

## **Darrow Baldus Defense College**

**May 2017**

Faculty

**Chris Adams** specializes in criminal defense in federal and state courts. Chris concentrates on defending clients accused of white collar crimes, street crimes, sex offenses and capital murder in the South and around the country. He is recognized by his peers for his excellence as a criminal defense lawyer. Chris serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a sought after speaker on criminal defense topics ranging from courtroom advocacy, forensics, criminal law, and ethics, having given more than 100 presentations to professional organizations and bar associations in more than thirty states. He is on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College where he teaches fellow criminal defense lawyers and learns from them in the process. He has served as an adjunct professor of law at Emory University, Georgia State University, and the Charleston School of Law, teaching courses and clinics on capital punishment and criminal procedure.

**Dr. Laura Fuller** is a licensed psychologist and health service provider. She is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor of psychiatry and urology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. Dr. Fuller holds a B.S. in Psychology (Iowa State University), and a MA and PHD in Clinical Psychology (University of Iowa). She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Pediatric Psychology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

**Emily Hughes** teaches criminal law, procedure, and ethics at the University of Iowa College of Law, including a criminal defense clinic she co-teaches with the state public defender office in Iowa City. Before joining Iowa law, Emily was Associate Director of the Center for Justice in Capital Cases at DePaul College of Law, where she represented clients on capital cases. She taught at the Darrow Death Penalty Defense College for more than ten years, starting when it was in Ann Arbor through its move to Chicago, and now through its move to Iowa. She was also a professor at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, a public defender for the Iowa State Public Defender, a Sacks Fellow at Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Institute, and a clerk for the Honorable Michael J. Melloy in Iowa.

**Dr. Antoinette Kavanaugh** is a licensed, board certified forensic clinical psychologist with over 20 years of experience providing case evaluation and consultation in juvenile, criminal, civil, and capital cases worldwide. She has practiced in a variety of environments, from the inner-city of Chicago to rural Massachusetts. In addition to her work as a practitioner, she helps others navigate the complex intersection of psychology and law. She has prepared multiple reports, written reviews of research; and published in peer-reviewed journals.

**La Mer Kyle-Griffiths** is the Training Director for the King County Department of Public Defense in Seattle, WA. Before that she practiced for over 17 years as a public defender in both Kentucky and Massachusetts. In Boston she was part of the Youth Advocacy Division who actively practiced holistic juvenile representation under the Positive Youth Development model. She has taught attorneys and law students for several years in the areas of sentencing, trial skills, juvenile practice and DNA, among others. In Kentucky, she litigated at all levels of criminal practice including death penalty trial level, post-disposition and appeals work for children. She has tried juvenile, adult and a death penalty case as well as arguing two cases to the Kentucky Supreme court. She was more recently part of the coaching

team for the Boston College Mock trial team and coaches at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. A graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law she has been a lifelong public defender and is looking forward to her continuing adventure in the Pacific Northwest with her Public Defender husband and three girls who all learned to crow "Acquittal" early!

**Amy B. Nguyen** is a Researcher, GIS Analyst and owner of Capital Maps, LLC in the Dallas, Texas area. Her specialty is mapping Department of Justice community risk factors and performing demographic analysis. She holds Master's level certification in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and has been working in capital sentencing mitigation for eight years. She has presented at the NASAMS Life in the Balance Conference, the NLADA National Conference, Darrow-Baldus Death Penalty Defense College, Capital Habeas Unit National Conference, and the American and International Law Association as well as many other conferences. To date she has been involved in thirty nine state trials in eleven states across the nation and fifteen federal trials. In 2008 she won a coveted assistantship position with ESRI, designers of the world's leading GIS software. Amy provides maps for capital litigation and also provides expert testimony.

**Mary K. Poirier** is a mitigation specialist based in Kansas City at The McCallister Law Firm. Poirier brings seventeen years of experience as a social worker and an activist with Missouri Alternatives against the death penalty to her work with the McCallister Mitigation Team. Poirier has been an integral part of the development of mitigation services at McCallister and has served as an investigator of client's life stories, provided client support, and prepared and coordinated trial exhibits that have led to clients being granted clemency.

