

## Presenter Biographies

### **Susan Alameda**, Project Director, All Rise

Susan Alameda is a project director for the Treatment Court Institute (TCI), a division of the All Rise (formerly NADCP). As project director, she takes pride in managing training projects designed to provide evidence-based, quality professional development training to practitioners serving the criminal justice involved population throughout the country. Her passion for working with the criminal justice population can be tracked by more than 22 years working at the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts where, as a program specialist and supervisor, she managed funds and access to treatment services for juveniles in the foster care system, juveniles and adults on community supervision, individuals with co-occurring disorders, veterans with PTSD, adults living with substance use disorder, and transferred youth. As statewide Drug Court Coordinator, she was responsible for managing state and federal funds to help support program implementation and sustainability for both limited and general jurisdiction treatment courts including Mental Health Courts, DUI Courts, Adult/ Juvenile Drug Courts, and Veteran Treatment Courts. She also served under the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family as Program Manager responsible for approximately \$20 million in state and federal grant funds in support of community-based prevention and early intervention substance use/abuse/misuse programs. Finally, she has been an active member of the Executive Board of the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals for more than 12 years.

### **Ashley Anderson**, Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court T/TA Specialist, Tribal Youth Resource Center, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Ashley Anderson brings 10 years of public service to TLPI and has dedicated most of her career to serving at-risk youth. She has partnered with federal, state, and local agencies and worked with various nonprofits, focusing on serving families to prevent and reduce delinquency, suicide, and substance use. She is trained in Alaska Native/American Indian restorative practices to include GOANs/ GONAs, Calricaraq, and Circle Facilitation. Mrs. Anderson is a strong Indigenous ally and does this work for her children to know different. She has had the opportunity to serve Alaska Natives in Alaskan rural villages and American Indians in urban, rural, and rancheria communities. She believes in the braiding of Western knowledge and traditional teachings to do leadership and community development. Mrs. Anderson holds her bachelor's degree in applied communication studies with a minor in child psychology and has master coursework in both legal studies with a focus on policy reform and criminal justice with a focus on youth advocacy. She is also a master trainer in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and holds her Chemical Dependency Counselor (CDCI) certificate. Her most recent accomplishment was the implementation of a community accountability board for an Alaska Title IX school named Project: Student Reconnect to reduce high school dropout rates using circle method rather than punitive action.

### **Ashley Azure**, Peer Recovery Specialist, Spotted Bull Resource Recovery Center

### **Sean Bear** (*Meskwaki Nation*), Behavioral Health Trainer, Native Veterans Wellness

Sean Bear Sean is a national Native trainer on traditional Native approaches in social justice, veterans services, trauma-informed services, and suicide intervention and is a member of Meskwaki Nation.



**Harry Begay**, Traditional Program Specialist, Dzil Yijiin Peacemaking Program, Navajo Nation

**Ellyn Black**, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, Department of Veteran Affairs

Ellyn Black is the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Veteran Affairs. Ellyn has over 25 years working with active duty and Veterans. Ellyn works in the East Valley Regional Veterans court and the Mesa Veterans court and coverage for Veterans court in the Phoenix area.

**Will Blakely**, Program Associate, Center for Children and Family Futures

Will Blakeley is a Program Associate for Children and Family Futures as part of the National Family Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Program. He provides training and technical assistance to OJJDP grantees and Family Treatment Courts nationwide while supporting day-to day operations through monitoring contract compliance and completion of deliverables. He is a dedicated professional focused on multigenerational healing through trauma-informed, strength-based responses and engagement from a multidisciplinary perspective. Mr. Blakeley has seven years of experience with program development, enhancing Family Treatment Courts to align with best practices, and direct case management.

**Hon. Peter Boome** (*Upper Skagit Tribe*), Associate Judge, Tulalip Tribes

Peter Boome is a citizen of the Upper Skagit Tribe. Judge Boome has been involved with Tulalip's Healing to Wellness Court for the past seven years. He is the creator of "Yehaw" a highly successful judicial mediation court. Additionally, Judge Boome is the presiding Judge for Nisqually's Wellness Court where he also presides over a DV court. Outside of his legal work Judge Boome is a well-known Coast Salish artist with works in many museums and collections around the world.

**Patti Buhl** (*Cherokee Nation*), Director, Department of Juvenile Justice, Cherokee Nation

Patti Buhl is a lifelong Tahlequah resident and a proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Patti is married, has a son and a three legged cat named Salem. Patti is a former Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety from which she retired in 2020 after 26 years in law enforcement. Patti is also the former Missing and Murdered Persons Coordinator (MMIP) for all three United States Attorney Districts in Oklahoma. Patti has a Bachelor and Master's Degree from Northeastern State University and a Juris Doctor (JD) from Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

**Chris Cuestas**, Consultant, Tribal Youth Resource Center, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Chris Cuestas is a nationally recognized expert in the field of street gangs and juvenile violence. Chris has built his expertise during more than twenty-five years of investigating criminal street gangs, as a lead detective, patrol officer, a school resource officer, a crime prevention officer, CPTED specialist and as a technical assistant for grant support for DOJ, OVC, TJAG, and OJJDP funded sites. Chris has spent more than 44 years in gang reduction, drug/reduction and intervention, youth violence prevention and suppression. Chris currently consults nationally in Tribal Lands on the development of community coalitions and human and sex trafficking prevention, education, missing indigenous persons, and interdiction.



