

2019 Model Court Summit Presenters' Biographies

Tuesday August 13, 2019		
Welcome	Leola McKenzie, Director (JFCPD)	<p>Leola L. McKenzie has been with the Office of the State Court Administrator since January 1995. Leola has worked in various analyst, supervisor, manager, and director roles related to the development, implementation, management, and evaluation of statewide court programs, policies, and services related to juvenile and family law. Leola earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Secondary Education from Nazareth College in Rochester, New York and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Portland State University. Past work experiences include five years of nonprofit management, one year as a counselor/advocate in a juvenile delinquency diversion program, and two years teaching at the secondary level. Leola is an adoptive parent of Clay (age 21) and Claire (age 18).</p>
What's Working in Oregon	Amy Durbin	<p>Amy Durbin is a permanency caseworker from Coos County. She has worked for Child Welfare as a caseworker for 18 years. She grew up in Oregon but went away to college where she graduated from the University of Dubuque (Dubuque, IA) with a BA. She majored in Sociology with an emphasis in Pre-law and a minor in History. After college, she attended law school and earned my Juris Doctorate from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific (Sacramento, CA). While in law school, Amy completed an internship with a free legal clinic as part of a domestic violence team and another internship at child advocacy center. She also had the honor of participating in an summer abroad program about human rights taught by Supreme Court Justice, Anthony Kennedy. While working for Child Welfare, she earned a Postgraduate training certificate from Portland State University in Child Welfare Practice with Adoptive and Foster Families. In 2012, she was part of a team that was honored by the DHS Director for our work preparing children for adoption.</p>
	Sue Hastings, PEMC Child Protective Services Supervisor DHS	<p>Sue Hastings has been with DHS Child Welfare for 11 years. She was appointed as CPS Supervisor in 2015 after working as a caseworker in permanency, CPS and screening. Prior to joining DHS she was a CASA program coordinator in Tillamook County for two years and the Executive Director of the Battered Women's Trust in Christchurch, New Zealand.</p>
	Hon. Megan Jacquot, Coos County Circuit Court	<p>The Hon. Megan Jacquot is the new juvenile court judge in Coos County. Prior to her election to the bench in 2016, she was in private practice for a decade specializing in retained and appointed juvenile trial work, appeals, and all areas of law involving children and teens. Before that, she worked for Southwestern Oregon Public Defender's Office for five years. Judge Jacquot has served on several statewide committees dedicated to juvenile law and is currently serving on the Oregon State Bar's juvenile law section executive committee and has just joined JELI's model forms committee. Previous government experiences include many years on the Oregon Commission for Women and the North Bend School District Board of Directors. Megan grew up in Klamath Falls and graduated from Pacific Lutheran University and Tulane University Law School. When not at work, she and her husband and five children enjoy fishing, camping and traveling.</p>
	Hon. Jenefer Grant, Columbia County Circuit Court	<p>The Honorable Jenefer Grant was born in Oregon and grew up mostly in Portland -- with a year spent in France -- finishing her BA at Portland State University. She earned her JD from George Washington University with visions of practicing international law, but after spending time in Spain wound up back in Portland using her law degree very part-time and starting the critically acclaimed</p>

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		<p>La Catalana Restaurant. In 1995, she relocated to Columbia County and opened a law practice in St. Helens, in her 1890 home two blocks from the Columbia County Courthouse. For twelve years, she had a heavy juvenile dependency and criminal caseload, and was on the Columbia County Legal Aid Board and the Commission for Children and Families, as well as founding the Columbia County Consortium, providing indigent defense. She was appointed to the bench in 2007. For several years, she has been active in JELI, and has served on the Forms Committee. Although she is glad not to be running a restaurant now, she annually donates a five-course paella dinner for ten people at her home to benefit the Judges' Charitable Foundation for needy Oregon Judicial Department employees.</p>
	<p>Hon. Jay McAlpin, Lane County Circuit Court</p>	<p>The Hon. Jay McAlpin was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2012. After graduating from law school, Judge McAlpin worked as a law clerk in Lane County Circuit Court, a prosecutor in the Lane County District Attorney's Office and as a civil defense attorney. As an attorney he tried numerous cases to juries in various counties throughout Oregon. Judge McAlpin has been assigned to the Juvenile Department since January 2017.</p>
<p>Family First Prevention Act (FFPSA)</p>	<p>Jamie Hinsz</p>	<p>Jamie Hinsz is a policy analyst at the Oregon Legislature and has education in public policy, specializing in human services, poverty, homelessness, and education policy. She spent 5 years between Chicago and D.C. working on federal policy development and social policy research and evaluation. She approaches social welfare policy through a comparative policy lens and has thus dabbled in several policy areas, including health, immigration, and criminal justice. Currently, she is facilitating the implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, which she contributed to drafting during her time in D.C.</p>
	<p>Alex Trotter</p>	<p>Alex Trotter is a Policy Analyst at the Department of Human Services and has worked in child welfare for over 22 years as a consultant, manager, trainer and caseworker in the program areas of permanency, adoption, foster care certification and most recently federal policy. Since August 2018, he has been the Project Coordinator for the Family First Prevention Services Act facilitating the Department's implementation efforts. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and lives with his family in Eugene, Oregon.</p>
	<p>Staci Barry</p>	<p>Staci Barry, is an Assistant Attorney in Charge (AAIC) in the Child Advocacy Section (ChAS) of the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). In her role as AAIC, Staci supervises attorneys providing advice and representation to the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare (DHS/ CW) in administrative actions involving foster homes and licensed Child-Caring Agencies. In addition, Staci provides advice to DHS/ CW on a variety of legal issues involving foster care. Staci serves on the Executive Committee of the Oregon State Bar, Juvenile Law Section. She has been an attorney at DOJ since 1998 and graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School.</p>
	<p>Liz Wakefield, Deputy General Counsel (OPDS)</p>	<p>Elizabeth Wakefield is Deputy General Counsel at the Office of Public Defense Services. Prior to being at OPDS, she was a Chief Attorney at Metropolitan Public Defenders in Portland. While at the public defenders, she supervised the Juvenile Unit, the Specialty / Treatment Courts Unit and the Misdemeanor Unit. She is the Chair of the OCDLA Education Committee and a member of the Juvenile Law Education Committee. She lives with two cats.</p>

