



## **2023 Defender Conference Presenter Biographies**

**Angela Avery** (she/her) is a southwest Washington native. After working in law enforcement, she earned her bachelor's degree in public affairs from Washington State University-Vancouver. She worked for seven years in social services before attending law school at California Western School of Law in San Diego, California. After graduation, she was a prosecutor in Klamath County, Oregon, and Lewis County, Washington.

Striving for a better connection with those in the criminal justice system, she became a public defender in 2021 at the Office of Public Defense in Cowlitz County. In February 2022, Angela opened her own criminal defense practice in Clark County. Angela's primary practice is felony level indigent defense, along with post-conviction work as a *Blake* contractor. Angela lives in Clark County with her wife and plethora of pets.

**Anna Roberts** (she/her) is a Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, where she teaches Criminal Law and Evidence. Roberts began her academic career teaching in NYU School of Law's Lawyering Program, and then at Seattle University School of Law and St. John's University School of Law. Her practice experience includes several years as a public defender with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. Before that, she clerked for the Honorable Constance Baker Motley in the Southern District of New York. Roberts's scholarship focuses on aspects of trial procedure—peremptory challenges, prior conviction impeachment, jury disqualification, and jury decision-making—with a particular interest in the assumptions and stereotypes that fuel, and are fueled by, the criminal system.

Her articles have been published in journals that include the University of Chicago Law Review, Washington University Law Review, Minnesota Law Review, Boston University Law Review, Boston College Law Review, Alabama Law Review, and U.C. Davis Law Review. Along with Julia Simon-Kerr, Professor Roberts directs an initiative bringing together the leading scholars on prior conviction impeachment in an effort to achieve reform. Her work on prior conviction impeachment was featured on the evidence podcast "Excited Utterance."

**Barbara Harris**, BA, JD, CDE (she/her) is the Disproportionality Attorney Legal Training Coordinator for Washington State Office of Public Defense. Before assuming this position in January 2020, Barbara was WA Department Social Health Services' Chief Review Judge for administrative hearing appeals for five years. Barbara has served as an administrative law judge, and a judge pro tem in King County Superior Court. Barbara is committed to social justice and indigent representation. She is a past Senior Managing Attorney for the King County Bar Association's Housing Justice Project and was a public defender for eight years with Associated Counsel for the Accused. Barbara attended Seattle University and Seattle School of Law. She is a credentialed Certified Diversity Executive through the Institute for Diversity Certification.

**Robert C. Boruchowitz** (he/him) is the Professor from Practice and Director of the Defender Initiative at the Seattle University School of Law. Previously, he was an attorney at The Defender Association, a non-profit public defender office in King County, for 33 years. He is leading an initiative at Seattle University to advance efforts to improve public defense representation for thousands of people in Washington and provide models for application in other states. He has handled appeals at all levels of the state and federal courts and argued the *Seling v. Young* case in the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the application of Washington's "sexually violent predator" law. He was lead counsel on a Washington Court of Appeals decision that due process requires that children in truancy proceedings have counsel. *Bellevue v. E.S.* (2009). That case began in the Youth Advocacy Clinic and two clinic students worked with him on the appeal. The Washington Supreme Court reversed the decision, but many counties reduced the number of truancy filings before that decision.

For 28 years, he served as The Defender Association's Director. Founding president of the Washington Defender Association and a former member of the Executive Committee of the American Council of Chief Defenders, he has been instrumental in developing defender standards that have been endorsed by the Washington State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He led a subcommittee that developed both Performance Guidelines for Criminal Defense Representation and Standards for Indigent Defense Services that were adopted by the Washington State Bar Association. On June 15, 2012, the Washington Supreme Court adopted a rule recommended by the WSBA requiring defenders to certify compliance with the WSBA standards as slightly modified by the Court. Professor Boruchowitz is chair of the Standards Committee of the WSBA Council on Public Defense and co-chair of the Workloads Committee for the National Association for Public Defense. He serves on the American Bar Association's Indigent Defense Advisory Group and is an emeritus member of the Washington Minority and Justice Commission.

**Dave Mathews Sr** (he/him) grew up in a logging camp in the Olympic National Forest in the 1950's-60's, attending a two-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. He obtained a degree in Education in 1971 and a master's degree in Educational Administration in 1987. Dave retired from education in 2005 after a 30 plus year career as both a teacher and building administrator.

Dave obtained State Certification to open his Agency Owner Private Defense Investigation business in 2012 and practiced private defense investigation work in Thurston/Mason Counties from late 2012 until early 2018. In early 2018, Dave accepted the first ever position of in-house Defense Investigator for Thurston County Public Defense. Dave has been an active member of WDA since 2013 and an active member of NAPD since 2018.

Dave has been an avid outdoorsman all his life, has guided big game hunts in Alaska's Brooks Range, and two months ago Dave completed The Enchantments through-hike in with several of his attorney colleagues. Dave summited Mt Rainier at the age of 48 in 1997. Dave's hobbies and passions include writing, performing his guitar music, Native American Art, hiking, working out and fly fishing. Dave has been a Washington State Thurston County resident on and off for over 50 years and currently resides in Thurston County with his wife Tina and their two Dachshund sisters, Tess and Chelsea.

**David Donnan** (he/him) began a career in advocacy with the intercollegiate debate team at the University of Utah while studying political science and economics. After graduating, David entered the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island where he received a commission as an Ensign and served across the Pacific and Indian Oceans aboard the San Diego-based destroyer, USS Ingersoll (DD 990). David studied law at the California Western School of Law, where he was the Executive Editor of the International Law Journal and regional finalist in the National Moot Court Competition, graduating with honors in 1986.

David's legal career included several years in a private civil practice with Pitkin & Bellows in San Diego before moving to the Pacific Northwest in 1989. Four years of trial work with the Snohomish County Public Defender Association was followed by more than twenty-two years with the Washington Appellate Project in Seattle, including fifteen years as Executive Director. David returned to private practice in 2016, joining the Meryhew Law Group with a focus on appeals and post-conviction relief, primarily involving sex offenses. Since 2022, David has divided his time between work as a Consulting Attorney in criminal and civil litigation, and practicing ski bum.

David's work with the Washington Defender Association and the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys over more than thirty years has included time on the Board of Directors of both organizations, a long stint on the joint legislative committee, numerous continuing education presentations and providing regular case law updates.

**Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud** was elected to the Washington Supreme Court in 2012 after a career of helping clients fight for their constitutional and individual rights. As a Justice, she serves as Chair of the Washington State Supreme Court Gender & Justice Commission, as a member of the Supreme Court's Rules Committee, and as the liaison to the Supreme Court's Pattern Instructions Committee (on which she previously served as a lawyer-member). She is also on the Washington State Bar Association's Council on Public Defense. She speaks regularly at legal and community events throughout the state on topics ranging from ethics to criminal justice.

Justice McCloud brought a wealth of appellate experience with her; she handled hundreds of cases before the Washington Supreme Court and other appellate courts before she became a judge. Her law practice showed a record of commitment to communities of color and a long history of providing legal assistance to those who lack the ability to pay. In one of her first volunteer cases, she helped successfully defend a woman's right to pregnancy disability leave in the United States Supreme Court. She also taught at the Seattle University School of Law and has published several articles.

Her legal expertise was recognized by her peers before she joined the bench. For example, she received the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' highest award, the William O. Douglas Award, for "extraordinary courage" in the practice of law. Her commitment to justice is still recognized by her peers now that she has a track record of work as a Justice. In 2015, Washington Women Lawyers King County Chapter honored her with its President's Award. In 2018, the Cardozo Society of Washington State presented her with its L'Dor V'Dor Award.

**Geoffrey Hulsey** (he/him) graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 2014. Currently, Geoff serves as a staff attorney in the Washington State Office of Public Defense's (OPD's) Disproportionality Unit. Prior to joining OPD, Geoff practiced civil, criminal, and family law while in private practice where he maintained a public defense contract with the City of Olympia. From 2016 to 2019, Geoff worked as a Defense Attorney at Thurston County Public Defense working on misdemeanor and felony cases while also providing defense services to participants in the Thurston County Veterans' Court.

**Kathleen Kyle** (she/her) joined Snohomish County Public Defender Association in 1998 and became the Assistant Director in 2008. In 2015, Kathleen was selected as the Managing Director. She earned her B.A. at Northwest Nazarene University and her J.D. at the American University Washington College of Law. During law school, she interned at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and the Washington Council of Lawyers, Death Penalty Representation Project.

Kathleen currently serves on the WSBA Council on Public Defense. She has also previously served on the Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission. She has presented at statewide programs on mass incarceration, mental health law, justice, and search and seizure law.

**Keisha Hudson** (she/her) spent nearly eighteen years as a public defender, first with the Defender Association of Philadelphia and then as a capital appellate defender with the Federal Defender-Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Capital Habeas Unit) representing people on death row in their state post-conviction and federal habeas appeals. As a seasoned trial and appellate defender, Ms. Hudson has an in-depth understanding of what it means to be a public defender. At the Capital Habeas Unit, Ms. Hudson was the Director of Training.

In 2016, Ms. Hudson left the Federal Defender and joined the Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender Officer to become the Deputy Chief Defender. Ms. Hudson joined the Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender with the goal of building and strengthening advocacy in the courtroom. Along with former Chief Defender Dean Beer, Ms. Hudson addressed systemic issues regarding policing, pretrial detention, sentencing, and probation in the county. In four years, Chief Defender Dean Beer and Ms. Hudson built one of the best public defender offices in the state.

