation and conflict resolution in Maryland.

Carolyn Schneck is a Manager with the Maryland Judiciary Internal Audit Department, as of January this year. She has over thirty years of experience in the field of accounting and auditing. Carolyn has held management positions for non-profit, State instrumentality, higher education, and publicly-held companies.

Larell Smith-Bacon has been in Baltimore since 1991. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, she came to Maryland to attend the Historically Black University, Morgan State University. Larell joined Restorative Response Baltimore, formerly the Community Conferencing Center, as a Case Coordinator and Facilitator in 2010. In October 2017, Larell stepped into the role of Community Conferencing Program Director. She's now charged with assisting in the training of community conference facilitators as well as providing support to the statewide and nationwide conference practitioners. Larell is grateful to be part of an agency that allows members of a community to have a structured environment to effectively work out their conflicts. She gets an unexpected personal sense of fulfillment from being a part of this work.

Lonni Summers is a Senior Program Manager with the Access to Justice Department of the Maryland Judiciary. She works with courts and non-profit legal services providers to support programs that enhance access to justice. As a former legal services attorney, Lonni understands how high the stakes are for individuals facing civil legal problems, and she has dedicated her career to addressing barriers to justice. Lonni is a graduate of Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

Anne Turner, LCSW-C has been the Family Division Coordinator at the Worcester County Circuit Court since 1998. She is responsible for the administration and management of all aspects of the day to day operation of the Family Division including, but not limited to, administration, policy and procedure development and implementation, supervision, fiscal/budgetary management, quarterly and annual reporting, budget preparation, case management,

coordination/management of the courts ADR programs as well as oversight of the Court's Differentiated Case Management Plan for Domestic Relations cases. Ms. Turner is a Certified Court Executive with the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management Program. Ms. Turner's prior experience includes nine years with the Department of Social Services as a child protective services investigator and foster care worker and four years with the Health Department's Mental Health Clinic as a child and family therapist.

Jamie Walter, Ph.D., is the Director of Court Operations at the Administrative Office of the Courts. She was previously the Executive Director of Operations at District Court Headquarters. Jamie has managed evaluations of a variety of court practices in both District and Circuit Courts. She has over eighteen years of experience in project management and research design, grant writing, data collection, and data analysis. Jamie's work includes evaluations of case processing performance, self-help centers, mental health courts, teen courts, case management and disposition in Juvenile matters, and the statewide cost-benefit/effectiveness analysis of alternative dispute resolution. Jamie has helped to secure and manage major grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the State Justice Institute. She has worked on the Maryland Judiciary's Annual Report, the Annual Case Flow Assessment Report, and Access and Fairness in the Maryland Judiciary, and spearheaded the new data dashboard. Jamie is actively involved in Judiciary committees: she staffs the Court Operations Committee, is a member of the Jury Use and Management Committee and the Court Services Center Workgroup, and is a former member of Domestic Violence Subcommittee, Self-Help Center Advisory Committee, and the Case Time Standards District Court Working Group. Her work has been presented at regional and national conferences and published in peer reviewed journals. Prior to joining the courts, Jamie was a college professor and taught courses in psychology, statistics, research methods, and human development and was appointed Human Services Director at Albion College in Michigan. She also worked as a case manager for the mentally ill. Jamie received her B.A. from St. Mary's College of Maryland and her Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Maine.

Nick White, Ph.D. is the Research & Evaluation Director for Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO). Nick works collaboratively with dispute resolution program managers in the courts as well as justice partners in schools, criminal and juvenile justice programs, and state and local government agencies to help develop assessment tools and procedures to evaluate conflict resolution initiatives. Nick is leading a team that developed and is implementing the Alternative Dispute Resolution Evaluation Support System (ADRESS). Trained in mediation in 1996, Nick has mediated and facilitated a broad range of issues, including real estate, multi-party, U.S. Postal

Service, domestic and international public policy and natural resource, parent-child, community, inter-governmental and court-referred cases. Nick's doctoral work at the University of Michigan focused on issues of institutionalization of ADR. Nick holds adjunct teaching appointments with Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland.

Abena Williams is Supervising Attorney at the Baltimore City District Court Self Help Center, part of the larger Maryland Center for Legal Assistance which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Maryland Legal Aid. She manages and supervises legal and administrative staff who provide legal assistance in landlord/tenant, civil claims up to \$30,000, replevin/detinue, expungement and domestic violence matters via walk-in, phone, and live chat. Prior to working for the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance, Abena worked as a Senior Staff Attorney at Maryland Legal Aid. She represented clients in landlord/tenant, public housing, consumer and/or bankruptcy cases.