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Removal and Shelter Hearings	Kristen Farnworth, Senior Juvenile Law Analyst (JFCPD)	Kristen Farnworth is a Senior Juvenile Law Analyst for Oregon Judicial Department Juvenile and Family Courts. She received her BA in Sociology from the University of Washington in 1996 and then attended the University of Oregon School of Law and graduated in 2000. While in law school, she was a CASA, a law clerk for the Department of Justice in the Family Law Section (now called Child Advocacy Section) and volunteered with Holt International Children’s Services. After graduation she clerked for Judge Maurer in Clackamas County until March of 2001, when she joined the Oregon Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General in the Child Advocacy Section. Over almost 14 years with DOJ, she was assigned to Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Lincoln, Marion, Linn, Lane and many other counties. She enjoyed traveling around the state and learning how different courts operate. She was assigned to child support and termination of parental rights cases until the sections split, at which time she worked exclusively on DHS matters. She was also fortunate to be assigned SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) cases which allowed her to learn about immigration law. In January of 2014, she joined the Benton County District Attorney’s Office and became a Senior Deputy District Attorney. She worked in Benton County for 5 years and was assigned to delinquency, dependency, and child abuse criminal cases. She is active in the Juvenile Law Section for the Oregon State Bar and is currently the Chair. She is excited to work for OJD and hopes to use her previous experience in juvenile law to assist the judiciary in a meaningful manner.
	Liz Wakefield, Deputy General Counsel (OPDS)	See previous session bio.
	Shannon Dennison	Shannon Dennison spent 10 years working as a public defender with Legal Aid Services of Oregon/Native American Program representing parents and children in juvenile dependency cases. Prior to that, she worked as a permanency worker with DHS for approximately two years. She is currently the Assistant Attorney in Charge for the Salem/Bend Child Advocacy Section offices in the Civil Enforcement Division of the Oregon Department of Justice. She advises and appears on behalf of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare.
Time to Adoption and Post TPR Process	Kristen Farnworth	See previous session bio.
FFPSA Limitations on Congregate Care	Hon. Nan Waller Multnomah County Circuit Court	The Hon. Nan Waller was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court in 2001 by Governor Kitzhaber. She served as the Chief Family Law Judge for 5 years and as Presiding Judge for 6 years. She currently is the Mental Health Court Judge and manages the Aid and Assist docket for the court. Judge Waller is a member of the Judicial Leadership Education Committee and the Oregon Supreme Court Council on Inclusion and Fairness. Judge Waller chairs a subcommittee of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities as well as the Mental Health and Public Safety subcommittee. She serves on the Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment Steering Committee and the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet and the Governor’s Child Welfare Oversight Board. Judge Waller also serves on the boards of The Children’s Institute and Lines for Life. Judge Waller has received many awards including the Mental Health Award for Excellence; the Crime Citizens Commission Distinguished Service Award, the Oregon State Bar Public Service Award, the

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		<p>Chief Justice's Juvenile Court Champion Award, the Oregon National Alliance on Mental Illness Gordon and Sharon Smith New Freedom Award, the Oregon State Bar's Wallace P. Carson Award for Judicial Excellence, and the Frohnmayer Award for Public Service from the University of Oregon. She was named National CASA Judge of the Year and the Classroom Law Project's Legal Citizen of the Year and was a Toll Fellow. Judge Waller received her BA from Stanford University and graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law.</p>
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