

## 2013 State Criminal Justice Network Conference Bios

**Nicole Austin-Hillery** is the first Director and Counsel of The Brennan Center's Washington, DC office which she opened in March 2008. In her role, Ms. Austin-Hillery oversees D.C. office operations, serves as the chief advocate for the Brennan Center on a host of justice and democracy issues and coordinates work with other civil rights, social justice and democracy organizations in D.C. Ms. Austin-Hillery is the organization's chief liaison to Congress and the Administration.

Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Ms. Austin-Hillery practiced with the law firm of Mehri & Skalet, PLLC where she focused primarily on the firm's civil rights employment class action litigation practice.

Ms. Austin-Hillery is a graduate of the Howard University School of Law and Carnegie Mellon University.

**Steven D. Benjamin** is an attorney in private practice with the Richmond, Virginia firm of Benjamin & DesPortes and the current NACDL President. He serves as Special Counsel to the Virginia Senate Courts of Justice (Judiciary) Committee, and is a member of the Virginia Board of Forensic Science and the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission. He is a Past President of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Mr. Benjamin was counsel in the landmark Virginia Supreme Court decision recognizing a constitutional right to forensic expert assistance at state expense for indigent defendants. In other cases, he argued through the trial courts and on appeal that Virginia's mandatory fee caps on compensation for court-appointed counsel deprived indigent defendants of conflict-free representation, and he led the litigation and legislative effort to abolish those caps.

Mr. Benjamin worked to obtain the passage of two successive bills mandating effective notification of interested parties when new DNA evidence had been discovered. He is a recipient of the Virginia State Bar's Lewis F. Powell Pro Bono Award in recognition of his years of indigent defense and efforts toward indigent defense reform. He is a frequent lecturer on criminal justice and defense issues, and is a Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers.

**Susan Burton** founded A New Way of Life Reentry Project in 1998 after spending almost 20 years in and out of the criminal justice system. Since then, she has dedicated her life to helping other women break the cycle of incarceration, homelessness, addiction and despair.

Susan has earned numerous awards and honors and is widely recognized as a leader in the women's reentry movement. She is a past Soros Justice Fellow, a former Women's Policy Institute Fellow, and former Community Fellow under the California Wellness Foundation's Violence Prevention Initiative. Susan is also a co-founder of All of Us or None (AOUON) and co-founder & national chair of the Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People's

Movement (FICPM); both national grassroots civil rights movements comprised of formerly incarcerated individuals, their families and community allies.

For her work, she was named a CNN Top Ten Hero for 2010. She was also awarded the prestigious Citizen Activist Award from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. In recognition of her insight and leadership, she was appointed by Los Angeles County Supervisor, Mark Ridley Thomas, to be a member of the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections. In this role she is able to inspect Los Angeles County correctional facilities and advocate for the health and well-being of people housed in those facilities.

Most recently, Susan was named a 2012 recipient of the Encore Purpose Prize; a national honor given annually to five American social innovators for their contributions to society through their Encore careers.

**Darius Charney** is a senior staff attorney in the Racial Justice/Government Misconduct Docket. He is currently lead counsel on *Floyd v. City of New York*, a federal civil rights class action lawsuit challenging the New York Police Department's unconstitutional and racially discriminatory stop-and-frisk practices, and *Vulcan Society Inc. v. the City of New York*, a Title VII class action lawsuit on behalf of African-American applicants to the New York City Fire Department which challenges the racially discriminatory hiring practices of the FDNY.

Prior to coming to CCR in 2008, Darius spent two-and-a-half years as an associate at the New York law firm of Lansner & Kubitschek, where he litigated federal civil rights cases challenging various aspects of New York City and New York State's child welfare and foster care systems. Darius received his JD and M.S.W. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in 2001.

**Inimai M. Chettiar** is the Director of the Brennan Center's Justice Program. Ms. Chettiar focuses on using economics and cost-benefit analysis to demonstrate that helping struggling communities can help the country as a whole achieve economic and social prosperity. Her scholarship focuses on viewing policies as investments that lawmakers should evaluate based on what economic and societal benefits they produce. Most recently, Ms. Chettiar applied these practices to achieve criminal justice reform while at the American Civil Liberties Union. She was one of the lead architects of the organization's nationwide Initiative to End Overincarceration.

