

Speaker Bios

Nick Petersen is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Miami. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California—Irvine in Criminology, Law & Society. His research focuses on racial stratification within criminal justice institutions.

Marisa Omori, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Miami. Her research focuses on racial inequality within criminal justice institutions, and drug use and punishment. Specifically, her work investigates questions of how racial inequality is created and maintained within the criminal justice system, and how context and place matters for this inequality.

Rachel Sottile Logvin is a champion of systems reform, having served as an executive administrator in non-profit and state government for over twenty years. As Senior Vice President of PJI, Rachel works with national, state, and local system stakeholders to create partnerships, strengthen systems, and engage communities to advance safe, fair and effective pretrial practices for youth and adults. Rachel spearheads the 3DaysCount initiative, acting as a catalyst for states to discover what's possible and create real and lasting change. A Florida native and resident, she began her career as a child abuse investigator and worked with foster care youth and their families in South Florida until 2008. She then served as the Executive Director of YES Institute, providing communication and educational models to prevent suicide and keep all youth safe. Rachel has a Bachelor of Arts from Emory University in Psychology and Political Science and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology. She was the recipient of the National Association of Social Workers "2014 Citizen of the Year" Award for Miami-Dade County.

Melba Pearson is the Deputy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida. Before joining the ACLU, Ms. Pearson was an Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County for 16 years. She ended her prosecutorial career as the Assistant Chief in the Career Criminal/Robbery Unit, supervising junior attorneys while prosecuting homicide cases.

Ms. Pearson is a frequent guest lecturer on a wide array of law enforcement concerns. A prolific writer and blogger, she has published numerous popular and scholarly articles on topics including police encounters, domestic violence, crimes against women, criminal trial procedure, along with everyday legal issues. Publications that have profiled, featured or quoted her include The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, Essence Magazine, The Huffington Post, The Miami Herald, and Ebony Magazine. She has also been a guest on national media regarding legal trends.

Ms. Pearson is Past President of the National Black Prosecutors Association; Co-Chair of the Prosecution Function Committee of the American Bar Association; as well as the President of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association in South Florida.

Jeanne Baker is an attorney who has been a lay leader in the ACLU throughout her more than 40-year career. Since 1991, she has been on the board of ACLU's Miami Chapter and a representative from that chapter to ACLU-FL's State Board, where she served for six years as its delegate to ACLU National and for seven years as its president. As an attorney since 1973, Jeanne has concentrated on civil liberties litigation and criminal defense at both the trial and appellate levels, taking a break from that work only when she served as Legal Counsel to the

Governor of Vermont from 1986-1990. For the past seven years, Jeanne has chaired the Miami Chapter's Police Practices Committee which has focused on police shootings of African-Americans, establishing and supporting civilian oversight of police, and racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. In that capacity, Jeanne shepherded the development and publication of the ACLU's recently issued report: Unequal Treatment: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Miami-Dade Criminal Justice.

Jennifer Loyless works as Program Coordinator for The Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office. In her 17 years with the agency she has assisted in the implementation of many programs to assist incarcerated and recently released offenders in hopes of reducing recidivism. Jennifer began her work in offender reentry by assisting in the implementation of a pilot county-jail program in 2002. In 16 years, that work has grown to assisting in the implementation of programming for jail and prison populations in partnership with the MacArthur Foundation, Florida Department of Corrections, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and numerous community-based service providers. Additionally, Jennifer assists Palm Beach County's elected Public Defender in community outreach work advocating for criminal justice policy change locally and statewide.

Carey Haughwout took office in January of 2001. She graduated with High Honors from Florida State University College of Law in 1983. In 1979, she earned a degree in economics and sociology from New College in Sarasota. She began her career as an associate with a Tallahassee trial firm. From 1985 to 1990, she was an assistant public defender in Tallahassee and Palm Beach County, working her way from misdemeanor to capital cases. She practiced as a private criminal defense attorney in Tallahassee and Palm Beach County for 17 years.

