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**FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES**

**James Johnson Jr.**

James Johnson Jr. BS LADC BCCR ICS (or JJ as he likes to be called) has been in the profession of addiction treatment for 23 years. The first ten years he spent in the Mayo Health System which included the development of treatment centers in 6 rural communities outside Moscow Russia between 1992-1996. In 2001 he joined the Allina Health System as the Coordinator of Substance Abuse Services for the New Ulm Medical Center and in 2011 became the manager of the department which included clinical direction for treatment services in Brown, Watonwan and Blue Earth County Drug Courts.

He is a member of:

**NAADAC** [National Association of Addiction Professionals] Serves as President of Minnesota chapter (Greater Minnesota Association of Addiction Professionals)

**NALGAP** [National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals]

**NADCP** [National Association of Drug Court Professionals]

Currently fulfilling a role as an appointee from the MN Department of Health on the Citizens Advisory Council in conjunction with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of MN Department of Human Services.

**Monica Nilsson**

Monica has worked in direct service with homeless adults and youth since 1993. She currently serves as Director of Community Engage for St. Stephen’s Human Services. She works primarily with those who are sleeping outside or in shelter and assisting those who have experienced homelessness in sharing their stories at the legislature, in the media and with St Stephen’s theatre company. Previously, she served as Shelter Director at Simpson Housing Services, opening a shelter for women in 1999 followed by work with runaway or homeless youth at The Bridge. Monica worked with long-term homeless programs on the Iron Range and the Fond du Lac an Bois Forte reservations in her work at Hearth Connection. She currently serves on the Board of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, a collaborative of 150 organizations statewide that advocate and educate to prevent and end people’s homelessness.

**Meghan M. Wheeler, M.S.**

Meghan Wheeler is an independent training and technical assistance consultant in the justice, treatment and social services fields, providing professional training, grant writing, curriculum development, strategic planning, and technical assistance services.  Ms. Wheeler has 20 years of professional experience in direct service work and training and technical assistance on the national, state, and local level. Ms. Wheeler is skilled in leading multi-disciplinary teams to assess and analyze their current operations and make critical changes and sound decisions based on needs and resources. Ms. Wheeler is able to take a large conceptual project, break it into components, and establish a solid plan to achieve short and long term goals.

Currently, Ms. Wheeler serves as a Senior Consultant for the National Drug Court Institute, Adult Drug Court Planning Initiative, Adult Drug Court Training Initiative and Family Drug Court Training Projects.  Ms. Wheeler serves as a family drug court training and technical assistance (TTA) expert consultant for the Center for Children and Family Futures, Inc. (CFF) to provide on-going consultation, assist in the development of training material and provide direct TTA to assist CFF achieve the goals of the Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistant Program. Ms. Wheeler also serves as a consultant for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, NIATx Learning Collaborative to educate behavioral health providers to apply a the NIATx process improvement model to improve access to and retention in treatment. Ms. Wheeler previously worked for the National Drug Court Institute (2001-2009) as the Project Director, where she managed adult and family drug court training and technical assistance activities.

Prior to her work nationally, Ms. Wheeler managed the statewide drug court implementation project for the Supreme Court of Ohio.  Ms. Wheeler’s work with drug courts began in 1996 in her position as Treatment Coordinator for Richland County, Ohio.  Ms. Wheeler was also employed by the Abraxas Foundation, a residential treatment facility for adolescent males involved in the juvenile justice system.  Ms. Wheeler has experience in both juvenile and adult treatment and court systems related to clinical intervention, supervision, case management, program management and policy development.  Ms. Wheeler received her Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice and Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Mercyhurst University, Erie, Pennsylvania.  Ms Wheeler is a Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer in Richland County, Ohio and previously held the position as an adjunct professor at Ashland University in the area of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

**Charlie Mishek**

Charlie Mishek, MA, LP, LADC has worked in the CD field for 35 years as a provider and program manager.  He has worked at Hazelden, HealthEast St. Joseph’s Hospital, HealthPartners and Regions Hospital. He currently works for DHS, in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, focusing on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and Parity .