**Ray Daw** (*Diné*), Behavioral Health Consultant, Native Veterans Wellness

Ray Daw is a National Native trainer and advocate for veterans, social justice, behavioral health, and traditional trauma-informed services.

**Hon. Rhonda Decontie**, Magistrate Judge, Clerk of Courts, Cultural Advisor for Healing to Wellness Court, Penobscot Nation Judicial System

Rhonda Decontie was sworn in on May 3, 2023, as the first Magistrate Judge of the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court. In 2024 she was also appointed to serve as the first Magistrate Judge for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. During her career at the Tribal Court, Magistrate Judge Decontie has held many positions, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Courts, Healing to Wellness Cultural Advisor, and now Magistrate Judge. She has played a crucial role in the development of the Nation's problem-solving court. In her role as Cultural Advisor to the Healing to Wellness Court she was instrumental in changing the Wellness Court away from the punishment-based court used by states. Magistrate Judge Decontie continues to oversee the Courts day-to-day operations but also takes the responsibility for reviewing and authorizing search warrants, ex parte child protective orders, and ex parte Protection from Abuse and Harassment Orders. She will also serve as the lead in developing an early intervention court utilizing the braided services approach to assist families in obtaining services so that they do not enter the child protective system.

**Dr. Kristen DeVall**, Co-Director, National Drug Court Resource Center

Kristen E. DeVall is the co-director of the National Treatment Court Resource Center & a professor of sociology and criminology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She received her PhD in sociology from Western Michigan University and has conducted evaluations of numerous treatment court programs and other criminal justice initiatives in various states for over 20 years. Recent publications have appeared in *Crime & Delinquency*, *Federal Probation*, *Sociological Imagination*, *The Journal of Drug Issues*, *The Prison Journal*, *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, and *Substance Use and Misuse*. Dr. DeVall has also garnered over \$19 million in grant funding from BJA, OJJDP, SAMHSA, as well as state and local entities to support various treatment courts & other criminal justice programs. In addition, she worked as a case manager for a community corrections program for seven years. Providing direct services to justice-involved individuals allowed her to see firsthand how the system operates and identify opportunities for system-level and policy change. Overall, her work seeks to bridge the gap between academia and practitioners, as well as influence the development of evidence-based policies and practices.

**Amy Foster Wolferman**, Director of School-Based Training and Technical Assistance, National Native Children's Trauma Center

Amy Foster Wolferman, M.Ed, Director of School-Based Training and Technical Assistance for the National Native Children's Trauma Center provides training and technical assistance to educators, school leaders, families, and community members in trauma resilient school systems and practices, Secondary Traumatic Stress interventions, Trauma-Informed Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), bullying prevention and suicide prevention. Ms. Foster Wolferman's primary area of focus is helping schools support the social and emotional needs of students impacted by trauma. She co-authored the Bounce Back for Classrooms trauma-focused social skills curriculum; co-developed a trauma-informed systems change model, Trauma Resilient Schools with NNCTC colleagues; and co-wrote the Walking the



Four Directions: Traditional View of Discipline trainer's manual. In addition, she has served as an Implementation Specialist in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), as a Consultant for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for schools; and has a background in teaching, early childhood education, special education, and working with youth in the outdoors.

**Kylie Francis-Fowler**, Peer Recovery Advocate, Penobscot Nation Judicial System

In January 2023, Kylee achieved a remarkable milestone by graduating from the Penobscot Tribal Healing to Wellness Court. This marked a significant turning point in her journey toward recovery and self-discovery. Empowered by the support and guidance she received; Kylee embarked on a mission to give back to her community. Kylee's involvement in various organizations, such as the National Treatment Court Alumni Association and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, showcases her commitment to advocating for effective and compassionate approaches to addiction recovery, particularly within Indigenous communities. Her recognition as the Bay dt ge:vik a'hanja Healing to Wellness advocate of the year 2023 highlights the impact of her efforts in this regard. In all aspects of her life and work, Kylee embodies the principles of healing, resilience, and cultural empowerment. Her story serves as a testament to the power of perseverance and the transformative potential of embracing one's roots and community in the journey toward wellness.

**Hon. Christine Frausto**, Associate Judge, Tulalip Tribal Court

Judge Frausto has been at Tulalip Tribal Court for a year and a half. She currently sits mostly criminal cases, Wellness Court, and the Mental Wellness Alternatives Program Court.