Ms. Chettiar holds a B.A. *cum laude* in political science and psychology from Georgetown University and a J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Chicago School of Law, where she served as Comment Editor of *The Law Review*. She is a member of the Society for Benefit Cost Analysis and American Correctional Association, and sits on the U.S. Department of Justice Pretrial Justice Task Force and the American Law Institute Model Penal Code Committee, which drafts model criminal codes for enactment in states.

**Mason C. Clutter** serves as National Security and Privacy Counsel to the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). Ms. Clutter works closely with NACDL's National Security, Military Law, and Fourth Amendment Committees. Her work focuses on the intersection between national security and the traditional criminal justice system, including the detention and trial of terrorism suspects, and the use of national security and electronic surveillance laws.

Prior to joining NACDL, she served as Counsel to the Constitution Project's Rule of Law Program. She also served as a Research Associate for the National Litigation Project of the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic at Yale Law School.

Ms. Clutter earned an LL.M. in Law and Government from American University's Washington College of Law, where she specialized in constitutional law and civil rights. She earned her J.D. from Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida, and her B.A. in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida.

**Chloe Cockburn** is an advocacy and policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union's national office. She focuses on state legislative advocacy to achieve reforms that will reduce the number of people incarcerated in jails and prisons and to reduce correctional populations overall, as part of the ACLU's Initiative to End Overincarceration.

Ms. Cockburn is currently working with ACLU affiliates around the country to assess opportunities for reform in the 2014 sessions, including limitations on habitual offender laws, reducing revocations from probation and parole for technical violations, reclassifying crimes from felonies to misdemeanors and violations, decriminalization of controlled substances, altering bond practices, and more.

Ms. Cockburn previously litigated civil rights claims with the ACLU Racial Justice Project and the New York firm Neufeld, Scheck and Brustin. She is a graduate of Harvard College and holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Don Cronk** In 1984, Donald Cronk was convicted of first degree murder and was sentenced to twenty-five years to life in California State Prison with the possibility of parole. On April 11, 2008, after serving twenty-eight years, Donald was ordered released from San Quentin State Prison by order of the Sacramento County Superior Court. After his release, Donald began his studies at the College of Marin. He currently lives in the Bay Area.

**Ivan Dominguez** brings NACDL's activities and positions to the attention of news media and the public, through news releases, opinion essays and the like. He also provides background information and/or media referrals to NACDL's leadership, and prepares spokespersons for media interviews. Ivan also provides robust support for NACDL's white collar crime and overcriminalization initiatives. He edits NACDL's *Daily Criminal Justice Briefing* and hosts NACDL's podcast series, "The Criminal Docket."

Ivan practiced law for more than a decade in New York City prior to joining NACDL in 2008.

Ivan is a 1992 graduate of Harvard College, received his Juris Doctor at the New York University School of Law where he served as Executive Editor of the *Journal of International Law & Politics* and earned his M.S. in Journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

**Jason Downs** is a 2007 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, where he was a Teaching Assistant for the Access to Justice Clinic, and inducted into the Order of the Barrister. During Jason's tenure at the University of Maryland, he was a member of the Trial Team that won the National Trial Advocacy Tournament of Champions sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

In 2006, he received the Excellence in Litigation Award from the Center for Forensic Economic Studies. Upon graduation, Jason joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, where he currently serves as the Training Director. At PDS, Jason has handled a variety of cases ranging from mundane misdemeanors to the most serious felonies. Jason is also a wildly obsessive Baltimore Ravens fanatic that despises the Pittsburgh Steelers.

**Jessica M. Eaglin** is Counsel in the Brennan Center's Justice Program where she works on the overreliance on incarceration in the U.S. She brings expertise in the areas of state and federal sentencing and correctional reform, civil rights strategy and litigation, and evidence-based programming in the states. Previous to the Brennan Center, Ms. Eaglin was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at California Western School of Law, where she taught federal sentencing law and civil rights law.

Jessica has also worked as a litigation associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in New York. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Damon J. Keith of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. She obtained her J.D. from Duke University, where she simultaneously earned her M.A. in Literature and was President of the Black Law Students Association, and graduated magna cum laude from Spelman College with a B.A. in English.

**Maurice Emsellem** is the National Employment Law Project's (NELP) Policy Co-Director. NELP is a research and advocacy organization that delivers on the nation's promise of economic opportunity. Mr. Emsellem specializes in government systems of support for unemployed workers and the employment rights of people with criminal records.

