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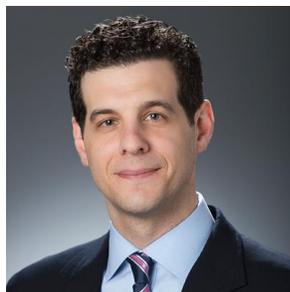
2018 Janet Reno Forum: Transforming Juvenile Justice Systems
May 21, 2018
Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center
Washington, DC

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Sam Abed Secretary, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

Osama “Sam” Abed, Esquire, appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland with Senate advice and consent, is the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). Secretary Abed is responsible for the management and operation of the State’s juvenile justice system. He currently leads over 2000 employees and maintains an operating budget over \$200 million. Secretary Abed oversees all phases and services of the agency, to include support services, operations, intake, probation supervision, detention and treatment of committed youth. In 2014, the National Research Council appointed Secretary Abed to the Committee on a Prioritized Plan to Implement a Developmental Approach in Juvenile Justice Reform. The committee was convened to identify, assess and prioritize strategies and policies to effectively reform the juvenile justice system, building on the recommendations from the 2013 report, “*Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*.” The Committee on a Prioritized Plan to Implement a Developmental Approach in Juvenile Justice Reform, in collaboration with the Committee on Law and Justice, and the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, produced the publication “*Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform: The Federal Role*.” Mr. Abed received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and completed an internship at the American University in Cairo, Arabic Language Institute. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law. He currently resides in Baltimore City with his wife and daughter.



Nate Balis Director, Juvenile Justice Strategy Group, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

With more than 15 years of experience in juvenile justice, social policy, research, evaluation and system reform, Nate Balis serves as the director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group. Balis now leads the Foundation's efforts to expand the work of local Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative sites to the dispositional end of

the system. He is helping local jurisdictions safely reduce incarceration and other out-of-home placements while introducing innovations to help them improve their juvenile justice systems. Balis, who joined the Casey Foundation in 2007, has led consulting engagements in Alabama and New York City aimed at safely reducing incarceration and expanding community-based alternatives. Through his leadership, the Foundation helped Alabama reduce commitments to state confinement by 50% since beginning to work with them in 2007. He was also instrumental in helping New York City leaders introduce practice and policy reforms to improve decision making, case planning and management as the city worked to implement its landmark “Close to Home” legislation. As a result, the number of youth in residential placement in New York City has declined by more than a third since the Foundation began working with city leaders in 2010.



Dr. Michael Bailey Dean, McCourt School of Public Policy

Michael A. Bailey is the Colonel William J. Walsh Professor of American Government in the Department of Government and the Interim Dean of the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. Bailey teaches and conducts research on American politics and political economy. He is co-author with Forrest Maltzman of *The Constrained Court: Law, Politics and the Decisions Justices Make* from Princeton University Press. He is also author of a statistics textbook called *Real Stats: Using Econometrics for Political Science and Public Policy*, published by Oxford University Press. His work covering trade, Congress, election law and the Supreme Court, methodology and inter-state policy competition has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, the *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* and elsewhere. He has also analyzed many congressional elections and has edited a book from Congressional Quarterly Press on the topic. In 2002-2003 Professor Bailey was a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. In 2011-12 he was the John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government, Rothermere American Institute and Supernumerary Visiting Fellowship, Balliol College, Oxford University. In 2014 he was the Hepburn-Shibusawa Distinguished Senior Lecturer at the University of Tokyo. A former Monbusho Scholar at Saitama University in Japan, Professor Bailey is conversational in Japanese and interested in Japanese politics.



Shay Bilchik Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Shay Bilchik is a Research Professor and the founder and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy. The Center’s purpose is to advance a balanced, multi-systems approach to reducing juvenile delinquency that promotes positive child and youth development, while also holding youth accountable. Prior to this position, Mr. Bilchik was the President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, and Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the U.S.

Department of Justice. Before coming to the nation's capital, Mr. Bilchik was an Assistant State Attorney in Miami, Florida from 1977-1993, where he served as a trial lawyer, juvenile division chief, and Chief Assistant State Attorney. Mr. Bilchik earned his B.S. and J.D. degrees from the University of Florida.