As a leader for poor people in our justice system, Carey has worked with many organizations throughout Florida. She has been a member of the Palm Beach County, state and national Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Criminal Justice Commission, Legal Aid Society and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. She chaired the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission's Reentry Task Force from 2008-2016, providing leadership in obtaining more than \$4 million in federal funding to assist those returning from incarceration and cutting recidivism rates in half among the clients served.

She has been recognized by her peers many times including receiving the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Professionalism Award, Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer's Champion of Justice Award and the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Law Service and Homeless Advocacy awards. Her legal expertise was recognized with the Governor Lawton Chiles' appointment to the Domestic Violence Clemency Panel from 1995-1998, and the Supreme Court of Florida 1997 Appointment to the Special Advisory Committee on Minimum Standards of Competency for Counsel in Capital Cases.

Throughout the community her work has been acknowledged by countless organizations as the recipient of The ACLU Harriet S. Glasner Freedom Award, March of Dimes Women of Distinction Award, and the Lord's Place Ending Homelessness Award.

Dr. Raimundo Socorro, Ph.D. is a dedicated law enforcement professional and educator with over 29-years of experience at the Miami Police Department (MPD), where he focused resources to improve the community he served.

During the course of his career with MPD, he worked with in different areas of the Field Operations Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Administrative Division, and the Office of the Chief of Police.

He was promoted to the rank Sergeant in 1999, to the rank of Lieutenant in 2005, and in August 2007, was promoted to the executive staff position of NET Area Commander. As an educator he was an Adjunct Professor at Florida Memorial University and part of the faculty at Union Institute & University.

Dr. Socorro earned a PhD from Barry University in 2012 in Organizational Leadership and Education. He also earned Master's in Management from St. Thomas University and a Master's in Criminal Justice from the University of Louisville. Dr. Socorro attended the Senior Management Institute for Police, along with the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course, where he earned a Graduate Certificate in Police Executive Leadership from The University of Louisville.

Presently, Dr. Socorro is the Dean of the School of Justice, Public Safety and Law Studies at Miami Dade College, which is an internationally known public safety and educational training center. In addition to offering bachelor, associate and certificate programs, the School of Justice provides testing & training, toward certification and licensing in various areas of public safety, including fire, police, corrections, private security and law.

Gordon Weekes born and raised in South Florida, Gordon Weekes attended Miami-Dade College and then went on to attend Florida Memorial University. In 1994, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Air Traffic Control. Mr. Weekes then went on to earn his Juris Doctorate in 1997 from Nova Southeastern University School of Law.

For over twenty years, Mr. Weekes has dedicated his professional life to public service and the pursuit of justice. In 1997, he began his career as an Assistant Public Defender at the Broward County Public Defender's Office where he proudly represents the poor, the mentally ill and children of our community. For a brief period, Mr. Weekes entered private practice and was the managing partner in the Law Offices of Gelin & Weekes. After practicing in civil litigation and employment law, he then returned to the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Weekes was appointed as the Chief Assistant Public Defender in charge of the Juvenile Division.

A. Wellington "Al" Barlow earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (1983) and a Juris Doctorate (1985) from the University of Florida. He holds bar membership in Florida (1986) and Georgia (1994). He wields well over thirty years of trial court experience in both criminal and civil law, protecting and advancing the constitutional rights of clients in both spheres of the legal system. His legal career was initiated as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Legal Intern with the Jacksonville State Attorney's Office (1985) followed by two years of protecting the rights of the criminally accused in the Jacksonville Public Defender's Office. (1986-1988) He has served on the 4th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission (1991-1994) via gubernatorial appointment and was elected to serve as Chairman. He was also appointed by a Florida Bar president to serve on a 4th Circuit Florida Bar Grievance Committee which investigates attorney misconduct and recommends appropriate punishment if necessary.

Over the course of his legal career, he has witnessed disparate treatment of citizens at every stage of the Criminal "Justice" System from unjust arrests and/or non-arrests by police officers, excessive charging decisions and/or plea bargain offers by prosecutors, disparate sentences from (a few) judges and inequitable representation by (some) private and public defense attorneys!

These less than ideal scenarios moved him to conceive an innovative idea to create web-based software that objectifies sentencing while simultaneously serving as a practical check and balance on the power prosecutors wield in the criminal justice system. These two significant objectives are achieved by allowing defense attorneys and judges to analyze sentences in prior cases to insure the sentences in pending cases are equitable and consistently administered regardless of Race, Gender, Class, Religion or any of the usual factors that too often facilitate disparate treatment. That which ultimately came forth has been proprietarily coined the "Equity in Sentencing Analysis System"© or "ESAS" which is the initial Software as a Service product released by Technologies for Justice, Incorporated, which Attorney Barlow serves as President and CEO.

Josh Salman is an award-winning investigative reporter for the [Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#), where he focuses on long-form projects. He brings a strong record of enterprise storytelling, versatility and data-driven reporting to the newsroom.

He grew up in Sarasota. After graduating from Riverview High School in 2003, he moved to the Florida Panhandle to attend Tallahassee Community College. That's where he first caught the journalism bug. Salman joined the staff at the student newspaper and worked his way up to executive editor. After earning an Associate's degree, he moved to Jacksonville to attend the University of North Florida, again becoming a top editor of the award-winning independent student newspaper. The university honored him as "Outstanding Graduating Journalism Student" during the spring of 2009.

While in Jacksonville, Salman spent two years as an intern for the [Florida Times-Union](#), covering everything from community sports to complex trend stories. He returned to Southwest Florida in 2009 to work as a government reporter for the Charlotte Sun, a smaller daily newspaper in Port Charlotte. He also spent about a year at the Bradenton Herald as a business writer before joining the Herald-Tribune in November 2012.

Salman's reporting has triggered federal investigations, uncovered illegal activity by convicted felons, exposed loopholes that have cost taxpayers millions of dollars, prompted new city ordinances and helped struggling families save their dream homes.

Michael Braga is the Sarasota Herald -Tribune investigations editor and has been a reporter in Florida for more than 20 years. As the leader of the Herald-Tribune investigative team, Braga has been involved in many award-winning projects and has a deep commitment to do journalism with impact. In 2016, he won the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for his role in a year-long collaboration with the Tampa Bay Times detailing horrific conditions in Florida's mental health hospitals. As a result of the investigation, state lawmakers in March increased funding for mental health hospitals by some \$4 million so they could hire up to 160 new "frontline" workers — people who interact directly with patients.

Braga came to the Herald-Tribune as a business reporter in 2001 before becoming an assistant business editor and then the investigations editor. An expert in data analysis and a master storyteller, Braga's reports routinely win awards and effect change.

Senator René García was born and raised in the city of Hialeah, to working class Cuban American parents. As a child he attended local public schools and played baseball at the city's local parks. In 1997, at the age of 24, René García was elected to a two-year term on the Hialeah City Council. He was re-elected, to a four-year term in November 1999. While serving as a city Councilman René García graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University. In December of 2004 René graduated from the University of Miami with a Master's in Business Administration, specializing in Health Administration and Policy.

René was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in November of 2000. René was re-elected consecutively in 2002, 2004 and 2006 and has proven to be a dedicated community leader. Furthermore, he served as Chair of the Miami Dade Legislative Delegation, Chair of the Health Services Sub-Committee, Chairman of Health Innovation Committee, Chair of the Florida Hispanic Caucus, and was named Deputy Whip for the House of Representatives. René García was elected to Florida's State Senate on November 2, 2010. He is currently the Chairman of the Health care Regulation Committee. Garcia also serves on the following committees: Agriculture, Budget Sub-committee on Health & Human Services Appropriations, Governmental Oversight & Accountability, Reapportionment and Transportation.

State Representative Cynthia A. Stafford (born July 11, 1967) is a Democratic member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing the 109th District, which includes northeastern Miami-Dade County, after 2010.

Born in Miami, Stafford attended St. Thomas University, where she graduated with a degree in communication arts in 1993. She later graduated from the St. Thomas University School of Law in 1999, and later worked as an attorney and a legislative aide for Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

While serving in the legislature, Stafford took a strong stance against legislation that passed through the state legislature that would "overhaul the alimony system by ending life-long payments and allowing judges to change existing deals," condemning the bill as "one-sided, anti-woman, and mean-spirited." [2] She additionally opposed legislation that would expedite the foreclosure process in Florida, noting, "The bill appears to decrease the rights of homeowners and consumers, while attempting to streamline the process." [3] In 2014, Stafford joined with State Senator Dwight Bullard to propose legislation that would have raised the minimum wage in the state from \$7.93 to \$10.10 per hour, arguing that it wouldn't only help families make ends meet, but would help businesses as well, observing, "When people are making more, they'll spend more."

In 2014, Stafford was re-elected to her third term in the legislature without opposition.

State Representative Sharon Pritchett (born August 17, 1951) is a Democratic member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing the 102nd District, which stretches from

Miami Gardens to Pembroke Pines in northern Miami-Dade County and southern Broward County, since 2012.

Pritchett was born in Miami and attended St. Thomas University, where she received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1978 and then her master's degree in Administration of Justice in 1980. After graduation, she worked as a public investigator for the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office. She served on the Committee to Incorporate the City of Miami Gardens in 2002, and shortly after the city was successfully incorporated, was elected to the Miami Gardens City Council, where she served from 2003 to 2011. Pritchett was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012 and re-elected to a second term and third term subsequently.

Erik Luna is the Amelia D. Lewis Professor of Constitutional and Criminal Law in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

Professor Luna teaches and writes primarily in the areas of criminal law and criminal procedure. Luna has received two Fulbright awards. In 2000, he served as the senior Fulbright Scholar to New Zealand at Victoria University Law School (Wellington, NZ). In 2016-17, he was the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the University of Birmingham (Birmingham, UK). Luna has also been a visiting scholar with the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law (Freiburg, DE), a visiting professor with the Cuban Society of Penal Sciences (Havana, CU), a visiting professional in the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (The Hague, NL), and a research fellow with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Bonn, DE).

Prior to coming to ASU, Luna was the Sydney & Frances Lewis Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University, and before that, he was the Hugh B. Brown Chair in Law at the University of Utah. Luna is a member of the American Law Institute and an adjunct scholar with the Cato Institute. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Southern California and received his J.D. with honors from Stanford Law School. Upon graduation, Luna was a prosecutor in the San Diego District Attorney's Office and a fellow and lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School.

Teresa Enriquez is the Executive Chief Assistant of Recruitment and Litigation for the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. She heads recruitment and oversees the Capital Litigation Unit, Miller Graham unit, Felony Mental Health Unit, Civil Mental Health Unit, Indefinite Civil Commitment Unit and Drug Court. She is the President of Do The Right Thing of Miami, serves on the Board of Directors of Legal Services of Greater Miami and is a Past President of the Miami-Chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Jonathan Greenberg has been an assistant public defender at the Miami Public Defender's Office since 2012. An appellate attorney, he primarily practices before the Third District Court of Appeal and specializes in issues pertaining to juvenile sentencing and collateral consequences. Mr. Greenberg helped prepare the office's manual on the collateral consequences of a conviction in Florida, designed to inform both practitioners and defendants about the thousands of lifechanging consequences that can result from a conviction in this state.

Scott D. McCoy is Senior Policy Counsel for Florida with the Southern Poverty Law Center in Tallahassee, Florida. Scott's work focuses on juvenile justice reform, criminal justice reform, children's rights, immigrant and refugee rights, and LGBT rights.

