

25th Annual Robert E. Shepherd, Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference
Lessons from 2020: The Future of Juvenile Law Practice
Held virtually from the University of Richmond School of Law
Friday, May 21, 2021

7 CLE credits pending, including 1.0 ethics credit/6.0 GAL credits

Speaker Biographies

ROBERT BERMINGHAM is the Director of the Court Services Unit for the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Mr. Bermingham, MPA, began his career in juvenile justice in 1986 as child care specialist in the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. During the past 33 plus years Bob has served in many different capacities within the juvenile justice system in Fairfax County. He has worked in both community based residential programs and as a field probation officer. During his tenure Bob has held management positions with probation services, served as the County's first Gang Prevention Coordinator, and since 2009 has served as the Court Service Unit Director of the Commonwealth of Virginia's largest Court Service Unit. Bob has lead the 400 person unit through significant transformation in practices to include the re-design of juvenile intake services, the implementation of assessment tools at major decision points within the system, enhanced diversion alternatives, deployment of evidence based interventions along with a focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities and family engagement. As an independent consultant and a Probation System Review partner with the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corp, Bob has provided juvenile justice transformation and gang training to multiple jurisdictions both nationally and internationally. Bob is dedicated to providing juvenile justice services that build on individual and family strengths to improve client outcomes while remaining focused on public safety and promoting equitable and effective justice. Bob has been married to his grade school sweetheart for 32 years and has four adult children and one grandson.

RACHAEL DEANE is the Legal Director, JustChildren Program, Legal Aid Justice Center. Rachael joined the Legal Aid Justice Center in 2016 and became JustChildren's Legal Director in 2017. Her work has focused on shaping JustChildren's litigation and policy efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline and to reform Virginia's public school funding system. Prior to joining JustChildren, Rachael was the Assistant Director of Enforcement for the National Fair Housing Alliance, where she developed systemic investigations and impact litigation aimed at eliminating residential segregation and concentrated poverty. A native of Richmond, Rachael earned her J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law, where she participated in the Education Rights Clinic.

KRISTIN HENNING is the Blume Professor of Law and Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative at Georgetown Law, where she supervises law students and represents youth accused of delinquency in the D.C. Superior Court. Professor Henning was previously the Lead Attorney for the Juvenile Unit of the D.C. Public Defender Service and is currently the Director of the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center. Professor Henning writes extensively about race, adolescence and policing. Her work appears in journals and books such as *POLICING THE BLACK MAN: ARREST, PROSECUTION AND IMPRISONMENT* (2017, edited by Angela J. Davis) and *PUNISHMENT IN POPULAR CULTURE* (2015, edited by Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. and Austin Sarat). Race features prominently in her articles such as *The Reasonable Black Child: Race, Adolescence and the Fourth Amendment*, 67 AM. U. L. REV. 1513 (2018), *Race, Paternalism and the Right to Counsel*, 54 AMER. CRIM. L. REV. 649 (2017), and *Criminalizing Normal Adolescent Behavior in Communities of Color: The Role of Prosecutors in Juvenile Justice Reform*, 98 CORNELL L. REV. 383 (2013). Professor Henning is also the editor of an anthology *RIGHTS, RACE, AND REFORM: FIFTY YEARS OF CHILD ADVOCACY IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE*

SYSTEM (2018) and is writing a book, forthcoming with Penguin Random House, about the criminalization of Black adolescence and the intersection of race, adolescence, and policing. Professor Henning has trained state actors across the country on the nature and scope of implicit racial bias and how it operates in the juvenile and criminal legal systems. Her workshops help stakeholders recognize their own biases and develop strategies to counter it. Professor Henning also worked closely with the McArthur Foundation's Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network to develop a 41-volume *Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP)*, a national training curriculum for juvenile defenders. She now co-hosts, with the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC), an annual week-long JTIP summer academy for defenders. In 2019, she partnered with NJDC to launch a Racial Justice Toolkit for youth advocates, and in 2020, she launched the Ambassadors for Racial Justice program, a year-long program for juvenile defenders committed to challenging racial injustice in the juvenile legal system.

