



# PANELISTS & SPEAKERS

October 8-9, 2020

## PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP

### Camera Bartolotta

First elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 2014, **State Sen. Camera Bartolotta** (R-Monongahela), was re-elected in 2018. She co-founded her chamber's bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Caucus and has authored several new laws, including measures to help judges keep the most dangerous domestic violence offenders behind bars; to relocate victims of domestic violence who live in public housing; to strengthen penalties for motorists who injure workers and emergency responders in construction zones; and to improve the availability of job training programs statewide. Bartolotta is a member of Judiciary Committee, chair of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, vice chair of the Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee and co-chair of the Senate Gas and Oil Caucus. For Bartolotta, family is a source of pride and motivates her civic engagement. Her daughter, Devin, is an award-winning news reporter, producer and anchor in New Orleans. Her son, Dante, is a United States Marine.

### Charles Brown

Philadelphia native **Charles Brown**, at 16, was charged as an adult and found guilty of murder and robbery. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. After more than 36 years in a Pennsylvania state prison, Brown was released in May 2017. He had been resentenced as result of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Montgomery v. Louisiana* decision that made mandatory life sentencing of a child, in all but a few instances, unconstitutional. As a criminal justice reform advocate, he's involved with Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network and Bibleway Baptist Church Prison Ministry. He speaks about criminal justice and justice reform before an array of audiences.

## Jennifer Gibbs

**Jennifer C. Gibbs**, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of criminal justice at Pennsylvania State University's Harrisburg School of Public Affairs. A member of the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, her research, among other topics, has explored policing, terrorism, violence and victimization. Her work has been published in journals including *Crime, Law and Social Change*; *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management*; *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*; *Violence Against Women*; and *Journal of Active Learning in Higher Education*. Gibbs' University of Maryland at College Park doctoral research explored the influence of police and state legitimacy on terrorist attacks targeting police in 82 countries won the Homicide Research Working Group 2012 Richard Block Outstanding Dissertation Award. Her "A Structural Analysis of Homicides of Baltimore Police Officers" won the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' 2010 William L. Simon/Anderson Publishing Outstanding Student Paper Award.

## Katti Gray

Freelance journalist **Katti Gray** is a contributing editor for *The Crime Report*, the Center on Media, Crime and Justice's national news site. Specializing, mainly, in health and criminal justice news, her work also has been published by *The Washington Post*, *Reuters*, *Pulitzers*, *New York Newsday*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Health Affairs*, *dailyRX*, *CNN*, *Chicago Tribune*, *CBS*, *ABC News* and *AARP*, among others. Among other prizes, she shares a Pulitzer with a *Newsday* team. She has been a fellow of, among others, the Association of Health Care Journalists, Fund for Investigative Journalism, National Institutes of Health Medicine in Media, National Press Foundation and Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism programs. She runs New York University's Urban Journalism Workshop.

## Stephen Handelman

Center on Media, Crime and Justice Director **Stephen Handelman** is editor-in-chief of *The Crime Report* and a prize-winning former columnist, foreign correspondent and senior writer/columnist for *TIME* magazine and *The Toronto Star*. He is author of "Comrade Criminal: Russia's New Mafiya," the first account of the rise of organized crime in post-Soviet Russia. In a follow-up book, "Biohazard," he unraveled the Soviet bio-weapons program. Handelman is a frequent commentator and lecturer on criminal justice issues, transnational crime and organized crime; and has trained investigative journalists in Eastern Europe, Russia and Latin America. Starting in the fall of 2011, he has hosted John Jay's monthly program for CUNY TV, "Criminal Justice Matters." He also served as consulting managing editor of *Americas Quarterly*. Handelman earned his master's in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University. He is a member of the board of communications alumni of the

City College of New York, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the Council on Foreign Relations. He lives outside New York City with his wife, a television news producer, and son.

## **Jasmine Heiss**

**Jasmine Heiss** is project director of the Vera Institute's "In Our Backyards" initiative, exploring the shifting geography of mass incarceration and spotlighting how rural and small-town incarceration rates surpass those of the nation's largest cities. Previously, she was deputy director of The Coalition for Public Safety, co-leading the nation's largest bipartisan criminal justice reform efforts. She also was Amnesty International USA's senior campaigner, leading such groundbreaking work as passage of the nation's first reparations package for police torture survivors and the release of two of the longest-held prisoners in solitary confinement. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Chicago and a proud alumna of Rockwood Leadership Institute.

