



**BEST PRACTICES  
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

## Keeping Students in School Through School Justice Partnerships

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*Wednesday, July 10, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET*  
*SPEAKER BIOS*

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### **Bernadine Futrell**

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education



Dr. Bernadine Futrell, Ph.D., was most recently the director of the Office of Head Start (OHS) at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. Futrell, began her career as an assistant Head Start teacher in Virginia. She came to OHS in the Biden-Harris Administration from the National Head Start Association (NHSA), where she was most recently the senior director for effective practice. Prior to NHSA, Futrell led superintendent certification programs at the American Association of School Administrators. She is co-author of the book *ConnectED Leaders: Network and Amplify your Superintendency* and holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a M.Ed. and a Ph.D. in education policy from George Mason University. Dr. Futrell and her husband are the proud parents of two young children.

## Liz Ryan

Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice



Ms. Liz Ryan became Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on May 16, 2022, following appointment by President Joseph R. Biden. Prior to leading OJJDP, Ms. Ryan served as president and CEO of the Youth First Initiative, a national campaign focused on ending the incarceration of youth by investing in community-based alternatives. Ms. Ryan founded the Youth First Initiative in 2014; under her leadership, it achieved the closure of youth prisons in six states and redirected more than \$50 million to community-based alternatives to incarceration.

Ms. Ryan founded the Campaign for Youth Justice in 2005 and served as its president and CEO until 2014. A staunch advocate for youth, Ms. Ryan co-founded and cochaired Act 4 Juvenile Justice, a campaign to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. She also served as advocacy director for the Youth Law Center, national field director for OJJDP's Juvenile Court Centennial Initiative, and as an advocate for the Children's Defense Fund.

Ms. Ryan earned a bachelor's degree from Dickinson College and a master's degree in International Studies from the George Washington University.

## Ellen Galinsky

President, Families and Work Institute, Researcher, Author of *The Breakthrough Years*



Ms. Ellen Galinsky is President of Families and Work Institute and the elected President of the Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN) and senior research advisor to AASA, the School Superintendent Organization. Previous jobs include Chief Science Officer at the Bezos Family Foundation and faculty at Bank Street College. Ms. Galinsky is the author of the best-selling *Mind in the Making* on early learning. Her new book on adolescence, *The Breakthrough Years* is called "a superb contribution to science and society" by Rich Lerner of Tufts University. She's also the author of 90 books/research reports and 360 articles for books, journals, magazines, and the Web.

## 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 also serves as a Superior Court Judge by designation presiding over civil and criminal matters. Judge Teske has testified before Congress on four 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.

The Governor has appointed him to the Children and Youth Coordinating Council, Governor’s Office for Children and Families, DJJ Judicial Advisory Council, JDAI Statewide Steering Committee, Georgia Commission on Family Violence, and the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Commission. He served two terms on the Federal Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and is the Immediate Past National Chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. He is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and has served on the Board of Directors. He is past president of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the Clayton County Bar Association.

Judge Teske is the 2018 recipient of the Juvenile Law Center Leadership Prize Award. He has received numerous awards and recognitions including Romae T.Powell Award from the Juvenile Court Association of Georgia, Clayton County NAACP Community Service Award, Howard K. Ables Award from the Georgia Juvenile Services Association, 2013 Alumni Award of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University, Distinguished Alumni Award of Clayton State University, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children.

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 is an adjunct law professor at John Marshall Law School in Atlanta, GA.

## Luvenia Jackson

Superintendent, Clayton County Public Schools, GA (Retired)



Ms. Luvenia Jackson served as Clayton County Public Schools Superintendent after her appointment to several administrative positions within the district. These positions included: principal at the elementary and secondary levels, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Chief of Student Services, Policies and Legislation; Chief Information Officer and Special Assistant to the Superintendent.

However, Ms. Jackson believes that the many years as a classroom teacher promoted her development of self-awareness and self-knowledge, created an appreciation for research and data collection, anchored her respect for collaboration and acquisition of relationships.

The School Justice Partnership with Judge Teske allowed her the opportunity to become part of an organic solution to many of the collective community concerns. This partnership encouraged a culture change for the school system. More training for all school employees including the school resource officers. School climate data improved, school attendance improved, less out of school suspensions occurred, high school graduation rates improved and teacher attendance improved.