He and his colleagues at NELP have co-authored several publications, including scholarly articles that appeared in the *Stanford Law & Policy Review* and the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*. Mr. Emsellem was a Soros Justice Senior Fellow (2005), and a Visiting Public Interest Mentor at Stanford Law School (2003). He received his B.A. in 1982 from the University of Michigan and his J.D. in 1986 from Northeastern University School of Law.

**Angelyn C. Frazer** is the State Legislative Affairs Director for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and is responsible for the development, articulation, and strategic vision of NACDL's agenda on the state level. She also coordinates NACDL's Annual State Criminal Justice Network (SCJN) a policy conference geared toward criminal justice advocates on the state level, as well as, manages the SCJN list serve. Angelyn has over 25 years' experience in community organizing, policy analysis and advocacy on civil and human rights issues and criminal justice.

Angelyn is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York with a degree in Fashion Buying and Merchandising, has a B.A. in Latin American Studies from the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington and studied Spanish at the Universidad De Guadalajara in Jalisco, México. Angelyn is a proud Afro-Latina who has traveled to Italy, Portugal, Cuba, Greece, the Caribbean and extensively to Honduras the birth place of her parents and grandparents. She is also a licensed instructor of Zumba®, Zumba Gold®, Zumba Sentao™ and Aqua Zumba®

**Christopher Glen** currently serves as Manager for Grassroots Advocacy for NACDL. Over the course of his career, Christopher has developed extensive experience and knowledge in the areas of message crafting and framing, grassroots mobilization, issue advocacy, public policy, direct lobbying, and advocacy outreach & network development.

Nothing makes Christopher happier than NACDL members getting involved in the legislative process. He urges anyone with questions or a desire to become more involved in advocacy to contact him directly. Affiliated organizations are encouraged to contact Christopher to discuss how partnering with NACDL on legislative and policy initiatives can be beneficial.

An avid golfer and musician, Christopher lives in Silver Spring, MD with his wife, new baby girl and two dogs. He received his bachelor's degree in Communications from Elon University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Political Management from George Washington University.

**Judy Greene** is one of the nation's leading criminal justice policy experts whose essays and articles on criminal sentencing issues, police practices, and correctional policy have been published in numerous books, as well as in national and international journals. Her work has been cited in countless media stories and investigative reports in outlets including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and National Public Radio. Ms. Greene has over thirty years researching, writing and orchestrating criminal justice reform.

She has received a Soros Senior Justice Fellowship from the Open Society Institute, served as a research associate for the RAND Corporation, as a senior research fellow at the University of Minnesota Law School, and as director of the State-Centered Program for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. From 1985 to 1993 she was Director of Court Programs at the Vera Institute of Justice.

**Tanya Greene** currently serves as Advocacy and Policy Counsel with the national ACLU; her national and state work focuses on criminal justice reform, including the death penalty, indigent defense, solitary confinement and juvenile justice. She serves as an expert resource in these areas, and others, for ACLU affiliates and national partners and allies around the country. Prior to joining the ACLU in 2011, Ms. Greene represented indigent capital defendants for almost 15 years in the Deep South and New York. She currently serves on the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Death Penalty, Indigent Defense, and Juvenile Justice Committees; she also serves on the American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project Advisory Committee and the Boards of the Gulf Region Advocacy Center in Houston, Texas, the Michigan Campaign for Justice, and the Columbia Journal of Race and Law.

**John Gross** is Indigent Defense Counsel for The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers as well as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at American University, Washington College of Law where he teaches Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

Mr. Gross recently authored the NACDL report *Rationing Justice: The Underfunding of Assigned Counsel Systems* which documents the unreasonable low rates of compensation paid to private attorneys who represent indigent defendants in state courts. Two law review articles by Mr. Gross, *The Failure to Accurately Assess the Value of Counsel: Why "Do It Yourself" Lawyering Doesn't Protect the Rights of the Indigent* and *Too Poor to Hire a Lawyer but Not Indigent: How the States use the Federal Poverty Guidelines to Deprive Defendants of their Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel* will also be published in 2013 in the New Mexico Law Review and the Washington & Lee Law Review, respectively. Previous publications include articles dealing with the exclusionary rule and the right to counsel under the Sixth Amendment. In addition, he has given numerous presentations on Public Defense Delivery Systems and on ethical issues related to the practice of criminal defense.

Prior to joining the NACDL, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law and Acting Director of the Syracuse University College of Law's Criminal Defense Clinic. Prior to his teaching and clinical career, he was a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society in New York City in the Criminal Defense Division, where he represented indigent defendants at all stages of prosecution, from arraignment through disposition.

