

OFFICIAL BALLOT

2022 Council of Affiliates Election



Voting Instructions:

Each NACDL Affiliate shall be entitled to cast one ballot in the election. Ballots must be cast by an official representative of the affiliated organization, namely the executive director, an executive officer, or by an individual member of that affiliated organization designated by one of its officers. A non-officer designee must provide written documentation from an executive officer of their respective affiliate at the time of voting, which authorizes them to cast the ballot on behalf of the organization.

NACDL General Election Rules & Policy:

NACDL's Standing Board Policy prohibits any electioneering by candidates, or other individuals on behalf of a candidate. To view the full Standing Board Policy on Elections, visit: <https://www.nacdl.org/Elections/>

Voting Deadline:

Each Affiliate may cast their ballot electronically via email, so long as it is received by the established deadline. Ballots must be returned to, and received by NACDL by **5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, on Friday, July 23, 2022.** A plurality of votes cast shall elect *two candidates*.

All information on the ballot must be completed. Incomplete ballots will be void.

CANDIDATES

--There are two vacancies. Please select up to (2) candidates by filling-in the check box next to the candidate's name, or by circling their name(s)--

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Amanda Clark Palmer | Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jude M. Faccidomo | Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E. Charles Grose, Jr. | South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sarah Hawkins | Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Vikram Kapil | Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chelsy Van Overmeiren | Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers |

Affiliate Organization (Required): _____

Representative casting the vote (Required): _____

Name

Title

To submit your ballot by MAIL, send to:

Jessica Stepan, Associate Executive Director, NACDL
1660 L St. NW, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

To submit your ballot by E-MAIL, send to:
Jessica Stepan at jstepan@nacdl.org

STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

Amanda Clark Palmer – Atlanta, GA (GACDL)

My undergraduate degree is in Industrial Engineering, and for the first five years of my post-college life, I worked for GE Power in various roles. Though I was successful, I found my career to lack fulfillment. I realized that I wanted to help people at the individual level, instead of making more money for a giant corporation. My parents are both lawyers, and my dad was a public defender for his entire career. Through a few “Take Your Daughter to Work” days, I got to see my dad in action as I was growing up. I always thought he had the most interesting job and the most fulfilling as well; so when I started law school, I knew I wanted to be a criminal defense lawyer. And that is what I have done for my entire legal career. I have been fortunate to work for some amazing lawyers who encouraged me at the very beginning to get involved with GACDL. As you probably know, GACDL is an organization that is large, diverse (both politically and culturally), and spans the state from the Blue Ridge mountains in the north to Brunswick in the south with Atlanta in between. From running CLE programs, lobbying at the State Capitol, to training young lawyers in our trial program, GADCL is the voice of criminal defense lawyers in Georgia fighting for the accused. I have been a GACDL member for most of my career as a lawyer. At the beginning, I was just a member and attended some of the seminars. Then, I got more involved with the organization – because I wanted to give back to this fabulous organization, but also so that I could meet more members and broaden my network. My first contribution was as our “Web Mistress.” I kept the website up to date – fixing broken links, updating our publications database, and maintaining our brief bank. Since then, I have held various positions: coeditor of “The Defender” (our quarterly newsletter), Media Chair, serving on the Long Range Planning Committee, Executive Committee, and helped out as a “Lawyer of the Week” during the 2020 legislative session. Now, when I go to a GACDL seminar I see a room full of not just colleagues but friends. And I have a state-wide network of people I can reach out to for advice, insight, or commiseration. I am also active in our state bar organization. Currently, I serve on the Board of Governors and several committees. I am also GACDL’s representative on the Formal Advisory Opinion Board. In this position, I represent our member’s interest vis-à-vis requests for Formal Advisory Opinions that interpret our bar rules. I have served in this position since 2019. With their large membership, talented staff, and national and international reach, NACDL can assist affiliates in forming policy, law, and provide affiliate support in many areas. I think the success of the affiliates is vital and a strong connection with NACDL will help. Given my previous experience representing GACDL’s interests as our Media Chair and on the Formal Advisory Opinion Board, I am confident that I have the knowledge, experience, and maturity necessary to effectively serve on NACDL’s Board of Directors as an Affiliate Representative. My involvement also demonstrates my drive to advocate for our affiliate organizations, provide them the tools so they can use NACDL’s vast resources, and help them succeed in multiple areas. I would be honored to serve as an Affiliate Representative for NACDL.