**Kenneth Arnold**

Kenneth Arnold, MBA, CAPis currently the Senior Director of Court Services for River Region Human Services in Jacksonville, Fl.  The programs under his supervision are Adult, Juvenile, Family Dependency and Mental Health Courts in Duval County, TASC program, Next Step (DUI Program), and the Matrix Program (a 150 bed in-jail secure treatment program with 1 year of aftercare upon release). In his supervision of these programs over the last 17 plus years he has assisted many individuals in need of treatment services and housing. He has supervised the transition from St. Johns Horizon Place to Andy’s Place, a new 40 unit housing complex. He currently provides clinical supervision, training and development of treatment services for clients in adult, family and juvenile drug courts. He is part of the grant writing and strategic planning team for his agency. He has been a grant peer reviewer for more than 7 years. He has served as a facility member for NADCP for more than 10 years and has provided onsite technical assistance.  He is a Certified Addictions Professional and Certified Mental Health Professional in the state of Florida and is a US D.O.T. Substance Abuse Professional. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Health Care Administration from Southern Illinois University and his MBA from Webster University. He served 2 years as a member of the Florida Supreme Court Task Force on Treatment-Based Courts and is currently a board member of the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals.

**Deena McMahon, MSW, LICSW**

Deena McMahon is a family and attachment therapist in private practice. After working as a clinical supervisor and director for in-home services for 20 years, she established her private practice working with children and families. She does forensic parenting assessments, attachment and sibling assessments, and attachment therapy. Ms. McMahon is often consulted as an expert witness on contentious child welfare cases. She also serves as consultant to numerous state and county child protection agencies, adoption agencies, and parent support groups.

Ms. McMahon provides national and regional trainings and serves as a faculty consultant to the Minnesota State Guardian Ad Litem Program. She completed the Minnesota State Judges Bench Book chapter on child development. She has been working with families and children for over 30 years and has developed expertise in the areas of childhood trauma, childhood sexual abuse, grief and loss, family violence, transracial placements, ICWA cases, adoption and attachment.

Ms. McMahon has presented trainings for the Children’s Justice Initiative, sponsored by the MN Supreme Court; has been hired by the Department of Human Services to do state-wide trainings; and has her own client caseload. She has provided training for state judges, public defenders, social service supervisors, parents, Guardians ad Litem, early childhood and special education teachers, foster care providers, daycare providers, personal care attendants and mental health professionals. She is known for her passion in working with children and her strong advocacy skills.

**Honorable Allison Krehbiel**

**Appointed/Elected:**

Appointed Feb. 14, 2002, by Governor Jesse Ventura.  Elected in 2004 and 2010.  Current terms expires Jan. 2017.

**Education:**

J.D., William Mitchell College of Law, 1991  
B.A., University of Minnesota, 1984

**Employment:**

Assistant Public Defender- Fifth Judicial District, 1999-2002  
Assistant City Attorney- Minneapolis, 1995-1998  
Acting Deputy City Attorney- Minneapolis, 1995  
Assistant City Attorney- Minneapolis, 1992-1995  
Associate Attorney- LaBore and Juliano, 1992

**Community Activities:**

Board member- Watonwan County Library  
Coach- Madelia summer recreational youth programs

**Lecturing and Teaching Experience:**

Judge Krehbiel taught Criminal Constitutional Law, Employment Law, Sexual Harassment and Civil Liability to Minneapolis police officers, while with the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office.

**Honorable Shaun Floerke**

**Appointed/Elected:**

Appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2004. Elected in 2006 and 2012. Current term expires January 2019.

**Education:**

J.D., *magna cum laude,* University of Minnesota Law School, 1992

* Director- Misdemeanor Prosecution Clinic, 1991-1992
* Co-Director- Intellectual Property Moot Court, 1991-1992
* Member- Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition Team, 1991-1992

B.A., University of Wisconsin (Madison), 1988

**Employment:**

Judge- Sixth Judicial District (Duluth), 2004-present

* Chief Judge since July 1, 2012
* Member of the Drug Court Initiative, a Judicial Council advisory committee, since July 1, 2012
* South St. Louis County DWI Court Founding Member and Presiding Judge since January 2008

Assistant St. Louis County Attorney- Civil Division, 1997-2004  
Attorney- Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick (Duluth), 1996-1997  
Prosecutor- Steele County Attorney's Office, 1992-1996  
Attorney- Ruth, Schreiner, Long & Floerke (Owatonna), 1992-1996

**Professional Memberships:**

Minnesota State Bar Association  
Eleventh District Bar Association  
Minnesota County Attorneys Association  
American Bar Association  
Steele County Bar Association

**Publications:**

Judge Floerke has Authored:  
*County Attorney's Statutory Duties*, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, January 2003.