## Ralph Simpson

Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services & Strategic Improvement, Clayton County Public Schools, GA



Dr. Ralph Simpson, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, began his career in criminal justice after earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from West Georgia in 1986. Observing the impact of incarceration, he transitioned to education, teaching in elementary and middle schools. His success as a teacher and mentor led him to pursue a Master's in Education Administration. In 2000, he became the first African American principal at Stone Mountain High. Dr. Simpson furthered his education by earning a Doctorate of Education in Supervision and Leadership in 2004. Driven by determination and dedication, he continues to inspire students and serve as an Adjunct Professor at Argosy University Atlanta Campus. Dr. Simpson is a member of the National Association of Educators, Georgia Association of Educators, DeKalb Association for Secondary School Administrators, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. His motto: "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

## Benjamin Straker

Parent; Vice Chair, Clayton County School Board, GA

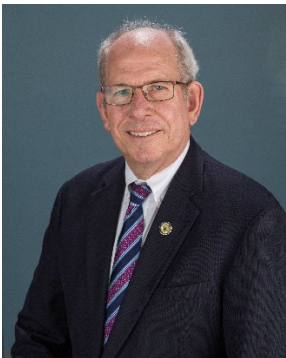


Mr. Benjamin Straker, Sr. was elected to Clayton County Board of Education in July 2015 to fill an unexpired term for the seat representing District 9. Mr. Straker is a resident of the Rex area of Clayton County, and is the father of two children. With his children in the Clayton County school system, he felt encouraged and motivated to become an active parent and eventually was elected president of the Adamson Middle School PTSA.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Straker graduated from Bernard Baruch College of the City University of New York with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a concentration on Sales and Entrepreneurship. He also obtained his Masters in Business Administration from Clayton State University in 2018. His community outreach experience began in New York City at the grassroots level, and for more than 20 years, was a community leader. In the process of learning community advocacy and activism, he worked with many different elected officials, doing community outreach and education.

## Julius H. Corpening

Chief District Judge, State of North Carolina



Chief District Court Judge J. H. Corpening received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Wake Forest University. He was appointed to the bench in 1991 after 12 years in practice with the firm, Prickett and Corpening. He was named Chief District Court Judge in 2005 and has served in that capacity since. Judge Corpening is currently the longest serving active judge in the history of New Hanover County. He has twice been certified as a juvenile court judge by the NCAOC and is currently working on the new advanced juvenile certification. Judge Corpening frequently lectures at the UNC School of Government, as well as local, state, and national conferences on topics related to child welfare, juvenile justice, trauma, school-justice partnerships, domestic violence, opioids, and other topics. He also chairs and serves on several local and state level committees connected to children and families. He has received many awards and recognitions, including being named the National Judge of the Year by the National Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem Association in 2018. Judge Corpening lives in Wilmington, and is a proud husband, father, and grandfather.



## Stephanie Kraybill

Board of Education, New Hanover County Schools, NC



Ms. Stephanie Kraybill is a safety engineer from Virginia Tech and has worked as a safety professional in Fortune 500 companies and in her safety consulting business for almost 40 years. She first became involved in the local public school system when her children were in school, serving as a volunteer and a substitute teacher. She has been active in the PTA at the local, regional, and state levels, serving as a leader in her children's schools, in schools with low-to-no parent involvement, and as the President of the local PTA Council. She is a staunch and consistent advocate for all children and has been active on many different district and state level committees and a wide variety community committees and organizations that focus on connecting at-risk youth with the services they need and helping pave the way to graduate high school with the skills they need to succeed in life. One of her very favorite organizations is Communities In Schools.

## David Gleiser

Executive Director, Missouri River Historical Development, Inc.



Mr. David Gleiser led a successful school/justice partnership in Sioux City, Iowa that focused on the process of referring youth from school to juvenile court and the provision of data to support policy decisions. The partnership yielded significant reductions in the number of referrals to juvenile court and the use of secure confinement in juvenile detention. Racial disparities within these two points of contact were also drastically reduced. Mr. Gleiser served as the Site Coordinator for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) from 2008 to 2013. In 2012, Mr. Gleiser became a member of the JDAI Fundamentals National Training Team and helped new and expansion sites across the country implement the JDAI framework. In 2014, Mr. Gleiser was appointed by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors to serve as Director of the county's Community & Economic Development Department. In 2015, Mr. Gleiser was elected to the Board of Education for the Sioux City Community School District. He now owns a small business and serves as the Executive Director for a grant funding agency in Sioux City where he lives with his wife and three children. Mr. Gleiser received his B.S. from the University of South Dakota, and his M.P.A. from the University of Nebraska – Omaha.