**Kendall Friend**, Senior Court Management Consultant, National Center for State Courts

Kendall Friend, MA, is a Senior Court Management Consultant at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Since joining the NCSC in 2024, her project work has focused on Adult Treatment Court state-based technical assistance and outcome evaluation. She earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Slipper Rock University of Pennsylvania, grant writing certification from Temple University, a bachelor degree in criminal justice and psychology from Lycoming College and she is currently obtaining a master's degree in public administration from Murray State University. Prior to NCSC, Kendall was a project director at All Rise for five years where she managed the state conference planning project and served as a subject matter expert in Adult Treatment Court standards and community supervision.

**Kevin Garcia**, Lead Worker, Bernalillo County's Metropolitan Court Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Program

Kevin Garcia started his career with the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courthouse in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2018 as a Probation Officer 2 in the DWI First Offenders Program. Kevin then transferred to the Urban Native American Healing to Wellness program as a Probation Officer 2 and held that position for four years. Kevin is currently a Lead Probation Officer, where he assists in supervising both the Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court and Recovery Court programs and has held this position for approximately a year. Kevin started his career with the state of New Mexico with the Children, Youth and Family Department in its Juvenile Justice Services Division as a Juvenile Corrections Officer, he held this position for two years before transferring to Metro Court. Kevin holds a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, which he obtained in 2010.



**Kevin Gasco** (*Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians*), Male Cultural Resource Advisor, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court

Kevin Gasco is an enrolled member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) located in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Kevin currently is the Male Cultural Resource Advisor for the LTBB Tribal Court and assists Tribal members associated with one of the Specialty Court Dockets. Kevin has served on the Waabshkii-Miigwaan Adult Drug Court Program in different capacities for more than 10 years. Kevin has been a community volunteer, Juvenile Probation Officer, and now as a Cultural Resource Advisor. Kevin has been in long-term recovery since 1983 and received training as a peer recovery coach through the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery. Kevin is the father of four and grandfather of one, who are all enrolled Tribal members as well. He grew up in the LTBB community and is active in his community's traditional culture. Kevin has been a past presenter for the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. Kevin has an associate degree in general studies from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Michigan.

**Carolyn Hardin**, Chief of Training and Research, All Rise

Carolyn Hardin is the chief of training and research for All Rise, a nongovernmental organization based in Washington, D.C. She oversees the daily operations for All Rise's three divisions: the Treatment Court Institute, Impaired Driving Solutions, and Justice for Vets. She also oversees the development and implementation of training for the organization. Ms. Hardin travels nationally and internationally, assisting teams with planning and operating successful treatment courts. She received her MPA from the University of Akron in Ohio and her BA in public administration from Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama.

**Alyssa Harrold**, Tribal Wellness Court Specialist, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Alyssa Harrold serves as a Tribal Wellness Court Wellness Specialist and resides in Petoskey, Michigan. Prior to joining the Tribal Law and Policy Institute she served as the Project Director/Coordinator and Probation Officer for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. In that role she oversaw all specialty court programs, which included a Domestic Violence Docket, Family Preservation Court, and an Adult Healing to Wellness Program. In 2017, she oversaw and implemented program enhancements to accept felony-level Healing to Wellness clients. More recently she coordinated the implementation of the Little Traverse Bay Band family preservation court. She began her career working in safe homes providing services to domestic violence survivors. With a background in criminal justice and gender studies, she has a focus on rehabilitative services and assisting clients in cultivating resiliency.

**Michelle Hart**, Deputy Chief of Probation (retired), Consultant, Michelle Hart Consulting, LLC.

Michelle Hart is a graduate of Northern Arizona University with a B.S. in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration. She worked in the field of probation, in Coconino County, AZ, for nearly 28 years; retiring in June 2021. During her tenure as a probation officer, she worked in various areas of supervision, such as juvenile probation, adult Intensive Probation and Adult DUI/Drug Court. In 2010, Ms. Hart became a Probation Supervisor (her unit included all of the treatment courts) and 2016, became the Deputy Chief of her department; the position she held at retirement. Throughout her career, Ms. Hart has held a passion for training in the field of probation supervision and treatment courts, along with implementing best practices to achieve the best outcomes for both officers and the



clients served. In addition to training within her department, she has trained throughout the state of Arizona and nationally. In 2012, Ms. Hart became a faculty consultant with All Rise. She continues in this capacity and has the honor of working with treatment court teams throughout the country providing training, group facilitation, and technical assistance. Ms. Hart has been a board member of the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals since 2009.

**Meghan Hays Davis**, Program and Training Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

Meghan Hays Davis is a dedicated professional with a bachelor's degree in social work and a masters in infant and family practice. Endorsed by the esteemed Infant and Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona with a background spanning child welfare, CPS, Tribal social work, and community behavioral health, Meghan's expertise is vast and varied. Prior to her tenure at Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, she served as a compassionate Birth to Five therapist, positively impacting the lives of countless families. Throughout her career, Meghan has championed the cause of young children in foster care, working closely with families, foster parents, court teams, and providers. She advocates for a developmentally appropriate, relationship-based framework in everyday practice, fostering discussions on what is truly best for babies. Driven by her passion for creating a more supportive system for young children and their families across Arizona, Meghan continues to be a catalyst for positive change in Arizona.

