

The 25th Anniversary of JCIP's Through the Eyes of a Child Conference
Kids are Different: Centering Child & Youth Perspective in Juvenile Cases

Speaker Bios

Judge Bethany Flint

The Hon. Bethany Flint was appointed to the Deschutes County Circuit Court by Governor Kate Brown in February 2016 and was elected to her position in the general election that same year. Judge Flint has also served as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Bend from 2014-2016. She earned her law degree in 2003 from Whittier College School of Law, summa cum laude, with recognition as Outstanding Fellow in the school's Center for Children's Rights and obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Irvine, magna cum laude, in 1999. Prior to her work on the bench, Judge Flint practiced family law litigation and mediation for nearly 13 years. Judge Flint presided over Deschutes County's Family Drug Treatment Court throughout 2018, and in January 2019 transitioned to presiding over the Court's dependency docket. Additionally, she represents the Court on the Deschutes County Access to Justice Committee, the LFLAC, the SFLAC Parental Involvement Outreach Subcommittee, and is a founding board member of the Oregon Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Sara Fox

Sara Fox is the Treatment Services Program Manager for Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare. This team is responsible for contracting with, supporting and reviewing compliance for contracted service-based providers as well as family-based and/or residential Child Caring Agencies which provide placement, quality care and Behavioral Rehabilitation Services. The team also assists Child Welfare staff in system navigation to locate services for youth who have experienced complex trauma.

Sara's educational focus centers on social work with degrees in Psychology, Family Studies and Social Services. She has served in Child Welfare for nine years as a Treatment Analyst and ICWA Permanency worker prior to her current role. Before joining ODHS, she spent eight years in executive management with a non-profit BRS program and three years as a Therapeutic Foster Parent, primarily serving teen boys. She enjoys spending time with her two teens, 13 and 14 years old, however does not relish their abundant monologues on how to become monetized as a YouTuber.

Chelsea Holcomb

Chelsea Holcomb, LCSW (she/her) is the Child and Family Behavioral Health Director for the Oregon Health Authority. Active in the Mental Health field for over 20 years, Chelsea's professional career included community-based mental health, crisis response, and Evidence-Based Practice treatments. She holds a special passion for children experiencing both intellectual/developmental disabilities in addition to mental health challenges. The child and family behavioral health team's mission is to champion effective and efficient statewide behavioral health services, supports and safety for Oregon's children, young adults and their families, centering health equity and incorporating System of Care principles, developmental science and Trauma Informed Approaches .

Judge Amy Holmes Hehn

The Honorable Amy Holmes Hehn is a Multnomah County, Oregon, Circuit Court Judge handling domestic relations cases, domestic violence protection orders, probate and juvenile matters. A native Oregonian, Judge Holmes Hehn was appointed to the bench in January of 2013. Before her appointment she served for 25 years as a Deputy District Attorney in the Multnomah County DA's Office, including as Senior Deputy of the Juvenile and Domestic Violence Units. She has a long history of involvement in system improvement efforts, education and training in domestic violence, juvenile justice and child welfare on the local, state and national level.

Judge Megan Jacquot

The Honorable Megan Jacquot is a circuit court judge and the juvenile judge in Coos County. She is a member and this year's chair of the executive board of JELI, the judicial engagement and leadership institute of the Oregon Judicial Department. She also serves on the JLEC Committee, was recently appointed to the JCIP advisory committee and has been on OSB juvenile law committee's executive board for five years. Prior to taking the bench in 2016, she was a member of the Coos County Indigent Defense Consortium and the OPDS juvenile appellate panel since 2005, and an assistant public defender before that. Her practice focused on all aspects of juvenile law and adoptions, court-appointed and private, trial work and appeals. Judge Jacquot values JELI and the connections it has helped form with other judges doing the same, difficult work. She has been learning to walk again following a spinal cord injury. When not working, Megan spends time with her husband and five teenagers. She enjoys reading, fishing and travel.