*DWI Forfeitures in Minnesota*, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, September 2001.

**Awards:**

Judicial Award for DWI innovation and intervention, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Mar. 9, 2011

**Honorable Robert Rancourt**

**Appointed/Elected:**

Appointed February 8, 2002.  Elected in 2004 and 2010.  Current term expires Jan. 2017.

**Education:**

Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota (J.D. 1976); University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida (B.A. 1973) (President's Honor Roll).

**Employment Background:**

Private practice 1979-2002; Banking 1976-1979.

**Bar Admissions:**

Minnesota Supreme Court (1979); Federal District Court, District of Minnesota (1976).

**Professional Organizations:**

Minnesota State Bar Association; Minnesota District Judges Association; Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Vice-President of the Congress of State Drug Court Associations; Minnesota Association of Drug Court Professionals.

**Court Activities:**

Domestic Abuse Task Force; Chair of the Tenth Judicial Task Force on Innovative Judicial Interventions; Backup Judge on the Children’s Justice Initiative; Tenth Judicial District Pro-Bono Committee; Minnesota Supreme Court Appeals Panel; Minnesota Supreme Court Chemical Dependency Task Force; Lead Judge of Chisago County Juvenile Drug Court; Implementation of Chisago County Juvenile Drug Court; Guardian ad Litem issues; Chisago County Methamphetamine Task Force; Lead Judge of Substance Abuse Task Force; one of the first Judges in Minnesota to attend the Professional in Residence Education Program at Hazelden Foundation; Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council; Drug Court Initiative Advisory Committee; Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Vice-President of the Congress of State Drug Court Associations.

**Honorable Lisa Borgen**

**Appointed/Elected:**

Appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2006. Elected in 2008. Her current term expires in January 2015.

**Education:**

J.D., University of North Dakota School of Law, 1996  
B.A., Minnesota State University-Moorhead, 1993  
L.P.N., diploma, North Dakota State College of Science, 1982

**Employment:**

Judge- Seventh Judicial District, 2006-present

Clay County Attorney- 1999-2006

Solo Practitioner/Contract Attorney- Seventh Judicial District Public Defender's Office, 1997-1999

**Professional Memberships:**

Clay County Bar Association  
Executive Committee- Clay County Children's Justice Initiative  
Former Member- Minnesota County Attorneys Association  
Minnesota District Judges Association  
Seventh District Domestic Violence Task Force  
Criminal JIGS Committee

**Community Activities:**

Board President- Red River Children's Advocacy Center  
Board President- Clay County Law Library  
Board of Directors- YMCA

**Honorable Charles LeDuc**

**Appointed/Elected:**

Appointed by Governor Jesse Ventura in 1999. Elected in 2000, 2002 and 2008. His current term expires in January 2015.

**Education:**

University of North Dakota  
J.D., 1979  
B.S., cum laude, 1975

**Employment:**

Partner- Shermoen, LeDuc and Jaska (International Falls), 1979-1999  
Assistant Public Defender- Ninth Judicial District, 1980-1996

**Professional Memberships:**

Judge LeDuc is admitted to practice law before the Red Lake Tribal Court and is a past president of the Koochiching County Bar Association.

**Community Activities:**

Rotary Club  
Jaycees  
Little League Coach

**Honorable Paul Anderson, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court**

Justice Paul H. Anderson was born on May 14, 1943, in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, USA. He was raised on a dairy farm; graduated from Eden Prairie High School in 1961; Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota 1965—B.A. degree, cum laude with departmental honors in Political Science and Minors in History & Economics (while a student at Macalester College Justice Anderson studied in Algeria—Summer 1964); University of Minnesota Law School, Juris Doctor degree 1968; VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) volunteer attorney, New Haven Legal Assistance, New Haven, CT. 1968-69; Special Assistant Attorney General, State of Minnesota, 1970; Attorney engaged in the private practice of law, LeVander, Gillen & Miller, South St. Paul 1971-1992. In 1992 Justice Anderson was appointed Chief Judge, Minnesota Court of Appeals (1992-1994); and in 1994 Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court (1994-present).

Justice Anderson is the recipient of several awards including the Macalester College Distinguished Citizen Award, the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association “Access to Justice Award,” the MSBA Civil Litigation Section’s 2009 Advocate Award, the first ever MSBA Citizen Lawyer Award in 2009, the Toastmasters 2010 Communication and Leadership Award, and Minnesota Lawyer’s 2012 Outstanding Service to the Profession Award. He is an avid bicyclist, gourmet cook, history and civics scholar, and a Homeless Shelter Volunteer. He has also acted in several theatrical productions.

Justice Anderson has lectured in El Salvador, China, the Philippines and Russia. In March 2011, he completed a second lecture tour in China. In June 2012, he traveled to Libya and Tunisia where he made presentations on elections, election disputes, election fraud, and while in Tunisia met with persons who were drafting that country’s new constitution. He has made presentations to many delegations from across the globe that were visiting Minnesota and has hosted week-long symposiums for delegations of judges and lawyers from the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Georgia.

**James C. Backstrom**

James C. Backstrom is the 23rd Dakota County Attorney elected in 1987 by the citizens of the Dakota County. As the Dakota County Attorney, Backstrom leads the County Attorney’s Office whose duties include:

* Prosecuting adult felony crimes that occur within the county
* Prosecuting all cases involving juveniles
* Providing assistance to victims and witnesses
* Providing legal counsel to the County Board of Commissioners and County departments
* Initiating legal actions to protect abused and neglected children, and vulnerable adults, and to provide child support enforcement and more
* Providing crime prevention initiatives

**Dr. Mark Willenbring**

**Current Positions**

Founder and CEO, Alltyr: Transforming Treatment for Addictions, St. Paul, MN

Director, Alltyr Clinic, St. Paul, MN

Staff Psychiatrist, United Hospital, St. Paul

Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry

University of Minnesota

**Licensure and Certification**

Medical Licensure:

Minnesota: No. 22040

Diplomate, National Board of Medical Examiners, 1975

Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology:

Board Certified in General Psychiatry, 1984, #26183

Added Qualifications in Addiction Psychiatry, 1992, #469, Recertified 2003

Added Qualifications in Forensic Psychiatry, 1998, #554

**Professional Associations**

# American Psychiatric Association (Distinguished Fellow)

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (Founding Member)

American Society of Addiction Medicine

Research Society on Alcoholism

## Research Experience and Activities

I have recently left NIH to establish ALATYR: An Initiative to Transform Treatment of Addictions in America. More than 90% of current US addiction treatment programs offer a model of treatment that was developed in the middle of the 20th Century. Consumers and their families lack access to up-to-date research-based addiction treatment. Fewer than 10% of people developing alcohol or drug dependence receive any specialty treatment at all. ALATYR is a three-pronged initiative, consisting of 1) the Alcohol and Substance Use Screening, Evaluation and Treatment (ASSET) Clinic – a model program demonstrating how to implement evidence-based treatment that will also provide a site for professional education and clinical research, 2) the ALATYR Institute – a non-profit educational and research institute affiliated with the ASSET Clinic, and 3) the ALATYR Foundation, a national foundation to support education and research on implementation of evidence-based practices in addiction treatment.