Jude M. Faccidomo - Miami, FL (FACDL)

I am now and have only ever been a criminal defense lawyer. I began my career in 2004 as a Miami Dade Assistant Public Defender. During my four and half years at the PD’s office, I amassed extensive trial experience handling cases stemming from DUI to 1st degree murder. While at the Public Defender’s Office, I was recruited to join the firm of this organization’s own past president, Jeffrey S. Weiner. At the law office of Jeffrey S. Weiner, P.A. I spent five years handling high profile and complex criminal litigation. In 2013, I partnered with Mycki Ratzan to create our firm of Ratzan & Faccidomo where we handle state and federal criminal cases. In May of 2012, I was elected President of the Miami chapter of Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, making me at the time the organization’s youngest president in its history. While Miami Chapter President I spearheaded the fight against Florida’s “limited registry” law which capped the fees for court appointed counsel. I, along with integral members of FACDL-Miami, sued the circuit’s chief judge and fought to eliminate the law that would have resulted in massive due process violations of indigent defendants. Due to these efforts, in 2013 I was awarded the prestigious President’s Award from the Statewide FACDL organization for “personifying the spirit of the criminal defense lawyer.” I have been an active member of the Statewide Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers since 2009. I have chaired many of that organization’s most important committees including the young lawyers committee and the CLE committee. In 2015 I was elected Director at Large to the Board where, following the Henry/Falcon/Horsely decisions out of the Florida Supreme Court, I was specially appointed to chair the Emergency Ad Hoc Juvenile Resentencing Committee. In less than 90 days I raised over \$20,000 in donations and sponsorship to fully fund a free two-day FACDL seminar

to educate private lawyers and public defenders on the complexities of juvenile resentencing matters. In recognition of this undertaking, I was again presented with FACDL's President's Award in 2016. I have also held nearly every position on the executive committee and am the organization's current and youngest president in its 34-year history. I am a past chair of the Dade County Bar Association's Criminal Court Committee and currently serve as co-chair of the Miami Dade Jury Trial Task force where I work with the circuit's Chief judge to facilitate jury trials amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition to my involvement in Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Dade County Bar Association I am a member of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, and a Fellow with the American Bar Foundation. I am immediate past vice chair of the Florida Bar Criminal Procedure Rules Committee, and currently serve on the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration and Criminal Law Section's Executive Council. I am also a past Chair of a Florida Bar Grievance Committee and am currently a member of the Board of Advisors for St. Thomas University School of Law. I have been invited to guest lecture on topics pertaining to criminal defense at Florida Bar's Advance Federal Practice, the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office, the Miami Dade Metropolitan Police Institute as well as St. Thomas University School of Law and Florida International University School of Law. Additionally, I routinely speak on local and national news outlets to discuss high profile criminal defense cases. I have been named to the Superlawyers, Florida Legal Elite, Best Lawyers, and Florida Legal Trend consistently over the last 12 years and am the recipient of the Miami Bar Association's Sookie Williams Outstanding Community Service Award. Suffice to say, I like to be of service. I consider being a good lawyer only part of our responsibility. To truly advocate we must do so on a larger scale to effectuate larger change. This is what NACDL does. It gives a powerful voice to the collective. It would be my great honor to represent the affiliate members to the Board of such an important institution.

