

2020 Model Court Summit - Biographies

<p style="text-align: center;">Active Efforts, Parent Engagement & Placement Considerations for a Tribal Perspective</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dionne Bronson ICWA Caseworker, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation</p>	<p>Dionne Bronson has served the Tribal community since her summer youth employment days with the Board of Trustees and Tribal Fire Department on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Oregon. She is a graduate of the University of Idaho, studying child development, family relations and consumer studies. She has served the children and families of the reservation as a Head Start Program Manager, Community Health Representative, Family Liaison, Coach and most recently an ICWA caseworker. She strives to be a part of the community that supports generational healing through awareness and cultural connection.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OICWA Panel – Celebrity Interview</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Valerie Colas Access to Justice Counsel, Office of the State Court Administrator</p>	<p>Valerie Colas is the Access to Justice Counsel at the Office of the State Court Administrator. She is a resource for staff and judges on issues relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and access to justice. In addition, she is the staff counsel for the Tribal Court State Court Forum as well as the Oregon Supreme Court Counsel on Inclusion and Fairness. Prior to joining OJD, she worked as an appellate public defender at the Office of Public Defense Services (OPDS). At OPDS, she represented parents in juvenile dependency and termination-of-parental rights cases before Oregon’s appellate courts. She served as a commissioner and then as the chair of the Governor’s Child Foster Care Advisory Commission. She also served on the Task Force Legal Representation in Childhood Dependency.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">QEW Testimony – providing and receiving QEW Testimony – Emergency and Permanency Hearings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shannon Dennison Assistant Attorney in Charge Child Advocacy, DOJ</p>	<p>Shannon Dennison is an Attorney in Charge for the Child Advocacy Section 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 Program. She also advises the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Program’s Tribal Affairs Unit in Central Office. Before joining the DOJ, she was a public defender for 10 years with Legal Aid Services of Oregon/Native American Program representing parents and children in juvenile dependency cases in Multnomah County. She previously served as a child welfare permanency caseworker in Multnomah County.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Active Efforts: Parent Engagement & Placement Considerations from a Tribal Perspective</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chris Espinosa Active Efforts Specialist, DHS</p>	<p>Chris Espinosa has been with Oregon DHS for 12 years in different capacities, most recently as an Active Efforts Specialist for the last 3 years. Previous to this he worked as Protective Service worker for Clackamas County DHS for several years. His passion is serving the community's most vulnerable populations and advocating for the families the agency serves.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">What does the data tell us about Oregon?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Aimee Fritsch Research Implementation Specialist, DHS</p>	<p>Aimee Fritsch is a Research Implementation Specialist for the Oregon Department of Human Services and focuses on disparities in Child Welfare for Native & Tribal children/families and RiSE, the DHS organizational culture. She earned a BA from the University of Oregon and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Outside of work, Aimee enjoys knitting, sewing, and riding her bicycle.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">OICWA Panel – Celebrity Interview</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hon. Annette Hillman Judge Jefferson and Crook Counties</p>	<p>Annette C. Hillman, Presiding Judge Jefferson and Crook Counties. Presides over dependency cases since 2011 as well as all other case types. Prior to joining the bench she represented the State on dependency cases through the District Attorney's Office, since 2004. Recently appointed as a member of the Tribal Court State Court Forum.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Connecting Foster Youth with Their Tribes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hon. Amy Holmes Hehn Circuit Court Judge, Multnomah County</p>	<p>The Honorable Amy Holmes Hehn is a Multnomah County, Oregon, Circuit Court Judge handling family law matters, including domestic violence, 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 domestic violence, juvenile justice and child welfare system improvement efforts on the local, state and national level.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Trauma and Healing Informed Principles – How Native Culture, Ceremony and Tradition are Key to the Wellness of Native Communities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jillene Joseph</p>	<p>Jillene is a member of the Gros Ventre or “Aaaniih” Tribe of Fort Belknap, Montana. She resides in Gresham, Oregon with her life partner and children. Nearly 20 years ago Jillene helped to co-found and currently serves as the executive director of the Native Wellness Institute (NWI), a national social profit organization existing because of the lasting impacts of historical trauma. NWI is a training and technical assistance providing organization and helps tribes, Native-serving organizations and Native communities move beyond trauma to a place of healing. Jillene is a life-long learner of her culture and knows that the culture holds the answers to the impacts of colonization. She worked for the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board for nearly ten years. Previous to that she provided substance abuse training to Native youth attending BIA boarding schools across the nation. She has also worked for her own tribe in both the housing and education departments. Jillene has nearly 35 years of knowledge and experience working for Native communities, organizations and tribes by providing training and technical assistance in a variety of areas related to the healing of individuals, communities and systems. Jillene has four children and a nephew that she raised, one grand daughter, enjoys traveling, reading, beading and celebrating life. Here personal and professional mantra is: “living the warrior’s spirit- being positive, productive and proactive.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome / Introductions Overview for the Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cheryle Kennedy Tribal Chair Woman for Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde</p>	<p>Cheryle Ann (Allen) Kennedy was born in the springtime on April 3rd prior to Termination. She comes from a family of weavers, beaders, carvers, gatherers, fishermen, and hunters. She is college educated and encourage all who want to further their education to vigorously pursue that endeavor. Cheryle believes in dreaming big, developing new ideas and bringing the future to us. Her dream for the Tribe is to have healthy, happy, and strong members. Currently, she is serving her fifth term on Tribal Council. She has been on the Tribal Council for a total of 12 years, 10 of which she has served as the Chairwoman. Her professional background includes (but is not limited to) appointed by the Oregon legislature and serves as the Chair of the Commission on Indian Services, appointed as a member of the Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Tribal Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor of Oregon to serve on the Federal Laws Committee of the Oregon Health Fund Board and she was appointed by the Oregon Health Policy Board to the Oregon Health</p>