## **John Hollway**

**John Hollway, J.D.**, is associate dean and executive director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. He is a national thought leader on the use of root cause analysis in criminal justice, and a frequent consultant to criminal justice agencies and corporations on quality improvement and measurement issues. His research helps organizations confront challenges and turn negative occurrences into opportunities for quality improvement. Hollway has co-authored numerous journal-published articles, including "Conviction Review Units: A National Perspective" and "A Systems Approach to Preventing Errors in Criminal Justice." He authored "Killing Time: An 18-Year Odyssey from Death Row to Freedom," winner of the 2011 National Independent Book Award for non-fiction and one of the *Chicago Sun-Times*' Best Books of the Year. Hollway earned a B.A. in diplomatic history and a master of applied public psychology from UPenn, and a doctor of jurisprudence from George Washington University Law School.

## **Helene Placey**

Since May 2017, **Helene Placey** has been executive director of the County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of Pennsylvania. From January 1996 through April 2017, she was a sentencing policy specialist with the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, providing technical assistance and professional education programs to Pennsylvania criminal justice practitioners, regarding sentencing guidelines, statutes, policies and practices. Placey's other prior posts include a joint position with the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and working as a county intermediate punishment coordinator. She has been employed by the Dauphin County Adult Probation

Department and been a paralegal in the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office. She earned a Pennsylvania State University at University Park B.S. in administration of justice.

## **Diane Aisha Sears**

**Diane Aisha Sears** chairs the Commutation Support Campaign Committee for James Muhammed Taylor, one of the leaders of prisoner-led justice reform movement at the State Correctional Institution Phoenix in Collegeville, Pa., where he is serving a life sentence. She is the North America coordinator for the Impartial and Fair Treatment in Parole Initiative and U.S. coordinator for International Men's Day. Also, Sears is on the International Men's Day Global Planning Committee, editor and co-author of "In Search Of Fatherhood," and managing editor of a quarterly journal and blog that's an offshoot of that book. In 2009, she gave the International Men's Day adjournment debate speech on the floor of the Western Australian Parliament. Sears also serves on the University Council for Akamai University's (Hawaii) Fatherhood and Men's Studies Program.

## **Josh Shapiro**

**Josh Shapiro**, J.D., was elected the **Attorney General** of Pennsylvania in 2016. He earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center at night while working a day job as a chief of staff in the U.S. Congress. He served three terms as a Democrat in the Pennsylvania State House, where *Philadelphia Magazine* described him as "a blast of oxygen in the smoke-choked back rooms of quid-pro-quo Harrisburg." He was twice elected county commissioner in Montgomery County, Pa., where he championed early steps to combat the heroin epidemic, and helped the first LGBT couples in Pennsylvania marry. As the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, his work on behalf of victims and for criminal justice reform earned him the trust of law enforcement, and leaders from both parties. Among his accomplishments as Attorney General, he reached an agreement with federal officials in 2018 to prevent the distribution of blueprints for 3D-printed firearms.

## **Danitra Sherman**

**Danitra Sherman**, DrPh, is campaigns director for the ACLU of Pennsylvania. Before joining the ACLU in September 2019, she was state field director for Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates and PAC, overseeing organizing, advocacy and electoral work. Sherman has more than 10 years of campaign experience that includes grassroots and legislative advocacy, ballot initiative and electoral efforts. Sherman earned a doctor of public health in policy and social justice from Drexel University. She also holds a master of public health in administration and a B.S. in biology. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with loved ones, and exploring the city for good eats.

## Claire Shubik-Richards

**Claire Shubik-Richards**, J.D., most recently served as policy and research director for the National Campaign to Reform State Juvenile Justice Systems, a Washington D.C.-based advocacy campaign to improve juvenile justice laws around the country. Previously, Shubik-Richards worked at Pew Charitable Trusts, where she authored a series of studies on issues facing Philadelphia, including municipal budgeting, the Free Library and overuse of incarceration. Shubik-Richards has been an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Public Policy. As an investigator for the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, she investigated allegations of police misconduct. She graduated from Vassar College and Boston University School of Law, and was law clerk to U.S. District Judge Stefan R. Underhill.

## Frank Straub

**Frank Straub**, Ph.D., a 30-year veteran of law enforcement, is director of the Center for Mass Violence Response Studies at the National Police Foundation, where he conducts critical incident reviews, including the San Bernardino terrorist attack —and the resulting report “Bringing Calm to Chaos” — and the Orlando Pulse shooting. As chief of police departments in Spokane, Washington, Indianapolis, Indiana and White Plains, N.Y., he received national recognition for implementing major reforms, overseeing record reductions in crime and such innovations as requiring all members of the Spokane department to receive 40-hours of crisis intervention training in handling mentally ill persons and creating a team of officers who received over 100 hours of specialized mental health training. In Indianapolis, Straub assigned to Eskanazi Medical Center's Prescription for Hope Program a team of police officers who focused on reducing youth violence and retaliation through hospital-based interventions. Previously, he was deputy commissioner of training for the New York Police Department and was a federal agent. He holds a Ph.D. in criminal justice from the City University of New York's Graduate Center, a M.A. in forensic psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a B.A. in psychology from St. John's University. He co-authored a book on performance-based police management and published several articles regarding community policing, police reform and related topics.