E. Charles Grose, Jr. – Greenwood, SC (SCACDL)

Charles Grose is a criminal defense attorney from Greenwood, South Carolina. Charles has been a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers since 1997. After practicing for three years as an associate attorney in a civil law firm in Charleston, South Carolina, Charles became an Assistant Public Defender for Orangeburg County, South Carolina in 1996. In July 1999, he became the Chief Public Defender for Greenwood and Abbeville Counties, South Carolina. Following the creation of the statewide Indigent Defense System, Charles was selected the Circuit Public Defender of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, which includes Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, and Newberry Counties, South Carolina. Charles is a past President of the South Carolina Public Defender Association ("SCPDA"). The SCPDA honored him as Lawyer of the Year in 2008. On September 25, 2012, the SCPDS awarded Charles the Martha Browning Dicus Award for demonstrating the remarkable competence, zeal and adherence to the ideas of the legal profession. Charles represented the SCPDA as amicus curiae in *State v. Langford*, 400 S.C. 421, 735 S.E.2d 471 (2012), which held Solicitor's control of the criminal docket violated the doctrine of separation of powers under the South Carolina Constitution. He also represented the PDA as amicus curiae in *Binney v. State*, 384 S.C. 539, 683 S.E.2d 478 (2009). At the end of his term as Circuit Defender in 2012, Charles entered private practice. He practices statewide in all state and federal trial courts in South Carolina. He has argued appellate cases before the South Carolina Court of Appeals, South Carolina Supreme Court, and United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He represents clients facing the death penalty in state post-conviction relief and federal habeas corpus proceedings. Charles is a member of the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ("SCACDL"). He is a former member of SCACDL's Board of Directors. He has represented SCACDL as amicus curiae in *State v. Hubner*, 384 S.C. 436, 437, 683 S.E.2d 279 (2009) and *State v. Hepburn*, 406 S.C. 416, 753 S.E.2d 402, 403 (2013). He represents SCACDL as amicus curiae in *State v. Shelby Harper Taylor*, Appellate Case No. 2021-001220, which is currently pending before the South Carolina Supreme Court. Charles is a longtime board member and past board chair of Justice 360, which is nonprofit organization working to reform policies and practices in capital and juvenile life without parole proceedings. As the 2014-2015 Chair of the Criminal Law Section Council of the South Carolina Bar, Charles planned and moderated the 2015 Criminal Law Update as part of the annual South Carolina Bar Convention.

Sarah Hawkins – Las Vegas, NV (NACJ)

I earned my undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in August 2006, having double-majored in Political Science and Law, Societies, and Justice (LSJ). While political science focused on the impact governmental structures, processes, and actors, LSJ explored the impact those structures, processes, and actors have on real people. For me, LSJ precipitated advocacy. After I graduated from college, I joined Literacy AmeriCorps. During my two years with this program, I taught adult basic education at the King County Correctional Facility in Seattle, Washington. I worked with minimum and medium security men and woman in classroom settings. I tutored close-, maximum-, and ultra-security men in one-on-one sessions. I learned more from my students about patience and communication than can be quantified. Thereafter, I attended New England Law Boston on a merit scholarship and graduated with honors in May 2013. I was on the Dean's List in Fall 2010, Spring & Fall 2011, Spring & Fall 2012, and

Spring 2013. I served as an Associated and Executive Literary Editor on the New England Law Review. I was good at law school—all of it—but I only really cared about criminal procedure, evidence, wrongful conviction, and prisoners' rights. During law school, I interned with the New England Innocence Project (NEIP) and the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPSP). After I graduated from law school, I moved to Las Vegas and secured employment at the Public Defender's Office. It is the only job I've ever wanted, I love my work, and I consider myself lucky to stand with each of my clients against the government. I have also served as the Secretary, Vice President, and President of Nevada Attorney's for Criminal Justice, a statewide coalition of criminal defense attorneys. I have served on the Executive Board for four consecutive years, with my term expiring in June 2022. I will continue to serve on NACJ's Board of Directors. I have the dedication, skill, and experience to make a positive contribution to NACDL as a member of its Board of Directors. I only hope for the opportunity to turn words into action.

Vikram Kapil- VA (VACDL)

My name is Vikram Kapil and I am the Chief Public Defender for the Counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg and Lunenburg, Virginia. I had previously served various positions and as Chief Public Defender for the Counties of Henry and Patrick and the City of Martinsville, Virginia. I have been in private practice as a criminal defense attorney practicing in Virginia and North Carolina. I earned my undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in 1987. I worked at the University of Maryland Cancer Center and University of Maryland School of Medicine in the field of molecular biology developing DNA sequencing techniques and analysis. I obtained my law degree from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, 1994. (UDC Law) From 1995 to 2016, I was a Member, Board member and President of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. I have continued to serve as a Board Member of VACDL since 2019. I am seeking an affiliate seat on the Board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. I am a member in good standing at NACDL and my home association VACDL. I believe strongly that good relations between both organizations allows for better cooperation and mutual assistance. Many of my colleagues are members in good standing with both organizations. We seek and have had many members of NACDL speak at our conferences. I'd like to deepen that relationship and facilitate the exchange of ideas and benefits for both NACDL and VACDL. Additionally, I would like to help facilitate the discourse between NACDL and all of its Affiliates. There is much that NACDL can learn from the State and Regional Affiliates, and much that can be shared by the National organization back to the Affiliates. It will be my goal to keep this dialogue open and expand potential partnership opportunities.

