

WORDS TO DEEDS

CHANGING THE
PARADIGM FOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND MENTAL HEALTH



A PROJECT OF THE FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

James Bianco

Judge James Bianco is a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge assigned to Mental Health Court. Judge Bianco served as the Site Judge of the Mental Health Court, from 2013-2018, during which time the court saw a dramatic rise in the number of competency cases. Since 2014, Judge Bianco has been a member of Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey's Mental Health Advisory Board, including serving as the Chair of the Community Based Restoration Working Group beginning in 2015. Under Judge Bianco's guidance, the Working Group established a community treatment program for defendants with mental illnesses who had been found incompetent to stand trial in misdemeanor cases. He is Chair of the Mental Health Committee of the California Judges Association and is a member of the Judicial Council of California's Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee, where he serves as the Vice Chair of the Mental Health Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Criminal Law Advisory Committee and of the California Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Ethics. He frequently teaches mental health-related courses to judges, both locally and around California, and teaches judicial ethics. Judge Bianco has taught criminal procedure at USC Gould School of Law, and a criminal externship seminar at UCLA School of Law. Judge Bianco first took the bench as a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner in 2005 and was elected judge in 2008. He graduated from USC School of Law in 1987, after receiving his undergraduate degree from Stony Brook University in 1984. Prior to taking the bench, he spent seventeen years in practice, working as a criminal defense attorney, a criminal prosecutor, and a civil litigator.

Bill Brown

Bill Brown was elected as Sheriff and Coroner for Santa Barbara County in 2006. Previously, he served as Chief of

Police for the City of Lompoc, and Chief of Police for the City of Moscow, Idaho. He was a Police Officer, Supervisor and Manager for the City of Inglewood Police Department, and a Police Officer for the city of Pacifica. Prior to his law enforcement career, Sheriff Brown served as a paramedic and emergency medical technician in the Los Angeles area. Sheriff Brown holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Delinquency Control Institute. He serves on the State of California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and is Secretary of the California State Sheriffs' Association.

Kenneth Carabello, MSW

Currently serving his third term as president of the Forensic Mental Health Association, Ken has worked in the field of forensic mental health since 1992. His experience includes developing the initial pilot program of the jail-based competency restoration program for felons for CA, and currently operating 181 jail-based competency beds in three counties. He also served as the first Community Program Director of the CA Sexually Violent Predator Conditional Release Program, and he continues to provide oversight to that program. His latest endeavor is developing programming with the CA Department of Developmental Services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system who also have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ken began his career at Gateways Hospital in Los Angeles where he was a primary therapist, an assistant director, and eventually directed a 67 bed Federal Community Corrections Center for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He is a Vice President for Liberty Healthcare Corporation where he oversees inpatient and outpatient forensic and correctional programming around the country. Ken received his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California.

Stephanie Clendenin

Ms. Clendenin has served as Acting Director for the California Department of State Hospitals since September 2018. The California Department of State Hospitals is the largest forensic inpatient mental health hospital system in the nation, serving over 11,000 patients annually across five state hospitals, jail based competency treatments programs, community-based restoration programs, and conditional release programs. Previously, Ms. Clendenin was appointed as Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) by Governor Brown in December 2014. As Chief Deputy Director, she oversaw the operation of the five state hospitals responsible for providing inpatient mental health treatment for over 6000 patients daily as well as the department's operating divisions including administration, information technology, legal, forensic services, law enforcement, and clinical operations. Previously, Ms. Clendenin, was appointed by Governor Brown in June 2011 to serve as the Chief Deputy Director for the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). In this position, she managed OSHPD's operating divisions responsible for the building and financing of California's healthcare facility infrastructure, the collection and analyses of statewide healthcare data, and the development and expansion of healthcare professionals to serve and improve the delivery of healthcare in California's medically underserved communities. Ms. Clendenin has over 28 years of experience with the State of California. Ms. Clendenin's previous government experience includes positions with Cal-Fire, Department of Finance, the former Department of Health Services, and the Department of General Services.

John Connolly

John M. Connolly is deputy secretary for behavioral health at the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS). CHHS comprises 12 departments and 5 offices that deliver vital public programs and benefits, including nutrition assistance, child care, health care coverage, developmental services, housing support, employment support, child support services, and the protection and promotion of all Californians' health and wellbeing. Dr. Connolly develops and coordinates behavioral health programming and services across CHHS. He previously served as the director of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, deputy director of Insure the Uninsured Project, and a senior policy analyst for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Dr. Connolly began his career as a public middle school teacher. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Chicago,

an M.S.Ed. in general childhood education from Bank Street College, and a Ph.D. in health policy from Harvard University.

Kathleen Connolly Lacey, LCSW

Kathleen Connolly Lacey, LCSW, is the Director of University of California San Francisco's Citywide Case Management Forensic Program that provides assertive community treatment to 400 criminal justice-involved individuals with mental illness in the community. She was instrumental in implementing San Francisco's successful response to the state of California's first Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant. A founding member of San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court, she provides clinical expertise to the courts and the community. With over 25 years' experience working in the criminal justice system and 20 years focused on the needs of individuals with serious mental disorders, she has expanded the focus of treatment to include: an emphasis on cultural and gender specific services; a comprehensive Dialectical Behavior Therapy program; a Full Service Partnership Program through San Francisco's Mental Health Services Act funds; a comprehensive Supported Employment program; mental health services for the San Francisco Sheriff Department's No Violence Alliance Program and at the Community Assessment Services Center of the Adult Probation Department; and the creation of a Misdemeanor Behavioral Health Court in SF. She graduated from Gonzaga University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Speech Communications; received her master's in social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley in 1997 and has practiced as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 2001.

Michelle Doty Cabrera

Michelle Doty Cabrera joined CBHDA as Executive Director in May 2019. CBHDA represents the behavioral health directors from each of California's 58 counties, in addition to the City of Berkeley and the Tri-City Mental Health Center (Cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne). Ms. Cabrera has a wealth of experience on state budget and policy as an advocate and staff for the California legislature. Prior to joining CBHDA she served as the Healthcare Director for the California State Council of the Services Employees International Union (SEIU California), where she advocated on behalf of healthcare workers and consumers, including SEIU California's county behavioral health workforce. She served as a Senior Consultant for the Assembly Human Services Committee, where she specialized in child welfare issues and staffed legislation which extended foster care in California to age 21. Ms. Cabrera also served as a Program Officer for the California Healthcare Foundation, working as a liaison on state health policy in Sacramento. Ms. Cabrera serves as a

member on the National Quality Forum's Standing Committee on Disparities and on the Board of Directors of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network.

Toby Ewing, Ph.D.

Toby Ewing, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. In his four years with the Commission, Toby led efforts to launch California's first Mental Health Innovation Summit, with support from federal, state and local mental health leaders, as well as foundations and the private sector and is now working to launch an innovation incubator to provide ongoing support to mental health innovation. The Commission has launched a transparency platform to provide valid and reliable information on mental health funding, services and outcomes. In 2019 the Commission will develop a statewide strategy on mental health prevention and early intervention, a separate initiative on workplace mental health and will be developing a Policy Fellowship for mental health consumers and practitioners to help shape California's mental health system. Toby has worked on governance reform, government oversight and improving outcomes of public programs for many years. He has worked on a range of public policy issues, including mental health, child welfare, immigrant integration, workforce and education, and veterans projects. From 2011 through 2014, Toby served as a consultant to the California State Senate Governance and Finance Committee. He also served as Director of the California Research Bureau from 2009 to 2011. Prior to that, for eight years, he was a Project Manager with the Little Hoover Commission, an independent body charged with improving government. Toby did his undergraduate studies at Grinnell College, received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Syracuse University and served as a Fulbright Scholar in Central America.

Hallie Fader-Towe

Hallie Fader-Towe has a decade of experience in working with interdisciplinary planning and implementation efforts at the intersection of justice and behavioral health. She has provided technical assistance to federal grantees for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program and the Second Chance Act, as well as overseeing projects that advised county justice/mental health task forces based on an in-depth review of local justice and mental health data. Most recently, she has been working with partners in California and nationwide on the Stepping Up initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail, including developing state-wide resources for sheriffs, behavioral health directors, chief probation officers, and county executives. She has also managed the development of training materials on mental health courts and on judicial responses to the prevalence of individuals

with mental illnesses involved with the criminal justice system. She has written on dispute systems design for state trial courts, pretrial responses to those with mental illnesses and behavioral health diversion, information sharing between criminal justice and mental health systems, and mental health court design and implementation. Before joining the CSG Justice Center, she was a management consultant with McKinsey & Company in New York. Hallie received a BA from Brown University and a JD from Harvard Law School. Hallie lives in San Diego.

Sharon Farrell, Ph.D.

Dr Sharon Farrell is the Associate Director of the Risk Resilience Research Lab at the University of California Berkeley. She received her BA in Psychology from the University of California Berkeley and her PhD in Criminology, Law & Society from the University of California Irvine. Her specializations include prisoner reentry, community corrections and program assessment. She currently oversees work at the Risk-Resilience Lab that ranges from identifying institutional risk factors to reduce violence at State Hospitals to examining the impacts of a Cognitive Behavioral Intervention on arrest rates for justice involved people with mental illness. Her goal is to challenge assumptions about the nature of the problem and ultimately to help inform policy.

Mark Grabau, Ph.D.

Dr. Grabau has devoted his entire career to serve the forensic mental health population. In 1987, he interned at the Ielase Institute of Forensic Psychology in Pittsburgh Pa, as a second-year graduate student of Duquesne University, where he served individuals discharged from Western Penitentiary. Dr. Grabau quickly became the supervisor of the Drug and Alcohol treatment program. He also served as a contracted health professional in Wayneburg State prison. Dr. Grabau then served as supervisor of a large inpatient adult and geriatric detox and rehabilitation program at St. Francis Hospital. His efforts shifted to early intervention and prevention: he ran a 12 bed 24/7 residential treatment program for adolescent boys who were justice-involved, struggled with substance abuse, and many of whom were involved in street gangs. In 1999 he came to California where he coordinated the wrap around treatment and supervision of the second largest Conditional Release Program in the state; serving individuals found incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, and mentally disordered offenders. He has been involved with the Forensic Mental Health Coordinators of California and the Forensic Mental Health Association of California, by serving on both boards. Dr. Grabau served as the President of FMHAC and also was honored to represent the Director of DSH in COMIO/CCJBH Office to oversee one of the country's first court injunctions of a private for-profit substance abuse disorder

efforts to decriminalize the mental health population. Today he works to expand treatment options in county jails via the Jail-Based Competency Treatment Program; assists the DSH in their diversion efforts; supports the Community-Based Restoration program in Los Angeles and is dedicated to supporting the Conditional Release Program for DSH state-wide.

Mack Jenkins

Mack Jenkins, former Chief Probation Officer of San Diego County Probation Department, held the post since 2007. Prior, he served in several positions at the Orange County Probation Department from 1977 to 2007, including division director, assistant director, supervisor and deputy probation counselor. Jenkins was an adjunct instructor of criminal justice at the Rancho Santiago Community College District from 1992 to 2007. He is a member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Board of Directors and the Judicial Council's Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental Health Issues. Jenkins earned a Master of Science degree in criminal justice from California State University, Long Beach. Mr. Jenkins was appointed to CCJBH formerly known as COMIO by Governor Jerry Brown 2015.

Kathryn Jett

Jett was appointed by both Democratic and Republican Governors to serve at the highest levels of California State government. Ms. Jett has served as the state's Chief of Women's Health, Director of the Attorney Generals Crime and Violence Prevention Center, Director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and Undersecretary of Rehabilitation for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She led the state's effort to implement, "The Substance Abuse and Prevention Act of 2000". Kathryn also oversaw the UCLA evaluation of the Act. She was appointed to Undersecretary of Adult Programs for the CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation until her retirement after 32 years of public service in 2010. Jett continues to share her passion for rehabilitation in her second career, consulting with local government and program providers. Since 2011 Kathryn has consulted with California Forward CaFwd as well. A Public Policy Consultant for Alkermes Inc., Waltham, Mass., from August of 2011 to present, Ms. Jett collaborates with California state and local health officials to expand the use of an FDA approved medication which blocks the euphoric effects of alcohol and prevents relapse to opioids. Jett serves as Senior Consultant for the Avisa Group adding her expertise to outside entities requiring due diligence for potential acquisitions of behavioral health and substance use organizations. Jett was the lead governmental expert under the Independent Monitor assignment on behalf of the CA State Attorney General's

program. Ms. Jett continues to participate in state government activities and advocates for improved quality and access to services for consumers in both the public and private sector.

Samuel Leach

Samuel Leach has been the Chief Probation Officer of Calaveras County, California since February 2014. Calaveras County is a small, rural California County with a population of 45,000. Prior to being appointed Chief Probation Officer in Calaveras County, Chief Leach worked for probation departments in the Counties of Sutter and Riverside. Chief Leach also owned a consulting practice that assisted probation departments statewide with the implementation of Evidence Based Practices, as well as case planning and departmental responses to AB109/Realignment. Chief Leach has provided ongoing trainings and consultations related to case planning, assessments, Motivational Interviewing, and Evidence Based Practices to probation officers from most of the probation departments in California. Chief Leach has a master's degree in Public Administration from National University and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University, San Bernardino.

Stephen Manley

Stephen Manley is a Superior Court Judge in Santa Clara County and has served as a Judge for over 30 years. He presently serves as the Supervising Judge of all Felony and Misdemeanor mental health and drug cases in the Criminal Division of the Court. He developed and personally presides over a number of Treatment Court programs and calendars that include more than 2,000 offenders who participate in treatment and rehabilitation services while in Diversion, or on Probation, or Parole, and are mentally ill, mentally challenged, and substance abusers. He established one of the first Mental Health Courts in the Nation in 1998, one of the first Veterans Treatment Courts in 2012 as well as the first Parolee Reentry Court in California in 2007. The Mental Health Treatment Court and Veterans Treatment Court are two of the largest in the Nation. By appointment of the Chief Justice, he serves as a member of the California Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health that advises the Governor and Legislature on policy issues relating to the mentally ill, and he is Chair of the Mental Health Committee of the Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council. He served on and authored recommendations for the Judicial Council Mental Health Task Force that were adopted by the Judicial Council relating to mentally ill offenders. He recently served as the Co-Chair with a Member of the Board of Supervisors of his County for the Jail Diversion and Custody Operations Task Force. He has also served on the faculty of the California Judicial College

and speaks throughout the Country. In 2008, he received the Chief Justice's Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership. In 2012 he received the Leadership in Justice for Children and Families award from Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, in June, 2013, the Jacob K. Javits National Public Service Award from the American Psychiatric Association for his commitment to reducing stigma and improving the lives of persons with mental illness in the Justice System, and in 2017, the Justice for Veterans highest honor. He is a graduate of Stanford Law School.

Dave Meyer

David Meyer is a Clinical Professor and Research Scholar at the Institute of Psychiatry, Law and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine where he is responsible for the criminal law and the mental health law curricula. He also consults nationwide with health care and indigent defense providers on issues related to law and mental health. Mr. Meyer previously served as Chief Deputy Director and Counsel of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, as Director of the LAC Department of Community and Senior Affairs, and as Interim Public Defender and Chief Deputy of the LAC Public Defender. Mr. Meyer is an attorney, having specialized in mental health law for more than 40 years.

Eileen Moore

Associate Justice Eileen C. Moore graduated cum laude from University of California Irvine in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and she received her Juris Doctor from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1978. In May 2004, she graduated from the University of Virginia with a Master of Laws in the Judicial Process. Justice Moore was admitted to the California State Bar in 1978 and to the United States District Court, Central District of California, in 1984. Justice Moore was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Orange in 1989 by Governor George Deukmejian and to the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Three in 2000 by Governor Gray Davis. She has lectured extensively at education programs for lawyers and judges, and, in 1990, she was a lecturer of business law at the University of California Irvine, Graduate School of Management. Justice Moore is a current author for Bancroft Whitney's California Civil Practice series, and she has published numerous articles on a variety of legal issues. In 1992 Justice Moore was honored as a Distinguished Alumni of the Year by University of California Irvine, in 1993 as Alumna of the Year by Pepperdine University School of Law, in 1993 as Trial Judge of the Year by Orange County Women Lawyers, in 1999 by the Orange County chapter of American Board

Petaluma Health Center from 2003 to 2008 and medical director for access at the Redwood Community Health

of Trial Advocates with its annual Judicial Civility Award, and in 2000 as Trial Judge of the Year by Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. From 1996 to 2000 Justice Moore chaired the Orange County Family Violence Council, leading the community in its response to domestic violence. For her efforts in this area, Justice Moore was twice honored by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Justice Moore spent her nonjudicial legal career in private practice in Newport Beach. From 1965 until 1972 she practiced as a registered nurse, including service as a combat nurse in Vietnam. She is a member of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Linda Penner

Linda Penner served as Chief Probation Officer for the County of Fresno from 2005 to 2012. Through her stewardship the department transitioned to Evidenced Based Practices for recidivism reduction that encompasses community safety. Ms. Penner championed for a culture that created integrity, and professionalism, fairness and equity to courts and offenders. Ms. Penner recognized that public safety services include rehabilitation services and through her leadership Fresno County Probation initiated policies, practices and services that promote fewer crime victims through an emphasis of assessment-based accountability and programs. As Chief, Ms. Penner promoted a realignment 'safety net' in the county of Fresno through innovative supervision and service programs for the realigned population including a multiagency supervision team and evidence-based services that form the nucleus of the public safety response to the legislation. Since 1977, Ms. Penner held multiple positions while at the Fresno County probation department, including probation division director, services manager, probation officer and group counselor. She has served as a member of the Board of State and Community Corrections since 2012 and its predecessor, the Corrections Standards Authority Board, from 2007 until 2012; she has also been a member of the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, underneath the Board, since 2007. Additionally, she chaired the Fresno County Community Corrections Partnership for two years. In 2011, Ms. Penner served as the president of the California Probation Officers Association of California.

Kelly Pfeifer, MD

Dr. Pfeifer was appointed by Governor Newsom in July 2019 to lead the newly reorganized Behavioral Health Division of the California Department of Health Care Services. Prior to joining the State, she had been director of high-value care at the California Health Care Foundation since 2014. She was chief medical officer of San Francisco Health Plan from 2008 to 2014, medical director at

Coalition from 2006 to 2008. Dr. Pfeifer practiced as a family physician at Petaluma Health Center from 2000 to 2017. She earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Medical College of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and is Board Certified in family medicine, having completed family medicine training at the Sutter Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program in 2000. Dr. Pfeifer is a graduate of Oberlin College, where she majored in English.

Miriam Popper

Miriam Popper is the Executive Director for Diversion Initiatives in the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Ms. Popper joined the office in 2010. Her current work focuses on development and implementation of initiatives designed to safely reduce the juvenile and adult jail population. In this role Ms. Popper was responsible for building New York City's first citywide pretrial release program that launched in 2016. Her previous positions in this office focused on the planning, implementation and enhancement of local initiatives designed to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system. Before joining the mayor's office, Ms. Popper worked in the Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) at John Jay College assisting with the oversight and implementation of the New York City Justice Corps, a reentry initiative aimed at reducing poverty and recidivism among young men and women ages 18-24. Ms. Popper previously worked in Burlington, Vermont running a reentry housing program out of the Burlington Housing Authority. In this role Ms. Popper managed and operated the program working one on one with individuals in correctional facilities or on parole to find them sustainable housing and employment. Ms. Popper graduated from Skidmore College with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Law and Society, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Science in Criminology.

Wendy Still

Wendy Still is the Chief Probation Officer of Alameda County, retired Chief Adult Probation Officer of the City & County of San Francisco and retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehab with over 30 years of prison administration experience. Chief Still has over 40 years-experience in California State Government, specializing in Adult and Juvenile Community Corrections and reentry systems. Her experiences include implementing Criminal Justice Realignment (AB109), developing gender responsive, trauma-informed offender prison and community rehabilitation programs and strategic master plans designed to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism for California's offender population. Federal Prison Health Care Services; Governor-Appointed

Services; Southern Regional Prison Administrator for 10 prisons; Chief of Regulation and Policy – California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; and Chief Financial Officer – California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Chief Still also serves as an expert consultant for the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security on conditions of confinement, gender responsive correctional policy and programming, women offender healthcare, and Prison Rape Elimination Act. Chief Still earned her Master of Advanced Studies, Criminal, Law & Society from the University of California, Irvine and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco. She has taught Criminal Justice: Incarceration and its Impact at Stanford University. Among Chief Still's multiple awards are the Governing Magazine's Public Official of the Year in 2014, and the American Probation and Parole Association's Presidents Award in 2013. Chief Still is a member of the American Probation and Parole Association, the American Correctional Association and the American Society of Criminology.

Diana Toche

Dr. Diana Toche was appointed as Undersecretary of Health Care Services for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) on May 13, 2014 by California Governor Jerry Brown. She has served in multiple positions, including acting Undersecretary of Administration and Offender Services, acting director of the Division of Health Care Services and statewide dental director. Dr. Toche earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of the Pacific. Undersecretary Toche is an avid cyclist and has competed in many metric and century bicycle rides, including Bike the Bridges. Over the last three years, she has supported Special Olympics events as a keynote speaker in 2016, 2017, and 2018 at the Law Enforcement Flame of Hope Torch Run Ceremony at the State Capitol. She also carried the torch and lit the cauldron for the Special Olympics of Northern California in 2015, which was held in Davis.

Lynn Von Koch-Liebert

Lynn von Koch-Liebert is the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Consumer Services at the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH). In this role she works closely with BCSH departments that oversee housing and homelessness. Before joining BCSH she served in a number of business development executive roles at DynCorp International. Previously she held multiple positions in the United Nations Office for Project Services in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Jerusalem. Lynn earned a master's in international relations from Princeton University, a master's in international security from

Cranfield University, and a bachelor's in political science and economics from the University of South Dakota.

Nan Waller

Judge Waller was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court bench in 2001 by Governor Kitzhaber. She served as the Chief Family Law Judge for 5 years and as Presiding Judge for 6 years. She currently is the Mental Health Court Judge and manages the Aid and Assist docket for the court. Judge Waller is a member of the Judicial Leadership Education Committee, the Oregon Supreme Court Council on Inclusion and Fairness and the Law and Policy Workgroup. Judge Waller co-chairs a subcommittee of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities as well as the Mental Health and Public Safety subcommittee. She serves on the Governor's Children's Cabinet and the governor's Child Welfare Oversight Board. Judge Waller currently serves on the boards of The Children's Institute and Lines for Life.

Judge Waller has received a number of awards including the Mental Health Award for Excellence; the Crime Citizens Commission Distinguished Service Award, The Chief Justice's Juvenile Court Champion Award, the Oregon State Bar Public Service Award, the Oregon National Alliance on Mental Illness Gordon and Sharon Smith New Freedom Award, the Oregon State Bar's Wallace P. Carson Award for Judicial Excellence, and the Frohmayer Award for Public Service from the University of Oregon. She was named National CASA Judge of the Year and the Classroom Law Project's Legal Citizen of the Year. Judge Waller is a fifth generation Oregonian. She received her BA from Stanford University and graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law. She and her husband have three children and live in Portland.

Kit Wall

Promoting everything from policy reform issues, nonprofit organizations, and political campaigns to rock shows and media events, Kit Wall uses her repertoire of organizational/communication skills for policy consultation, writing, production, and management. Her promotion and publicity experience includes professional sports, entertainment, commercial real estate, and government affairs. Since 1987, Kit has focused on government relations and public policy, managing coalition and grassroots efforts for corporate, non-profit, and governmental organizations, as well as ballot initiatives, legislative and candidate campaigns. In 2001, while working for Eli Lilly and Company, she focused efforts on jail diversion specialization across the U.S., initiating the Words to Deeds concept, which has developed into the current interdisciplinary leadership forum.

Stephanie Welch

Stephanie Welch is the Executive Officer of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) based in the Office of the Secretary at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). CCJBH is charged with investigating, identifying and promoting effective prevention, diversion and reentry strategies for youth and adults with behavioral health issues who are justice involved or at risk of such involvement. Stephanie also sits on the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), which oversees California's strategies to end homelessness. Stephanie has two decades of experience in mental health policy, program administration, evaluation and advocacy at both the state and county level, working at organizations such as the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) and the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA). Stephanie holds an MSW from the University of Southern California and a BA in Sociology from the University of California, Davis.