As Director of the Division of Treatment and Recovery Research at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, I was responsible for overseeing a grant portfolio that includes behavioral and medication treatment research and health services research. I was also responsible for determining research priorities in these areas for the Institute, and for disseminating this information and stimulating research applications. Prior to assuming the position at NIH, I conducted clinical and health services research concerning substance use disorders. I have focused on development and testing of treatment models for persons with multiple complex problems, such as homeless public inebriates and medically ill alcoholics. Most recently, I was involved in several efforts to examine guideline implementation in alcohol and drug treatment, and in a series of studies concerning the relationship of psychiatric and substance use disorders with hepatitis C and its treatment with interferon. Currently, my focus is on facilitating and stimulating research concerning treatment of and recovery from alcohol use disorders. Such research includes psychosocial, pharmacological, environmental, and health services approaches. Recent initiatives undertaken under my direction include developing a new infrastructure for medications trials to reduce time for product development, stimulating research on mechanisms of action in behavior change, integrating neuroscience, behavioral, and social research concerning alcohol use disorders, and stimulating research examining implementation of research findings in real-world settings.

**David Holewinski**

David Holewinski, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, VA Medical Center, [David.Holewinski@va.gov](mailto:David.Holewinski@va.gov)

David’s position was created as part of the Veterans Justice Outreach Initiative through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). <http://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp> David works with the Hennepin County Veterans Court, as well as all of the other local Veterans Courts. He also works with Blue Earth County and Eau Claire County Veterans Courts.

**Katie Schurrer**

Katie Schurrer has been a Research Analyst with the State Court Administrator’s office in the Minnesota Judicial Branch since 2006.  Katie was the principal researcher on the Minnesota Statewide Adult Drug Court Evaluation, which was completed in 2012.  Katie is also the state point of contact for drug court data and information and maintains the system of individual drug court data on all offender drug court participants in Minnesota (Adult, DWI, Juvenile, and Hybrid courts).  Katie’s work for the Minnesota Judicial Branch also includes Court Performance Measures, Judicial and Staff Workload Assessments, evaluation of Branch initiatives, survey construction & analysis, and other policy analysis to support Judicial Branch strategic goals.  Katie has experience in market research, legal work as a law clerk and summer associate, and background in Restorative Justice, both as a practitioner and member of non-profit boards.  Katie holds a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law and is a licensed attorney in Minnesota.  Katie graduated magna cum laude and with Honors from Augsburg College, where she obtained a B.A. Her course study focused on sociology, communities, crime, and Native American studies.

**Kevin Mettler**

Graduated from Mankato State University 1993 BA IN Corrections

Leo A. Hoffmann Center – 1993- 1997, Unit Counselor

Blue Earth County Corrections- 1997- 2012 , STS Leader, CWS Coordinator, Intern, Volunteer Coordinator, Intensive DWI Agent, Drug Court Agent, Drug Court Coordinator, FDTC Coordinator.

State of Minnesota 2012- present: Coordinator Blue Earth County Drug Court, FDTC, and Veterans Court

Head Football Coach Mankato Loyola High School

Youth Minister Holy Rosary Church Mankato MN

Married w/ 3 daughters

**Eric Thompson**

Eric Thompson works full-time as Coordinator for the Dodge County Drug Court and has been a team member since inception in 2002. He also serves on the Drug Court Liaison committee. Eric previously worked for the Dodge County Family Services Collaborative and as a Guardian ad Litem in the Third Judicial District. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Hamline University and is in private practice as a Parenting Time Expeditor and Child Custody Evaluator. When he’s not working, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife Shannan and daughters Saige, Scarlet, and Violet in the Kasson, MN area.

**Don Kautzmann**

Don is the coordinator for the Clay/Becker Drug Court since it began in January 2008. Prior to that, he worked as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable John E. Pearson from 2001-2006, and for the Honorable Lisa N. Borgen from 2006-2008, in the Seventh Judicial District. Don also currently represents the Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts on the Minnesota Drug Court Liaison Group.

**Bob Roeglin**

Bob has worked in the field of corrections for over 35 years. Much of that time has been spent working with chronic DWI offenders. He was instrumental in the forming of the Hennepin County DWI Court in 2006 and he continues to supervise the probation staff in DWI Court as well as in the Felony DWI Unit. Bob also supervised the Ignition Interlock pilot program in Hennepin County in 2007 which indirectly led to the passage of the state’s Ignition Interlock law in 2011. To better understand the dynamics of the interlock, Bob and one of his probation officers had the device installed on their own cars for a short period of time. Bob has a Master’s degree in Corrections from Minnesota State University Mankato. He teaches a class in the Criminal Court System for Metro State University.