



Leading in the Midst of a Crisis: Strengthening Your Team's Effectiveness

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey, CEO - bwagen@praxisconsulting.org
PRAXIS Consulting, Inc.

- **Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey** has consulted with and facilitated more than 150 strategy and organizational improvement and change processes with private, public, and not-for-profit organizations over the past 20 years. She conducts qualitative and quantitative research to assist leaders in improving organizational or system-wide performance. Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey uses 360-degree feedback surveys and other tools to coach leaders and managers, teach effective leadership skills, and build high performance teams. She works with teams of all types to help them set and achieve goals. She helps leaders establish organizational performance measurement systems, develop and implement succession planning/talent management programs, and restructure their organizations in light of their strategic directions and long-term improvement strategies. Finally, she serves as lead faculty for the Michigan Pharmacy Foundation and Michigan Judicial Institute's Leadership Academies, which include workshops, webinars, a leadership project, goal setting, and mentoring.

Hon. Paula Carey, Chief Justice of the Trial Court - paula.carey@jud.state.ma.us
Massachusetts Trial Court/Executive Office

- **Hon. Paula M. Carey** was appointed Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Trial Court in July 2013 by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to a five year term and she was re-appointed in 2018 for an additional five year term. Prior to her service as Chief Justice of the Trial Court Chief Justice Carey had served as the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court beginning in 2007. She was originally appointed an Associate Justice of the Norfolk Probate and Family Court in 2001.

Mr. Jonathan Williams, Court Administrator - jonathan.williams@jud.state.ma.us
Massachusetts Trial Court/Executive Office

- **Jonathan S. Williams** was appointed as the second Court Administrator of the Massachusetts Trial Court by the Supreme Judicial Court effective May 2017. He partners with the Chief Justice of the Trial Court in the oversight of 6,300 court staff and 100 court facilities. He served four years as Senior Deputy Director in the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, where he supervised operations for the Judicial Branch, including technology, finance and general services. He served as the Chief Reporter to the [Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice](#), a 65-member multidisciplinary group tasked to make broad recommendations for court reform in North Carolina which delivered its final report in March 2017.

Hon. Kirk Nakamura, Presiding Judge - knakamura@occourts.org

Orange County Superior Court

- **Hon. Kirk Nakamura** was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court bench by Governor Gray Davis 2001. Since 2004, he has been assigned to the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana and has heard limited and unlimited civil cases. As a judge, he has served as a member of the Superior Court Executive Committee, chair of the Temporary Judge Committee, chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, member of the Grand Jury Selection Committee, and member of the Jury Orientation Committee. He was an adjunct professor for Chapman Law School teaching Construction Law in 2004. He received the Outstanding Service Award from the Orange County Asian American Bar Association in 2008, the Constitutional Rights Foundation-Orange County Judge of the Year in 2010, and the Trailblazer Award from National Asian Pacific American Bar Association in 2011.

Mr. David Yamasaki, Court Executive Officer – dyamasaki@occourts.org

Orange County Superior Court

- **David Yamasaki** is the Court Executive Officer (CEO) for the Superior Court of California, County of Orange, a position he has held since December 2016. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University and his Master's Degree in Public Administration with a Certificate in Court Administration from the University of Southern California. Mr. Yamasaki has over 32 years of experience working in the judicial branch.

Gordon Griller, Executive Director – ggriller@ncsc.org

National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers

- **Gordon M. Griller** is the Executive Director, Secretary and Chief Financial Officer for the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers. He also works part-time with the National Center's Court Consulting Services (CCS), having retired in January 2020 as a Principal Court Management Consultant after working full-time at CCS for 14 years. His expertise and professional work have centered on trial court leadership, caseload and court management, organization development, systems and procedures, reengineering, and teambuilding. Previously Mr. Griller held numerous private and public positions dedicated to trial court improvement and reform, including Vice President of Justice Practices (2003-2006), State and Local Solutions Group, Affiliated Computer Systems (ACS), a division of the Xerox Company; Administrator of Trial Courts (2001-2003) in Maricopa County Arizona (Phoenix); Court Administrator (1987-2001) for the Superior Court in Maricopa County; Judicial District Administrator (1978-1987) for the Second Judicial District of Minnesota in Ramsey County (St. Paul); and Court Administrator (1976-1978) for the Municipal Court of Hennepin County, Minnesota (Minneapolis).