**Jose Hernandez**, Co-Founder, Inner Immersion

Jose Hernandez is an artist, international speaker, and cofounder of Inner Immersion, Inc. His journey began as an electrical engineer until a near-death experience in January 2000 transformed his life. Following a years-long challenging recovery, he started creating art in 2004 as a meditative tool, despite having no prior background in art. His work is now featured in galleries across the United States and in prestigious collections such as the Cleveland Clinic and the Nicklaus Children's Dan Marino Outpatient Centre. Jose's art and NDE insight forms the basis for the breakthrough behavioral modality, Inner Immersion. His team is now training licensed mental health professionals and addiction professionals in this powerful tool to create significant breakthroughs, build trust, and effect lasting change—with a focus on underserved populations, and addiction recovery. His paternal grandmother, Matilda, was Taíno from Puerto Rico and was tragically murdered when his father was one year old. This heritage deeply influences Jose's identity and work. Currently residing in the Okanagan on unceded Syilx territory in British Columbia with his wife and daughter, Jose is a member of the Association of Transformational Leaders. He frequently speaks about his near-death experience, healing the masculine, and the impact of art on healing. His story is featured in the Netflix docuseries *Surviving Death*.

**Leah Hitcher** (*Cherokee Nation, Muscogee Creek*), Coordinator Juvenile Healing to Wellness, Cherokee Nation

Leah Hitcher a resident of Stilwell, Oklahoma within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. Leah is a citizen of Cherokee Nation in addition to Muscogee Creek heritage. Leah has two daughters and a shared German Shepard named Banilla. Leah formerly worked 11 years in the Tribal Court and Permanency Unit within the Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare department. Leah accepted the position as the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Coordinator in September 2022, and quickly worked to complete the strategic plan and implementation of the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court at Cherokee Nation. Additionally, Leah holds a bachelor's degree from Haskell Indian Nation's University in American Indian studies and a





master's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma. Leah has spent a majority of her working career working with Indigenous populations within the Cherokee Nation Reservation.

**Loretta Hoots** (*Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*), Bureau of Indian Affairs/ National Monitoring Center Manager, Natural Resource Department Safety of Dams Program

Loretta Hoots is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of The Flathead Reservation, Montana. She has worked with the CSKT for over 35 years, holding various job titles. Loretta currently serves as the National Monitoring Center Manager with the Natural Resources Department Safety of Dams program. She also serves on the Kootenai Elders Advisory, Lake County Planning Board, SIR (Sober Indian Riders), Friends of the Children Advisory Board, Friends of the Children Managing Board and the Standing Arrow Celebration Committee. Her hobbies include riding her Trike, buying houseplants and spending quality time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren when she can, and making jewelry. Summertime you will find her on aboriginal territory picking huckleberries and pow-wows.

**Selina Oshanee Kenmille** (*Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*), Juvenile Healing to Wellness Coordinator, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Selina Oshanee Kenmille is a member of the Kootenai and Salish tribes in northwest Montana. She is utilizing her lifelong dedication to culture, education, and children in her current role as the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Coordinator for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to reconnect the youth to their culture and environment. She obtained her bachelor's degree in business management and entrepreneurship from Salish Kootenai College and is pursuing a master's degree in child, youth, and family through University of Nebraska. Selina brings extensive experience in education, grant writing, and family systems to the CSKT Juvenile Healing to Wellness community.

**Allen King**, Consultant, Motivational Speaker

Allen King is a dedicated leader with more than 15 years of experience in behavioral health and community service. After overcoming significant personal challenges, including incarceration and substance abuse, Allen has devoted his life to helping others navigate similar paths. He is an advocate for culturally sensitive treatment programs and has successfully implemented several initiatives to support Native American communities. Allen's work focuses on integrating traditional healing practices with modern therapeutic approaches, aiming to create a holistic support system for individuals in recovery. His journey from hardship to leadership serves as an inspiring testament to the power of resilience and the importance of community-based support.

**Dr. Christina Lanier**, Co-Director, National Treatment Court Resource Center

Christina Lanier is the co-director of the National Drug Court Resource Center and a professor of sociology and criminology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She received her PhD in sociology from the University of Delaware in 2006. Her work has been published in *Federal Probation*, *The Journal of Drug Issues*, *The Prison Journal*, *Substance Use and Misuse*, and *Violence Against Women*. She has extensive experience in the area of grant writing and program evaluation. She conducts program evaluations for specialty courts in North Carolina and is a co-evaluator for a number of local reentry programs. Other recent projects include statewide evaluations in Michigan and North Carolina. Working



with treatment court and other criminal justice programs, she has garnered more than \$19 million dollars in grant funding from federal, state, and local agencies. Dr. Lanier's focus is on linking the work of researchers with practitioners to make policy and social change.

