

2016 Crime Victim Services Conference
"Chart Your Future"
February 22-24, 2016 - Omni Corpus Christi Hotel - Corpus Christi, Texas

SPEAKER BIOS

Gene McCleskey

Gene McCleskey is a native Texan who graduated from Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education. He also received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

A career U.S. Marine Corps officer, Mr. McCleskey served in a variety of infantry and staff operations positions. Many of his assignments involved operational planning of either actual combat or disaster relief operations. He is a graduate of numerous military schools and has worked with the U.S. Department of State in the area of diplomatic security. He is a combat veteran of Desert Storm.

In 1999, Mr. McCleskey began work with the Office of the Attorney General where he is presently the Division Chief for the Crime Victim Services Division. He has participated as an instructor in statewide and national conferences and training sessions to better assist victim advocates and law enforcement with the role that Crime Victims' Compensation and other victim services programs provide for assisting victims. He has served on the board and as president of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards.

David Maxwell

David Maxwell joined The Texas Department of Public Safety in November 1972. David spent eight years working as a Texas Highway Patrolman in Harris County, five years as a DPS Narcotics Investigator and twenty-five years as a Texas Ranger. In 2010 David left the Texas Rangers and accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Law Enforcement Division of the Office of the Attorney General. As of January 2015 David serves Director of Law Enforcement Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

Dr. Martha Ramos-Duffer

Dr. Martha Ramos-Duffer, is a dynamic and vibrant speaker that inspires and equips people to successfully access their inner strengths, wisdom and clarity to enact their goals and live their dreams. Dr. Ramos Duffer is a licensed clinical psychologist, motivational health and wellness speaker, trainer, coach and consultant based in Austin, Texas. She is the owner and founder of Quantum Possibilities, which provides a broad array of consulting, training, coaching and therapeutic services focused on personal and spiritual growth for individuals, healing and joyful relationships for couples and peak performance and healthy systems for organizations. After earning her doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from Baylor University, she has taught undergraduate and graduate psychology courses at several universities in Texas, served as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization focused on social and economic justice, provided psychological services through various agencies, hospitals and her own private practice, and spoken widely nationally and regionally. She has had the opportunity of working with varied local, regional and national organizations, developing programs and providing training to their Boards of Directors and Staff, helping them gain the skills and create the systems necessary to sustain a healthy workforce and carry out their missions more effectively. A frequent guest on Univision's

Despierta Austin and keynote speaker at conferences around the state and nation, Dr. Ramos Duffer has become a sought after speaker and trainer in the areas of motivation, empowerment, growth, communication, multicultural competence, health and wellness.

Chris Kaiser

Chris has served as staff attorney and legislative counsel to the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault since 2009. He manages the development of TAASA's legislative agenda, coordinates its statewide public policy advocacy, and has represented TAASA as amicus curiae in state courts and the Fifth Federal Circuit. He also trains widely on civil legal remedies for sexual assault survivors and assists in developing training curricula for advocates and attorneys working on behalf of sexual assault survivors. Chris also serves on the Public Policy Committee for the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

Aaron Setliff

Aaron Setliff serves as director of public policy at the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV). As the director, he oversees the agency's legislative activities; he coordinates the programmatic interface between family violence programs and their state funders; and he offers technical assistance to law enforcement, prosecutors, legal aid programs and many other partners in the fight to end family violence. Mr. Setliff worked for six years at the district attorney's office in El Paso, and served as chief of the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). In that capacity he successfully prosecuted numerous domestic violence cases, including domestic violence murders. For the past three Texas legislative sessions, Mr. Setliff has spearheaded TCFV's legislative session efforts, including helping to secure full family violence funding and passage of Texas' first felony strangulation statute among other significant legislative endeavors.

