

2023 WJCCA Conference Speaker Biographies

Tom Schappa is the District Court Administrator for the Eighth Judicial Administrative District. As a district court administrator, he is intimately involved in the administration and ongoing development of policies and best practices for document management, data integrity, resource allocation, and efficient case management. Tom had previously served in court operations for the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. During his time with the U.S. Courts, he was involved in the administration of the electronic filing system, policy research and analysis, and multidistrict litigation (MDL) cases. Tom also previously served as an operations manager and a law clerk in the Minnesota judiciary's Second Judicial District. Prior to attending law school, Tom worked as a project manager in the private sector. He received his law degree from Hamline University School of Law and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota.

Eileen Hirsch, a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, retired in 2016 from a 30-year career with the Wisconsin State Public Defender. She worked as a trial attorney and administrator before she became an appellate attorney, handling a mixed caseload of juvenile and criminal appeals from all parts of Wisconsin. Two of her most important Wisconsin Supreme Court cases required in-person juvenile interrogations to be recorded, (*In Re Jerrell C. J.*, 2005 WI 105) and held that sex offender registration was discretionary, not mandatory, in juvenile delinquency cases. (*In re Cesar G.*, 2004 WI 61). Post-retirement, she became the director of the Juvenile Life Without Parole project at the University of Wisconsin Law School's Remington Center. Her second retirement was in 2018. Eileen has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Juvenile Defender Center and the National Youth Law Center. For her work on juvenile justice, she has received the Livingston Hall Award from the American Bar Association and the Kutak-Dodds Prize from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association.

Diane Rondini, is recently retired after working as a staff attorney representing youth, as a practice coordinator and as legal counsel for the Wisconsin Public Defenders Office for over 30 years.. She served as the co-director of the Midwest Juvenile Defender Center and on the advisory board of the National Juvenile Defender Center. Diane has served as an adjunct instructor at Bryant & Stratton College and Marquette University, is a certified Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP) Trainer, and helps train new attorneys in juvenile law throughout Wisconsin. She served as the Chairperson of the Children and the Law section of the State Bar and currently serves as a Commissioner on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission. She was one of the creators and program leader of Student Expulsion Prevention Project (StEPP). She currently acts as a consultant for the Juvenile Rural Access to Training and Expertise (J-RATE) grant.

Kim Hicks started at CCAP in March of 2001. Her current focus is managing implementation and training projects. In recent years, she managed the installation and training of the new Digital Audio Recording Systems (DAR), Child Support Interface and CCAP3 Case Management. She is currently focused on implementing and training of the new Audio Recording Search Application, new Remote Reporting functionality and is looking forward to piloting CCAP3 Financials.

Jennifer (Jenn) Seubert has been a business process analyst with CCAP for one year, but was employed there as the web administrator from 2015 to 2022. She enjoys her work on the analyst team and the opportunities the role affords her to meet and work with court staff throughout Wisconsin.

Kristen Wetzel joined the Children’s Court Improvement Program (CCIP) as a Legal Advisor in August 2018. Prior to her position with CCIP, she worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in Portage County handling CHIPS, TPR, and Chapter 48 guardianship cases. Kristen has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Law Studies from Marquette University and a Juris Doctor from the John Marshall Law School.

Holly Szablewski has been the Deputy Director of State Courts for Court Operations since June, 2023. Prior to becoming Deputy Director, Ms. Szablewski spent 9 years as the District Court Administrator for the 1st Judicial District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee). Ms. Szablewski worked in various capacities in Milwaukee County’s justice system for over 35 years. Prior to becoming the district court administrator, she spent 13 years as Milwaukee County’s Judicial Review Coordinator and was responsible for supervising the Court Coordinators Office as well as administration of the county’s pretrial service programs, drug treatment court and other court-administered early intervention programming.

Meg Sternitzky is a legal advisor with the Office of Court Operations who handles civil and small claims, collections, circuit court records retention, and exhibits management and retention issues. Prior to joining Court Operations, Meg spent two years with the Utah Administrative Office of the Courts where she worked with the Juvenile Court on issues of child welfare and delinquency. Meg earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Legal Studies and Sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Matt Allord grew up in Madison and graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Sociology. He attended Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee, with an academic focus on juvenile justice and a practicum focus on applications for executive clemency and pardons for adults placed in Florida prisons when they were juveniles. He has worked for the Dane County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program and in various positions with the Department of Corrections for 10 years prior to joining the Wisconsin Department of Justice as the Juvenile Justice Programs Supervisor in November of 2022.

Robert Mochel currently serves as the Legal Counsel for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Children’s Division. In his current role he provides legal support to the judiciary and clerk of courts office. Robert provides training to new judges as well as legal research, decision writing, and case brainstorming assistance. Additional responsibilities include assisting pro-se petitioners with guardianship, termination of parental rights, and adoption cases. Prior to working directly for the court, he worked as an Assistant State Public Defender in the Milwaukee Juvenile and Mental Health Office where he represented juveniles, children, and parents in a wide variety of cases. Robert’s areas of interest include both child welfare matters under Chapter 48 as well as delinquency matters under Chapter 938. Robert graduated from Capital University Law School in Columbus, OH with a certificate in Children and Family Law and completed his undergraduate Studies at Marquette University with a degree in Social Welfare and Justice.

Judge Craig R. Day has been a Grant County Circuit Court Judge since 2009. As a rural judge, he hears all case types, including juvenile and children’s court matters. He lectures regularly for judicial education and court staff education. Judge Day was named the 2018 Trial Judge of the Year in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocacy.

Elizabeth (Liz) Adams has been the Waukesha County Juvenile Clerk for two years. Prior to that she worked for Milwaukee County Circuit Courts for 8 years as a Children's Court Operations Supervisor, Deputy Court Clerk to Judge Laura Crivello in the juvenile division and Judge Timothy Witkowiak in the criminal and civil divisions. Before joining local government Liz worked as a paralegal for 6 years in private practice. She is the treasurer for WJCCA, a mentor for WJCCA New Clerk Orientation and a member of the CCIP Juvenile Clerks workgroup. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and is a Wisconsin Bar Association Certified Paralegal.

Sandra Rhead is in her 26th year working for Dunn County, starting as a dispatcher in 911 communications for the first 14 years, and then the Records Custodian of the Sheriff's Office and Sandra has been performing the duties of the Juvenile Clerk since 2017. Her duties include processing all CHIPS, JIPS, Delinquency, Juvenile Injunctions, Juvenile Ordinance, Truancy, Juvenile Guardianships, TPR and Juvenile Mental cases from initial filing to completion including clerking each hearing. Sandra is married and has a son in middle school. Sandra has held the office of Secretary and Vice President for WJCCA. She is a member of the New Clerk Orientation Committee of WJCCA and CCIP Juvenile Clerks workgroup.

Bridget Mauerman is responsible for administering the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP), a program designed to improve the handling of child welfare, termination of parental rights, and adoption proceedings in the court system. As director, she works closely with members of Wisconsin's judicial system on training, legislation, policies, strategic planning, development of best practices, and other quality improvement projects. She has worked for CCIP since 2004. Prior to her current position, Ms. Mauerman worked as an Assistant Public Defender for four years, where she represented children and juveniles in child in need of protection or services (CHIPS), juvenile in need of protection or services (JIPS), and delinquency proceedings, as well as adults in termination of parental rights, mental commitment, and criminal cases. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Political Science, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.