Henning serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for Children's Law and Policy, has served as an expert consultant on juvenile justice to a number of state and federal agencies including the USDOJ's Civil Rights Division, and was the Reporter for the ABA Task Force on Dual Jurisdiction Youth. She is the recipient of several honors, including the Robert E. Shepherd, Jr. Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense from NJDC, the Shanara Gilbert Award from the American Association of Law Schools for her commitment to justice on behalf of children, selection to the American Law Institute (ALI), and appointment as an Adviser to ALI's Restatement on Children and the Law project. Henning received her B.A. from Duke University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and an LL.M. from Georgetown Law.

VALERIE L'HERROU is a staff attorney in Virginia Poverty Law Center's Center for Family Advocacy. Valerie focuses on family law and child welfare policy issues. Valerie has served on the Region Ten Community Services Board, the Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention Public Awareness Committee, the Charlottesville Social Services Advisory Board, and the Commonwealth Council on Aging. Currently, she serves on the Virginia State Bar Special Committee on Access to Legal Services, the Permanency Subcommittee of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee, and Virginia's Three Branch Institute for Implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act.

BRAD LINDSAY is the Deputy Public Defender for the Lynchburg City Office of the Public Defender. Brad received his undergraduate degree from George Mason University, and received his Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law. Brad first began working as a public defender with the Fairfax County office in 2012. In 2018, Brad transitioned to the Bedford County Office of the Public Defender where he was the Senior Trial Attorney with a specialization in training. Brad joined the Lynchburg office in January 2020. During his career, Brad has tried a wide variety of cases ranging from driving on a suspended license to a jury acquittal of not guilty by reason of insanity on first degree murder. He has also argued before the Virginia Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of Virginia.

Brad is currently a faculty member for the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission's Public Defender Boot Camp and Advanced Trial Advocacy College. Brad sits on the Virginia State Bar's Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee. He also sits on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center as a consulting member, as well as a member of the Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference Planning Committee. Brad has previously presented at the National Juvenile Defender Center's Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit, the Virginia State Bar Leroy R. Hassell Sr. Indigent Criminal Defense Seminar, the VIDC's Annual Public Defender Conference, as well as its Annual Investigator Conference.

JULIE E. McCONNELL is Director of the Children's Defense Clinic and a Professor of Law, Legal Practice at the University of Richmond School of Law. She has worked in juvenile justice for more than

25 years and is an advocate for client-centered, evidence-based holistic defense. She previously served as first a public defender and then a child sexual and physical abuse and domestic homicide prosecutor, in Richmond, VA. Through her clinic, she and her students represent on a pro bono basis, indigent youth, at trial, in school-based proceedings, and in post-conviction hearings through the serious offender process. In addition, McConnell served as co-counsel on the Azeem Majeed *Miller* re-sentencing case, in which Majeed's two life sentences were reduced to 25 years and collaborated on the Philip Friend *Miller* resentencing in U.S. District Court, resulting in a significant reduction in his sentence. She has served as a juvenile justice system expert in several Virginia cases, including a capital murder case in which the Defendant's charges were dismissed at trial and is a Juvenile Justice Expert for the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Valetta, Malta. She and her students also advocate for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status predicate orders for unaccompanied minors from Central America to assist in their path to citizenship. She recently started a project to provide pro bono representation before the parole board for individuals originally sentenced as juveniles to serve lengthy sentences in prison. Additionally, she serves as Co-chair of the Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention and the Chair of the Virginia Bar Association's Commission on the Needs of Children and the Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference Planning Committee. She also serves on the Board for the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center.

LISA WAY PIPER is a partner at Family Law Associates of Richmond, P.C. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Sociology from Florida State University in 2002 and obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond Law School in 2006. While studying at the University of Richmond, Lisa worked with the Spotsylvania Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the Chesterfield Commonwealth Attorney and the law firm, Gordon Dodson, Gordon & Rowlett. Upon graduation from Law school, she served as the civil law clerk for the Richmond Circuit Court before entering private practice. Lisa has a passion for not only helping families through her work in the Courts, but also in helping to support and educate other lawyers, particularly those who frequent the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts,. Sha has served as faculty on a number of CLE's focused on juvenile defense work and Guardian ad litem practice and volunteers with the annual Chesterfield County Rule of Law Conference. She and her husband live in Chesterfield County with their son and two hound dogs.