Kristen Huff

Kristen Huff is an assistant attorney general for the Crime Victim Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). She supervises administrative appeal processes for the Crime Victim's Compensation (CVC) Program, Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) and Sexual Assault Prevention & Crisis Services (SAPCS) certifications. She studied radio-television-film at The University of Texas-Austin, where she entertained sports fans as the mascot, "Hook Em" in 1994-95. Ms. Huff received her law degree from The University of Texas School of Law in 2001. As an emergency protection order attorney for the Texas Advocacy Project, Ms. Huff worked closely with victims, magistrates and law enforcement. She joined the OAG in 2005 as the CVC hearing officer, where she heard hundreds of appeals for compensation. In 2007, she began working at the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, terminating employees found to have committed acts of abuse, neglect or exploitation. She returned to the OAG in 2011 as the manager of the Appeals Section. She is a primary caregiver and disability rights advocate for her father and others with spinal cord injuries. She volunteers with the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, which includes attending the annual Roll on Capitol Hill event in Washington D.C., which she has done for the past two years.

Angie McCown

Angie McCown is director for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Victim Services Division, providing corrections-based victim services that include hotline, notification, statewide resource directory, victim impact statement updates, training, victim offender dialogue and victim family execution accompaniment. She was the founding director of Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Victim Services, where she developed a statewide program for victims served by state

police and Texas Rangers. While serving as DPS's crisis consortium co-chair, she provided crisis response to state-declared disasters such as the Jarrell tornado, Texas floods, Fort Worth Church Shooting, Texas A&M bonfire, 9/11, space shuttle disaster and line-of-duty deaths. Her 25-year career also includes working at the Austin Police Department's Victim Services, where she conducted more than 400 video-taped forensic interviews of child abuse victims and over 100 death notifications.

Kirsta Melton

Kirsta Leeburg Melton is the assistant attorney general responsible for the prosecution of human trafficking for the Texas Attorney General's Office. For the past fourteen years she has prosecuted in the Family Justice Unit of the Bexar County District Attorney's Office combating human trafficking, the physical and sexual abuse of children, sex crimes against adults, and family violence from felony assault to capital murder.

Melton graduated cum laude from Cornell University in 1993. She then went on to obtain her law degree and her Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Texas. In addition to prosecuting, Kirsta Melton is the former chairperson of the Alamo Area Coalition against Trafficking and one of the founding members of Chapter 61 Ministries which has become "Truckers against Trafficking" a nationwide campaign dedicated to educating and raising awareness of human trafficking in the trucking industry.

Manny Ruiz

Manny Ruiz is the San Antonio Regional Coordinator for the Crime Victim Services Division in the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Ruiz is a graduate of Texas State University with a major in Criminal Justice and minor in Sociology. He first began his employment with the State of Texas as an investigator for the Texas Workforce Commission. He has worked as an investigator for the Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services and continued his employment with the State when he began working for the Texas Attorney General-Child Support Division and Crime Victims Compensation. Thereafter, he joined the Open Records Division. He has worked in the victim services field since 1996.

Jeff Larosa

Jeff Larosa joined Appriss in 2015 as a Manager in Client Relations. His core responsibilities are the day to day support and coaching of the Client Relationship Managers who support the VINE programs across the country, with the overall object of providing high levels of service and consultative interactions to build Client partnerships.

He currently manages a group of Client Relationship Managers that cover half of the active VINE states, including Texas. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in Management and Marketing, as well as an MBA from Bellarmine University. Before coming to Appriss, Jeff spent his career with technology organizations that focused on Unified Communications, most recently being the leader of a nationwide account team for West IP Communications. He currently resides in Louisville, KY

Chris Gersbach

Chris has been employed by the Texas Attorney General's Office for 9 years, all of which have been in the role of managing the Texas SAVNS program. He has over 25 years of experience working in the Criminal Justice field, which includes 7 years as a Travis and Brazos County Adult Probation Officer, 3 years as a Residential Services Division Manager for Travis County Juvenile Probation and 7 years at the former Texas Youth Commission as an Institutional Placement

Coordinator, Program Administrator and Investigator/Inspector General. Chris is a graduate of Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Corrections.

