

JOHN JAY JUVENILE JUSTICE SPEAKER BIOS

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(PARTIAL LIST: SOME BIOS WERE UNAVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME)

Vidhya Ananthakrishnan

Vidhya Ananthakrishnan is the Director of Youth Justice Initiatives at the Columbia University Justice Lab, where she oversees a multi-year project to elevate the voices of current and former youth justice administrators in calling for the end of youth prisons. Before joining the Justice Lab, Vidhya worked at the Vera Institute of Justice for nearly a decade, leading numerous system reform efforts in New York and across the country, with a focus on shifting away from a punitive approach to juvenile justice and investing in community-based reforms. Vidhya previously worked as a Senior Analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, DC, and as a policy advocate with the Neighborhood Family Services Coalition in NYC, where she secured funding and advanced policies for youth development programming in New York City. Vidhya has a B.A. in Economics and International Studies from Northwestern University and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the George Washington University.

Elton Anglada

Elton Anglada is a senior trial attorney in the Juvenile Unit of the Philadelphia Defender Association, Philadelphia. In the course of his distinguished 25-year career as a criminal defense lawyer, Mr. Anglada has represented thousands of juveniles and adults in all phases of criminal proceedings, including several years in the Major Crimes Unit trying jury trials of a complex and/or serious nature, and 10 years as the Chief/Assistant Chief of the Juvenile Unit. Mr. Anglada is also a well-respected adjunct professor at Drexel Law School where he teaches Juvenile Justice. Before teaching at Drexel Law, Mr. Anglada served as a Lecturer in Law at University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he taught the Defender Association's Criminal Defense Clinical Program. Mr. Anglada also serves on several professional boards and committees that focus on Juvenile Justice reform initiatives, including Conditions of Confinement, Disproportionate Minority Contact, Least Restrictive Means, and Adolescent Brain Development. Notable among these initiatives is Mr. Anglada's decade-long work with the Juvenile Defender Association of Pennsylvania.

Paige Austin

Paige Austin is a staff attorney at the New York Civil Liberties Union, where she focuses on immigration issues. Prior to joining the NYCLU in 2017, Paige was an immigration attorney at The Bronx Defenders where she defended noncitizen clients from deportation as part of the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP), the nation's first universal representation program in immigration court. She has also worked as a public defender for the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the statewide public defender in Massachusetts. Paige holds degrees from Harvard Law School, the Harvard Kennedy School and Yale University.

Hernán Carvente Martinez

Hernán Carvente is the National Youth Partnership Strategist for the Youth First Initiative. He manages the Youth First Youth Leaders Network, which provides young emerging leaders with the training and tools to lead the fight against youth incarceration. He is also an advisor to the Credible Messenger Justice Center and serves as a board member for Community Connection for Youth. Previously, he worked as a Program Analyst at the Vera Institute of Justice, where he worked on policy analysis, program development, and elevated the voices of youth and families in statewide policy reform. Hernán was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the boards of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and the Citizens Policy and Complaint Review Council. He also served as National Youth Chair for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, as well as an advisor to the National Academies of Science, and is a Founding Member of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. He was awarded the "Spirit of Youth Award" by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the "Next Generation Champion for Change" award by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He has a B.A. from John Jay College. Connect with him via LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @Carventehernan.

Lewis Cohen

Lewis Cohen is the Senior Director of Communications at the National Center for Youth Law. He has an extensive background in public policy, advocacy and journalism with a particular focus on education. Cohen is a former Deputy Mayor of Oakland, California and served as the Mayor's Senior Policy Advisor for Education. He has also worked for the Oakland Public Schools as the Assistant Superintendent for Government, Policy and Legislative Affairs. Cohen began his career working in broadcasting, first as a radio correspondent and later as a television producer and investigative reporter.