Rachel Bingham Executive Officer of the Department of Family and Juvenile Services, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

Rachel Bingham serves as the executive officer of the Department of Family & Juvenile Services for the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Mrs. Bingham holds a B.A. in Political Science and Public Administration. Since 1995, she has worked for the Kentucky Court of Justice within child welfare and juvenile justice. Mrs. Bingham oversees the Kentucky Court Designated Worker Program (CDW) located in all 120 counties. CDWs are responsible for placing children in alternative placements prior to arraignment, conducting preliminary investigations, and formulating, entering into, and supervising diversion agreements and performing such other functions as authorized by law or court order. She also administers the Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) Teams which provide enhanced case management support and services for diverted youth. Mrs. Bingham manages the Truancy Diversion Program to address Kentucky's truancy issues as well as the Kentucky Teen Court Program located in 22 counties. In addition, Mrs. Bingham oversees and supports the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards (CFCRBs) to expedite the permanent placement of Kentucky's abused and neglected children. CFCRB consists of over 700 volunteers located across the state. She administers programs which provide technical assistance, training, and support services to judges, court personnel, attorneys, social workers and community partners regarding family law and juvenile justice initiatives such as the statewide Legal Training for Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse Case Training. She also oversees the Kentucky Court Improvement Project (CIP) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Program. Mrs. Bingham is a member of the National Juvenile Justice Reform and State Courts Initiative Steering Committee and the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judge's Curriculum Development Committee. She is also a member of the Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, Kentucky Subcommittee for Equity and Justice for all Youth, Kentucky State Inter-Agency Council, and Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse. In closing, Mrs. Bingham works closely with court officials, legislators, and community partners around legislation and public policy pertaining to child welfare, juvenile justice, and the court system. Her primary leadership goal is to achieve better outcomes for youth and families by continually developing and enhancing court-community partnerships. Her passion is to improve the lives of the commonwealth's children and families one child at a time.



Berta Blecke Child and Youth Advocate

For three decades, Berta Blecke has worked for the rights of Florida's at-risk children, helping to create programs that ensure their safety and provide shelter and hope for a better life. In the past 30 years, Blecke has established, chaired, and served on more than two dozen community and statewide volunteer Boards. She brings together people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities and experiences to form boards and advocacy groups that truly represent the community and the cause. For her efforts, she has

received more than a dozen prestigious awards from organizations such as the Health Foundation of South Florida, the American Red Cross, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Miami Herald, the US Department of Health and Human Services, Miami-Dade Juvenile Court and the Junior League. Berta Blecke has been instrumental in the establishment of the following long-standing programs: The Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program (past Chair and Board service for 8 years), the Governor's Constituency for Children (Gubernatorial appointment), CHARLEE Homes for Children, a Miami non-profit foster care agency (past Chair and Board service for 20 years), the Gladstone Center for Girls, an emergency shelter/residential treatment facility for sexually abused girls, the Florida Foster Care Review (founding Board member), Kristi House and the Orlowitz-Lee Child Advocacy Center (past Chair and founding Board member, 10 years of Board service), the Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La, Inc., and Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc. (Board member). Blecke earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Florida. A lifelong resident of Miami, she is married with three children.



Valerie Boykin Deputy Director of Community Programs, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Valerie Boykin is the Deputy Director of Community Programs for the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. She oversees the operations in Virginia's 32 Court Service Units along with the statewide community support and funding programs and initiatives. Valerie has over 30 years of experience in juvenile justice. Her career spans various roles within

Virginia's juvenile justice system from direct service to management including positions such as Intake, Probation and Parole Officer, Family Counselor, Intake Supervisor, State Parole Services Manager and Court Service Unit Director. She has also previously served as the Deputy Director for the Youth Services Administration in Washington, DC where she was in charge of court and community programs. Valerie is an experienced Independent Juvenile Justice Consultant and has provided management consultation, training and technical assistance in a number of human services and juvenile corrections settings. She has consulted with federal governmental agencies such as DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Bureau of Justice Assistance, Health and Human Services' Children and Family Services Bureau and the National Highway and Transportation Administration. Additionally, her consultation also includes considerable work with various state and local entities along with non-profit organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Valerie completed undergraduate studies at the

University of Virginia and received a master's degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University.



William H. Carbone Senior Lecturer, Executive Director of Justice Programs and the Tow Youth Justice Institute, University of New Haven

At the University of New Haven, Mr. William Carbone teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in various aspects of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. In addition, he directs the College's Internship and Coop experiential education programs. Mr. Carbone held a Practitioner-in-Residence appointment at the University of New Haven from 1995 to 2013, prior to his current full-time position at the university. In addition, Mr. Carbone directs the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven, a partnership between the Tow Foundation and the State of Connecticut to promote juvenile justice reform through collaboration with advocates, non-profits, government and other stakeholders. The Institute's work includes a Leadership Development Program that targets current system staff and prepares them to be the future reformers in juvenile justice; an expanded and robust juvenile justice curriculum and complementary experiential education opportunities that will build a more passionate and dedicated future workforce in juvenile justice; numerous data-driven efforts to advance evidence-based public policies and practices through research, evaluation and deliberate study. Mr. Carbone was formerly the Executive Director of the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut Judicial Branch. He directed and managed over 1,600 employees involved with adult and juvenile probation, family services, juvenile detention, alternative sanctions and pretrial release. As Executive Director, Mr. Carbone directed many projects that successfully reduced offender recidivism among the probation population; in addition, he led a multi-year effort to reform the state's juvenile justice system, which resulted in Connecticut achieving the greatest reduction in juvenile incarceration in the United States.