Ernest Rivera

Ernest Rivera has served as Training Manager for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Texas Regional Office since March 2015. Prior to his work with NCMEC, Ernest spent thirty years as a law enforcement officer in the state of Texas. Ernest is a former investigator for the Office of the Attorney General's Cyber Crimes Unit, and was responsible for conducting Internet facilitated child exploitation investigations, which included online solicitation of minor cases and child pornography cases. Ernest also acted as Outreach Coordinator for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Mr. Rivera began law enforcement career with the Cameron County Sheriff's Office in Brownsville, Texas in 1985 and worked as an investigator with the Texas Lottery Commission (Document Forensics and Electronic Surveillance).

Julie Jespersion

Julie Jespersion has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwestern University and works with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division working in the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse as a Program Specialist II. Julie develops curriculum, provides training to criminal justice professionals and crime victim advocates and provides direct services to crime victims.

Rose Trevino

Rose Trevino serves as a Regional Victim Services Coordinator for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division providing direct services to crime victims in South Texas. Ms. Trevino has also served the state for the last 20 years, in several capacities within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Classification and Records, Training, Correctional Institutions, and Reentry Divisions.

Patty Wilford

Patty Wilford is the Program Administrator for Sexual Assault Training Programs (SATP) for Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) in the Crime Victim Services Division at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). She began working for the OAG in Executive Management in 2001 through 2010.

Her employment with the OAG started working for the Chief Deputy Attorney General for Legal Counsel (now called the General Counsel Division) assisting the Chief Deputy and overseeing the day-to-day operations of several administrative and legal policy divisions. In 2006 she was recruited to work for the Chief Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice in overseeing the day-to-day operations of several Criminal Justice Divisions such as; Criminal Prosecutions, Crime Victims Services, Medicaid Fraud, Cyber Crimes and Grants Administration.

Patty's knowledge and experience in the policy and criminal justice divisions led her to the Crime Victims Services Division in 2010 when she began working with Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) in various roles assisting all staff in their duties associated with SAPCS. She took over the Sexual Assault Training Program (SATP) as SATP Program Administrator in September 2013 and was instrumental in re-writing the OAG Sexual Assault Training Program Certification Guide, along with streamlining the application process to encourage Sexual Assault Programs (SAP's) to apply for certification status.

She has also served on the Rape Crisis Center Services Standards Committee, teaming up with OAG Primary Prevention Specialist Peggy Helton, to assist TAASA in writing the “State Service Standards” for rape crisis centers. She is passionate about serving the survivors of sexual assault and assisting the SAP’s in becoming certified and providing them with the resources they need to deliver the highest standards of training to their volunteers, employees and advocates in order to provide quality services to the survivors of sexual assault across Texas. Since she has taken over the SATP, SAP Certifications have increased by 150% in FY 2014 and maintaining a continued increase in applications to date.

Peggy Helton

Peggy Helton joined the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in 2006 as the Primary Prevention Program Administrator. Her responsibilities include planning, developing and implementing the sexual assault primary prevention program within the Crime Victim Services Division. Additionally, Ms. Helton provides technical assistance to local sexual assault programs and statewide organizations that receive Rape Prevention and Education funding and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funding through the OAG. She previously worked for more than a decade with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and in program and community development. Ms. Helton holds a B.S. in psychology from the University of Houston and a Masters of Public Administration with a concentration in legal and judicial administration from Texas State University.

Terry McGee

Terry McGee is the Fiscal Grants Manager for the Contracts and Asset Management Division at the Texas Attorney General’s Office. He has been working for the Grants Administration Division monitoring section since September 2008. He has an extensive background in grant and contract compliance, contract management, and accounting. He has worked with the Defense Finance and Accounting Office, Department of State Health Services, Department of Family and Protective Services, and the City of Austin. He is a Certified Texas Contract Manager.

