



NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE

Celebrating 20 years of victims' rights enforcement



Alicia Aiken Principal, Danu Center for Strategic Advocacy & Director, Confidentiality Institute

Alicia Aiken has dedicated 25 years to working within the public and non-profit sectors to further social justice for people living in poverty and surviving violence. Alicia brings a deep understanding of the legal and social services non-profit sector, having spent 15 years as a trial attorney and then a member of the Executive Committee at Legal Aid Chicago.

Alicia is a Principal at the Danu Center for Strategic Advocacy, and the Director of the Danu Center's Confidentiality Institute, a national policy and technical assistance project that supports helping professionals to protect privacy for crime victims. In 2016, Alicia became the Faculty Fellow for Practising Law Institute's Interactive Learning Center where she designs innovative programs that teach lawyers to work well with individual clients. Alicia regularly strategizes with direct service non-profits, local coalitions, government entities, law firms, and professional organizations on a wide range of issues, including service delivery models, organizational structure, internal procedures, legal compliance, litigation strategy, policy advocacy, professional development, and distance learning design.

Alicia attended the University of Michigan, where she received a Law degree ('95) and a Bachelor of Arts in English/History ('92). In 2006-2007, Alicia was awarded the Chicago Foundation for Women Founder's Award, enabling her to study organizational change at Northwestern University, and to undertake a national study of model domestic violence courts. Most recently, she received the American Bar Association's 2018 Sharon L. Corbitt Award for Exemplary Legal Service to Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking.

To get in touch with Alicia Aiken and Danu Center's Confidentiality Institute, contact us via www.confidentialityinstitute.org or www.danucenter.org

Jamie Beck President & Managing Attorney, Free to Thrive

Jamie Beck is the President & Managing Attorney of Free to Thrive. She founded Free to Thrive after providing pro bono legal services to human trafficking survivors and discovering that there was not a dedicated legal services provider for trafficking survivors in San Diego. She was so moved by this experience and the need for more attorneys to help trafficking survivors that she left private practice to launch Free to Thrive.

Prior to starting Free to Thrive, Jamie practiced civil litigation at Procopio, Cory, Hargeaves & Savitch LLP. Before joining Procopio, Jamie served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Michael M. Anello, Federal District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

Jamie is a past president of Lawyers Club of San Diego and founded the Lawyers Club Human Trafficking Collaborative. Jamie is also a member of the Dean's Advisory Board of the University of San Diego Kroc School of Peace Studies. Jamie graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law where she was a member of the San Diego Law Review.

Amy Durrence Director of Law and Policy, FreeFrom

Amy earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where she began advocating for the rights of survivors of domestic violence as a student attorney in the Domestic Violence Clinic. After graduating from law school, Amy continued her advocacy as a lobbyist for the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Georgia Women for a Change. After clerking for Fulton County Superior Court Chief Judge Gail S. Tusan in Atlanta, Amy joined the prestigious boutique law firm of Fellows LaBriola LLP where she litigated complex business, commercial, shareholder and insurance disputes. In addition to her litigation practice, Amy continued her advocacy as a Georgia Women's Policy Institute Fellow, the Policy Chair for the Junior Leagues of Georgia and the founder of the Southern Center for Human Rights' Ambassador Program. Amy joined FreeFrom as the Director of Law & Policy in 2019 after relocating from Atlanta to Los Angeles.

Sarah Ford Legal Director, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

Sarah Ford has served as Legal Director at the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network since 2017 where she leads a team of attorneys and advocates to provide direct legal services to South Carolina crime victims. A life-long South Carolinian, Sarah attended Columbia College where she was Class President, graduating in 2004, with a B.A. in History and Political Science. Following graduation, Sarah taught with Teach for America in Charlotte, North Carolina before beginning law school. Sarah graduated from Charleston School of Law in December 2007, where she was a member of Moot Court Board and President of Women in Law. She is a former prosecutor with a focus on crimes against women and children. Sarah routinely lectures on victims' rights issues across South Carolina and beyond. Recently selected as a 20 Under 40 recipient by *The State* Newspaper, Sarah is also involved in a number of community projects and organizations, including serving as Past President of Junior Service League of Orangeburg and Catch the Vision International, where she serves on the Haiti mission team.

Elinor Jordan Senior Program Manager, Survivor Law Clinic at Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Elinor Jordan is the Senior Program Manager for the Survivor Law Clinic at MCEDSV, which seeks to transform survivors' experience of the criminal justice process through representation. Before becoming a lawyer, Elly worked in El Salvador and Washington, DC on various human rights issues. Elly later taught and litigated cases on behalf of immigrant children who experienced multiple forms of victimization as a Supervising Attorney with Michigan State University's Immigration Law Clinic. While in law school, Elly was the editor-in-chief of the Michigan State Law Review. Upon graduation, she served as a clerk for the Honorable David W. McKeague of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and later as an associate specializing in appellate litigation with firm Warner Norcross & Judd. Elly has published in multiple law reviews and journals on topics related to access-to-justice, immigration, and technology-facilitated abuse.

Cindy Kanusher, Esq. Executive Director, Pace Women's Justice Center

Cindy Kanusher, Executive Director of the Pace Women's Justice Center (PWJC), has focused her career on domestic violence and legal services for the underrepresented. Twenty two years ago, she joined PWJC, a legal services provider for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse, serving Westchester and Putnam Counties.

During her tenure, PWJC has grown into a highly respected, multi-faceted legal services and training center serving over 3500 victims and survivors of interpersonal violence annually. After becoming Executive Director in 2015, she identified a need for a flexible legal service model for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. In response, she developed a walk-in clinic concept to provide free, bilingual legal services in a safe and accessible location; the new clinic and office space was inaugurated in June 2018. Since its opening, the clinic has been serving 70-80 victims of abuse monthly, increasing services by 20%.

Prior to becoming Executive Director, Cindy was responsible for oversight of PWJC's Legal Helpline, Moderate Means Panel of lawyers, and Elder Justice Unit. Through PWJC's rural sexual assault and domestic violence training programs, she has trained lawyers, judges, advocates, and law enforcement agents.

Before PWJC, she worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the N.Y. County District Attorney's office for 10 years, focusing on the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence cases. She is a graduate of Brandeis University and received her Law Degree from Brooklyn Law School.

Cindy has strong relationships with partner agencies and community members at large, serving on various boards and councils. She was appointed to serve on Westchester County's Women's Advisory Board in 2018, is on the Board of the Westchester Women's Agenda, and serves on the Westchester County Domestic Violence Council, Westchester County Anti-trafficking Task Force, and Westchester County Families Task Force.

Liz Keith Program Director, Pro Bono Net

Liz has played a key role in Pro Bono Net's program strategy for more than a decade. She joined Pro Bono Net as a LawHelp Circuit Rider, working with legal aid programs in 25 states to build online resources to increase access to legal help for low income communities. As Program

Director, Liz now manages strategic initiatives and programs at Pro Bono Net that equip individuals and communities with new tools to tackle civil justice problems. Previously, Liz managed outreach and education efforts at the Maine Women's Policy Center on legislation impacting women's health, civil rights, economic security and freedom from violence, and worked to increase the number of women running for office. She holds a master's degree in community informatics from the University of Michigan, and has served as a consultant to digital inclusion initiatives in Haiti and Chile. In 2015, she was selected to participate in the inaugural Legal Empowerment Leadership program at Central European University's School of Public Policy. Liz hails from South Jersey originally and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mirenda Meghelli Partnerships Manager, Pro Bono Net

Mirenda Meghelli serves as a Partnerships Manager for Pro Bono Net, a national nonprofit that works to increase access to justice and strengthen collaboration in the civil justice sector through technology. She previously worked as the Hotline Program Coordinator for Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) in New York City, where she managed the organization's bilingual telephone and email family law information hotlines. Before LIFT, Mirenda worked as a staff attorney at the Bronx Defenders within the organization's Family Defense Practice. She received her B.A. in History from University of Pennsylvania and earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. Mirenda lives in the Washington, DC area and enjoys yoga, her instant pot, and travel.

Marissa Mowery Equal Justice Works Fellow, Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Originally hailing from Erie, Pennsylvania, Marissa Mowery is an Equal Justice Works Fellow with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ), where she is finishing a project representing immigrant survivors of human trafficking. In 2015, she graduated magna cum laude from Widener University Commonwealth Law School. Marissa has represented immigrant survivors of crime in affirmative visa applications, deportation defense, and crime victims' rights matters both as an attorney and a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative since 2013.

Rose Mukhar Executive Director & Principal Attorney, Justice At Last

Rose Mukhar is a social justice attorney and in 2015 she founded Justice At Last, a nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services and representation to survivors of human trafficking so that they can seek justice on their own terms. Rose earned an LL.M. degree in International Legal Studies, and her J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law, an M.A. in International Relations from the United States International University, and a B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College. In January 2019 Rose was awarded the Modern Day Abolitionist Award by the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and in June 2018 she was awarded the National Crime Victim Law Institute Legal Advocacy Award for her crime victims' rights representation of trafficked persons.