Matt Cervantes Associate Director of Health Programs, Sierra Health Foundation

Matt Cervantes is the Associate Director of Health Programs at Sierra Health Foundation and manages the foundation's Youth Pathways to Health programming and grantmaking, including the Positive Youth Justice Initiative, which seeks to improve the health and social outcomes of young people in the juvenile justice system. Matt also leads the Leadership Development for Racial Equity organizational capacity building program, and manages all Boys and Young Men of Color programming, including the Sacramento My Brother's Keeper Collaborative, and oversees the California Executives' Alliance. Matt brings a great deal of experience in youth development, policy and advocacy to his work at the foundation. During his public health career, he has managed youth advocacy programs at the Yolo County Department of Health, the Great Valley Region of the American Cancer Society, the California Youth Advocacy Network and the Western States Affiliate of the American Heart

Association. A California State University, Sacramento graduate in Social Work and fellow of Sierra Health Foundation's Health Leadership Program and Grantmakers In Health Terrance Kennan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy, Matt has a passion for ensuring all young people have an opportunity to contribute to their communities.



Mark Greenwald Director of Research and Data Integrity, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Mark A. Greenwald serves as Director of the DJJ Office of Research & Data Integrity. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the Florida State University. His research interests include juvenile justice, delinquency, and crime in schools. His research has appeared in such peer-reviewed journals as *Criminology*; *Criminology and Public Policy*; *Criminal Justice and Behavior*; *The Journal of Criminal Justice*; *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*; and *Social Work with Groups*. Mr. Greenwald earned his bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Florida State University, a master's degree in Justice Policy and Management from Florida Atlantic University and a master's degree in Criminology from Florida State University. In 2008, he received the "Distinguished Alumni of Colleges" academic award from Florida Atlantic University.



Maggy Hurchalla Sister of Attorney General Janet Reno

Maggy Hurchalla is a former county commissioner in Martin County Florida, a member of the Everglades Coalition Hall of Fame, and a winner of the National Wetlands Award. She is also Janet Reno's sister who has shared camping in the Everglades, whitewater kayaking on the Potomac, and other family adventures with her big sister.



Dr. Billy Jack Vice Provost of Research and Professor of Economics, Georgetown University

Billy Jack is Vice Provost of Research and Professor of Economics at Georgetown University. He is also director of *gui²de*, the Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development and Evaluation, which conducts empirical field-based research to assess the impact and effectiveness of development interventions. Previously he held positions on the Joint Committee on Taxation of the US Congress, the IMF, the Australian National University, and the University of Sydney. He holds a BSc in mathematics and physics from the University of Western Australia, and an MPhil and DPhil in Economics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.



Honorable Cindy S. Lederman Circuit Court Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida (Miami-Dade County)

Judge Cindy S. Lederman is a Circuit Court Judge in the State of Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit. Judge Lederman has served in the Miami-Dade Juvenile Court since 1994, including 10 years as the Court's Presiding Judge. Elected to the Miami-Dade County Court in 1988, she led the creation of the Dade County Domestic Violence Court and served as its first Presiding Judge. Judge Lederman's interest in bringing science and research into the courtroom results from her 10-year involvement with the National Research Council (NRC) and Institute of Medicine (IOM) at the National Academy of Sciences. Judge Lederman was a member of the NRC's Committee on the Assessment of Family Violence Interventions and panel on Juvenile Crime, Treatment, and Control and served from 1996 to 2004 on the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the NRC and IOM. She also served as the former president of the National Association of Women Judges, faculty member of The National Judicial College, and is a former member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates. In addition, Judge Lederman was a 6-year member of the Board of Trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Lederman has published more than 40 articles on child welfare and other legal issues. Her recent book entitled "Child-Centered Practices for the Courtroom and Community: A Guide to Working Effectively with Young Children in the Child Welfare System," written with Lynne Katz Ed.D and Joy Osofsky Ph.D., is available from Brookes Publishing Co. Judge Lederman graduated with high honors from the University of Florida in 1976 and with departmental honors in Political Science, and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1979. She is licensed to practice law in the states of Florida and New York.



