

**Speaker and Coordinator Resumes**  
**NAPCO Webinar • Thursday, July 23, 2020; 3 PM (EDT)**  
**“Confronting Systemic Racism in Trial Courts”**

**Hon. Ronald B. Adrine (panelist)**

...is the former Administrative and Presiding Judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court. He first ran for a seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court bench in 1981. Judge Adrine was reelected five times, without opposition, to full six-year terms, completing his last term on January 3, 2018. Beginning in December of 2008, his peers annually elected him to serve nine consecutive terms as the court’s Administrative and Presiding Judge.

As a life-long resident of Greater Cleveland. He graduated from Fisk University and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He passed the Ohio bar in 1973. He is licensed to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1974, he joined the staff of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor as an assistant in the criminal trial division. While there, he tried individuals charged with crimes ranging from Welfare Fraud to Aggravated Murder. In 1976, he entered the general practice of law with his father, the late Russell T. Adrine. Two years later, he was appointed to serve as Staff Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations.

Over the years, Judge Adrine served as a member of approximately 70 professional, civic, and social organizations. That service included membership on boards of directors, boards of trustees or advisory boards of more than half of those organizations. He also held served as an officer on more than half of those boards. A representative sample of the positions held includes chair of the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness (a joint initiative of the Ohio State Bar Association and the Ohio Supreme Court), chair of the Ohio Supreme Court’s Interpreter Services Advisory Committee, membership on the Arnold Venture’s Pretrial Research Advisory Board, chair of the National Board of Directors of Futures Without Violence (formerly known as the Family Violence Prevention Fund), chair of the Cuyahoga Election Review Panel, as well as the 2018-2019 Cuyahoga County Charter Review Commission. He served as co-chair of the Advisory Board of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts and on that Center’s National Task Force on Fines, Fees and Bail.

In 2000, the judge was awarded the Ohio Bar Medal by the Ohio State Bar Association, its highest honor, in recognition of his contributions to the profession and the community. In 2017, the Judge received the Freedom Fund Award from the Cleveland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He has also been honored by the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni Association as Alumni of the Year, and by Cleveland State University as Distinguished Alumni for Civic Achievement. He was selected for inclusion in Cleveland-Marshall’s inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2017, and in 2018, he was appointed by the Dean of the Law School to serve as its initial Jurist in Residence.

**Hon. Kevin Burke (panelist)**

...is a trial judge in the Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota located in Hennepin County (Greater Minneapolis). He has been on the bench since 1984 and is one of the most recognized leaders within the

American judiciary. He served four terms as chief judge of the District Court, a 62-judge court, where he instituted social-science studies examining-and reforms improving-procedural fairness. Burke has received many awards including the William H. Rehnquist Award an award presented annually to the state judge who most exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics; Trial Judge of the Year by the Minnesota chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2005; Public Official of the Year by Governing magazine in 2004; and the Director's Community Leadership Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1997. The magazine *Politics in Minnesota* named him one of the most influential lawyers in the history of the State of Minnesota. He has spoken in 38 states, Abu Dhabi, Egypt, Canada, Ireland, India, and Mexico about issues of leadership, court administration and procedural fairness. In 2000, as chief judge of the Hennepin County District Court, he served as President of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, now repurposed as the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO), and hosted the annual conference in Minneapolis. He currently is on the NAPCO Board of Directors

**Russell R. Brown, III, Esq (panelist)**

...is the court administrator for the Cleveland Municipal Court in Cuyahoga County, OH. He has held that position since 2006. He joined the court in 1997 as a magistrate and mediation coordinator. Brown spent the prior seven years in court management positions, including special projects officer, liaison between the court operations and its IT department, and deputy court administrator. Prior to joining the judicial branch, he practiced law with a small firm before serving the city of Cleveland as assistant city prosecutor, followed by assistant director of law serving as counsel to the city's departments of economic development, community development and city planning.

Mr. Brown is a fellow of the National Center for State Court's Institute for Court Management, and a 2006 recipient of the Director's Award of Merit for Applied Research for his project on the subject of expungement of collateral sanctions, stating that greater fairness in the criminal justice system is warranted for past offenses where deserving persons have paid their debt to society. He is on the faculty of the Ohio Judicial College and teaches leadership in the state's NCSC certified court management program. He is also a member of the Executive Session for State Court Leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, meeting at the Harvard Kennedy School between 2008 and 2011. In 2015, he was part of the National Center for State Courts' consultant team that studied and submitted recommendations to the Missouri Supreme Court regarding municipal court reforms following the Ferguson Missouri riots and U.S. Department of Justice civil rights investigation occasioned by the Michael Brown shooting in August 2014.

Mr. Brown is past president of the Ohio Association for Court Administration and a member of the National Association for Court Management. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Ohio and a member of the Ohio State, Cleveland Metropolitan, and Norman S. Minor Bar Associations. He is an Air Force veteran and a member of the Lockheed C-5A Galaxy 1000 Hour Club with travels to numerous countries and regions of the world. He has a BA degree in Business Administration from Kent State University and his JD degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

**Benda Wagenknecht-Ivey, Ph.D. (moderator)**

...is President of PRAXIS Consulting, Inc. located in Denver, Colorado, specializes in organizational development and behavior, organizational change and improvement, and high-performance teams. Drawing upon a sound understanding of organizational psychology and organizational theory, Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey assists organizations of all types in enhancing their overall performance, including

achieving their goals, shaping, and seizing new opportunities, and creating and implementing practical and effective responses to widespread change and ongoing challenges.

She previously worked for the 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (Michigan), the Michigan State Court Administrator's Office, and the National Center for State Courts – Institute for Court Management. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Denver, a master's degree from Michigan State University, and a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. She has published numerous articles and guidebooks on strategic planning, executive leadership, managing change, continuous quality improvement, 360-degree feedback, and succession planning.

#### **Gordon Griller (NAPCO Webinar Coordinator)**

...is the Executive Director of the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO). He also works part-time as a consultant for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Griller retired as a full-time consultant with the National Center in 2020 after 14 years of service. Previously, he held numerous private and public positions dedicated to court improvement and reform, including Vice President for Justice Practices, State and Local Solutions Group, Affiliated Computer Systems (ACS, Inc.), a Xerox company; Administrator, Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County (Greater Phoenix); Administrator for the Superior Court in Maricopa County; Judicial District Administrator of the Second Judicial District of Minnesota in Ramsey County (Greater St. Paul); and Court Administrator for the Municipal Court of Hennepin County Minnesota (Greater Minneapolis).

Over his career, Mr. Griller has been active in a number of nonprofit associations dedicated to court and justice system improvement. He served as President of the National Association of Trial Court Administrators in 1983 and 1984 and co-chaired the Special Commission that created the National Association for Court Management (NACM) in 1985. He has consulted, taught, and written widely on caseload management, leadership, self-represented litigants, jury reform, visioning, strategic planning, ADR, budgeting, reengineering, and systems and procedures to numerous audiences. He is the recipient of the National Center's *Warren E. Burger Award*, NACM's *Award of Merit*, the Institute for Court Management's *Star Award*, NAPCO's *Tom C. Clark Justice Award*, and the Justice Management Institute's *Ernest C. Friesen Award*. Griller has a BA in Political Science and MA in Public Administration from the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He is a Graduate Fellow of the Institute for Court Management, a founding member of the Urban Court Managers' Network, and has been on the governing boards of the National Center for State Courts, the American Judicature Society, and the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts.