

SSDI Webinar Series
Webinar 6
**Resources School-Justice Partners Can Use
to Keep Kids Engaged In Learning and Out of Court**
March 4th, 3:00-4:30 ET

PRESENTER BIOS
(in the order of the presentation)



Nina Salomon, M.S.

Nina Salomon is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Council of State Governments Justice Center. Nina has been with the Justice Center since 2012, and was a lead author of the School Discipline Consensus Report, released in 2014, which provides over sixty policy and practice recommendations to minimize the dependence on suspensions and expulsions, improve students' academic outcomes, reduce their involvement in the juvenile justice system, and promote safe and productive learning environments. Prior to joining the Justice Center, Nina was a Policy Advisor at Education Counsel LLC, a national policy and legal consulting firm where she provided assistance to clients at state education agencies, school districts, and nationally and federally focused organizations to advance policy change. Nina also served as a Program Investment Associate at The Chicago Public Education Fund, where she conducted due diligence on prospective investments and managed projects in partnership with Chicago Public Schools. She also wrote policy briefs and funding guides to support charter schools, out-of-school time, and youth development programs for The Finance Project, and worked in the Migrant Head Start Technical Assistance Center supporting local grantees. Nina earned a B.A. in Political Science from The George Washington University and an M.A.Ed. in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania. She is fluent in Spanish and Hebrew.



Greta Colombi, M.A.

Greta Colombi is a senior researcher at AIR with 15 years of experience in program monitoring and reporting, technical assistance, and research in both the education and the health and human services fields. Colombi is currently the deputy director of the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments. In addition to helping to manage the Center, as task leader of website development and resource management, she is responsible for developing and updating the Center's online resources and identifying and vetting experts utilized for Center and grantee activities. As part of the U.S. Department of Education's and U.S. Department of Justice's Supportive Schools Discipline Initiative, Colombi is leading the launch of communities of practice for education and judicial leaders to develop alternatives to exclusionary school discipline policies and practices.

Colombi has provided a variety of training and technical assistance at AIR - including outcome-focused workshops, conferences, webinars and online training courses - to a range of programs and administrators. Her work has focused on empowering health-and-human-service and education programs to use evidence-based practices and outcome-based, data-driven decision making in order to maximize their impact on their clients and students. This has involved the development of many user friendly databases and processes to manage data, resources and experts.

Prior to joining AIR, Colombi conducted city- and metro-area-wide community assessments, provided outcome measurement training and technical assistance, and prepared and led an effort to develop a performance-based reporting system designed to empower programs funded by United Way of Metropolitan Chicago (UWMC) to achieve measurable outcomes and communicate impact.



Debra J. “DJ” Corson

DJ Corson currently serves as a consultant, presenter, and coach in helping educators keep first things first: creating the climate, fueling the commitment, and providing the tools for continual improvement of teaching for learning.

Most significant influence on current practice:

In 1998, Debra “DJ” Corson had the great fortune to be selected by the President of Hawkeye Community College (Waterloo, IA) to collaborate with a handful of community college faculty and administrators from all parts of the U.S. to understand the integration of the philosophy in an educational context. Together, they developed and provided training in higher education. Since then, DJ has worked with educators at every level—early childhood through Master’s Degree programs—to improve learning-centered environments and processes.

Learning-based work experiences:

Debra was employed first as a teacher (7 years), then as Quality Coordinator (8 years) for Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, IA. In addition to leading the college’s internal integration of quality practices, she launched the area’s first Quality Community Network and wrote the curriculum for Iowa’s first quality certificate program. She received the Iowa Governor’s Award in 1993 for Community Quality Excellence. Several organizations with whom Debra trained and consulted also won the Governor’s Award for Quality including Allen Health System, Waverly Light and Power, the Veteran’s Hospital in Iowa City, IA, and Hawkeye Community College.

In 1994 Debra was asked to bring the quality philosophy and practices to K-12. Her work in two Iowa AEAs over the next 12 years resulted in the creation of several collaborative school improvement initiatives, trainer/facilitator for Contemporary School Leadership, monthly learning sessions for superintendents, and partnering with Pat Wolfe, the “brain research lady,” to deepen her understanding of how students learn. Pat’s research provides the underpinnings of Debra’s popular ALR—a learning-focused lesson design.

In 2005, Debra returned to Hawkeye Community College to serve as the first Director of the Teaching and Learning Center. In 2007 she was awarded the President’s Leadership Award for developing an Induction Program for new faculty and for elevating the rigor of the faculty mentoring program. She retired from this position in June 2012 to pursue opportunities to work with schools and colleges across the country.

As CLO—Chief Learning Officer of her company, *Visions Unlimited*, DJ currently serves as a data and improvement coach for several high schools in Iowa, makes numerous presentations at national and state conferences, and consults with colleges and private organizations in strategic growth initiatives.



Cheri Ely M.A., LSW

As a staff member for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges since 2006, Cheri Ely serves as the Director for Juvenile Justice and oversees the School Justice Partnership Project, Training & Technical Assistance to the Juvenile Treatment Drug Courts Project, the Juvenile Justice Model Courts Program, and the partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Ms. Ely has experience working with mentoring programs and tribal courts and social services programs. Ms. Ely is a Licensed Social Worker and is a member of the National Association of Social Workers.



Catherine Foley Geib, MPA

Catherine Foley Geib is the Manager of Clinical and Educational Services for the Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division. She began her juvenile justice career over 20 years ago as a probation officer and currently oversees the development and operation of mental health and education evaluation and treatment services for court-involved juveniles. She was formerly the Manager of Detention Services, and managed the successful exit from the *Emily J.* federal court oversight through collaborative efforts with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to introduce a community-based system of evidence-based treatment and wraparound services for detained juveniles. She is the team leader for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Models for Change Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network grant awarded to Connecticut, and oversees the development and implementation of new strategies to promote school-based diversion, mental health training, and family engagement. She was honored by the MacArthur Foundation as a 2011 Champion for Change for her work. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Relationships *magna cum laude* from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Public Administration degree from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University.



Jeana Bracey, Ph.D.

Dr. Jeana Bracey is a Senior Associate at the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut. Her interests are in program implementation, evaluation, juvenile justice diversion, and school mental health. Currently she coordinates the Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI), a program designed to reduce school-based arrests and to link youth with behavioral health needs to appropriate community-based services and supports. Dr. Bracey also directs the SAMHSA-funded statewide Systems of Care Implementation Grant, locally known as the Connecticut Network of Care Transformation (CONNECT). In addition, she is the lead evaluator for the local Project LAUNCH young child wellness initiative funded by SAMHSA. Dr. Bracey earned her PhD in Clinical/Community Psychology in 2010 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and completed her pre-doctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University.



Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn

Chief Judge Kuhn served as a Judge in the Family Court of the State of Delaware from 1998 until her appointment to Chief Judge of Family Court in 2003. Chief Judge Kuhn is active in the areas of juvenile justice, domestic violence prevention and the prevention of child abuse. In the area of juvenile justice, Chief Judge Kuhn serves as the Vice-Chair of the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Justice Collaborative and serves as a member of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition. Chief Judge Kuhn's passion to keep students in school and out of the juvenile justice system has led to her serving on the Board of Directors for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ); the NCJFCJ School Pathways Project; the Council of State Governments' Consensus Project; and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Safety, Opportunity & Success Project Judges' Advisory

Group. In 2009, Chief Judge Kuhn initiated Gun Court calendars in Delaware's Family Court with the support and cooperation of the Attorney General's Office, the Public Defenders' Office and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. Most recently, the Family Court was awarded the NCJFCJ School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System Project a technical assistance grant that will help improve the occurrence and outcomes of school referrals made to the juvenile justice system.