HONORABLE THOMAS P. SOTELO has been a Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court since 2008. Judge Sotelo served as the Chief Judge of the Court from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. Judge Sotelo is a member and currently serves on the Board of the Virginia Council of Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Judges. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Judicial Mentoring Program for new judges in Virginia and is a member of the Parent Education Advisory Committee. Judge Sotelo also serves on the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act Programs, Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth Advisory Council, the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program Advisory Board, and the County of Fairfax Firearm Surrender Workgroup. From July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2018, Judge Sotelo represented Region 6 on the Judicial Liaison Committee to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and served as Chair of the Committee from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. He was a member of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice's Standardized Dispositional Matrix Stakeholder Group. He also served on the Virginia State Bar's Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course Faculty. Judge Sotelo is a frequent speaker/panelist at continuing legal education, bar and judicial events.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Sotelo practiced law for approximately 18 years, concentrating in domestic relations, juvenile and criminal law. Judge Sotelo received a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics from George Mason University in 1987 and his Juris Doctor from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William and Mary in 1990. Judge Sotelo is married to Martha Leary Sotelo, Esquire and has two daughters (Sarah and Anna).

FALLON SPEAKER is a Feminist, Reproductive Justice Transformer, Social Justice Leader, and Movement Lawyer. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Law, Legal Practice, and is the Director of The Jeanette Lipman Family Law Clinic at The University of Richmond School of Law, where she teaches students in a holistic legal clinic dedicated to working with communities affected by child welfare and dependency proceedings in Richmond, Virginia. Prior to joining the law school faculty, Professor Speaker served as a Staff Attorney and Team Leader in the Family Defense Practice at The Bronx Defenders where she represented parents in child protective proceedings who were accused of abuse or neglect. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Cardozo School of Law and the Director of the Mainzer Family Defense Clinic, where she taught and supervised students in child protective hearings. During her time at The Bronx Defenders, Professor Speaker actively participated in policy, lobbying, community organizing, and movement lawyering. She played an integral role in coalition building and creating legislation to reform the child welfare system and state central registry. Professor Speaker received her undergraduate and Juris Doctorate degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

AMY WALTERS is a Clinic Supervisor and Attorney with the Legal Aid Justice Center. She joined LAJC in the summer of 2014 to supervise University of Virginia School of Law clinic students in the health law and child advocacy clinics. She and her clinic students represent children in Serious Offender Reviews throughout the Commonwealth. She previously worked at Maryland Disability Law Center, where she joined the staff as a Skadden Fellow after clerking for U.S. Magistrate Judge F. Bradford Stillman. She received her B.A. and law degrees at the University of Virginia, where she received the Claire Corcoran Award for Public Service.

AMY WOOLARD is staff attorney and policy coordinator for the Legal Aid Justice Center. In addition to representing children in education, foster care, and juvenile court matters, Amy has over a decade of experience in administrative and legislative advocacy, policy research and writing, and coalition-building around court and criminal justice, K-12 education, safety net, health, and poverty policy issues that affect children and families. Prior to her role at LAJC, she spent five years with Voices for Virginia's Children as the state's lead advocate on child welfare and foster care policy. Over the course of her time at LAJC and Voices, she has successfully led legislative campaigns to halt the suspension of driver's licenses for unpaid court debt, curb exclusionary school discipline, broaden access to the Children's Services Act, extend foster care supports and services to age 21, and improve school stability for youth in foster care, among other efforts. She frequently presents on social welfare and criminal justice policy topics, including briefings for U.S. Senate committees, conferences such as the ABA National Conference on Children & the Law, and guest lectures at the University of Virginia School of Law, University of Richmond Law School, Georgetown University, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work, and elsewhere. In 2015, she was appointed by then-Gov. McAuliffe to the Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention, and she is also a member of the Virginia Bar Association's Commission on the Needs of Children. Amy is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was awarded the Lewis F. Powell Fellowship in Legal Services. She also holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and an MS in Communications from the VCU Brandcenter (Adcenter). Outside of her work at LAJC, she writes on a broad array of social policy topics for publications such as Slate, The Guardian, Pacific Standard, and the Virginia Quarterly Review, and frequently volunteers for Remote Area Medical clinics held across the Commonwealth.