



2018 Annual Education Conference

August 23-25, 2018

Grand Rapids, Michigan

PRESENTER BIOS

HONORABLE ROBERT J. JONKER, CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

President George W. Bush appointed Robert (Bob) Jonker to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan on July 16, 2007, to succeed the Honorable Gordon J. Quist, who assumed senior status on January 1, 2006. Judge Jonker assumed his duties on July 18, 2007. Judge Jonker was elevated to Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on July 18, 2015.

Before taking the bench, Judge Jonker practiced commercial and environmental litigation for twenty years with the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. His work included cases at all levels of the Michigan courts, and at all levels of the federal courts throughout the country. He was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for business litigation.

Judge Jonker graduated with honors from Calvin College in 1982, and *summa cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School in 1985, where he was Order of the Coif. Before leaving law school, he worked as a research assistant to Professor James J. White, which contributed to a career long interest in commercial and bankruptcy law issues. Immediately following law school, Judge Jonker worked for two years as a law clerk for the Honorable John Feikens of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. In 2010 Judge Jonker was appointed to the United States Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and served two three-year terms.

DIANE HOPKINS, JURY ADMINISTRATOR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Diane Hopkins is the Jury Administrator for the United States District Court. During her career she has worked as a Court Recorder for the 64B District Court in Stanton, Michigan and the Antelope Municipal Court in Lancaster, California. Diane has worked in the Jury Department for nearly 30 years. In her spare time she enjoys weaving, spinning and all aspects of fiber arts.

MELISSA SPRIGGS, JURY/FINANCE SPECIALIST

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Melissa began her career with the Court in 2009 as a part-time Finance Clerk. In 2014, she went to full time status when she joined the Jury department, while still maintaining many of her finance duties. Before coming to the Court, she worked several years as a Finance Assistant for the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Melissa attended Grand Rapids Community College, earning an Associate's degree before transferring to Western Michigan University. From there, she graduated with a Bachelor's degree majoring in Education. Melissa has two grown children, Jeremy and Melanie. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and crafting with friends.



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JACKIE STASIAK, DETECTIVE SERGEANT

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

D/Sgt. Jacque Stasiak has been with the Michigan State Police for over 25 years. Her current assignment includes supervision of the criminal casework of the 50+ troopers at the Rockford Post, encompassing Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties, as well as major case investigations to include: homicides, death investigations, sexual assaults, computer crimes and frauds. She has been a member of the FBI's West Michigan Based Child Exploitation (WebChex) Task Force since 2014 investigating child sex abuse and human trafficking cases. She is currently assigned on an Investigative Response Team which investigates Officer Involved Shootings in the West Michigan area.

D/Sgt. Stasiak has spent her entire career with the Michigan State Police in the West Michigan area, having worked at the Rockford Post (1993-1998), Metropolitan Enforcement Team (1998-2000), Lakeview Post (2000-2001), Ionia Post (2001-2016), Kent Metro Cold Case Team (2006) and returned to the Rockford Post in 2016. She has specialized in child sex crimes, having become forensically certified to interview children in 1997. She has interviewed hundreds of child victims and witnesses since that time. She is one of the incorporators of a Child Advocacy Center, the IMSAFE CAC, which services both Ionia and Montcalm counties and was fundamental in bringing that resource to the Ionia/Montcalm community. D/Sgt. Stasiak remains on the board at that IMSAFE CAC as well as the fundraising committee.

RUSS KAVALHUNA

PRESIDENT, HENRY FORD COLLEGE/FORMER ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Russell A. Kavalhuna joined Henry Ford College as the institution's sixth president in July 2018. The role unites his passions for public service, education, and institutional leadership. He believes community college is the gateway to the American Dream. Kavalhuna was previously the Executive Director of the Western Michigan University College of Aviation, the nation's third-largest collegiate aviation program with operations in Michigan and Florida.

Prior to his position at WMU, Mr. Kavalhuna was an attorney and a commercial airline pilot. He served as a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice in Grand Rapids, where he managed more than 140 officers in a multi-year investigation and prosecution of 31 gang members. He was a senior lawyer in the Michigan Supreme Court, and he has taught at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

As a pilot, he captained for U.S. Airways Express for five years. He also held a leadership position in the Airline Pilots Association collective bargaining unit.

Mr. Kavalhuna earned his undergraduate degree in aviation science from Western Michigan University. He earned his juris doctor from WMU Cooley Law School, and has undertaken doctoral coursework in the "Institutional Leadership During Crisis" program at WMU. His awards and honors include the Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, the highest civilian license; the ATF National Honor Award for Prosecution of Organized Crime; the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Holland Police Department; and being named as an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.



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HONORABLE PHILLIP J. GREEN, MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Hon. Phillip J. Green was appointed to an eight year term as United States Magistrate Judge on August 1, 2014. Prior to Judge Green's appointment, he worked as an Assistant United States Attorney, beginning his tenure there in 1998. While with the United States Attorney's Office, Judge Green served in various capacities including Senior Litigation Counsel, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, and First Assistant United States Attorney. Substantive areas of responsibility included white collar crime, health care fraud, tax, Indian Country Matters, and violent crime.

Prior to his service as an AUSA, Judge Green served the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C. for a combined six years, was in private practice for one year, and served as a Law Clerk to Honorable Theodore McMillian at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Green also served in the United States Navy from 1974-1976 and the United States Navy Reserves from 1976-1979.

Judge Green has also served as an adjunct and visiting professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and currently as an adjunct professor at Ferris State University.

Judge Green attended Saint Meinrad College and graduated in 1982 with a B.A. He received his J.D. as first in class in 1990 from Saint Louis University School of Law where he graduated *magna cum laude* and was the Editor in Chief of the Saint Louis University Law Journal.