Scott joined the SPLC in July 2014 as a Senior Staff Attorney after practicing as a Senior Litigation Associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York City. Prior to re-joining Cleary Gottlieb in July 2011, Scott lived and worked in Salt Lake City, Utah from 2002 to 2011. In addition to litigating federal securities and antitrust cases with a private firm in Salt Lake City, Scott served as the first openly-gay member of the Utah State Senate from 2005 to 2009, representing portions of Salt Lake City. Scott served on the Utah Sentencing Commission and chaired the Salt Lake City Police Civilian Review Board.

Scott and his husband, Mark Barr, moved to Utah in 2002 for Scott to clerk for the Honorable Leonard H. Russon, Associate Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court. Scott also served on the Board of Equality Utah, the state's LGBT public advocacy group, and in 2004, ran the state-wide campaign against Amendment 3, Utah's anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment. Scott earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri in 1992, and a Masters of Arts degree in International Affairs from the George Washington University in Washington, DC in 1994. Scott is a graduate of Cardozo Law School, earning his Juris Doctor degree in 2001. Prior to attending Cardozo, Scott worked as Legislative Director for Congressman Tom Latham of Iowa from 1997 to 1998 and for the United States House of Representative's Committee on Agriculture from 1992 to 1997.

Scott is a member of the bars of Florida, New York, and Utah.

Deborah Brodsky is the Director of the Project on Accountable Justice (PAJ), an independent and nonpartisan criminal and juvenile justice research and education center with a mission to advance public safety through evidence and research. PAJ is a collaboration of the Florida State University College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions at St. Petersburg College, and the Florida Public Safety Institute at Tallahassee Community College. Previously, Ms. Brodsky spent 13 years, including as Chief of Staff and the Director of both the Center for Smart Justice and the Center for Educational Performance and Accountability, at Florida TaxWatch. Ms. Brodsky also worked for the Florida Legislature from 1991-1998.

Her policy research has most recently focused on advancing public safety toward better outcomes in juvenile and criminal justice, particularly through systemic accountability mechanisms, measurable results, and evidence-informed practices.

Paul Petillo attended San Bernardino Valley College and Cal State San Bernardino where he received an undergraduate degree. He graduated from Loyola Law School in New Orleans.

Petillo has worked at the Public Defender's Office for the 15th Judicial Circuit in Palm Beach County Florida since 1985. He has been in the appellate division of PD-15 since 1990; and he has served as the chief of the appellate division for the last ten years. His division also handles appeals to the Fourth District Court of Appeals from the 17th Judicial Circuit (Broward County) and the 19th Judicial Circuit (Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Okeechobee counties).

Willard Shepard is a five-time Emmy award-winning journalist, attorney and Gulf War fighter pilot. He has brought his unique insight to NBC 6 viewers as an anchor and investigative reporter for more than 20 years. He has anchored the 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and weekend editions of the NBC 6 News. Shepard, a member of the Florida Bar, uses his legal skills to develop consumer investigations that uncover fraud in private business and government. His reports also show families how to protect their daily finances, home, credit and investments.

Shepard came to WTVJ in 1994 from CBS affiliate WJW-TV in Cleveland, Ohio, where he anchored the morning news and was a special projects reporter where he received an Emmy Award for his news series "The State of Black Cleveland." He has also been honored for his reporting by the Associated Press, United Press International and the Aviation and Space Writers Association.

Carlos J. Martinez, Miami-Dade County's Public Defender manages an office of 400 employees, handling approximately 70,000 cases each year.

Mr. Martinez represented thousands of clients before working as an administrator. He helped lead the successful effort in Florida to ban indiscriminate shackling of children in juvenile courtrooms.

Mr. Martinez serves the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, the National Association for Public Defense Executive Committee, and is a member of the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution's Executive Session on Rethinking the Role of the Prosecutor in the Community. He served on the Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice, was Vice President of the Florida Public Defender Association and chaired The Florida Bar's Legal Needs of Children Committee.