**Gary E. LaRance** (*Hopi*), former Chief Judge of the Hopi Tribal Courts and Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Judge for the Hopi Youth Wellness Court

Gary E. LaRance is a member of the Hopi Tribe, State of Arizona. He is licensed to practice in Arizona. He is a general practitioner with emphasis in the areas of civil litigation, criminal law, family relations, and personal injury. He has spent 37 years in the courtrooms of New Mexico, Arizona, Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Colorado River Indian Tribes and Washoe Tribe of Nevada. He has prosecuted, defended, and tried over 2,000 criminal, juvenile, and civil cases. He has presided as a judge over hundreds of other cases. He has been an instructor and trainer for Northern Arizona University, National Indian Justice Center, National Institute of Trial Advocacy, National Domestic Violence Prevention Fund, Native American Alliance Foundation and National Association of Chiefs of Police, teaching criminal law and procedure, evidence, trial advocacy skills, Federal Indian law, Indian Civil Rights Act, Indian Child Welfare Act, Healing to Wellness Courts, Domestic Violence, Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Child Neglect and Abuse.

**Jered Lee**, Program Coordinator, Traditional Wellness Program, First Nations Community Healthsource  
Jered Lee is the Program Coordinator of the Traditional Wellness Program (TWP) at First Nations Community Healthsource. His role at TWP is rooted in the support of cultural wellbeing, traditional knowledge sharing, and the fostering of healthy character development through a Native American approach and services provided. This dynamic has become a positive factor in the lives of many Healing to Wellness Court participants. It is with great regard and appreciation that the TWP is able to serve along with the entire court staff in support of our Native population seeking sobriety.

**Matthew Lesky**, Attorney, Court Administrator, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court  
Matthew Lesky is an attorney licensed in the state of Michigan and the court administrator for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court. Matthew began his legal career in the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Legal Department as in-house counsel. Following his time as in-house counsel, he served two terms as the Tribal Prosecutor for LTBB. As the Tribal Prosecutor he was responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases and representing the Tribe in child welfare matters. He was also involved in the implementation of several grants both as a team member and trainer, including VAWA, NCALL/Abuse Later in Life, CTAS, and SORNA. Matthew has been a member of the Tribal Court's Waabishkii Miigwaan Drug Court program (WMDCP) since its inception in 2009, first as a prosecutor, then as the defense attorney, and now as the court administrator. The WMDCP is a specialty court focused on high-risk/high-needs clients with substance use disorders. Matthew is a team member on the Family Preservation Court for LTBB, which was fully implemented this year. Matthew previously served as the defense attorney for the Emmet County Juvenile Drug Court. He has been a past presenter for TLPI and recently presented at the RISE 2024 conference. Matthew completed his undergraduate studies at Central Michigan University and received his juris doctorate from Michigan State College of Law.





**Kyla Lout**, Veterans Justice Outreach Peer Specialist, Department of Veteran Affairs

Kyla Lout is a Veterans Justice Outreach Peer Specialist for the Department of Veteran Affairs. Kyla is a military Veteran who served in the Marine Corps and South Dakota Air National Guard. Kyla has years of experience as a peer navigator.

**Marshalle Manriquez**, Statewide Safe Babies Court Teams Coordinator, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

Marshalle Manriquez is a dedicated professional with a bachelor's degree in justice studies and eight years of invaluable experience in child welfare. Her career began in the Maricopa County Juvenile Court, where she honed her skills before transitioning to a role in the Administrative Office of the Courts under the Dependent Children Services Division. This pivotal experience equipped Marshalle with a deep understanding of the intricate workings of the child welfare system. In her current role at Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, Marshalle's passion for supporting young children and their families shines through. She is driven by the conviction that strong, supportive families are essential for children to thrive. This belief fuels her advocacy for policies and practices that prioritize families and provide them with the resources they need to succeed. She is committed to creating environments where children can flourish and reach their full potential from the earliest stages of life.

**Shelia McCarthy**, Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform, Center for Justice Innovation

Sheila E. McCarthy, LMSW, is a Senior Program Manager for the Recovery and Reform Team at the Center for Justice Innovation (Center). Sheila has led a wide range of projects focusing on drug/opioid courts, teleservices initiatives, veterans treatment courts and statewide strategic plans. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. McCarthy worked for the New York State Unified Court System for over a decade in several capacities within family court. Her career in the court system began as a coordinator for a program aimed at increasing accountability in intimate partner violence cases in Queens Family Court. She then transitioned to a Citywide position with the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, a federally funded initiative that supports the family court's mandate to promote the safety, permanence, and well-being of abused and neglected children. Her last position before joining the Center was focused on a statewide initiative aimed at improving families involved in the child welfare system, family court, and dealing with substance use disorders. In addition to her macro level work, Sheila has experience directly serving clients ranging from victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence, to assisting criminal justice involved individuals with cooccurring disorders. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from Boston College and a M.S.W. from Columbia University School of Social Work.