## Carmina Taylor

While president of the NAACP's Ambler, Pa., branch, criminal justice and civil rights activist **Carmina Taylor** persuaded 14 Montgomery County Police Departments to collaborate and execute an anti-bias in policing/community engagement outreach plan. The goal of that initiative, involving preschoolers on through senior citizens, is to develop productive, intentional, communal relationships with law enforcement that proactively address explicit and implicit bias and perceptions of bias. As a part of her racial and human rights advocacy, Taylor became a founding member of PA Women Rise and recently co-founded We Can't Wait PA Statewide Coalition for Racial Equity. She is an advisor to the Movement for Black and Brown

Lives of Montgomery County. An organizational development practitioner and consultant, she earned bachelor and master degrees in human service from Lincoln University and a M.Ed. from Temple University.

## **David Thomas**

**David Thomas**, M.D., J.D., is a lawyer, educator and a correctional health physician, who helped launch a first-of-its-kind division of correctional medicine at Nova Scotia Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. There, he is a correctional medicine fellowship professor, teaches medico-legal jurisprudence and correctional health care. Previously, he chaired its division of correctional medicine. For the American Correctional Association Commission on Accreditation for Corrections, Thomas has served as chairman and on its board of governors. correctional health care. During more than 15 years with the Florida Department of Corrections, he served initially as institutional physician, then as director of health services and later, as deputy secretary for health. Thomas has numerous publications and has won numerous awards. He spent a decade as an elected member of the Florida House of Representative. Thomas graduated from the University of Miami School of Medicine and Stetson University College of Law, and earned a M.Ed. at Nova Scotia Southeastern.

## **K. Celeste Trusty**

**K. Celeste Trusty**, a longtime advocate of criminal justice reform, is Pennsylvania state policy director for Families Against Mandatory Minimums, now known as FAMM. In that role, she works closely with lawmakers, advocates and persons involved in and impacted by the criminal justice system and to advance sentencing reform in Pennsylvania. Prior to joining FAMM, Trusty worked to help to organize support networks and resources for incarcerated people and their loved ones, and was a volunteer for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. She earned a B.S in criminology and criminal justice from Arizona State University, a graduate certificate in forensic criminology from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and a master of liberal arts from the University of Pennsylvania. In her leisure, she enjoys being a mom to her two daughters, listening to music and spending time with friends and family.

## **Eric Tucker**

Washington-based Associated Press correspondent **Eric Tucker** covers national security at the FBI and U.S. Justice Department, and is on the AP's Election 2020 voting coverage/election security team. Previously, he covered law enforcement and legal affairs for the AP in its Providence, R.I. bureau and Washington, D.C. metro office. Tucker earned a B.A. in comparative literature from the University of Pennsylvania and a M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He's an adjunct professor of convergent media at American University School of Communications.

## Anthony Hardy Williams

**State Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams** (D-Philadelphia) joined the Pennsylvania Legislature, in 1988, as a state representative. Elected to the senate in 1998, he is that chamber's Democratic Whip and co-founded its bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Caucus. He is a member of the Education, Environmental Resources & Energy; Intergovernmental Operations; Law and Justice; Policy and State Government committees. Williams created the Philadelphia Illegal Gun Task Force and the Diversity Apprenticeships Program, and authored a law to protect students in school from sexual predators. He was an original architect of Pennsylvania's landmark charter school legislation. Williams earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Franklin & Marshall College. He worked as a corporate analyst and as an executive for PepsiCo, before launching his own vending company. He serves on the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and other community boards. Williams is the son the late Hardy Williams, the pioneering activist and former state senator, and Carole Williams-Green, a retired public-school educator. His parents' legacy, his wife, Shari, their two daughters, Asia and Autumn, and grandson Brendon fuel his work in the community and as a lawmaker.

## Su Ming Yeh

**Su Ming Yeh, J.D.**, is the executive director of the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, a legal aid organization that advances the civil rights of incarcerated and institutionalized people. She has litigated dozens of individual cases and class action suits challenging unconstitutional conditions for prisoners and detainees, tried several jury cases to verdict, and argued successfully before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She also was an adjunct professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Before becoming a lawyer, Yeh served in the U.S. Peace Corps as a science teacher in the Kingdom of Tonga. She also served as executive director of the Asian Professional Extension, Inc., a New York City youth mentoring project; and was a community organizer for the Coalition for Asian-American Children and Families. Yeh sits on the boards of the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Pennsylvania and Defender Association of Philadelphia; and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's House of Delegates. She previously led or co-led the Philadelphia Bar Association's Civil Rights Committee and Public Interest Section. Yeh graduated from Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she was a senior editor of the *Law Review*. She formerly clerked for the Hon. Gerard E. Lynch, U.S. District Court judge in the Southern District of New York.

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