In 2020, Ms. Hudson worked with The Justice Collaborative and The Appeal, developing and leading advocacy and media campaigns on criminal justice issues- specifically campaigns aimed at looking at creative and successful community alternatives that truly create public safety. From 2020 to 2021, Ms. Hudson was a visiting professor at Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

**Lila Silverstein** (she/her) is an appellate public defender with the Washington Appellate Project. Her most notable case is *State v. Gregory*, 192 Wn.2d 1 (2018), which she handled with co-counsel Neil Fox. For that case, Lila commissioned a statistical study on race and the death penalty in Washington and argued the death penalty was unconstitutional because it was imposed in an arbitrary and racially biased manner. In 2018, the Washington Supreme Court agreed and struck down Washington's capital punishment scheme.

Lila has also addressed systemic racism in other areas. She wrote significant sections of Washington's General Rule 37, which protects against racial bias in jury selection, and she has served as a consultant and presenter for other states seeking to emulate Washington's rule.

Lila has received numerous awards for her work, including WDA president's awards in 2011 and 2019.

**Monica Milton** (she/her) currently serves as Public Defense Counsel and assists with all aspects of NACDL's Public Defense Reform and Training portfolio with a focus on the Bureau of Justice Assistance grant titled "Justice For All: Supporting the Sixth Amendment." This grant is aimed at assessing state and local jurisdictions' ability to safeguard fundamental protections of the Sixth Amendment with an emphasis on speedy trial rights, impartial and representative juries, and access to witnesses and evidence. As a part of her role, she works collaboratively with grant partners to develop and disseminate training resources to state and local legal system stakeholders, cultivates relationships with subject matter experts to connect them with jurisdictions in need of specialized training support, and assists in policy research and assessments in areas related to Sixth Amendment protections.

Prior to joining NACDL, she served as a Criminal Justice Act attorney with the D.C. Court of Appeals representing indigent defendants in a wide array of cases including ineffective assistance of counsel claims, misdemeanors, drug offenses, assault, and murder.

Monica is a proud graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and after receiving her law degree, Monica clerked at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for Chief Justice Roderick Ireland (ret.).

**Rob Mead** (he/him) is the State Law Librarian at the Washington Supreme Court. He serves on numerous committees, including the Pattern Forms Committee, the BJA's Public Education and Engagement Committee, and the Washington Courts Historical Society. Prior to coming to Olympia in 2016, he was the Deputy Chief Public Defender for New Mexico for several years, overseeing all administrative functions for the largest law firm in the state and litigating systemic ineffective assistance of counsel due to unmanageable caseloads. He has also served as the State Law Librarian for New Mexico, an academic law librarian at the University of Kansas and the University of New Mexico, and a solo attorney practicing disability and elder law.

He is co-author of the Thomson Reuter's treatise *Advising the Elderly Client* and teaches legal research and writing to paralegals at South Puget Sound Community College. He has a law degree from the University of New Mexico and a master in Library Science from Emporia State University. He can be reached at (360)357-2156 or [rob.mead@courts.wa.gov](mailto:rob.mead@courts.wa.gov) and welcomes questions from the defender community.

**Sheri Oertel** (she/her) graduated summa cum laude from Washington State University with a B.S. in Business Management with a minor in Human Resources. She graduated top ten and *cum laude* from the University of Idaho College of Law.

She was a prosecutor for five years, gaining significant insight and training on procedure and various areas of law. Sheri appeared in multiple appeals at every level, including telephonically appearing before both the appellate and the Supreme Court commissioners, and telephonically before a three judge panel in Division 3 and the Washington State Supreme Court.

Since 2020, Sheri has been doing public defense. She has taught CLE presentations while she was a defense attorney, and has always shared resources and motions with other attorneys. As a defense attorney, she expertly used her legal research and writing skills, winning dismissals for Felony Knapstad Motions (without prejudice); Speedy Trial Violation (with prejudice); a Brady Violation (with prejudice); and the Disqualification of the Prosecutor and his entire office. Now as a Felony Resource Attorney for WDA, she is happy to continue to grow all of these skills for the improvement of public defense, and all of those supporting it.

**Julie Simon-Kerr** (she/her) is the Evangeline Starr Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut School of Law where she teaches evidence and civil procedure. She is a leading evidence scholar, whose research focuses on credibility and lying in the law. Her scholarship appears in leading law reviews and has been cited by numerous Federal Courts of Appeals and state Supreme Courts. She serves as the Academic Advisor to the Connecticut Code of Evidence Committee and is a co-founder of the Prior Conviction Impeachment Reform Coalition.

**Stacy Taeuber** (she/her) has over 20 years of experience as an immigrant rights advocate and public defender. In addition to practicing law in New York, Arizona, Florida, Minnesota and Wisconsin, Stacy founded and directed the Immigrant Justice Clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School and was a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota Law School's immigration clinics. Stacy is passionate about advancing the rights of noncitizens and all those impacted by the criminal justice system.

At WDA she works with defense lawyers, immigration lawyers, and others on issues related to the immigration consequences of criminal convictions.