A 1999 graduate of Hofstra University College of Law, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University in 1995.

**Francis V. Guzman** is a Soros justice Fellow at the National Center for Youth Law. He is working to reduce the practice of prosecuting and incarcerating children in California's adult criminal justice system and advocating for alternative sentencing and local treatment for youth charged with serious offenses.

When he was 15 years old, Guzman was arrested and tried for armed robbery and sentenced to 15 years in the California Youth Authority. After serving six years of his sentence, he was

released on parole, enrolled in Oxnard College and later transferred to UC Berkeley, where he earned a BA in English. Guzman attended UCLA School of Law, enrolled in the Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. There, he served as Co-President of *La Raza* Law Students Association and Pacific Regional Director of the National Latino Law Students Association.

**LaShunda Hill** serves as a state strategist for the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth. Currently, she works with advocates in 20 states on reforming their juvenile sentencing laws for youth who commit serious crimes. Specifically, she provides technical assistance and strategic guidance to advocates who are seeking to bring their state into compliance with the recent Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. Alabama*. She has an educational and professional background that spans the worlds of education, child welfare and juvenile justice.

**Kimberly A. Horiuchi**, is the Criminal Justice & Drug Policy Advocate for the ACLU of California. Horiuchi is a former public defender, and worked as legal counsel to the California State Assembly Committee on Public Safety. Before joining the ACLU of California, she was a senior associate at the law firm of Lang, Richert & Patch in Fresno, California. As the Criminal Justice & Drug Policy Advocate for the ACLU of California, she does both legislative advocacy and litigation in an effort to advance compassionate and intelligent criminal justice policy. She did her undergraduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, and received her law degree from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She was admitted to practice in 2001.

**Rick Jones** is the executive director and a founding member of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS). He is a distinguished trial lawyer with more than 20 years' experience in complex multi-forum litigation.

Rick is a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School, where he teaches a criminal defense externship and a trial practice course. He is also on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College (NCDC) in Macon, Georgia, and is frequently invited to lecture on criminal justice issues throughout the country.

Rick is a two-term past member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and served as parliamentarian, a non-voting member of the Executive Committee for the 2011-2012 Presidential term. He is currently co-chair of the Task Force on Restoration of Rights and Status After Conviction.

**Marsha Levick**, Deputy Director and Chief Counsel, co-founded Juvenile Law Center in 1975. Throughout her legal career, Levick has been an advocate for children's and women's rights and is a nationally recognized expert in juvenile law. Levick oversees Juvenile Law Center's litigation and appellate docket. Levick spearheaded Juvenile Law Center's exposure and subsequent litigation arising out of the Luzerne County, Pennsylvania juvenile court judges' corruption scandal, known as the "kids for cash" scandal, where Juvenile Law Center

successfully sought the expungement and vacatur of thousands of juveniles' cases before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and is pursuing civil damages for the children and their families in a federal civil rights class action.

Levick co-authored the lead child advocates' amicus briefs in *Roper v. Simmons*, where the U. S. Supreme Court struck the juvenile death penalty under the Eighth Amendment; *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; and *J.D.B. v North Carolina*, where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled for the first time that a juvenile's age is relevant to the Miranda custody analysis under the Fifth Amendment.

**E.G. (Gerry) Morris**, is an Austin, Texas based criminal defense lawyer, and has represented individuals accused of state and federal crimes since 1977, both in trial and on appeal. He is Board Certified as a Criminal Law Specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He has been elected by other criminal defense attorneys to leadership positions in both state and national organizations. He served as president of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association during the 1997-98 term and is currently a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and is the current Treasurer of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL).

The legal community as a whole, through peer rating, has recognized Mr. Morris as being among the top lawyers in the state. Mr. Morris is listed in the publication Best Lawyers in America in both the non-white collar and white collar crime categories, and he was named by Best Lawyers in America as Lawyer of the Year in the Austin area for 2012 in the non-white collar crime category. Perhaps the best-known trial in which Mr. Morris was involved was the "Branch Davidian Trial." In that case Mr. Morris won an acquittal on all charges for his client.

**Nancy Mullane** develops, reports, and produces feature stories for Public Radio International's *This American Life*, National Public Radio, and the NPR affiliate KALW News-Crosscurrents in San Francisco.

With the support of the Open Society Foundation, she is producing a two-hour, four-part, radio documentary telling the stories of men and women convicted of murder which will air nationally in 2012.