Honorable Amy L. Nechtem Chief Justice, Juvenile Court, Massachusetts

The Honorable Amy L. Nechtem is Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court. She served as an associate justice for 13 years prior to her appointment as chief justice in July 2014. Justice Nechtem previously served as an assistant district attorney for many years, prosecuting child abuse and major felony cases. She received the *Massachusetts Judges Conference Judicial Excellence Award* for the Juvenile Court Department and leads outreach programs designed to encourage and support positive youth development. She serves on national committees addressing issues of human trafficking, women's rights in prison, juvenile justice and child welfare, the administration of NAWJ, and immigration challenges affecting youth in the system. She speaks nationally on juvenile justice and child welfare related topics. Justice Nechtem earned a J.D. with honors from Suffolk University Law School and holds a Bachelor of Science from Simmons College, from which she received the *Outstanding Community Service Award* for her lifelong public service and commitment to women, children, and her devotion to issues affecting the fair and equal access to justice in our courts.



Joe O'Leary Director, Oregon Youth Authority

In February 2018, Joe O'Leary became the Director of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), the state's juvenile corrections agency, after serving as acting director since September 2017 and as its deputy director before that. OYA works to keep communities safe by holding youth accountable and providing them with guidance, education, and a support network. As Director, Joe oversees the operations of the agency, which serves approximately 1,400 youth ages 12-24 at any given time — 550 in close custody in nine correctional and transitional facilities across the state, and another 825 on probation or parole. Joe served as general counsel and senior policy advisor to Governor Ted Kulongoski and was counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Oregon Legislature. Immediately before joining OYA as deputy director in June 2012, he ran the Policy, Planning and Legislative Analysis Division at the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System. Prior to his state government service, Joe was a trial attorney in Portland. He began his legal career as a public defender, which included a stint in juvenile court. Afterward, he spent several years in private practice representing members of law enforcement, corporate officers, lawyers, and employees. Joe received his undergraduate degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and his J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland. He has been a member of the Oregon State Bar since 1997 and is admitted to practice in state and federal courts.



Ruth Esther Ramirez, Director of Development for KIPP Miami

Ruth Esther Ramirez is the Director of Development for the newly launched KIPP Miami region in South Florida. KIPP Miami is part of the KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) national non-profit network of college-preparatory public charter schools serving elementary, middle, and high school students. KIPP has a 20-year track record of preparing students for success in college and life. Opening in the summer of 2018, KIPP Miami will operate its first free, public, open-enrollment charter school, KIPP Sunrise Academy, in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood. In its first year, KIPP Sunrise Academy will educate students in Kindergarten and first grades. Ruth is responsible for the expansion of the new region and manages the organization's corporate, foundation, and philanthropic relationships. Ruth also plays an active role as a foster youth advocate in her local community. She serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, the lead agency that oversees and directs a system of care for abused, abandoned and neglected children and their families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. She also volunteers for various nonprofits in South Florida, including Voices for Children, a guardian ad litem program; and Caring for Miami's free mobile dental clinic and Backpack program that serves over 1,000 students identified as at risk of hunger. She is a Founding Member of the Fostering Panther Pride program at Florida International University, her alma mater. In 2015, Ruth was recognized as a "Worlds Ahead Graduate" by President Mark Rosenberg for her community outreach and educational achievements and celebrated this accomplishment by crossing the commencement stage to receive her master's degree in Business Administration.

She currently resides in Coral Gables, FL with her husband, John and their 16-year-old Australian Rat Terrier, Chiki.



Dr. Mindy Schweitzer Smith Deputy Director, University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute

Dr. Myrinda Schweitzer Smith received her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati and is a Senior Research Associate and Deputy Director at the Corrections Institute in the School of Criminal Justice at University of Cincinnati. Dr. Schweitzer's research interests include the assessment of correctional programs, the science of implementation and knowledge transfer, and more generally correctional treatment and rehabilitation. She has co-authored several publications, presented nationally and internationally on correctional interventions, and served as a project director for over 200 correctional projects. Specific topics of research and service include a state-wide correctional treatment program evaluation, the development and implementation of cognitive-behavioral programs for general delinquency, criminality, substance abuse, employment, and sexual offending, as well as recent initiatives to implement effective practices for community supervision and support.