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		Improvement Plan Committee.
OICWA Panel – Celebrity Interview	M. Brent Leonhard	M. Brent Leonhard is an Attorney in the Office of Legal Counsel for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He helped lead the CTUIR in being the first jurisdiction to implement the Adam Walsh Act (along with the State of Ohio), implement the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) felony sentencing in March 2011, house the first two criminals in the federal Bureau Of Prisons TLOA Pilot Program, implement VAWA 2013’s non-Indian criminal jurisdiction, and obtain full input and retrieval access to federal criminal databases under USDOJ’s Tribal Access Program. In 2011 he was appointed to Attorney General Eric Holder’s Federal/Tribal Domestic Violence Taskforce. In 2015 he was appointed to the United States Sentencing Commission’s Tribal Issues Advisory Group. He is the author of “Tribal Contracting: Understanding and Drafting Business Contracts with American Indian Tribes,” published by the American Bar Association in 2009, and several law review articles in various publications on public safety related issues in Indian country. In 2018 he pushed for the creation of the ICWA Compliance Group within Oregon’s Child Welfare Program and chaired the subcommittee tasked with drafting Oregon’s Indian Child Welfare Act, which became law in 2020.
Connecting Foster Youth with Their Tribes	Nicomi Levine Active Efforts Specialist, DHS	Nicomi Levine is currently a DHS AE Specialist. Nicomi is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR). She has worked for DHS for the past 6 years as an ICWA worker, and then this past year as the SDA 2 (Multnomah County) Active Efforts Specialist. Nicomi was previously employed as a child welfare worker for CTGR. She also worked with foster youth at NAYA. Nicomi has served as a foster parent and she has a BSW and MSW in social work.
	Hon. Morgan Long	Morgan Wren Long is a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge assigned to the Family Law Department. Prior to assuming this position last year, Judge Long was a Juvenile Hearings Referee in Multnomah County. Judge Long worked primarily representing parents and children in juvenile cases, as well as maintaining a family law and criminal defense caseload, as an attorney. She now sits on many committees aimed at improving the court systems. Judge Long is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.
Motivational Interviewing – Authentic Engagement; Empowering People in their Own Case	Brad Lundhal, PhD Professor, College of Social Work University of Utah	Brad Lundahl, PhD earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology and is an associate professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Utah. He is also Chief Content Expert of eSym, an online Motivational Interviewing training program. Dr. Lundahl is most interested in researching factors that motivate people to change individual behaviors. He has been trained in Motivational Interviewing by one this approach's cofounders, Dr. Bill Miller and published a manuscript with the other cofounder, Dr. Stephen Rollnick. At the University, Dr. Lundahl publishes on evidence-based practices and teaches in areas of clinical practice and research. He has worked to integrate Motivational Interviewing practice into multiple state and private agencies around the country. In addition to University work, Brad also owns a private practice, Compass Counseling and Consulting.