Julia L. Davis

Julia L. Davis is the Director of Youth Justice and Child Welfare at Children's Defense Fund-NY, where she leads the organization's state-wide work on Raise the Age. She has spent nearly two decades advocating for vulnerable children through civil rights litigation, public policy, and philanthropy. Most recently, Ms. Davis provided consulting services to the New York City Administration for Children's Services to support Raise the Age implementation. She also served as a senior attorney at Children's Rights, leading reform campaigns on behalf of system-involved youth several states. For more than six years, she conducted research and led public health campaigns for adolescents and young adults at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Ms. Davis also served clients in state and federal government, the nonprofit sector, and philanthropy as a consultant for The Lewin Group, as part of projects to invest in and improve outcomes for children and families living in poverty.

Carly B. Dierkhising

Carly B. Dierkhising, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at Cal State LA in the School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics. She holds a doctorate in Developmental Psychology and a Masters in Clinical Psychology. Her primary area of research is in trauma and juvenile justice with a focus on how to improve services for trauma-exposed youth in the juvenile justice system from both a practice and policy perspective. Prior to coming to Cal State, she worked for the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress on various initiatives to create trauma-informed child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Clinically trained, Dr. Dierkhising has also worked at a Los Angeles County Probation Camp

as a clinical intern. Her current work focuses on crossover youth, commercial sexual exploitation of youth, and developing trauma-informed gang intervention programs. In 2015, she was appointed by the Governor of California to the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Joe Domanick

Joe Domanick, Associate Director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice and West Coast Bureau Chief of *The Crime Report*, has served as journalism coordinator for the Center on Media Justice Juvenile Justice Reporting Fellowships since their inception in 2012. His most recent book, [Blue: The Los Angeles Police Department and the Battle to Redeem American Policing](#), has received glowing national reviews. Earlier books include: "Cruel Justice: Three Strikes and the Politics of Crime in America's Golden State"; and "To Protect and Serve: The LAPD's Century of War in the City of Dreams" (which won the 1995 Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Non-Fiction Book). He's a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers across the U.S., including over 50 criminal-justice related op-ed pieces for the *Los Angeles Times*. From 1999-2012 he taught journalism at the School of Journalism at USC Annenberg's School for Communication. Based in Los Angeles, Domanick holds graduate degrees in social science from Hunter College CUNY; in sociology/education from Columbia University; and in broadcast journalism from the USC Annenberg School. Before becoming a journalist, Domanick worked for 13 years as a public school teacher in the South Bronx and in LA.

Cara Drinan

Cara H. Drinan is a nationally recognized expert on the right to counsel, juvenile sentencing and criminal justice reform. She earned her B.A. in Economics at Bowdoin College, an M.A. in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University, and her J.D. at Stanford Law School. After a brief period in private practice, she joined the law faculty at the Catholic University of America in 2006, where she teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, and criminal justice reform, among other courses. Her writing focuses on access to counsel, sentencing, and youth in the criminal justice system. In 2017, she published a book on the extremity of juvenile sentencing in America: [The War on Kids: How American Juvenile Justice Lost Its Way](#) (Oxford: 2017). She is especially interested in giving voice to those whose lives have been shaped by the mass incarceration phenomenon.

Sino Esthappan

Sino Esthappan is a research analyst in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute. His work contributes to the Urban Institute's portfolio of work on youth justice, policing and victimization. He is currently working on several research and evaluation projects related to youth justice systems reform, decarceration, school discipline and procedurally just policing. He is a mixed-methods researcher experienced in conducting community-based participatory research.

Shaena Fazal

Shaena Fazal is Youth Advocate Program's Chief of Public Policy, Advocacy and External Communications where she leads the organization's policy efforts to deinstitutionalize youth and provide intensive community supports to young people and their families. Prior to joining YAP, Shaena was a congressional staffer to Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky where she oversaw immigration and housing issues. She was a public defender in Cook County, IL (Chicago) for several

years, serving in the Appellate Defender's Office. In 2005, she was awarded a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship, with which she co-founded the Long-Term Prisoner Policy Project at the John Howard Association of Illinois. Shaena worked at the Chicago YAP program before relocating to the DC area where she assumed national responsibilities related to YAP's system change mission, public policy efforts and external communications. She has published the report "Safely Home," and authored the report "Beyond Bars," published by the National Collaboration for Youth. Shaena's blog posts and op-eds have also appeared in various publications including the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Chronicle of Social Change* and *The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*.