She is a member of the Society for Professional Journalists, the Association of Independents in Radio, and the International Women's Media Foundation.

In 2011, Nancy was the recipient of a National Edward R. Murrow Award.

**Maureen Pacheco**, graduated from Georgetown Law in 1986, and spent a year and a half in practice with Mitchell, Silberberg and Knupp, before joining the Los Angeles County Public Defender's office. During her twenty-two-year tenure there, she tried misdemeanor and

felony cases, worked in the Mental Health Court, and the Juvenile Appellate Division, before concluding her career as the Juvenile Justice Legislative and Policy Advisor to the Public Defender.

Most recently, she served as Asst. Director at the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy. As a clinical professor at Loyola Law School, she taught juvenile law and policy and advanced criminal litigation skills, and supervised the juvenile justice and education advocacy clinics. In 2012, Ms. Pacheco co-founded the Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing Clinic, representing youth prosecuted as adults who had claims of innocence or unfair sentences.

As a zealous juvenile-justice advocate, she has chaired the NACDL Juvenile Justice Committee for three terms, serves as the juvenile legislative advocate for the California Public Defenders Association, writing position papers and testifying as an expert witness before the California Legislature.

**Matthew Pillischer** is an independent filmmaker who produced and directed *Broken On All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the U.S.* He is also the director of the Broken On All Sides Educational Campaign, through which he tours the movie, organizes panel discussions, and speaks with audiences to raise awareness about issues surrounding criminal justice, systemic racism, and economic injustice.

Previously, Matt worked as a staff attorney at Community Legal Services representing low-income Philadelphians who were having employment problems due to their criminal records. He is a member of National Lawyers Guild, International Socialist Organization, and Decarcerate PA.

This year Matt was a finalist for the *Soros Justice Media Fellowship* for the Broken On All Sides Educational Campaign, and the movie was nominated for a *Media for a Just Society Award* by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. He hopes to continue making movies, especially political films that can contribute to movements towards social and economic justice. Matt majored in filmmaking at Bennington College in 2000, became an activist in 2003, which eventually led him to obtain a JD in 2010 from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

**Dawn Porter** is the founder of Trilogy Films. She is Director/Producer of *GIDEON'S ARMY*, which will premiere at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and air on HBO Documentary Films. She is an alumni of the Tribeca All Access program, where she won the 2011 juried Creative Promise Award for *GIDEON'S ARMY*. Realscreen named Dawn one of their 2012 Doc Hot Shots 15 emerging directors to watch. Other Trilogy projects include *SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI* for ARTE Germany and PBS, and a documentary about celebrity Chef Alexandra Guarnaschelli for the Cooking Channel. Dawn also works in narrative features as Executive Producer on *SERIOUS MOONLIGHT*, written by Adrienne Shelley and starring Meg Ryan and Timothy Hutton. *SERIOUS MOONLIGHT* debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival and was released theatrically by Magnolia Pictures and domestically on

Lifetime Movie Network. She is also an Executive Producer on *THE GREEN*, an independent feature premiering on Showtime Networks and starring Cheyenne Jackson (30 ROCK) and Emmy®-winning actress Julia Ormond. Before becoming a filmmaker she was the Director of News Standards and Practices at ABC News, and Vice President of Standards and Practices at A&E Networks. Dawn is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the Georgetown University Law Center. She was a practicing attorney at Baker & Hostetler and ABC Television Networks before beginning her television career.

**Richard Rael** In 1982, Richard Rael was convicted of second-degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to twenty-two years to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On September 16th, 2006, after being found suitable for parole, Richard was released from San Quentin State Prison. Today he lives in Fremont, California and works for his brother, installing windows and doors.

**Ed Ramirez** In 1982, Edward Ramirez was convicted of second degree murder and was sentenced to fifteen years to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On February 25, 2005, after being incarcerated for more than twenty three years, Edward was released from San Quentin State Prison. Today he counsels young men who are incarcerated in California's Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, and works as a union sheet metal worker. He lives near San Jose with his wife of eight years and his two dogs, Spunky and Biscuit.

**Michael T. Risher** is a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, the nation's largest ACLU affiliate, where he focuses on freedom of speech, open government, criminal justice, and privacy rights. He is currently lead ACLU counsel in *Haskell v. Harris*, a challenge to a California law that requires anyone arrested on suspicion of a felony to provide the police with a DNA sample, and has been involved as *amicus* in similar litigation, including *Maryland v. King*.