**Lettie Prell** is Director of Research with the Iowa Department of Corrections. Her career in the state justice system has spanned over thirty-five years. Among her areas of expertise are offender risk assessment development and recidivism studies. She developed and empirically validated the Iowa Violence and Victimization Instrument (IVVI) which establishes a common risk language between community-based corrections, institutions and board of parole. The IVVI forms the core of the Iowa Risk Revised used to determine level (intensity) of community of supervision. A portion her risk assessment work was published in the International Journal of Law and Psychiatry in 2016. Ms. Prell is also a recipient of the Peter P. Lejins research award from the American Correctional Association (2009).

**Mae C. Quinn** directs the MacArthur Justice Center in Saint Louis and is a nationally recognized scholar in criminal and juvenile justice, professional ethics, poverty law, and women's legal history. Quinn's work bears witness to how the law and legal institutions create and perpetuate marginalization and vulnerability. At the same time, her work also promotes action and change, offering concrete legal solutions and methods for reform. She served as a New York City appellate defender, a trial attorney with the Bronx Defenders, a law clerk to the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and as a Professor of Law at the University of Tennessee and Washington University in Saint Louis.

**Dr. Lori Sexton** is the Director of the Graduate Program in Criminal Justices and Criminology. She received her doctorate in Criminology, Law and Society from University of California, Irvine in 2012. She is an assistant professor who specializes in corrections and punishment and teaches courses on corrections and correctional policy at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has presented her

research at several annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology and has been published in Justice Quarterly and the International Journal of Crime, Criminal Justice, and Law. At UMKC, she serves on the Graduate Program Committee and the Faculty Library Advisory Committee as well as on the Starr Forum Planning Committee. Dr. Sexton is currently working on the evaluation of the implementation of the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (NOVA), a collaborative effort of the University, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the mayor of Kansas City, and the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole. She is also a principal investigator for a project examining the culture and experiences of transgender prisoners in Pennsylvania

**Cyndy Short** is a criminal defense attorney and mitigation specialist with extensive experience defending capital cases. A member of the Mitigation Team at The McCallister Law Firm, Short has pioneered the use of developing client's life stories in order to present a compelling case for mitigation and has presented over sixty cases without a client going to death row. Short received the Lon O. Hocker Memorial Trial Lawyer Award in recognition of outstanding trial work in 1997, the Defender of Distinction Award in 1998, and the Atticus Finch Award given by the Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2010.

**Kim Thomas** is a Clinical Professor at the University of Michigan College of Law. Her research, teaching, and practice focus on criminal law, especially on sentencing law and practice, juvenile justice, indigent persons accused of crimes, and prisoner re-entry into the community. Professor Thomas is the cofounder (with Professor Frank Vandervort) of the Juvenile Justice Clinic. In 2013, Professor Thomas was among several attorneys honored with the Justice For All Award from the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan. The group ( which included her husband, Jonathan Sacks, the deputy director of the Michigan State Appellate Defenders Office) developed a pro bono program to represent juvenile defendants following the 2012 U.S. Supreme Court Miller v. Alabama decision holding that mandatory juvenile life-without-parole sentences were unconstitutional.

**Julie Urbanik** is Executive Director of The Coordinates Society: a cultural organization dedicated to fostering curiosity, connection, and compassion through geography. Coordinates Society programs use the creative and participatory methods of geography (mapping, story-telling, place-making, and personal exploration) to empower individuals and to assist social/legal service providers and businesses/organizations in problem-solving complex issues. Julie holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Geography from Clark University (Massachusetts) and is an award-winning educator and author. She also holds a M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Arizona and a B.A. in History from Randolph-Macon College (Virginia). She has a decade of experience with curriculum design, teaching, community outreach, and research project management through a variety of institutions in geography and environmental studies programs, most recently at the University of Missouri Kansas City. She has published a book, a co-edited encyclopedia, professional journal articles, book chapters, and produced a 30-minute documentary film. She has done volunteer work with animal shelters, domestic violence clinics, and in federal and state prisons.

**Tzitel Voss** is a Speech Communications and Theater teacher and consultant with twenty years of experience in a broad range of fields. She recently earned an MA in Professional Communications and Storytelling from East Tennessee State University, the only oral storytelling program in the country. Her area of research included the examination of how storytelling can be used to discuss issues

of race, culture, and social justice. The greater part of her career has been spent within the field of education where she teaches speech, media studies, and interpersonal communications classes. Additionally, she has worked with high school speakers and performers in competitive forensics, mock trial and one-act theater groups. Through her work at Eastern Tennessee State University, Tzitel made a connection with Chris Adams and has subsequently presented workshops with him on the topic of using storytelling within the courtroom.