HONORABLE JANET T. NEFF, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Janet Theresa Neff, was born on April 8, 1945, in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Pauline J. and Lino Nebiolo. Janet attended the University of Pittsburgh where she was elected to Omicron Delta Epsilon, an Economics Honorary Society, and graduated *cum laude* in 1967 with a B.A. Janet received her J.D. in 1970 from Wayne State University Law School.

Judge Neff has had a widely varied legal career beginning as a law clerk at the Michigan Court of Appeals. Other government service included service as an assistant city attorney for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Commissioner for the Michigan Supreme Court, and assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan. Her private practice experience was conducted in two Grand Rapids law firms from 1973 to 1978 and from 1980 to 1988. She was elected to four terms and served more than 18 years as a Judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

President George W. Bush nominated Judge Neff to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on March 19, 2007; she received her commission on August 6, 2007, succeeding Judge David W. McKeague who was elevated to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Neff was the first woman Article III Judge to be appointed in the Western District of Michigan.

Active in professional and community organizations, Judge Neff holds memberships in the State Bar of Michigan where she served on the Board of Commissioners from 1980 to 1984, Grand Rapids Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Western Region, Federal Bar Association, and Federal Judges Association.



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Judge Neff served as the first woman President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, after having served as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President Elect. She received the "Donald R. Worsfold Distinguished Service" award for 2018, the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Western Region "Outstanding Member" of 2006 award, and the "Law Enforcement" award for 1998 by the Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge of Michigan. In addition, she was Honorary Co-Chair of the Habitat for Humanity Women Building the Dream Project, a house totally funded and built by women volunteers.

Judge Neff and her husband, David Neff, have two daughters, Genevieve Dorment of New York, Meredith Neff of Chicago, Illinois, and three grandchildren.

HENRY BROITMAN, SENIOR BENEFITS/RETIREMENT ADVISOR

BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT ADVISORY SERVICES BRANCH, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS
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Henry assists HR staff and employees for the 3rd, 4th, and 10th Circuits on a daily basis. He is the program manager for several benefits programs including Long Term Care, FEDVIP, and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). In addition, he leads the Individual Retirement Counseling initiative which involves all court units with employees eligible to retire within the next three years.

Henry has been at the AO since 2011. Prior employment in other federal agencies include the Civilian Personnel Management Service (DoD), Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the United States Secret Service. He has over 23 years of federal service.

Henry has a B.A. from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia and an MPA from the University of Georgia. He is married and has two daughters. He enjoys playing and watching sports. On weekends he can be found on the soccer field or rooting on his daughters.

DAVE GUSTAFSON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST/EDITOR, JNET

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS
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As JNet editor, Dave interacts with many clients to provide timely, useful information to fellow Judiciary employees through user-centric designs. Before joining the AO in August 2017, he was chief editor for the FAA's air traffic control modernization effort that's also known as NextGen.

Prior to his government service, Dave was a journalist for more than 15 years. Most recently, he was managing editor for Defense News — overseeing reporters in 19 countries — and served in various digital editing roles for Al Jazeera, America's flagship newsmagazine America Tonight, American Public Media's Budget Hero project, the PBS NewsHour and The Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette. Dave also covered breaking news, justice issues, and local government for newspapers in South Carolina and West Virginia. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelors in journalism and a minor in geography.



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LOIS MCLEOD

SDSO TRAINING DIVISION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS

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Lois received her B.A. (*summa cum laude*) in Music and Psychology at Erskine College in 1973. An M.Ed. in Music followed in 1977 and an Master's in Public Administration in 1987, receiving a 4.0 GPA in each at the University of South Carolina. She went on to serve as the Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice from 1980-1985. From 1985-1994, she served as State Probate Court Representative for South Carolina Court Administration, the administrative arm of the state's Supreme Court.

In 1994, Lois became the Training Director for the U.S. District Court. Lois was also the HR Manager and was responsible for special projects, including court history and courthouse dedications. Lois was the CM/ECF Project Coordinator for our Court's implementation of electronic case filing. She conducted the following Federal Judicial Center programs for ours and other districts: Preventing Workplace Harassment, Time Management, Code of Conduct, Structured Writing, Performance Management, and Managing Employee Relations.

Lois has also developed and conducted programs on Work Life Balance, Stress Management, Listening and Communication, Customer Service in the Courts, and other programs. She is a Microsoft Certified Application Specialist in MS-Word and was one of two people selected nationwide to conduct all MS-Word training for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, DC. Other computer training includes WordPerfect, Excel, Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Access, and Lotus Notes.

Lois now works with the AO's Technology Training Division, providing MS-Word training throughout the courts and serving on the Office 365/Outlook implementation and as liaison for the Automation Trainers Community of Practice Conference.

LAURA W. SIMON, PROGRAM MANAGER, RECRUITMENT/COURT INITIATIVES

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS

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Ms. Simon has over 30 years of experience with the federal judiciary, government, and private industry. Ms. Simon provides program management support for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' law clerk recruitment program (OSCAR), the Court/AO Exchange Programs, and other recruitment and court initiatives such as LinkedIn and talent acquisition strategies. Her experience includes program communications, web-based strategies, public relations, strategic planning, project management, software development, training, social media, and recruitment.

She previously served as the OSCAR Project Manager/Management Analyst for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In this role, she played a major role in implementing the original OSCAR system in 2005 with a group of federal judges as a pilot court-initiatives program and transitioned the OSCAR program to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts as a national IT system in 2009. In 2006, Ms. Simon received the Director's Award for Excellence in Court Operations (Court Technology) for the implementation of the OSCAR program.