Zulay Sanchez

Zulay A. Sanchez is a Certified Government Financial Manager and the Financial Management Supervisor at the Office of the Attorney General, Contracts and Asset Management Division, She holds a bachelor’s degree from St. Edward’s University in Finance and minor in Administration, graduating with honors. She is a graduate of the Governor’s Executive Development Program at the LBJ School of Public Affairs-UT Austin and completed her certification with the Department of Justice Grants Financial Management.

D’Ann Anders

D’An Anders is a legal advocate with the Texas Legal Services Center in Austin, Texas. She has a master’s degree in inter-disciplinary studies from The University of Texas-Tyler. Ms. Anders has worked in the field of sexual assault and domestic violence for more than 25 years, and her focus is always to provide the best services for the victims of crime.

Erin Martinson

Graduated from UT School of Law in May 1999 and began working for the Women’s Advocacy Project where she assisted victims of domestic violence in various capacities, including answering a legal hotline, advocating for victims requesting emergency protective orders and providing legal representation in criminal cases where victims were arrested for crimes related to their

victimization. For the past 10 years, Erin has worked for the Travis County Attorney's Office in the protective order division. In 2005, Erin became Chief of the division and, in addition to representing victims of family violence, sexual assault and stalking in protective order hearings, she travels across the state training prosecutors, advocates, law enforcement and Judges on protective order practice in Texas and participates on a number of collaborative efforts aimed at improving the community's response to domestic violence.

Mark Skurka

Mark Skurka is a 1978 graduate of W.B. Ray High School, received an A.A. Degree from Del Mar College, a B.A. Degree from Corpus Christi State University (now Texas A&M –Corpus Christi) and a J.D. Degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1986. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law and has been since 1993.

Mr. Skurka was elected as District Attorney for Nueces County in 2010. He was previously the First Assistant District Attorney for 11 years. He has been a prosecutor for approximately 29 years with the Nueces County District Attorney's Office. Mark has previously served as a Director for the Corpus Christi Bar Association, President of the Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association, and on the Board of Directors for the Texas District and County Attorney's Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend and the Leadership Core Committee for the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Rick Gipprich

Rick Gipprich, Jr. joined the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) as the Campus Sexual Assault Specialist in September of 2014. This is his second round at TAASA where he served as Communications Director from 2011 to 2014. Prior to working at TAASA, Rick served as Deputy Director of Education & Development and Director of Prevention Education for The Rape Crisis Center in San Antonio. Rick started his career in the anti-sexual violence movement sixteen years ago as a hospital advocate and hotline operator. Understanding the need and the importance of education, Rick eventually started working with neighborhoods, other non-profits, professionals, and schools by engaging them in dialogue surrounding the prevalence of sexual violence in our communities and identifying strategies we can use to prevent it. In addition to training on issues related to sexual assault and Title IX, Rick works daily to ensure that communities across Texas understand the impact of sexual violence and its effect on the people of our state. Rick is proud to call TAASA his home, and feels honored to have been given opportunities to have a voice in this movement.

Linda Brandmiller

Ms. Brandmiller is creating a new non-profit, family based immigration services program in San Antonio. ASI was founded to assist the low-income immigrant- with a special emphasis on victims of crime, domestic violence, human trafficking and abused/abandoned and neglected immigrant children. Ms. Brandmiller has been an immigration attorney for ten years, six years serving as the Director of Immigration Services for Catholic Charities San Antonio. She also teaches Business/ International Business Law and Health Law at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Ana Goebler

Ana Goebler is a Grant Manager for the Contracts and Asset Management Division of the Office of the Attorney General. She has worked for the Office of the Attorney General for over 12 years. Ana currently manager a caseload consisting of OVAG, VCLG, SAPCS-State, SAPCS-Federal, and Statewide grants, in addition to managing the OAG-Grants e-mail communications. Ana has

worked as a Grant Manager for the last 5 years and previously worked 7 years in the Crime Victim Services Division providing support and case management of victims of crime and their families.