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Judge Morgan Wren Long

The Honorable Morgan Wren Long has been a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge in the Family Law Department since 2019. Prior to that, she served as a Juvenile Hearings Referee/Judge Pro Tem in Multnomah County for approximately three years. Judge Long obtained her undergraduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University before receiving her J.D. from Lewis & Clark. Prior to taking the bench, she worked primarily providing indigent defense in juvenile and criminal matters, also occasionally assisting clients in related family law matters. Judge Long serves on the OWLS Queen's Bench Board of Directors and on the TriCounty System of Care Executive Committee. Judge Long received an Executive Certificate from the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy in 2019 and continues to work locally and statewide on improving delinquency and juvenile probation systems. She previously served on the OSB Editorial Board for updates to the Juvenile Bar Books for both dependency and delinquency; those publications won the ACLEA Outstanding Achievement in Publications Award in 2018. She is an active member of the Multnomah County Circuit Court Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee.

Judge Valeri Love

The Honorable Valeri Love was appointed to the Lane County Circuit Court in Eugene, Oregon in 2011. Born and raised in Hawaii, she graduated from Punahou School and moved to Oregon to attend Linfield College and later Willamette University Atkinson Graduate School of Management and College of Law. Before her appointment to the bench she practiced law in both the criminal and civil arenas. As a judge she has handled civil and criminal cases as well as served as the judge for the Lane County Adult Treatment Court, Veterans Court and Mental Health Court. Judge Love currently serves as the Chief Juvenile Judge where she hears dependency and delinquency matters as well as presides over Lane County's RAP-JTC (Recovery and Progress - Juvenile Treatment Court) Court program. Outside of the courtroom, she devotes her time to various groups and organizations including the Tribal Court/State Court Judicial Forum, Department of Justice Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, National CASA Judicial Leadership Council and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Juvenile Law Advisory and Military committees.

Judge Dawn McIntosh

Dawn McIntosh was elected to the Clatsop County Circuit Court bench in 2016. Prior to becoming a judge, she worked as an Oregon trial lawyer for nearly 25 years in Multnomah, Clatsop and Tillamook counties, practicing primarily criminal, family and juvenile law. Judge McIntosh earned a B.S. from Willamette University and a J.D. from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College. She is currently the Presiding Judge for Clatsop County and serves on several Oregon Judicial Department committees, including the State Family Law Advisory Committee and the Judicial Engagement and Leadership Institute. She chairs the Clatsop County Dependency Team and the Local Family Law Advisory and Mediation/Arbitration Committees. Judge McIntosh sits in a court of general jurisdiction handling all manner of civil, criminal, and family law matters.

Judge Darleen Ortega

The Honorable Darleen Ortega has served as a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals since 2003 and is the first woman of color and the only Latina to serve as an appellate judge in Oregon. Before becoming a judge, she practiced law for 14 years, focusing her practice on all types of civil litigation at the trial and appellate levels. In her time on the bench, she has distinguished herself as a court leader on issues of juvenile dependency and on engaging and addressing the structural inequities that plague the legal system.

Judge Ortega is a thought leader who writes and teaches frequently on topics related to equity, privilege, combatting structural and internalized racism and oppression, and learning to engage and value the perspectives of people at the margins. She teaches a ground-breaking Access to Justice course at all three Oregon law schools and serves as a resource to many organizations that are undertaking the work of addressing structural bias. She spends hours each week with law students and new lawyers, especially those from historically excluded communities, helping them to find their voices and to make sense of the legal world. She also is an avid film and theater critic; her reviews appear regularly in the Portland Observer.