**Stephanie Meyer**, Surveillance Officer, Pinal County Adult Probation

I am currently a Surveillance Officer for Pinal County Adult Probation. I have had the opportunity to work for probation for 15 years. I have been fortunate to be part of our Departments CPR/First Aid instructor team for the past five years. It is my hope to inform those that we work with and our community about the Fentanyl epidemic and its dangers. Through proper NARCAN training and continuous information sharing on how to properly handle an overdose. My goal is to help lower the stigma around addiction and the ability to talk openly about it.



**Alisha Morrison** (*Rosebud Sioux Tribe*), Senior Program Manager, Tribal Justice Exchange, Center for Justice Innovation

Alisha Morrison is a senior program manager for the Center for Justice Innovation's Tribal Justice Exchange. Alisha works with tribal courts to assist with justice system needs assessments, strategic planning projects and implementation of problem-solving practices. Additionally, she is involved in tribal justice projects such as the development of a tribal Risk-Need-Responsivity tool for tribal courts and the development of court-based materials for Native child victims and witnesses. Before joining the Center, Alisha worked as a program specialist for the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy program at the James E. Rogers College of Law where she supported recruitment and retention initiatives for Native law students and worked with the program's Tribal Justice Clinic and International Human Rights Advocacy Workshop. Alisha holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Arizona, with a minor in Adolescents, Community and Education, and a J.D. with concentrations in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy and Family Law from the University of Arizona College of Law. She is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and she is licensed to practice law in the state of New York.

**Dr. Anjali Nandi**, Consultant, National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College

Anjali Nandi is a human service consultant bringing innovative leadership coaching, staff development, and implementation science to human service organizations interested in creating a high-performance, learning culture. Anjali supports agencies ranging from public health systems to judicial departments through leadership training, human resource development, strategic innovation, and implementation of evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing. Anjali is a member of the International Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers, a Licensed Addictions Counselor in the State of Colorado, and a Nationally Certified Master Addiction Counselor. Anjali has authored numerous publications and developed several assessment instruments on risk, resiliency, and self-assessments. Anjali earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Psychology from Grand Canyon University.

**Kristina Pacheco** (*Pueblo of Laguna*), Tribal Wellness Specialist, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Kristina Pacheco serves as a Tribal Law and Institute Tribal Wellness Specialist, is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna, and resides in the village of Paraje/Casa Blanca, New Mexico. She is a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor in the state of New Mexico and has more than 20 years of experience in the field of substance abuse treatment and prevention. Prior to joining the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, she worked for the Pueblo of Laguna for 14 years as a Supervising Probation Officer (2004–10), Lead Counselor (2010–14), and Behavioral Health Program Manager (2014–19). In 2007, Kristina and the staff of the Tribal Court began the Pueblo of Laguna Healing to Wellness Court (HTWC). The HTWC was granted Mentor Court Status in 2017 by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Drug Court Initiatives. Kristina also provided training and technical assistance to other Native communities as a consultant.

**Kara Pasqua**, (*Cherokee*) Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, National Native Children's Trauma Center

Kara Pasqua serves as a Training and Technical Assistant Specialist at the National Native Children's Trauma Center and Native Children's Advocacy Resource Center out of the University of Montana. Her prior work experience includes over 28+ years serving children and families in human service programs



that included Indian Child Welfare and Child Support advocacy at Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. During her tenure with these programs, she developed, implemented, and managed programming while working collaboratively with state, federal, and tribal agencies. In addition, she has previously served as a Principal Investigator over various grant projects.

Kara's call to service has always been to protect and empower children and families within the community. Her educational background includes a master's degree in legal studies with an emphasis on Indigenous Peoples' Law, human relations studies, and a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology, with a minor in counseling. Kara is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation with lineage in the Pit River Paiute tribes and resides within her tribal reservation of the Cherokee Nation. She is the proud mother of two adult sons, one teenage daughter, and four grandchildren.

**Steven Perry**, Statistician, U.S. Department of Justice

**Hon. Victor Reyes**, District Judge (Ret.) Mahakaruna Holistic Foundation

Judge Victor Reyes served as a District Judge in the 10th Judicial District located in Pueblo, Colorado, from January 1999 until his retirement on December 31, 2014. Prior to the appointment, he served as a Deputy State Public Defender from 1984 until 1999. He is a graduate of Emory University and Georgetown University Law Center. He is also involved with the introduction of a mindfulness-based ethics and values curriculum at an elementary school in Pueblo. He was involved in developing and is now implementing "Heroes in Pueblo Schools," a program whose goal is to provide a forum for community members to serve as volunteers. Judge Reyes currently leads classes in yoga, meditation, and ethics for the Federal Correctional Institution, U.S. Penitentiary (STAGES Program), ADMAX, and Federal Camp at FCI Florence in Colorado. He facilitates discussions on issues related to self-respect and self-compassion at the Youth Offender System and La Vista Correctional Facility Colorado Department of Corrections. Victor currently leads yoga and meditation classes at the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo and several venues in Pueblo. He provides national and international training in mindfulness for Judicial Officers, and other community members. Victor participates in nationwide trainings and roundtables on several issues related to domestic violence. He has taught to judges and communities in the United States, Ukraine, Korea, Australia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. He also has taught on judicial integrity with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

