



## 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "REFLECTIONS" SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT SPEAKER BIOS

### **JEANNE ALLERT, MS ED.**

In 2007, Jeanne Allert founded and currently directs The Samaritan Women, a national faith-based organization providing restorative care for survivors of domestic sex trafficking. Jeanne is chief architect behind TSW's Continuum of Care model which integrates survivor-input, evidenced-based practices, trauma-informed principles and Christian values. Jeanne also created the Institute for Shelter Care and is a founding member of the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance. She serves on the National Advisory Board for the Crimes Against Women conference, is a member of the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign and a graduate of the FBI Citizen's Academy. She has authored and co-authored several books. Her work has been featured in the 2015 documentary IN PLAIN SIGHT, in two books and numerous articles. Jeanne holds a Masters in Education and is completing a Masters in Ministry.

### **CINDY BROWN, MD**

Cindy Brown is a child abuse pediatrician. For the past 21 years, she has been the medical director of the child abuse program at Mission Children's Hospital in Asheville, NC. The Mission Child Safety Team evaluates nearly 700 children annually when there are concerns for possible maltreatment. Dr. Brown is a consultant for the Child Medical Evaluation Program and serves as a Medical Examiner for Buncombe County. She is continually inspired by her amazing colleagues and enjoys the challenges of keeping up with the dynamic and evolving field of child maltreatment.

### **CHRIS CAMPBELL, BS**

Chris is a 2007 Graduate of Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He served as an Asheville Police Officer from 2005 until 2008 and as a Buncombe County Detective from 2008 until 2010 where he was the lead gang investigator for the Sheriff's Office assigned to the Western North Carolina Gang Task Force. In 2010, Chris graduated from the 39<sup>th</sup> NCSBI Special Agent Academy. Chris has been a polygraph operator for the NCSBI since 2012 where he holds federal certifications for such. He is currently a member of the NCSBI Crisis Negotiator Team as a hostage negotiator.

### **SKYE DAVID, JD**

Skye David is a lobbyist for CACNC and the staff attorney for the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She has worked in survivor research, advocacy, and direct services for over 9 years. She has worked on specifically on survivor response, prevention, and policy work for domestic violence, sexual assault, and interpersonal violence throughout the last seven years. In her current role at NCCASA, she advocates on behalf of student survivors in campus Title IX cases, works on legislation for NCCASA, CACNC, and NCVAN. She got her JD at UNC-Chapel Hill and her undergrad at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

### **KRISTEN FEDEN, JD**

Kristen M. Gibbons Feden is an Associate with the law firm, Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett and Bendesky and is widely regarded as one of the Nation's leading litigators in the field of sexual abuse. She has proven herself to be fearless when fighting for survivors against high profile offenders and large institutions. Christened by the New York Times as "*The Prosecutor Who Stared Down Bill Cosby.*" Kristen is internationally recognized as a leading litigator in the #MeToo Movement. Nationally acclaimed as a fierce litigator, she has represented numerous sexual abuse survivors in their pursuit of civil justice and received a multitude of awards for her tireless work with the most vulnerable survivors, many of whom were in their darkest moments when they sought her out. While her, now famous, closing argument in the second trial of *Commonwealth v. William H. Cosby* put her in the international spotlight, Kristen has always been dedicated to

fighting for victims of sexual abuse both in and out of the courtroom. Kristen began her work with victims as a prosecutor in Montgomery County, where she served as Captain of the Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Units and member of the Sex Crimes Unit. In that role she successfully litigated scores of cases to verdict, including trials involving sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, and homicide. While a prosecutor, Kristen received multiple commendations for her courtroom successes and efforts on behalf of survivors. By taking many cases to trial that others would not, Kristen demonstrated her dedication to survivors, time and time again. Outside of the courtroom, Kristen provides a powerful voice for victims nationwide. Kristen has traveled internationally speaking out and fighting for changes in the law and in our societies' understanding of the dynamics of sexual violence and the effects of sexual trauma on survivors. She has been recognized by numerous victim's rights organizations around the country for this work. Kristen has a rare mixture of compassion and killer instinct. A dream come true for her clients, a nightmare for the other side. Kristen is also regularly called upon for expert commentary on high-profile sexual assault matters by attorneys and international and national media outlets alike including CNN, CBS, ABC, Fox, NPR, and the BBC. Kristen is a proud member of various Boards and Court Appointments, including being a Board Member of AEquitas, a national resource center for law enforcement investigating and prosecuting sex trafficking and other sex crimes; the Vice President of the Montgomery County's Victim's Services Center; and a Member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Criminal Procedural Rules Committee. Her expertise is also frequently called upon by various advocacy groups to present and provide keynote speeches. Feden is also an adjunct professor in the top-ranked Temple LLM program in Trial Advocacy and Rosemont College.

