

8:45am— Welcome and Opening Remarks—*Marcia Hazelhorst, Executive Director, MJJA*

9:00am—**Steven C. Teske, Chief Presiding Judge, Juvenile & Family Court Designated Superior Court Judge Clayton Judicial Circuit State of Georgia (Retired)**



Judge Steven C. Teske was the Chief Judge of the Juvenile Court of Clayton County, GA. He was appointed juvenile court judge in 1999 and additionally served as a Superior Court Judge by designation presiding over civil and criminal matters. Upon retirement, Judge Teske relocated to his birthplace of Tucson, AZ to work with Native Indian children, youth, and families on the Pascua Yaqui Pueblo Indian Reservation.

Teske has testified before Congress on four (4) occasions and several state legislatures on detention reform, zero tolerance policies in schools, juvenile justice reform, juvenile justice grant accountability, and the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act re-authorization.

Teske served as a Litigative Expert for the U.S. Department of Justice in the “School-to-Prison Pipeline” case, *United States of America v. Meridian, et. al.* resulting in “a landmark consent decree” mandating sweeping reforms of school disciplinary practices that were harmful to kids of color.

He is a Toll Fellow of the Council of State Governments and received his J.D., M.A., and B.I.S. degrees from Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Judge Teske taught as an adjunct law professor at John Marshall Law School in Atlanta, GA. He is currently an adjunct professor at Pima Community College in Tucson teaching criminal justice studies.

#### **ADDRESSING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES FROM THE BENCH**

**BREAK: 10:15—10:30am**

10:30am—**Nidia A. Lopez Topeka, KS**



Nidia A Lopez was born and raised in Colima, a rural, coastal town in Mexico. At the age of 13, a coyote smuggled Nidia along with her mother and 9 month-old brother across the border to reunite with her father who was working in the United States. After settling in the Midwest, Nidia earned a Bachelor of Arts/Science degree in Psychology from Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Missouri. She has dedicated more than 13 years of her career to advocacy, most recently in the Migrant Education Program, working with at-risk youth helping families access resources and teaching parents how to advocate for their children’s education to increase high school graduation rates. Currently she is working in Communications for the Kansas Department of Labor, focusing

on messaging to the Spanish speaking community through the Spanish media across the state. She is also an active advocate for the immigrant and LGBTQ+ community.

#### **LATINO CULTURE AND FAMILY DYNAMICS**

Latinos represent one of the most dynamic and diverse racial/ethnic groups in the United States. In just a few decades, there has been a dramatic impact of the Latino population on the demography of this country. This session will focus on discussing the root cause of immigration with a minor overview of the immigration system and a greater focus on Latino culture and the family dynamics within that culture. Finally, attendees will be presented with a variety of local as well as national resources for the most marginalized and vulnerable of the Latino population- the undocumented immigrant.

**LUNCH BREAK: 11:45am—1:00pm**

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## Wednesday, September 29

1:00pm—**Aida Y. Hass-Wisecup, Ph.D., Missouri State University**



Aida Hass received her PhD from George Washington University in Sociology in 1996. She taught for a number of years as an Adjunct Faculty at George Washington University, Catholic University and American University. Aida has also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Probation/Parole Agency in the Office of Research and Evaluation, conducting program evaluation, policy implementation, and research on correctional practices and victim intervention programs. Aida has been a full-time professor at Missouri State University since the fall of 2006.

Aida's research interests include an examination of the development and implementation of community correctional alternatives to incarceration, the impact of the changing dynamics of sentencing and corrections on the structural operation of prisons, and the effect of prisoner re-entry programs on successful integration of offenders into the community after a period of extended incarceration, breaking the cycle of crime and victimization.

### **VALUE OF DIVERSITY, UNDERSTANDING, AND COMMUNICATION IN RESOLVING CONFLICTS**

The growing divisions we have in society are permeating every aspect of our lives, leading to discontent, misguidance, and a general lack of understanding and appreciation for the value of individuality and the unique perspective that different people can bring to one another. The importance of diversity and inclusion in our society today cannot be understated. The purpose of this discussion and presentation is to highlight the role of dialog and communication in resolving conflicts, assessing differences of opinion and better reaching mutual agreement and shared meanings.

***BREAK: 2:15—2:30pm***

2:30pm—**Juanita M. Cleaver Simmons, PhD, Senior Diversity Consultant, Talent Management Consultants, LLC, Atlanta, GA.**



Dr. Simmons specializes in training and designs for diversity, equity, climate, workplace civility and inclusion, and Equity Coaching with theoretical and practical strategies. Her passion is facilitating seminars in leadership development for cultural competency and excellence in equity. She is the former Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Northwest Missouri State University. She was awarded emerita associate professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she served in the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis division of the College of Education. She earned her PhD in Urban Superintendency and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas-Austin. Her research agenda focuses on race, gender, class, and equity in organizations and institutions. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and diversity training manuals. She is a former school teacher and administrator who continues to work with leaders in public institutions. Among her numerous awards, she was featured in the January 2018 issue of Ingram's business magazine as one of "50 Missourians You Should Know."

### **PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION AND IMPLICIT BIAS: TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCE**

There is a growing body of research linking the domains of implicit bias to the daily discretionary decisions made by prosecutors and PK-12 disciplinary school administrators. Although limited empirical evidence supports the assumption that implicit bias impacts the discretionary decisions made by such authorities when assigning consequences, anecdotal experiences confirm that implicit bias greatly impacts their decisions. This session is an informal overview of findings that support the power of implicit bias in discretionary decision making of authorities. Informal discussion and data should aid participants in understanding how biases enhance the prison pipeline.

3:45pm—Closing Remarks-**Larry Maddox, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group**

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## Thursday, September 30

8:45am—Welcome and Opening Remarks—*Marcia Hazelhorst, Executive Director, MJJA*

9:00am—*Marijana M. Kotlaja, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Missouri State University*



Dr. Marijana Kotlaja is an Assistant Professor at Missouri State University. She holds a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri. Her research interests focus on cross-cultural comparisons, aggregate issues and issues related to juvenile delinquency. Dr. Kotlaja has collected data on electronically monitored youth and families in Europe and has extensive knowledge of advanced quantitative methodology that includes structural equation modeling, Bayesian analysis, and hierarchical linear models. Dr. Marijana Kotlaja is an author to multiple technical reports focused on juvenile delinquency and academically peer-reviewed pieces.

### **INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CRIME, MULTICULTERISM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Dr. Kotlaja's presentation will address the interconnectedness of crime, multiculturalism and criminal justice. Her presentation will focus on descriptions of cultural groups that are most likely to experience problems within the criminal justice system. These include African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, women, the LGBT community, the elderly, and juveniles. She will discuss disparities in sentencing for African Americans, drug trafficking and Hispanics, hate crimes against gays and lesbians, the increased involvement of females and the elderly in crime and gang problems and human trafficking among Asian Americans. In addition, she will give attention to the process and structure of group dynamics, the various ways people communicate, and the ways in which this leads to perceptions of different groups and cultures.

***BREAK: 10:15—10:30am***

10:30am—*Frank Gilmore, Educational Gilmore Speaks, LLC, New Jersey*

### **PRINCIPALS OF UNDERSTANDING, MENTORING INNER CITY YOUTH EDITION**

This workshop will focus on strategies and approaches for engaging inner city youth via mentoring. We will also discuss the wrap around approach and the importance of direct lines of communication.

11:45am—Closing Remarks—*Marcia Hazelhorst, Executive Director, MJJA*

The courses are MO Bar accredited for CLEs - Pending

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