Risher was a Deputy Public Defender in Alameda County from 1998 to 2005. He graduated with honors from Harvard College and with distinction from Stanford Law School.

**Phillip Seiler** In 1988, Phillip Seiler was convicted of second degree murder and was sentenced to seventeen years to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On August 27, 2008, he was released from San Quentin State Prison by order of the California Court of Appeal. A professional plumber by trade, Phillip works more than full-time and volunteers with local organizations counseling at-risk youth in the Bay Area.

**Laura M. Sager** has led a number of Michigan and national criminal justice reform efforts. Before becoming CAPP's executive director, she served as associate director. From 2007-2011, she was the executive director of the Campaign for Justice (CFJ), and worked to reform Michigan's public defense delivery system.

Between 1996-2007, she served as the Michigan project director, national campaign director and executive director of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), a national non-

profit sentencing reform organization. Sager led broad-based bipartisan campaigns that won legislation rolling back Michigan's harshest-in-the-nation mandatory minimum drug laws. Her work as the head of FAMM's reform campaigns gained national media attention. In Virginia, she won enactment of a "safety valve" for non-violent, first-time offenders facing draconian mandatory sentences under the Substance Abuse Reduction Effort.

She attended Michigan State University and is a long-term resident of Lansing, Michigan.

**Sara B. Thomas** was raised by a police officer and she has always been fascinated by the criminal justice system. Thus, she majored in Criminal Justice Administration in college, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Boise State University in 1994. A year later she attended the University of Idaho College of Law, receiving her Juris Doctor degree in 1998. While studying law, Ms. Thomas began to focus on legal writing and appellate practice, serving as the Executive Editor of the Idaho Law Review and making her first appellate argument in front of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals while still in school.

In 1999, Ms. Thomas became a Deputy State Appellate Public Defender, and in 2002 she became the Chief of the SAPD's Appellate Unit. After ten years in that position, in January of 2012, Governor Otter appointed Sara as Idaho's State Appellate Public Defender. In addition, she serves as the Chairman of the Governor's Criminal Justice Commission, a member of the Idaho Grant Review Council, and as a board member of the Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

**Peter Wagner** is an attorney and Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative. Peter writes, teaches, and lectures around the country about mass incarceration's profound impact on our national welfare. His report, "Importing Constituents: Prisoners and Political Clout in New York", launched the national movement to end prison gerrymandering more than a decade ago, and he is the leading national expert on how the Census Bureau's method of tabulating incarcerated populations distorts state and local democracy. He is also the author or co-author of cutting edge research on other criminal justice topics, including "The Prison Index: Taking the Pulse of the Crime Control Industry", "The Geography of Punishment: How Huge Sentencing Enhancement Zones Harm Communities, Fail to Protect Children" and "Please Deposit All of Your Money: Kickbacks, Rates, and Hidden Fees in the Jail Phone Industry".

**Dionne Wilson** lost her husband, a police officer, in 2005. At the trial of the man who killed her husband she acknowledged that it was an extremely difficult experience but that it also gave her purpose.

When the jury returned a death verdict, Dionne thought, "This is it, I got the death penalty, this is what we wanted. Now everything is going to be okay." However, the verdict proved to be of little consolation. "It didn't do anything to make me feel better," she says. "I expected my pain would be alleviated and it actually did nothing. I felt worse."

Soon Dionne's eyes were open to bigger problems she witnessed and experienced in the justice system. She was discouraged to see how much California was spending in taxpayer dollars to sustain a prison system that was a revolving door for people who got little to no rehabilitation services to ensure that they wouldn't reoffend when back in society. She now works with Californians for Safety and Justice. "I want something good to come from what happened," she says. "Something positive has to come from Dan's death."

**Lisa Wayne** is NACDL's Immediate Past President and an attorney in private practice in both state and federal courts around the country. She handles serious felonies and complex civil litigation including numerous high profile cases. Previously, Wayne was a Colorado State Public Defender for 13 years where she served as office head, training director, and senior trial attorney.

Wayne is currently an adjunct law professor at the University of Colorado where she teaches Trial advocacy, and she serves on faculty at the Trial Practice Institute at Harvard Law School, The National Criminal Defense College, and Cardozo Law School.

She serves as a legal analyst for various media outlets including ABC, CNN and Fox News and continues to be an advocate in all venues of the media addressing important issues confronting the criminally accused. In 2005, Wayne was honored with the Robert J. Heeney Award, NACDL's most prestigious recognition.