**Cayla Sanderson**, Program Manager, Bernalillo County's Metropolitan Court Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Program

Cayla Sanderson is a Program Manager for Bernalillo County's Metropolitan Court Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Program in Albuquerque, NM. Prior to her role as the Program Manager for Healing to Wellness, she worked as a Court Probation Officer II for seven years in various different units such as Misdemeanor Pre-trial, Felony Pre-trial, and the Intake/Pre-Sentence Report Unit at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. In these roles she monitored court compliance and collaborated with community resources to aid in access to treatment services such as substance abuse and a variety of different mental health needs. She has also worked for New Mexico's Children, Youth and Families Department as a Permanency Planning Worker for three years. In this role, she helped children and their families develop treatment plans with aT/TAINable goals to help build a healthy foundation to achieve



reunification. In this capacity, she collaborated with various Native American Pueblo's on ICWA cases to ensure cultural needs of the families were being met. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from New Mexico State University in 2012. She earned her master's of social work from Western New Mexico University May 2024. She feels fortunate to be a part of a program that incorporates traditional healing and has a team that is truly invested in the participant's success.

**Pat Sekaquaptewa** (*Hopi*), Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts T/TA Manager, Tribal Youth Resource Center, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Most recently, Pat Sekaquaptewa consulted with RurAL CAP's Alaska Tribal Justice Resource Center (ATJRC) in Anchorage, AK as part of its training and technical assistance services to CTAS Purpose Areas 3, 8, and 9 tribes in their Tribal court and Tribal Healing to Wellness Court planning, implementation, and enhancement. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Professor with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) in the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development (DANSRD) where her research and teaching was focused on federal-Indian law, Tribal law and government, Native justice issues, and rural human and economic development. Prior to that, she served as the founding Executive Director of the Nakwatsvewat Institute (TNI) and later as the President of TNI's Board of Directors. Under her leadership, TNI established Hopi Dispute Resolution Services (HDRS), a community mediation program serving the Hopi community in Arizona. Early in her career, Ms. Sekaquaptewa served as the Director of the UCLA Native Nations Law and Policy Center (NNLPC) and its Tribal Legal Development Clinic (TLDC). Prior to this, she co-founded and launched the Hopi Appellate Court Clinic at UC Berkeley's School of Law with Jerry Gardner. This clinic was subsequently housed at, and expanded by, the UCLA School of Law and became its Tribal Appellate Court Clinic. At UCLA, she provided instruction in Tribal constitution and statutory drafting and Tribal court development. She also taught Native Nation Building in UCLA's American Indian Studies Program. Today she also serves as the Chief Justice of the Hopi Tribe's high court in Arizona where she has been an Associate Justice for many years. She is a co-founder, and former longtime member, of the Board of Directors of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

**Anna Scott** (*Diné*), Traditional Program Specialist, Dzil Yijiin Peacemaking Program, Navajo Nation  
Anna Scott is a Traditional Program Specialist for the Dzil Yijiin Peacemaking Program Office in Pinon, Arizona, as part of the Navajo Judicial Branch Peacemaking Program. As a Traditional Program Specialist, Anna handles cases by offering peacemaking assessments and traditional guidance services to the public to resolve conflicts in a non-adversarial environment. Anna received her BA in Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership from Navajo Technical University. Anna also hold a Master Certificate in Indigenous and Tribal Nation-Building, Leadership, Management, and Administration from Northern Arizona University.

**Ashay Shah**, Senior Program Associate, Center for Children and Family Futures

Ashay Shah is a policy-and-research-focused social worker with a strong commitment to serving the needs of disadvantaged children, youth, and adults including special-needs populations, adults with mental health or substance use disorders, and children in the child welfare system. He has spent the last six years working for the Center for Children and Family Futures as an evaluator, technical assistance provider, and program manager. Mr. Shah's experience in direct service, policy, and research and evaluation allows him to navigate complex systems of care and provide consultation to systems and program across the country. He is the Program Manager/Senior Associate for the National Quality



Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams initiative. Mr. Shah received a master of social work from the University of Southern California and a bachelor of arts in international studies with a minor in humanities and law from the University of California, Irvine.

**Teria Sixkiller**, Special Projects Officer, Cherokee Nation Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court  
Teria Sixkiller is a resident of Tahlequah, OK within the Cherokee Nation reservation. Teria is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Teria has a son and a daughter. Teria formerly worked 12 years in the Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare department as a case aide and child welfare assistant before obtaining her degree. Teria holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a Specialization in Child Welfare from Northeastern State University. After obtaining her degree in 2017, Teria worked with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in the Permanency Unit for Adair County from 2017-2018. Teria then worked for the Muscogee Nation Children and Family Services in Okmulgee, OK as a Recruitment, Certification, Placement and Training worker.