Speaker Bios

Judge Lindsay Partridge

Judge Lindsay Partridge grew up in Lebanon and graduated with a BS in political science from Willamette University in 1986 (cum laude). Having no immediate job prospects, he migrated across Winter Street to Willamette College of Law and received his JD in 1989 (cum laude). After being admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1989, he briefly worked for the Oregon Judicial Department before entering private practice in Marion County. His practice focused on the areas of juvenile law and criminal defense. In January, 2012, Gov. Kitzhaber appointed him to the Marion County Circuit Court. Since July 1, 2013, he has served as the Presiding Juvenile Court judge in Marion County. Judge Partridge has served as a judge pro tem in Salem Municipal Court, as president of the Marion County Bar Association and Willamette Valley American Inns of Court, and the chair of the Oregon State Bar Criminal Law Executive Committee. Judge Partridge lives in Salem with his wife of 33 years and their three-legged dog Timmy. They have one daughter who is spoiled rotten and about to enter her Senior year at the University of Oregon

Judge Manuel Perez

The Honorable Manuel Perez is a Circuit Court Judge in Marion County, Oregon, assigned to the juvenile court and handling juvenile dependency and delinquency matters. Although born in Texas, he lived in Mexico for the first 7 years of his life before joining his parents in the migrant farmworker stream, making his home base in Oregon since 1965. Judge Perez was appointed to the bench in February 2020. Before his appointment he was an attorney with Oregon Legal Services for 15 years then did public defense work until November 2018, when he was hired as a Pro Tem judge in Marion County.

Judge Michele C. Rini

The Honorable Michelle Rini is a native Oregonian and received her Bachelor of Science from Portland State University and her J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School. As an attorney she handled a caseload of Criminal, Family, and Juvenile cases. From March 2006 until her appointment to the Washington County Circuit Court in October of 2021, Judge Rini was the Washington County Juvenile Hearings Referee. She is currently assigned to the juvenile court docket, with a mixed caseload of dependency and delinquency cases.

Liz Schwarz

Liz Schwarz (she/her), LCSW, has served as the Behavioral Health Services Coordinator for the Oregon Youth Authority since 2019. She graduated with her Master's in Clinical Social Work from the University of Maine. Prior to her work at OYA, she served as the Clinical Director for an organization providing a spectrum of services for youth, including outpatient and residential treatment services, runaway and homeless youth programming, and alternative schools. When not working, Liz loves camping and exploring with her partner and three pups, Teddy, Willow, and Hank.

Judge Eva Temple

Judge Eva Temple graduated U of Oregon in 1993 with a double major in Psychology and International Studies and graduated U of Oregon Law School in 1996. She worked primarily in private practice focusing on civil litigation, business and real estate transactions and estate planning until becoming a judge in January 2011. Gov. Kulongoski appointed her in January 2011, and she has been re-elected twice. She has been the civil and juvenile administrative judge in Umatilla County since Fall of 2018.

Mark Thordsen

Mark Thordsen is a Social Service Specialist 1 with the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare in Klamath Falls Oregon. Specifically, he is part of a four-person team who are responsible for youth in Klamath County who present with complex mental health, behavioral, and/or other needs. This includes youth who are in ODHS custody and families who are requesting ODHS voluntary services.

Mark has his Master of Art in Teaching from the University of Arkansas as well as undergraduate studies in Political Science. He has served ODHS for 6 years as a permanency worker in Klamath Falls and the Arkansas Department of Human Services in a similar position for 1 year. He enjoys backpacking, away from cell service, at least once per year and watching the SEC network during college football season.

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Judge Daina Vitolins

Daina A. Vitolins, B.A., The College of Idaho (1982); J.D., Willamette University College of Law (1985); member of the Oregon State Bar since 1985; Circuit Court Judge, 22nd Judicial District.

Judge J.D. Williams

J.D. Williams is an attorney and judge with over 25 years of experience specializing in American Indian law. He is currently a chief judge for an Oregon tribal court and sits on appellate panels for other tribes. As a tribal chief judge, he oversees both peacemaking (restorative justice) and healing to wellness (drug) courts. He has worked for law firms, as a solo and as an in-house tribal government attorney on a wide variety of matters in Indian country including business start-ups, environmental and water issues, housing and property law, charter schools, cultural protection, employment and administrative law matters. An experienced adjunct professor in Federal Indian law, he currently focuses his time on his judicial roles and representing tribes in energy and telecom matters.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mr. Williams worked in construction, as a social worker with mental health and substance use disorders, and was a Peace Corps agriculture volunteer in west Africa. He currently resides in Portland with his wife and son.