Amy Britt

Amy Britt is currently a Grant Manager for the Contracts and Asset Management Division of the Office of the Attorney General. She has worked for the Office of the Attorney General for 5 years. Amy currently handles a caseload of OVAG, SAPCS-State, VCLG, and SAPCS Federal grants, in addition to managing the OAG-Grants email communications. Prior to working as a grant manager, Amy worked as a Child Support Officer in the Child Support Division where she worked to establish and enforce child support orders and assisted with locating parties for court. Amy is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sociology.

Cynthia Valadez-Mata

Cynthia Valadez-Mata Jr., has been employed by the Texas Attorney General's Office for the past 11 years. She is currently a Grant Manager for the Contracts and Asset Management Division managing a caseload consisting of OVAG, VCLG, SAPCS-State and Federal funding sources. Prior to this position, she served 9 years as a Case Manager and an Assistant Team Leader with the Crime Victim Services Division providing support and case management to victims of crime and their families, as well as assisting in the development and training of Section policies and procedures. She has previous experience working with the United States Federal Pre-Trial Services for the Western District of Texas and with the Texas Senate. Cynthia is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Michele Washington

Michele Washington began working at the Office of the Attorney General in November of 2011 as a Case Manager in the Crime Victims' Compensation Program. In May of 2015 she moved into her current role as the Training Specialist for the Awards section. As the Training Specialist, Michele trains new Case Managers and provides training to current staff on process and policy changes. Michele holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Columbia College

Ericka Jackson-Ramos

Erika Jackson Ramos is the Regional Equity Specialist for the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities under the Texas Health & Human Services Commission in Region 11, which covers the 19 south most counties in Texas. Prior to this position, she was with Family and Protective Services for 16 ½ years with several positions in Child Protective Services and Child Care Licensing. Ms. Jackson-Ramos facilitates trainings on racial and cultural awareness, builds community collaborations to combine resources to eliminate barriers to services for vulnerable citizens of Texas. Ms. Jackson Ramos holds a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from Texas A&M University, Kingsville.

Virginia Flores

Virginia Flores is from Fort Worth, Texas. She is employed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as an Equity Specialist. Work as an Equity Specialist is centered upon identifying and eliminating racial, ethnic, and cultural barriers that prevent individuals, children, and families from obtaining services necessary to lead healthy, independent, and productive lives. Prior to this position, Ms. Flores worked for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in the Child Protective Services division where she held positions in the various

departments ranging from investigations to adoptions and in both rural and urban settings. Ms. Flores is a licensed clinical social worker. She is a graduate from the School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington.

Chad Hollinbaugh

Chad Hollenbaugh is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a Masters Degree in Counseling from Ohio State University. Chad has spent 5 years working with adolescents and families, and has worked with Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County for the past 4 years. Chad currently works as the Clinical Director of Turning Point Project and BHCNC Veteran's program, providing free services to victims of crime. Services include individual counseling, support group and navigation through crime victim services and mental health treatment.

Stacey A. Mitchell

A member of Sigma Theta Tau, International, Dr. Mitchell holds a Doctorate in Forensic Nursing from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Her Master's Degree in Nursing has a focus in trauma and forensic nursing from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Dr. Mitchell's bachelor's degree is in Nursing from the Medical College of Virginia. Her nursing career spans over twenty-four years with experience in critical care, emergency nursing, forensic nursing, and risk management.

Dr. Mitchell began her forensic nursing career as the coordinator of the Forensic Nurse Examiners of St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. She has served as a Director at Large for two terms, Treasurer, President- Elect and President on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN).

Dr. Mitchell held the position of Deputy Chief Forensic Nurse Investigator at the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office in Houston, Texas, for six years. Currently, she is the Administrative Director of Forensic Nursing Services and Risk Management and Patient Safety for the Harris Health System.