#### **JANET FINE, MS**

Janet has served in various direct service and leadership roles in the victim advocacy field for over 36 years. Presently, she serves as an independent consultant providing consultation and training throughout the U.S. and abroad for victim advocacy programs, multidisciplinary teams, children's advocacy centers (CACs), allied professionals and organizations seeking to implement vicarious trauma responses, victim assistance academies, and schools addressing sexual misconduct. She also serves as a Senior Consultant with ResilienceWorks. Current and recent consulting roles include several multi-year initiatives funded by the U.S. Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) – the newly funded Vicarious Trauma Response Initiative, Collective Healing in the Wake of Harm, Vicarious Trauma Toolkit Project, the National Center for Victims of Crime's State Victim Assistance Academy Resource Center, the Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth National Steering Committee, and as an OVC TTAC consultant. Janet began her career as a prosecutor-based Victim Witness Advocate, eventually directing victim witness assistance programs in the two largest district attorneys' offices in Massachusetts, where she also founded and directed their CACs. She participated in community crisis response efforts in local communities, and as a member of the National Crisis Response Team from Massachusetts at Ground Zero in New York after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Subsequently and for more than 10 years, she served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance. As a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the National Children's Alliance, she helped create and subsequently update the national CAC accreditation standards; she also serves as a national accreditation site reviewer. Janet is an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, where she teaches Victimology to both undergraduate and graduate students. She serves on the World Society of Victimology's United Nations (UN) Liaison Committee, including as a representative and presenter at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She holds a B.S. in Human Development & Family Studies from Cornell University and a M.S. in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University.

#### **DEB FLOWERS, MSN, CPNP**

Deb joined the CACNC staff in July of 2019 as the Medical Services Coordinator and is also a Child Medical Evaluation provider for Southmountain Children and Family Services Moore and Harnett County Child Advocacy Centers. She began these new roles after retiring from the UNC Department of Pediatrics - NC Child Maltreatment Program. Deb is also an adjunct clinical instructor with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing and participates as both a lecturer for the nurse practitioner programs and as a clinical preceptor for pediatric nurse practitioner students.

Deb has over 31 years of experience in the field of nursing with trauma and child maltreatment being most of her nursing focus and expertise.

**DANA HAGELE, MD, MPH**

Dr. Dana Hagele is co-founder and co-Director of the North Carolina Child Treatment Program, an implementation platform for the dissemination of an array of evidence-based, child mental health treatment models. Additionally, Dr. Hagele serves as a board-certified child abuse pediatrician at CrossRoads Child Advocacy Center in Burlington, NC.

**NANCY LAMB, JD**

Nancy Lamb has been a prosecutor since 1984 and served as the Chief Assistant District Attorney in the First Prosecutorial District, a seven-county district in the northeastern North Carolina, with its home office in Elizabeth City until 2014. Lamb received her undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University and her law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. Lamb served for 6 years on the Board of Directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and chaired the Professional Education committee during her tenure on the Executive Committee. In 2003, she was awarded APSAC's Outstanding Service Award, given annually to an APSAC member in recognition of outstanding service to the organization. Lamb is a past president of the North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and the 1999 recipient of NCPSAC's Kimberly Crews award, given annually to an NCPSAC member in recognition of professional excellence for service to abused children statewide. Lamb has provided training for the past 25 years at local, regional and national child abuse conferences throughout the United States. Lamb also serves on the CACNC Board of Directors.

**MICHELLE LANIER, LCSW**

Michelle Lanier is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is currently the Vice President of Programs at the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. Michelle received her Bachelor of Science in Child Development from the University of Texas at Austin obtained her Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Texas in Arlington. Michelle began her professional career at the CAC in 2002 as a forensic interviewer and has conducted over 2,000 forensic interviews of children. She frequently provides expert testimony on child abuse cases and has provided training on a local and National level on subjects related to interviewing children, dynamics of abuse, and other associated topics. In Michelle's current role at the CAC she facilitates the coordination of the multi-disciplinary team and provides oversight for the Data Management, Forensic Interviewer, Family Advocacy, and Clinical programs.