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<p>QEW Testimony – providing and receiving QEW Testimony – Emergency and Permanency Hearings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shary Mason Model Court & Training Analyst, JFCPD</p>	<p>Shary Mason has worked for the Oregon Judicial Department since 1993. She has over 25 years of experience in the Citizen Review Board (CRB) Program and is currently the Juvenile Court Improvement Program (JCIP) Model Court and Training Analyst. In her current position, Mrs. Mason provides training and education to Judges, Court and CRB staff, CRB volunteers, tribes, DHS, and community partners on policy and practice standards related to court implementation of relevant juvenile law. She serves as the liaison between JCIP and the CRB Program, provides technical assistance to support Model Court Teams, and analyzes child welfare policy affecting the courts and the CRB. She has served on many multi-disciplinary committees developing child welfare policy. Shary and her husband Don have 8 children and 11 grandchildren. They are former foster parents, adopted their 20 year old daughter and former niece through DHS and are legal guardians of their 17 year-old grandson, who has lived with them since birth. She has a B.S. in Psychology and Secondary Teaching Credentials in Social Sciences from the University of Oregon.</p>
<p>Welcome / Introductions Overview for the Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Leola McKenzie Director, JFCPD</p>	<p>Leola McKenzie, Director, JFCPD. Leola 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 Masters 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 23) and Claire (age 20).</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Michele Moore Human Services Director, Cow Creek</p>	<p>Michele Moore, Human Services Director Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Michele Moore is employed by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians in Oregon as the Human Services Director and ICWA Representative. She earned her Master’s Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy in 1996. Michele worked for a non-profit in Douglas County prior to employment with Department of Human Services Child Welfare Program in 1996 where she worked for over 20 years before employment with the Tribe in 2016 managing the Human Services Department programs.</p>
<p>Connecting Foster Youth with their Tribes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chantel Pewewardy Foster Care Support</p>	<p>Halito (Hello in Choctaw), Chantel Lee Pewewardy is a Foster Care Support Specialist. She represents the Choctaw, Kiowa and Comanche Tribes of Oklahoma. She currently</p>

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	Specialist, DHS	works at the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, Oregon for the Foster Care Support program. She has been a foster care support specialist, since 2016. The foster care support program is a DHS referred program that works with Native American youth ages 0-24 years old, in the Portland metropolis. She work to keep our youth connected to their Native American culture and build relationship to ensure hope in the youth. Many of the youth that she works with do not have any connections to their tribal families, so she strives to be that connection for them. She considers all the youth on her caseload as her nieces or nephews and herself as their auntie. That is how she was taught and pass onto her youth. She believes that you do not have to be related to be considered family. Fostering has been apart of our Native American culture for ages. Yakoke, Ura and Aho (<i>Thank you in all 3 of my tribal languages</i>).
Closing	Rep. Tawna Sanchez District 43 North and Northeast Portland	Tawna Sanchez earned a Master of Social Work from Portland State University and is currently the Family Services Director at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA Family Center). Sanchez was elected to the Oregon State Legislature in 2016 as the Representative for HD 43 in North and Northeast Portland; she is only the second Native American to ever serve in Oregon’s Legislature. As the Director of Family Services at NAYA Family Center, Sanchez has worked to both provide and improve services to Native women who have experienced domestic violence, developing programs to serve Native American Elders, children from 0-5 years old, and most importantly programs that serve the disproportionate numbers of Native American children in the child welfare system. Sanchez has taken this experience as a service provider to the Oregon Legislature, bringing real life experience and real social work values to the legislative process.
The Spirit of ICWA – A Historical Perspective and Practical Strategies to bring into the courtroom	Sheldon Spotted Elk Director, Casey Family Programs	Sheldon Spotted Elk (Northern Cheyenne) works as an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Director at Casey Family Programs, placed as an employee within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Justice Support, working with Tribal Courts. He has expertise and presents on Tribal law, child welfare and juvenile issues. He regularly works directly with tribes and states to increase capacity in child welfare systems including the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), specifically ICWA Courts. Sheldon is a judge on the Ute Indian Tribe Court of Appeals of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (Fort Duchesne, Utah), where he once practiced representing children and parents in dependency proceedings. Sheldon holds a Juris Doctorate from University of New Mexico School of Law and a Bachelors in Social Work from University of Utah. He published a legal article on tribal constitutional reform in 2012 and authored articles on the ICWA. He has two sons and enjoys playing basketball with them.
Trauma and Healing Informed	Monica Yellow-Owl	

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<p>Principles – How Native Culture, Ceremony and Tradition are Key to the Wellness of Native Communities</p>		<p>Monica Yellowowl is an enrolled member of the Pit River Tribe of Northern California and a descendant of the Klamath Tribes. Currently, she serves her community as the Behavioral Health Manager for Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services Youth & Family Guidance Center. Seeking, learning, and adapting cultural values, beliefs and practices into behavioral health is a strong passion of hers. Her vision for Youth & Family Guidance Center is to develop culturally respectful behavioral health efforts that compel a greater understanding of the historical and generational trauma impacts and the responsibility we hold to transcend it, create opportunities for healing, enhance resiliency among all ages, and promote use of tribal best practices across the continuum of services.</p>
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