Jessica Feierman

Jessica Feierman, Associate Director of the Juvenile Law Center, oversees the Center's projects and programs. She currently leads a national effort to end fines and fees in the juvenile justice system and is engaged in litigation aimed at eliminating solitary confinement and other abusive practices in juvenile facilities. Her deep interest in community and youth activism led her to launch Juveniles for Justice, a program at the Center that supports justice system-involved youth in becoming advocates for change. She has co-authored numerous appellate and amicus briefs in federal courts, including the lead child advocates amicus briefs in *Graham v. Florida*, where the U.S. Supreme Court struck life without parole sentences for juveniles convicted of non-homicide offenses under the Eighth Amendment. A graduate of Wesleyan University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, she was awarded an LLM in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center. Jessica serves on Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, and on the Board of the Juvenile Defender Association of Pennsylvania.

Carolyn Frazier

Carolyn Frazier is a staff attorney and clinical assistant professor of law at the Children and Family Justice Center at the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law's Bluhm Legal Clinic. A juvenile defense trial attorney, Carolyn has represented youth in delinquency proceedings on charges ranging from misdemeanors to first-degree murder. She specializes in working with youth affected by developmental disabilities and traumatic stress. Carolyn is deeply involved in post-disposition litigation and policy work regarding the collateral consequences of juvenile records, in particular the impact such records have on young peoples' ability to obtain jobs, housing and education. Carolyn received her B.A. from Stanford University in 1992; her M.A. from Stanford University in 1993; and her J.D. from Northwestern University in 2002.

Stephen Handelman

Stephen Handelman is Director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice (CMCJ) at John Jay College, and Executive Editor of *The Crime Report*. He has served as host of "Criminal Justice Matters," a monthly TV show at CUNY-TV; and was consulting managing editor of *Americas Quarterly*, a journal on hemisphere affairs published by The Americas Society. An award-winning veteran journalist, columnist and foreign correspondent with over 30 years' experience in reporting and editing (most recently TIME Magazine), he specializes in transnational crime, and has been a consultant to U.S. law enforcement agencies and the United Nations. He has lectured and taught at universities through the United States. He is the author or co-author of four books, including *Comrade Criminal: Russia's New Mafiya*.

Michael Harris

Michael Harris is Senior Director for Juvenile Justice and Legal Advocacy at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). At NCYL, Michael has worked on litigating unlawful probation practices, reducing racial disparities in statewide juvenile corrections systems, and on cases that challenge the “school-to-prison pipeline” in Texas, Connecticut and California. Additionally, he works on litigation to address implicit bias, and he has delivered presentations to local and national gatherings on the role implicit bias plays in decision-making within the criminal and juvenile justice systems as well as the school to prison pipeline. Before joining NCYL, Michael served as Deputy Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute, working to reform juvenile justice systems. Michael has worked in California, and Washington to reduce racial disparities in juvenile justice systems using a collaborative process to achieve systemic reform. Prior to Michael’s work at the Burns Institute, he was a Staff Attorney and Assistant Director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, where he worked on a broad range of civil rights cases.

Laila L. Hlass

Professor Laila L. Hlass’ teaching and scholarship focus on law, policy and practices that affect access to justice within the immigration law regime for particularly vulnerable communities including children, detainees, asylum-seekers, and survivors of violence, as well as emerging pedagogy and practices in experiential learning. She regularly speaks and appears in the news regarding migration, refugees and immigrant children and has written op-eds for *Slate*, *the Boston Globe* and the *Times-Picayune*. Before joining Tulane Law School in 2017, Prof. Hlass taught at Boston University School of Law as a clinical associate professor, at Georgetown University Law Center as a clinical teaching fellow and at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law as a staff attorney and Equal Justice Works fellow in the Immigration Clinic. While at Loyola, she also directed the Office of Law Skills and Experiential Learning on an interim basis. Prior to that, she was awarded the Chadborne & Parke fellowship to provide legal services to immigrant children at the Door Legal Services. Prof. Hlass serves on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana and the Clinical Legal Education Association. While in law school, she co-founded the Student Hurricane Network, which recruited and placed more than 5,500 law students in pro bono assignments in regions affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Angie Junck