Eric H. Schweitzer - Clovis, CA (CACJ)

My full name is Eric Hans Schweitzer. I graduated from San Joaquin College of Law in 1995. My California Bar Number is 179776. I am President of Schweitzer & Davidian A.P.C.. We recently celebrated our tenth anniversary in this law firm. Before that, I served in the Office of the Public Defender in and for the County of Fresno, then as an Associate and Supervisor in the local alternate defense office for two years, then as a Managing Attorney in the former office of Sawl and Netzer for 7 and ½ years, then, as Partner in Berman and Schweitzer until the year 2011. I was admitted in the 9th Circuit, 2007. I have tried in excess of 100 state and federal criminal cases to verdict. I have been a contributor to various criminal justice commentary and articles in the Daily Journal, L.A. Times and other major newspapers. On November 15, 2012, I lectured at the American Society of Criminologists Annual Meeting in Chicago on Veterans with TBI and PTSD in Criminal Justice. I have collaborated with Johns Hopkins trained epidemiologist Dr. Remington Nevin of the Quinism Foundation on matters involving Lariam (mefloquine) toxicity as it relates to diminished actuality defenses for service members, former service members and civilians. More recently, in January of 2020, Dr. Nevin and I collaborated on matters of epidemiology in the carceral environment to rescind a court order that prevented hundreds of inmates from getting speedy trials due to a mumps outbreak that occurred a few months before COVID-19 hit. I am a recipient of CACJ President's Awards 2013- 2014-2015 and 2018. I served as CACJ Legislative Committee Co - Chair for over ten years. In 2020, I was CACJ President. While President, it was my role to advise the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court towards the initial guidance on COVID- 19 matters that was issued shortly thereafter to all California Courts. I am presently CACJ's Immediate Past President. I am presently the CACJ Foundation Chair. I am presently working with the collaborative NACDL/ CACJ committee to eliminate the trial penalty here on the West Coast. I am a civil rights and excessive force survivor's advocate. I have zealously represented LGBTQ persons against systemic, chronic and acute cases of injustice in various cases from the onset of my career until present. I am also a member of the Litigation Council of America, the "Trial Lawyers Honorary Society". I am most interested in advancing the bonds and collective objectives of CACJ and NACDL. My availability to serve is immediate and I am willing to travel as necessary.

Chelsy Van Overmeiren – Chicago, IL (IACDL)

I began my interest in criminal law as an undergraduate student at Iowa State University. After my first year and second year of undergrad, I interned at the Kane County State's Attorney's Office (KCSAO) in the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). While at the CAC, I supported the attorneys and learned about child sexual abuse investigations and prosecutions. Thereafter, I enrolled in pre-law courses at Iowa State my senior year, including Constitutional law. After graduating cum laude with a double major in political science and international studies, I applied to and was accepted into Chicago – Kent College of Law. While in law school, I clerked for an Illinois Circuit Court Judge, earned a CALI award of excellence in Conflict of Laws, and competed across the nation for Chicago-Kent's nationally ranked trial team. I continue my commitment to Chicago-Kent's Trial Advocacy Program coaching students on the trial team and teaching trial advocacy courses as an adjunct professor. As a second-year law student, I took a part-time job with a Chicago criminal defense firm. I worked on case reviews, drafted Fourth and Fifth Amendment motions, and assisted the attorneys with discovery management and trial preparation. After graduation, the firm hired me as an associate attorney, and I have remained with the firm ever since. Despite scaled back courtroom operations during the global pandemic, I have argued significant pretrial motions and litigated contested matters in both federal and state court. Last summer I tried my first federal jury trial. By the close of 2022, I expect to have tried at least six more jury trials with other members of the firm. Also, I am currently working on several pro bono criminal cases, an appointed civil rights case, and I am earning credits towards being able to join the CJA Panel. I am an active member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ("NACDL"). I serve on NACDL's Women in Criminal Defense and Decarceration committees. During the pandemic, I worked as a research assistant and editor for NACDL's COVID-19 Task Force. I have also contributed to several CLE's, including Race Matters in Los Angeles and Chicago. I currently serve as a board member to the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ("IACDL"). Please let me know if I can provide any additional information in support of my candidacy for this position. Thank you again for your consideration.