Dana Shoenberg Senior Manager, Juvenile Justice, Public Safety Performance Project, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Dana Shoenberg is a Senior Manager with The Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project. She leads a policy team that partners with policymakers, agency leaders and other stakeholders to develop and advance data-driven and research-based juvenile justice system improvements. She also oversees the project's juvenile justice research and policy evaluations. Before coming to Pew, she served as Deputy Director of the Center for Children's Law and Policy and as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Special Litigation Section of the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. She has also served as a court-appointed expert on conditions of confinement and juvenile justice practices, and has taught juvenile justice and family law at American University's Washington College of Law and at the University of Baltimore Law School. At the beginning of her legal career she served as a law clerk for Chief Judge Edward N.Cahn of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Dana holds a master's degree from Georgetown University Law Center, a law degree from Yale Law School, and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University.



Diane Sierpina Director of Justice Initiatives, The Tow Foundation

Diane Sierpina joined The Tow Foundation in 1998 and currently serves as the Director of Justice Initiatives. Prior to joining the Foundation, Diane was a newspaper and magazine journalist covering government,

politics, and social issues. Diane is responsible for the Foundation's criminal justice reform strategy and investments, which average nearly \$5 million a year. Diane has been an advocate of evidence-based, youth-centered justice system reform in Connecticut, New York and nationally through her leadership roles with the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, the New York Juvenile Justice Initiative, and the Youth Transition Funders Group (YTTFG). Diane is a member of YTTFG's Steering Committee and co-chair of YTTFG's Youth Justice Work Group. She is the founding tri-chair of the Program Officers Network of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy (CCP) and served previously on CCP's Public Policy Committee. In May 2017, Diane was honored by her peers with CCP's Martha S. Newman Award in recognition of her exemplary service to the philanthropic sector in the state. Diane is also an active member of Philanthropy New York. She earned a B.S. in Journalism summa cum laude from Boston University.



Michael Umpierre Deputy Director of Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Communications, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

At CJJR, Michael Umpierre oversees the Youth in Custody Practice Model, serves as a trainer and provider of technical assistance for the Crossover Youth Practice Model, Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project, and Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance Program, and serves in other leadership capacities. Michael has a wealth of experience as a juvenile justice administrator, national trainer and consultant, public defender and youth advocate. His previous experience includes serving as the Chief of Staff of the District of Columbia's cabinet-level juvenile justice agency, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Program Coordinator of the National Center for Youth in Custody, and trial attorney at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. He has also worked at several youth advocacy organizations including the Youth Law Center, National Center for Youth Law, Legal Services for Children, and Pacific Juvenile Defender Center. Michael received a B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University and a J.D. from Yale Law School and is a recipient of the prestigious John Gardner Public Service Fellowship and Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Michael and his wife Rachael are the proud parents of their son Alexander and daughter Josephine.



Josh Weber Juvenile Justice Program Director, Council of State Governments Justice Center

Josh Weber directs the Council of State Governments Justice Center's Juvenile Justice program, which focuses on helping states use effective methods to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. Previously, Josh spent 10 years working on building the capacity of programs and systems that serve vulnerable youth in the juvenile justice, youth development, workforce development, and child welfare systems. Josh managed research programs for the Youth Development and Research Fund in Maryland and the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. In addition, Josh led the development and

implementation of NYC Administration for Children's Services' alternative to placement and reentry program for juveniles using evidence-based practices. He also directed the District of Columbia's Justice Grants Administration, which managed all federal juvenile and criminal justice grants for the District. Josh received his B.A. in psychology from Duke University and his MA in public administration from Princeton University.



Demecia Wilson Administrator of Probation and Assessment Center Services, Lucas County, Ohio Juvenile Court

Demecia Wilson has dedicated the last 22 years to serving youth and families. Demecia began her career with the Lucas County Juvenile Court as a Residential Specialist at the Youth Treatment Center; a secured residential facility for adjudicated youth. She later became a Probation Officer and worked in this area for over fourteen years. Demecia elevated through the ranks and served as a Probation Manager as well as the Assistant Administrator of Probation before being promoted to the office of Administrator. She currently oversees the Assessment Center and all services under its umbrella such as, The Family Violence Intervention Program and Misdemeanor Services; as well as the Juvenile Probation Department and the services that are provided including workforce development, educational specialist, crossover initiative, the sex offenders treatment program, and the community treatment center/reentry support services just to name a few. In this position, Demecia continues to lead the charge in probation transformation and reform. From the implementation of the Balance and Restorative Justice approach to supervision, to embracing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), Structured Decision Making, Positive Youth Justice, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), and Motivational Interviewing (MI), Demecia has been at the forefront working diligently to positively impact change. Her commitment to juvenile justice and reform is what motivates her, but her dedication to helping to improve the lives of youth and families is what strengthens her to do this work on a daily basis. Demecia has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Wilberforce University, and a Masters in Organizational Leadership from Lourdes University.