Angie Junck is a Supervising Attorney and Director of Immigrant Defense Programs at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in San Francisco, California where she has worked since 2005. She leads the ILRC’s state and federal policy agenda and programs on immigrant youth issues, immigration consequences of crime and delinquency, and immigration enforcement. She regularly provides immigration trainings and technical assistance to immigration attorneys; local, state, and federal legislators; social workers; defenders, prosecutors, criminal and juvenile court judges; and law enforcement officials. She has authored numerous publications and articles on immigration law and its intersections with criminal law, delinquency, and child welfare including a [Guide to Juvenile Detention Reform: Noncitizen Youth in the Juvenile Justice System](#) (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Annie E. Casey Foundation). She sits on the American Bar Association’s Immigration Commission and is the co-chair of the Immigration Committee of the ABA’s Criminal Justice

Section. She is an Advisory Board Member for the Center on Child Welfare and Immigration and California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

Marsha Levick

Marsha Levick is the co-founder, Deputy Director, and Chief Counsel of Juvenile Law Center, America's first public interest law firm for children. Levick has participated in numerous cases before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as federal and state courts nationwide. Notable cases include *Roper v. Simmons*, *Graham v. Florida*, *Miller v. Alabama*, and *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, all U.S. Supreme Court cases striking severe adult sentences for juveniles in the criminal justice system, and *J.D.B. v North Carolina*, requiring consideration of a suspect's youth in the *Miranda* law enforcement/custody determination. Levick spearheaded Juvenile's Law Center's work in the Luzerne County, Pa. "Kids for Cash" judges' scandal, also the subject of a book and documentary film. Levick serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, and is a member of the Dean's Council of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Levick has won numerous national, state and local awards for her work, and is an adjunct professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Jenny Lutz

Jenny Lutz is a Staff Attorney at the Center for Children's Law and Policy. She leads the Center's national campaign to end the practice of solitary confinement of youth. She leads CCLP's national campaign to end the practice of solitary confinement for youth across the country through technical assistance, administrative and legislative advocacy, training, and public education. Jenny also assists jurisdictions reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, reduce the use of detention, and protect the rights of youth in custody. Since joining the Center, Jenny has partnered and trained officials in over 16 states, cities, and counties. From 2008-2015, Jenny was the Juvenile Justice Policy Attorney at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. She engaged court and community stakeholders on policy issues to improve outcomes for indigent children in Pennsylvania, and trained attorneys, probation officers, and law enforcement. From 2005-2008, Jenny represented adult clients charged with serious offenses in bench and jury trials. She is a graduate of Duke University the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law.

Shawn C. Marsh

Shawn C. Marsh, Ph.D., is the Director of the Judicial Studies Graduate Degree Program and Associate Professor of Judicial Studies, Communication Studies, and Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno. As the Director of Judicial Studies, he oversees the nation's only program to offer both a Masters and Ph.D. degree in judicial studies exclusively for sitting judges. He also is the former Chief Program Officer for Juvenile Law at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) where he taught and provided technical assistance on topics such as implicit bias and trauma-responsive justice, and oversaw myriad national projects focused on child welfare, juvenile justice, judicial decision-making, school engagement, and trauma/victimization. Dr. Marsh is a social psychologist with research and teaching interests in the areas of psychology and the law, bias and decision-making, adolescent development, trauma, resiliency, and juvenile justice. Dr. Marsh has served on numerous national advisory committees, including the U.S. National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Task Force, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control STRYVE Youth Violence

Prevention Council, the U.S. Office of Victims of Crime Coordinating Systems of Care Steering Committee, and the National Training Team for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts coordinated by the National Center for State Courts. His scholarly work and research appears in various edited books and journals, including *Victims & Offenders*, *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice*, *Juvenile and Family Law Court Journal*, *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*, and *Correctional Psychiatry*.