Recently, Dr. Mitchell was honored as one of the Top 20 Outstanding Nurses by the Texas Nurses Association District 9.

Dr. Mitchell is also the President and CEO of S.A. Mitchell Consulting, Inc. She provides medical record and forensic consultation to private parties regarding forensic health care issues

Ricky Sanchez

Ricky Sanchez has worked for the Office of the Attorney General, Crime Victims' Compensation Program, since 2006 and currently serves as the Manager of the Payment Operations Department. During his time at the OAG, Ricky has held a variety of positions within the Payment Operations department including a Team Lead for the Medical Provider Support staff and reviewing and processing bills as a Medical Bill Processor. As Manager of the Payment Operations department, Ricky oversees a department and staff responsible for the timely and accurate processing of all Victim and provider payments, including all medical, non-medical and sexual assault reimbursements. Mr. Sanchez holds a B.A. degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.

Daniela Monkiewicz

Daniela Monkiewicz is an Equal Opportunity Specialist with the University of Houston's Office of Equal Opportunity Services ("EOS"). EOS coordinates and enforces the Title IX and federal and state equal opportunity regulations for the University of Houston. Specifically, EOS is responsible for managing the University's Title IX, affirmative action, antidiscrimination, and anti-harassment efforts, including providing administrative guidance, conducting formal investigations of complaints as well as providing prevention training for the entire University community. Ms. Monkiewicz obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is a 2011 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Law. Ms. Monkiewicz passed the Texas Bar Exam in November 2011 and has been engaged in the practice of employment law since May 2012. Ms. Monkiewicz is a dedicated Spartan and an avid runner, participating in Marathons and Half-Marathons in her spare time.

Erika Harrison

Erika Harrison is an Equal Opportunity Specialist at the University of Houston's Office of Equal Opportunity Services ("EOS"). Ms. Harrison obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Missouri. Ms. Harrison also is a 2011 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law. Ms. Harrison returned to her hometown of Houston after graduating and gained her Texas law license in 2011. Ms. Harrison remains active with her alma mater through the local alumni chapter and enjoys writing in her spare time. Prior to joining the University of Houston, Ms. Harrison worked for a private company specializing in employment law and human resources consulting. At the University of Houston, Ms. Harrison is engaged in the enforcement of Title IX as well as federal and state regulations regarding discrimination.

Dara Bowlin

Sergeant Dara Bowlin is a master level peace officer with over ten years of law enforcement experience. She works in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) where she is assigned to the Child Exploitation Unit. Prior to this assignment, she worked in the Human Trafficking Unit for three years and investigated human trafficking cases at both the state and federal levels, including those which primarily involved domestic minor sex trafficking. Sgt. Bowlin holds a Master of Science degree in criminal justice from Texas State University.

Melissa Foley

Melissa currently serves as the Manager for Grants Operations at the Texas Attorney General's Office. She has over 21 years of experience working in the Grants field with both criminal justice and victim services programs. Melissa's career has included over 4 years at the Office of the Governor with a direct focus on the Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act programs as well as juvenile justice and criminal justice grants. This began her passion for grants and specifically for working with victim services programs.

For over 17 years Melissa has had the opportunity to work with the Office of the Attorney General serving in various capacities as a manager concentrated in grants, including grant acquisitions, project management, policies and procedures, grants management, operations and logistics, governance development and various other areas. She enjoys working with grantees across the state to help them obtain and manage grants to aid in serving victims.

Melissa is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She also has her Legal Assistant Certification from the University of Texas. Melissa is a native Austinite who enjoys spending time with her husband their two teenage children.