**DAN POWERS, ACSW, LCSW**

Dan Powers, LCSW is a clinical social worker and currently serves as Senior Vice President and Clinical Director for Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County in Plano, Texas. He supervises a staff of 22 therapists and clinical interns providing no cost services to victims of child abuse and family violence as well as their non-offending family members. As Senior VP he is responsible for clinical operations and program development as well as directing the Advocacy Center's clinical internship and training program. Dan has over 25 years of experience working within the field of child abuse, sex offenders and family violence. He frequently testifies as an expert witness in state and federal courts. He has also testified on several occasions before Texas legislative committees. He has been appointed by the governor on two occasions to state agency boards and is currently the Chair Elect of the Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force. Dan has made numerous presentations at major national and regional conferences on the sexual victimization of children, sex offenders, and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse. He is best known for his spirited presentations on wellness and survival for child abuse and family violence professionals. Dan lives in Texas with his wife and two sons.

**CASSON REYNOLDS, MSCJ**

Casson began his career with the Charlottesville Police Department as a patrol officer and later moved to the Gastonia Police Department where he was a patrol and gang officer and a forensic detective. He was an instructor in forensics and crime scene investigations at the American Academy of Applied Forensics and the American Intercontinental University. Casson joined the North Carolina Justice Academy in February 2017 as the instructor and developer for Crime

Scene Investigations. His primary areas of concentration are advanced crime scene investigations, bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting reconstruction, latent print development and analysis, photography and crime scene reconstruction/analysis. He has assisted local, state, and federal agencies with crime scene investigations and forensic analysis. Casson obtained his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Boston University and his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Radford University. He is a Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst through the International Association of Identification and has his North Carolina Death Investigator Certificate. He has been recognized in court as an expert in crime scene investigations, shooting reconstruction, bloodstain pattern analysis, and latent print development and identification. Casson serves on the NC Justice Academy's Content Committee and is the Chair of the E-Learning Subcommittee. He is the Co-Chair of the North Carolina International Association for Identification Training Committee and serves on the associations Conference Committee. He also serves on the International Association for Identification Student Advocacy Committee.

#### **APRIL SAMPLES, LE**

Detective Sergeant April G. Samples is currently assigned as the Sergeant of the Criminal Investigations Division at the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office. In this position, she is responsible for conducting investigations related to suspected violations of Federal, State, or Local laws to prevent or solve crimes. Additional responsibilities include examining crime scenes to obtain clues relevant to the investigation; provide testimony to facilitate the prosecution of criminal cases; analyze completed police reports to define what additional information and investigative work is required; Obtain facts or statements from complainants, witnesses, and also accused persons during recorded interviews; Prepare as well as serve search and arrest warrants; Record progress of investigations, maintain informational files on suspects, and also supervise nine other Detectives and two civilian employees; and several other responsibilities incumbent upon the Criminal Investigations Division.

#### **JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE**

Jim Sears has been a law enforcement officer for over 30 years working with the Irving Police Department (TX) where he retired as a sergeant, serving 17 years in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Unit. A dedicated advocate of children, he currently serves as a law enforcement consultant/instructor with the Shaken Baby Alliance for the Serious Physical Child Abuse and SIDS Program, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement instructor specializing in Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, Instructor at the Crimes Against Children's Conference in Dallas, is a Certified Instructor for Advanced Child Abuse Investigations through the Texas Municipal Police Association, instructor for the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center and National Criminal Justice Training Center. Sears is the 2011 recipient of the Lt. Bill Walsh Award from the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center for career achievements in the field of child abuse investigations. He frequently lectures on topics related to child abuse investigations, interview and interrogation, and crime scene investigations for domestic violence and child abuse.

#### **ASHLIE SHANLEY, JD**

Ashlie Shanley is the Chief Assistant District Attorney of Cabarrus County and heads the Safe Haven Special Victims Unit, a unit dedicated to prosecuting the homicide and sexual assault of women and children. In addition, Shanley facilitates the Cabarrus County Human Trafficking Task Force, is a founding board member of the Jeff Gordon Children's Advocacy Center, is Vice Chair of the Cabarrus County Child Protection Team and has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina. Shanley graduated Cum Laude from Campbell Law School in 1996 and graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in Business Management. Shanley has travelled throughout North Carolina to conduct trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement officers, the Department of Social Services, forensic nurses, school administration, students, pediatricians and other professionals regarding North Carolina law and prosecuting sexual assault and physical abuse cases.