Karol V. Mason

Karol V. Mason was appointed the fifth president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in August, 2017. Over the course of her long career, she has been a legal pioneer and an exceptional voice for equality, fairness and criminal justice reform. As U.S. Assistant Attorney General and head of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Mason oversaw an annual budget of \$4 billion to support an array of state and local criminal justice agencies, juvenile justice programs, and services for crime victims, and oversaw the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, among a wide range of other efforts. She led the Department of Justice's work to address the issue of community trust in the justice system through a variety of programs including the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, a partnership with John Jay College and other academic institutions across the country designed to address lack of trust in the criminal justice system. She was a leader in the Obama Administration on juvenile justice issues, bail reform and re-entry for individuals leaving prison, and in her distinguished career at Alston & Bird LLP, she was the first African-American woman elected as chair of the management committee at any major national firm.

Marcy Mistrett

Marcy Mistrett has been the CEO at the Campaign for Youth Justice since 2014. Trained in social work, Marcy began her career working in community-based legal aid with court-involved youth. After seven years in direct service, Marcy worked at a national funding collaborative, the Institute for Community Peace, focused on developing community-based responses to violence prevention. Marcy left the Institute to open the D.C. office of The Posse Foundation, a national college success and leadership program that identified and trained young, urban leaders from diverse backgrounds, leveraged full tuition college scholarships at top tier colleges and universities, and supported them through college graduation and into careers, with a 90% graduation rate. Prior to coming to CFYJ, Marcy was the Executive Director of a cooperative, play-based preschool in Washington DC and partner at Onward Consulting, a non-profit consulting practice in the District. She has her B.A. from American University and her AM in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Stephen Phillippi

Stephen Phillippi, Ph.D., is the Chair of Behavioral & Community Health Sciences at the Louisiana State University School of Public Health. Dr. Phillippi is also the Director of the Institute for Public Health & Justice working to bring evidence-based practices and supportive policies to states and local communities. He received his Ph.D. from LSU, MSW from Tulane, and BA from Loyola New Orleans. A licensed Clinical Social Worker and Clinically Certified Forensic Counselor, he has a 25-year history of developing, managing, evaluating, and providing direct services along the full range of the justice system's continuum of care, with an emphasis on adolescent offenders, families, and victims. Dr. Phillippi is the PI on several studies including those examining behavioral health

community programming, mentoring, age of juvenile jurisdiction, impact of holistic juvenile defense, and alternative education interventions. In addition to these activities, Dr. Phillippi teaches, writes, consults, and participates in a number of professional and public service boards.

Heather Renwick

Heather Renwick serves as Legal Director at the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth. Prior to joining the Campaign, Heather worked at WilmerHale in Washington D.C. with a practice focused on investigations and criminal litigation. Heather has experience in capital defense, representing youth in conflict with the law, and civil rights class action litigation. Heather has taught trial advocacy at law schools in Ukraine and was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research in Bulgaria.

Liz Ryan

Liz Ryan, a campaign strategist and youth justice expert, directs Youth First. She is the founder and former CEO of the nationally recognized Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ), which leads the national effort to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youth in the adult criminal justice system. Since CFYJ was launched in 2004, nearly half the states have reduced the prosecution of youth in adult court. Liz has worked on many campaigns, including spearheading the launch of the Act 4 Juvenile Justice campaign (Act4JJ) to overhaul the main federal law on youth justice, the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), and the No More Oak Hills campaign to successfully close the notorious Oak Hill Youth Detention Center for DC's youth. An author of numerous opinion editorials, articles and reports, Liz frequently serves as an expert resource to reporters and national media outlets.

Mary Ann Scali

Mary Ann Scali is Executive Director of National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC), where she works with a community of juvenile defenders and advocates dedicated to improving justice and fairness for all youth. In partnership with the NJDC team and juvenile defense leaders, Mary Ann is committed to delivering juvenile defense training and technical assistance, conducting state level juvenile defense assessments, and facilitating cross-disciplinary reform efforts aimed at developing resources and policies that strengthen juvenile defense and access to justice for youth. Prior to joining NJDC, Mary Ann defended youth in the juvenile division of the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore; spent two years teaching high school in Pohnpei, FSM; served in the Jesuit Refugee Service in Rome, Italy; and taught Baltimore City boys at the Baraka School in Kenya.