**Gina Smith**, Senior Program Manager, Community Justice, Training and Technical Assistance, Center for Justice Innovation

Gina Smith is a Senior Program Manager on the Community Justice team. Ms. Smith's role provides technical assistance to established and aspiring community courts nationally and supports sites on new project planning and management. Based out of Chicago, Illinois, Ms. Smith joined the Center for Justice Innovation in late April of 2024. Before joining the Center, Ms. Smith's prior roles include serving as a Cook County Adult Probation Officer and Director of Policy and Accreditation as well as the Policy Advisor for the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Office of Statewide Pretrial Services. In these roles, she supported clients during their terms of probation, performed policy research and development, and implementation of the Illinois SAFE-T Act. Ms. Smith received her B.A. from Columbia College Chicago and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. In her spare time, she loves to read.

**Miigwaans Smith** (*Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Ojibwe, Bodewatomi*), Female Cultural Resource Advisor, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court

Miigwaans Smith is the Female Cultural Resource Advisor for Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) Tribal Court. She began working there in September 2022 in the Waabishkii Miigwan Drug Court Program (WMDCP) and the Family Preservation Court. WMDCP is an adult drug court program focused on implementing culture and language as prevention for clients with substance use and mental health disorders. LTBB's Family Preservation Court has been active for the past year helping struggling families. She has worked with children in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe involved in the SAMHSA Federal Grant, Project Aware with First Lady Jill Biden, in providing cultural knowledge and teachings for healing with at-risk youth. Miigwaans completed two years at Central Michigan University and played for the Division 1 Women's Lacrosse Team and plans on continuing her degree in counseling specializing in youth studies this fall.

**Katherine Stewart**, Veterans Justice Outreach National Coordinator, Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs

Katherine (Katie) Stewart serves as the National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO), U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, Katie contributes to the development of national policy, provides





guidance to the field on operational matters, and represents the VJO program with internal and external audiences.

**Erin Thin Elk** (*Sicangu Lakota Oyate*), Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court TA Specialist, Tribal Youth Resource Center, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Erin Thin Elk (Wanahca To Ka Heh Hinapah Win, First Flower that Blooms Woman) is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe). She earned a BA in English and a Certificate in Native American studies (2002) and a masters of social work (2004), both from the University of Iowa. Ms. Thin Elk holds a passionate commitment to healing, wellness, and social justice for Indigenous children, youth, and families. Her professional experience includes community-based participatory research and evaluation, Indigenous Healing to Wellness Courts, suicide prevention and postvention training and programmatic development, restorative approaches and peacemaking circles, and university teaching and educational outreach with Indigenous communities across the United States. She currently serves with the Tribal Youth Resource Center as a Training and Technical Assistance Specialist working with Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court programs.

**Hon. Renee Torres** (*Pueblo of Isleta*), Judge, Bernalillo County's Metropolitan Court Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Program

Judge Renee Torres is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta in the state of New Mexico where she grew up on the Isleta Reservation. She was elected in the November 2016 General Election to Division III of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Judge Torres graduated from New Mexico State University in 1992 with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and graduated from the UNM School of Law in May 2003 with a juris doctorate degree and the Indian Law Certificate. Judge Torres attended the American Indian Law Center's Pre-law Summer Institute (PLSI) in the summer of 2000 and received the Advocacy Award for her writing and advocacy skills. She has been a member of the New Mexico Bar Association since 2004. Judge Torres has judged the American Indian Law Center's Pre-Law Summer Institute Moot Court, taken numerous courses at the National Judicial College (NJC) in Reno, Nevada, for both state and Tribal judicial education and co-instructed a course at the NJC. She has been a member of the New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium (established by the NM Supreme Court) since April 2013 and was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve as the Co-chair in 2019. Judge Torres has presided over the Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court (HTW) at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court since May 2017, in addition to her regular criminal docket. Judge Torres is also an active member of the NM Partners association comprised of private and state agencies that collaborate to improve the lives of families and children in the state of New Mexico.

**Lisa Williams**, Senior Court Management Consultant, National Center for State Courts

Lisa M. Williams is a Senior Court Management Consultant at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Since joining NCSC in 2024, her projects have focused on the Adult Treatment Court Bureau of Justice Assistance Statewide Training and Technical Assistance Grant. She has a bachelor of applied communication and is currently pursuing a master of arts in research and evaluation methods with a focus on culturally responsive methods. Lisa has more than 18 years of experience working in local and state courts. She is a founding member of the first felony Veterans Treatment Court in Ohio and also served as a policy analyst for the state of Ohio providing evaluation, technical assistance, and





certification to Ohio's treatment courts. She has served as a national presenter for All Rise, state, and local agencies, and has provided technical assistance to hundreds of local courts.