#### **JANE STRAUB, BS**

Jane Straub is Victim Assistance Specialist for the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of Zero Abuse Project, training on topics related to violence/prevention, supporting families who have a missing loved one, and advocating for victims and families struggling with effects of abuse

or neglect. With over 25 years in the field, Jane trains on topics including missing persons, domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, trafficking, bullying/cyberbullying, reproductive coercion, healthy relationships, consent and impact of trauma (ACE Study). Jane strives to work collaboratively with professionals in related fields including law enforcement, health care, education, social services, and business to collectively connect the dots of risk and prevention, to provide coordinated services, and to create hope and health for children and families. Jane received her degree from Arizona State University with a major in Speech Language Pathology/Audiology and a minor in Spanish. She earned a certificate in American Sign Language from St. Paul College and Coaching from Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

### **GERI WISNER, JD**

Geri Wisner is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, a former United States Marine and a mother. She is the Tribal Prosecutor for the Pawnee Nation and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma, the Executive Director for the Native American Children's Alliance (NACA) and oversees the Wisner Law Firm. Ms. Wisner is a nationally recognized speaker on the issues of criminal justice in Indian Country, collaborative responses to address violent crimes and integrating traditional Tribal healing and cultural practices. She also conducts specialized trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, and allied child abuse professionals responding to child maltreatment and domestic violence. Ms. Wisner presents to Tribes, state and federal agencies, professional organizations, schools, and communities throughout the country to develop and improve the child abuse response. Geri trains child abuse professionals on advanced investigative and prosecutorial techniques utilizing a victim-centered approach. Geri served as the Attorney General for the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Prosecutor for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Ms. Wisner has been appointed to serve on several Congressional committees focusing on the improvement of Tribal justice, the protection of Native children and safer communities in Indian Country. Ms. Wisner served as the first Ambassador to the United Nations for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, making presentations to the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, and New York City. Her experience and perspective on indigenous issues provides a global context for her work with Native American people, as well as Tribal, domestic, and foreign governments. A 2001 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a B.A. in Political Science and an American Indian Studies Certificate, Geri received her Juris Doctorate and Native American Law Certificate from the University Of Tulsa College Of Law in 2003. Geri is the president of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation bar association and serves as a board member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

### **KELLI WOOD, MSW, LCSW**

Kelli received her B.S from Georgia State University and M.S.W. from Clark Atlanta University. She began her career working as an after-hours social worker at Children's HealthCare of Atlanta (CHOA), where she conducted psycho-Social assessments of children who presented to the Emergency Department due to concerns of child maltreatment. Kelli continued her career at CHOA by becoming a Forensic Interviewer at The Stephanie Blank Center for Safe and Health Children, which is a medical model Child Advocacy Center. As a member of a Multidisciplinary Team of Physicians, Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Post-Doctoral Fellows, Social Workers and Forensic Specialists, they were tasked with the mission of providing Forensic Interviews and Forensic Medical Evaluations to children, ages 0-18 years old, who were identified as possible victims of child abuse, sexual exploitation, and witness to crime. It was at The Stephanie V. Blank Center that Kelli's passion for working with survivors of commercial sexual exploration was ignited. She had the awesome opportunity to assist in the development of the center's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program, CSEC Multi-disciplinary team meetings, and CSEC book-bag initiative which provided bags, clothing and toiletries to CSEC survivors. In 2012 Kelli relocated to Charlotte, NC where she joined the team of Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center as a Forensic Interviewer. To date Kelli has conducted over 2200 forensic interviews, presented at both national and local child maltreatment conferences, and have been a frequent guest lecturer at multiple high schools and Universities on the topics of Child Maltreatment, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and Forensic Interviewing.

### **ANDREA ZAFERES, INVESTIGATOR/INSTRUCTOR TRAINER**

Andrea has been investigating aquatic deaths and teaching water rescue/recovery with TeamLGS for over 30 years, is a medicolegal death investigator with Dutchess County Medical Examiner's office, and helped start a nonprofit organization, RIPTIDE, to conduct research, and assist with submerged evidence/body recovery and aquatic abuse and homicide investigations. She is an innovator in the field of aquatic death, abuse, and sexual assault investigation, and has taught thousands of law enforcement personnel, death investigators, prosecutors, and domestic violence workers how to recognize and investigate these cases. She has spoken at more than 115 forensic and 150 rescue/dive conferences worldwide, is one of the leading public safety diving Instructors in the US and Canada with several national awards. Seen on such programming as Dateline, 48 Hours, and National Geographic, Andrea is a member of such organizations as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the International Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners Association, is a NAUI/ANDI Course Director and PADI Master Instructor, has more than 100 publications, serves as a court-recognized aquatic death expert in aquatic homicide cases, is a pro-bono consultant to the National Center for Missing and exploited children, and assists with adult and pediatric aquatic death investigations worldwide.