Matthew Ornstein Director of Litigation and Enforcement, Network for Victim Recovery of DC

Matthew Ornstein is the Director of Litigation and Enforcement of NVRDC's legal program. As Director, Matt oversees the day-to-day operations, cases, and legal matters undertaken by NVRDC's legal staff and directs the overall litigation strategy of NVRDC's enforcement efforts.

Matt has worked as a crime victims' rights attorney since 2010 and has represented survivors in both trial and appellate matters on a variety of issues affecting crime victims' rights. Matt has served as appointed counsel to minor-survivors of crime as well as represented adults under the Crime Victims' Rights Act, state-constitutional and statutory laws, and has directly assisted survivors of crime in reporting to police and prosecutors. Through NVRDC, Matt has provided local CLE and pro bono training to attorneys interested in crime victims rights and has presented at national conferences such as the National Crime Victims' Law Institute's annual Crime Victim Law Conference and the international summit provided by the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma. Before coming to NVRDC, Matt was a staff attorney at the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center where he represented crime victims in Federal and Maryland-state criminal proceedings and appellate matters. Matt graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2008 and afterwards served as law clerk to the Honorable Paul Hackner and the Honorable Nancy Davis-Loomis in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Matt is licensed to practice in the District of Columbia (active) and in Maryland (active).

Jane Ribadeneyra Program Analyst for Technology, Legal Services Corporation

Jane Ribadeneyra joined the Legal Services Corporation in 2009 as a program analyst for the Technology Initiative Grant program. She oversees grant projects to develop and replicate technologies that improve client access to high-quality legal information and pro se assistance throughout the United States and its territories. She co-chairs the Self-Represented Litigation Network's Forms and Technology working group and is a frequent presenter at national conferences on the use of technology in access to justice. She has over 25 years of experience in nonprofit management and previously served as director of member services for the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. Her areas of expertise include legal aid technology, intake and triage systems, marketing and communications, online community development, website and social media strategy, and project management. She received a B.A. in public policy from Duke University.

Alonzo Robertson Statewide Coordinator, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Mr. Robertson is the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.'s Statewide Coordinator for services to family members of homicide victims. He chairs the Baltimore City Victim Services Committee and lectures on Victim Rights Issues throughout the State of Maryland. Mr. serves on several advisory boards including the Maryland Governor's Advisory Board on Victim Services where he serves as the co-chair of the strategic initiatives committee.

The former chief legal counsel for the Intelligence Committee of the House of Representatives and senior counsel for several US Intelligence Agencies he has advised government leaders during several National crisis including war crime prosecutions and the Congressional Inquiry into the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001.

In 2010, he was voted the Intelligence Community's Joint Duty Attorney of the Year.

In his spare time, Mr. Robertson is managing partner of the Robertson Law Group, LLC, a boutique law firm catering to nonprofit organizations and clients with privacy and national security concerns.

Mr. Robertson is a graduate of Morehouse College and the Howard University School of Law. He and his wife live in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Tamara Shehadeh-Cope Managing Immigration Attorney, Community Justice Project

Tamara Shehadeh-Cope is the Managing Immigration Attorney at the Community Justice Project (CJP), a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of low-income people in Pennsylvania. She provides legal assistance and representation to immigrant survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and similar crime in their petitions for VAWA, U Visa and T Visa relief. She is based in CJP's Harrisburg office and primarily serves immigrant clients and communities throughout Pennsylvania's northeastern counties. Tamara also engages in community outreach and trains advocates at local shelters and organizations on recent developments in immigration law and policy. She has native proficiency in Spanish and is conversational in Arabic.

Tamara received her J.D. from City University of New York School of Law and is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Before joining CJP, Tamara worked as a Staff Attorney with the detained programs at the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC), where she provided legal education courses and representation to detained immigrants in removal proceedings.

Elizabeth Well Legal Director, Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

Elizabeth Well is the Legal Director at Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center.

Elizabeth graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in political science and attended Ohio Northern University for law school, where she graduated with a juris doctorate with distinction.

In her time with Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center, Elizabeth has provided assistance to hundreds of crime victims, litigating their rights in trial and appellate courts, provided training to thousands of criminal justice system officials on victims' rights in Ohio, and participated in the Marsy's Law constitutional amendment campaign, including a leading role in drafting the amendment's implementing legislation.

Elizabeth is also an adjunct instructor at Columbus State Community College in the paralegal studies department.