Lyndsay Ysla

Lyndsay currently serves as the Planner for Grants Operations at the Texas Attorney General's Office. Lyndsay's career has included over 11 years with the Texas Attorney General's Office, starting in the Crime Victims' Services Division for 4 years. This began her passion for victim services, specifically for working with victims of crime and victim services programs. Lyndsay has been with the State of Texas for over 15 years. Her previous experience was working with the State Bar of Texas and the University of Texas at Austin.

Lyndsay is currently attending St. Edwards University pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice. She is a native Austinite who enjoys spending time with her husband and their two teenage children.

Robert Rodriguez

Robert Rodriguez has worked for the Office of Attorney General, Crime Victims' Compensation Program (CVC), for 21 years. Mr. Rodriguez began as an Awards Case Management then on to being an Eligibility Reviewer. For the past 14 years, Mr. Rodriguez has been the Manager of the CVC Eligibility section, working with staff facilitating the right of innocent victims' to receive compensation benefits. Throughout his long-standing work with CVC, Mr. Rodriguez has also participated in the CVC Outreach Program, providing training to advocates across Texas. Mr. Rodriguez is a University of Texas graduate with a degree in Spanish and a minor in Accounting. He also is a certified Paralegal.

Paul Mohler

Over his 16-year career as the training coordinator for the Juvenile Crime Intervention (JCI) Section of the Criminal Prosecutions Division at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Paul Mohler has presented to thousands of people across Texas, the U.S. and Europe. He is responsible for managing JCI training operations, including curriculum development, research and presentations on a variety of training topics. His previous OAG experience includes program coordinator for JCI and public information officer for the OAG's Crime Victims Services Division. Prior to joining the OAG, he oversaw training and outreach for a crime victims assistance organization. He has also created a crime prevention curriculum for middle school use and continues to research evolving Internet youth crime trends. Areas of specific interest include emerging drug trends, Internet-based street gang activity, gang awareness and identification, and hate/extremist groups.

Mr. Mohler has been recognized for his work in crime prevention and is the author of an award-winning youth crime prevention curriculum. He received the 2010 TGIA President's Award for distinguished service to the association.

Mr. Mohler has a B.A. in communications and certifications in mass trauma and victim services delivery. He also holds a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Instructor Certification.

Barbie Brashear

Barbie Brashear is the executive director for the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, a nonprofit organization that works to coordinate a community response to domestic violence in Harris County, Texas. She attended Indiana University where she earned a bachelor's degree in social work and is a licensed social worker in the state of Texas. She has worked in the domestic and sexual violence field for 21 years and has provided leadership to sexual assault

programs, domestic violence programs and long-term housing programs for more than 19 years. Ms. Brashear is a certified trainer for the Houston Touchpoints team and currently serves on the boards for the Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children, Greater Houston Association for Infant Mental Health and the Community Collaborations Council.

Amy Smith

Amy Smith graduated from Southwestern University in May of 1987. She began her career working with Sexual Assault Victims at the City of Houston Health Department. In 1988 she joined the Harris County District Attorney's Office as a Victim Witness Coordinator and handled a caseload of all felony and misdemeanor family violence cases, as well as, all misdemeanor cases of crimes against a person. In May of 1997, Amy was promoted to the position of Director of the Victim Witness Division. During that time she served on several local and statewide committees including committees for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, Texas Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Advisory Council and the State Bar of Texas' Crime Victim Committee. She has done trainings and presentation at the local, State and National level on all issues related to crime victimization. In 2008 she became the Director of Public Relations for Crime Stoppers of Houston, interacting with the media, the local community and law enforcement to enhance the mission of Crime Stoppers. Amy is now the Deputy Director of the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, a non-profit organization that works to coordinate a community response to domestic violence in Harris County, Texas.

Dan Eddy

Dan Eddy is the executive director of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, a position he has held since 1988. He implements national training and technical assistance activities for all state victim compensation programs, operates an information and resource center on compensation issues, and represents program interests with the federal government. From 1984-1988, he served as Crime Victims Project director for the National Association of Attorneys General. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Maryland School of Law. He received the Donald E. Santarelli award for contributions in public policy from the National Organization for Victim Assistance in 2001, and the Ronald Reagan Public Policy Award from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime in 2008.