Vincent Schiraldi

Vincent Schiraldi is a Senior Research Scientist at Columbia's School of Social Work and Co-director of the Justice Lab at Columbia. At the Justice Lab, Mr. Schiraldi works to assist in the transformation and closure of Rikers Island, the implementation of legislation raising the age of New York's family court to 18, the creation of a more developmentally appropriate system of justice for young adults, and research, convenings and policy development on closing youth prisons and shrinking the footprint of probation and parole. He founded the policy think tank, the Justice Policy Institute, then moved to government as Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services for the District of Columbia, and then as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. He pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration with the YouthLink initiative in

Washington DC, and in New York City with both the NeON network and the Close to Home program. He also served as Senior Advisor to the Mayor Bill de Blasio's Office of Criminal Justice. In all of these roles, he safely and dramatically reduced incarceration of the individuals in his jurisdictions. Prior to coming to Columbia, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and co-director of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management where he focused attention on community corrections. He has a Masters in Social Work from New York University, and a B.A. from Binghamton University, and is a frequent contributor to *The Crime Report*.

Craig Schwalbe

Craig Schwalbe is an associate professor in the Columbia University School of Social Work. His research and scholarship aims to establish an evidence base for the treatment of justice-involved youths and the prevention of the need for institutional care for this population. His prior studies and publications cover topics including risk assessment, diversion, and probation here in the United States and in the Middle East. Currently, Dr. Schwalbe is engaged in a WT Grant Foundation funded study of the predictors of success and failure for youths under probation supervision.

Naomi Smoot

Naomi is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), where she oversees member relations and development, fundraising and grant management, and CJJ's initiatives in government relations, leadership development, juvenile justice reform, communications, and training and technical assistance. During her tenure at CJJ, Naomi has spearheaded the organization's federal policy work and served as co-chair of the Act4JJ Coalition. She has assisted State Advisory Groups in their pursuit to build their capacity as change agents, and worked with youth members in an attempt to improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities in which they work. Prior to CJJ, Naomi represented young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia in juvenile court proceedings and special education matters. Before attending law school, Naomi worked as a print journalist for nearly a decade, amassing nearly a dozen awards for her news coverage. She received her J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law, and her B.S. from Christopher Newport University.

Jim St. Germaine

Jim St. Germain is the co-founder of PLOT. Jim has an Associate Degree in Human Services from the Borough of Manhattan Community College and a B.A. in political science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Jim works with juvenile justice-involved youth and their families in New York City. He is on the Board of the National Juvenile Defender Center and was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Coordinator Council on Juvenile and Justice Delinquency Prevention (CCJJ).

Michael Umpierre

Michael Umpierre is Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director for Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Communications at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. At CJJR, Michael conducts juvenile justice research and provides training and technical assistance to youth-serving agencies and partners. Michael has extensive expertise on best practices in serving youth in custody, and is the lead editor and co-author of the groundbreaking Youth in Custody Practice Model and is an instructor at CJJR's Youth in

Custody Certificate Program. He also serves as a lead consultant on CJJR's Crossover Youth Practice Model and manages the organization's communications efforts. His previous experience includes serving as the Chief of Staff of the District of Columbia's cabinet-level juvenile justice agency, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Program Coordinator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's National Center for Youth in Custody, and trial attorney at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. Michael received a B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University and a J.D. from Yale Law School, and is a recipient of the prestigious John Gardner Public Service Fellowship and Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

Karen Vastine

Karen Vastine is the Senior Advisor to the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families in Vermont. Serving in this role since January 2015, she is responsible for leading and supporting legislative policy initiatives for the department. Before her appointment as Senior Advisor, Karen served as the Director of the Burlington Community Justice Center for eight years; and previous to that, worked on access to justice through roles with the Office of the Defender General, the VT Network against Domestic & Sexual Violence, the VT Center for Crime Victim Services and Disability Rights Vermont. Karen has been working on juvenile justice reform for more than a decade.

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