John Ramsey

John Ramsey graduated from The University of Texas School of Law in 2005 and spent five years as a civil litigator. In 2010, he moved to Nairobi, Kenya to work as a legal fellow with International Justice Mission where he assisted Kenyan attorneys in their advocacy for child victims of sexual assault. Mr. Ramsey is now an assistant attorney general in the Crime Victims Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General.

Christine Kruhalski

Christine Kruhalski, MCJ is an Information Specialist for the Office of the Attorney General. She serves as the Regional Coordinator in West Texas for the Crime Victim Services Division-CVC Program. She provides bilingual services for victims of violent crimes in an area that includes but is not limited to El Paso, Midland, San Angelo, Alpine, Odessa, Sierra Blanca, Presidio and Ozona, Texas. She is available to provide training and outreach services for crime victim advocates, educators, civilians, and law enforcement personnel. The training covers the programs and services available from the Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Kruhalski is a former radio and television broadcast journalist with twenty five years of experience in that field. She served as a

civilian communications consultant, technical writer and editor for the United States Military D.O.I.M. at Fort Bliss, Texas. Shortly before coming onboard with the Office of the Attorney General she also worked as a political media consultant. Ms. Kruhalski is a graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She earned her Master of Criminal Justice at Boston University and is presently working on her Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration with her specialization in Homeland Security Leadership and Policy at Northcentral University where she was awarded a scholarship to continue her studies.

Clarissa Mora

Clarissa Mora started at the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend in 2009 through an internship program with TAMUCC. Clarissa graduated from TAMUCC in 2010 with a Bachelors degree in Psychology. In August 2010 Clarissa was hired by the CAC full time as a Family Advocate. In September 2015 Clarissa was promoted to Program Director. Clarissa has attended many CAC Texas trainings for Family Advocacy. Clarissa is currently working on her Master's degree in Public Administration; and is expected to complete the program by December 2016.

Penny Green

Penny Green, Forensic Interviewer with Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend. Ms. Green has been employed by CACCB since 2014 and is responsible for conducting forensic interviews. She graduated from Columbus State University, Columbus, Ga with A Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She has thirteen years of previous experience with Child Protective Services in the State of Georgia where she supervised and investigated cases of child abuse and neglect.

Brittany Hightower

Brittany Hightower is currently a Staff Attorney for Texas Advocacy Project and has been with the Project since February 2014. She provides legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in family-law related matters such as protective orders, divorces, and child custody issues. Prior to her current position, she practiced immigration law at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP in Washington, D.C. Throughout law school, Brittany worked with victims of abuse as a law clerk for several nonprofit organizations, including Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Casa de Maryland, and CAIR Coalition. Brittany earned her J.D. from Georgetown University, where she was awarded the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award and the D.C. Hispanic Bar Association Public Interest Fellowship. She earned her B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Texas State where she was a member of the *Sigma Tau Delta* Honor Society.

Mark Yarbrough

Mark Yarbrough was elected to five terms as the Lamb County & District Attorney. He served for 20 years, prosecuting everything from death penalty cases to DWIs. During his tenure, in 2002, he was awarded the M.A.D.D. regional prosecutor of the year. He served on the board of directors for the Texas District & County Attorney's Association, and is a member of the National District Attorney's Association. He also is one of the founding fellows of the Texas Prosecutor's Society. Mark graduated from Abilene Christian University in 1984. Following that, he worked as a loan officer for Dallas Federal Savings. In 1987, Mark went back to law school at Texas Tech School of Law where he graduated in 1989. At the end of 2012, Mark retired as District Attorney and travels the country giving motivational speeches regarding Burnout. He has also written and been published on the subject of Burnout. Mark's interests include – golf, basketball, karaoke, and tropical vacations.