

**Speaker Resumes**  
**NAPCO Webinar • Thursday, March 18, 2021; 3 PM (EDT)**  
***Leading Innovation while Combating Exhaustion***  
***Topics: Closing the Digital Divide and Designing the New Future of Work***

**Hon. Timothy M. Kenny**

...is the Chief Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan in Wayne County (Detroit), the largest trial court in the state of Michigan with 58 judges serving a population of 1.8 million people. He has been Chief Judge for three years. During his twenty-four years on the bench, he has also served for nine years as Presiding Judge of the Court's twenty-two judge Criminal Division. In 2010, Judge Kenny was recognized by Michigan Lawyer's Weekly as one of Michigan's *Leaders in the Law*.

In addition to working on efforts to deal with the pandemic, Judge Kenny is currently involved in a project to improve juvenile justice in Wayne County. Judge Kenny also monitors the 1971 Wayne County Jail Consent Order dealing with inmate population and jail services.

From 2009-2018 Judge Kenny served as one of the founders as well as the judge in charge of the Mental Health Court. He also served for twelve years as a Drug Court judge.

Prior to becoming a judge he spent twenty years in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and three years in private practice. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota Law School.

**Zenell Brown**

... currently serves as the Executive Court Administrator of the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan in Wayne County. She has been in this position since 2014 and with the Court since 1997, holding several positions at the Court throughout her tenure. She oversees a staff of 500 employees. She is an attorney, mediation trainer, certified diversity professional. Ms. Brown is also a co-author of an approved mediation training curriculum, and recent author of *Coffee and Conversations: Inclusion and Belonging*.

As a multitalented court leader, she has spearheaded and contributed to the reimagining, strategic planning, and transformation of court operations. Results include launching self-help centers, amnesty programs, and holistic juvenile justice services. Inside the legal profession, she has trained attorneys, correctional, and court professionals on mediating domestic relations disputes, creating a diverse and inclusive work environment, managing a multi-generational workforce, and court leadership and administration.

Ms. Brown has presented and taught before a wide array of audiences, including the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Association of Family and Conciliation Court, the National Association of Court Management, and the National Black Child Development Institute. The Detroit Club of The National Association of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. has selected Zenell to be their 2021 National Sojourner Truth Award recipient in recognition of her professional work and community service.

Zenell serves on the Board of the Detroit Bar Association, the Board of the Michigan Diversity Council, several committees of the National Association of Court Management, and functions as faculty for the Michigan Judicial Institute, and the National Center for State Court's Institute for Court Management.

A forever learner, Ms. Brown holds a Juris Doctor (Wayne State University Law School), a Graduate Certificate in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Judicial Administration Certificate from Michigan State University.

### **Hon. Dwayne N. Knutsen**

... is Chief Judge of Minnesota's Eighth Judicial District Court encompassing 13 counties in west-central Minnesota stretching nearly 150 miles from the fringes of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (Minneapolis / St. Paul) to the Minnesota border with the Dakotas. It is largely an agricultural region and the most rural of the State's ten judicial districts. The entire District has a population of 130,00 residents and spans 9,000 square miles. He has served as Chief Judge for the past 3 years.

Eleven full-time judges are chambered throughout the Eighth District. Minnesota's District Courts operate as single-tier, unified, state-funded trial courts where judges are responsible for adjudicating all case types. Eight judicial districts in the State are multi-county districts; the two exceptions are Ramsey County (Greater Saint Paul) and Hennepin County (Greater Minneapolis) which are single county districts and comprise the Second and Fourth Judicial Districts, respectively. Each district is overseen by a chief judge, an assistant chief judge, and a judicial district administrator.

Judge Knutsen was appointed as a judge in the Eighth District on July 30, 2010 by Governor Tim Pawlenty. Subsequently, he has been elected in 2012 and 2018. His current term expires in January 2025. He is chambered in Yellow Medicine County.

Prior to his appointment as a judge, he was in private practice from 1986 to 2010 with the law firm of *Prindle, Marland, Sellner, Stennes, Knutsen and Stermer* located in Montevideo, MN. He also served as Chippewa County Attorney from 1999-2010 and was a part-time public defender from 1986-2010.

Judge Knutsen received his B.A. degree from the University of South Dakota (Vermillion) and his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He is married with three adult children and two grandsons.

### **Timothy Ostby**

... is the Judicial District Administrator for Minnesota's Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts. The Seventh Judicial District is a 10-county, 30-judge region and the Eighth Judicial District is a 13-county, 11-judge region in west-central Minnesota. He has been employed by the Minnesota Judicial Branch in various capacities since 1984.

Tim began his career as the Clerk of Courts in Traverse County, Minnesota; the least-populous of Minnesota's 87 counties with fewer than 4,000 residents. He then became Court Administrator in Nobles County and eventually was hired as the Deputy District Administrator for the Seventh Judicial District.

In 1992, he began his duties as the Eighth Judicial District Administrator. The judges of the Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts subsequently agreed to share a District Administrator in 2005 and Ostby has served as the combined Judicial District Administrator for the Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts since that time. He is the only judicial district administrator to oversee two districts simultaneously. The Seventh District, adjacent to the Eighth, consists of ten counties making Mr. Ostby administratively responsible for the court system in more than a quarter of all the counties in Minnesota.

Tim will be retiring from the Minnesota Judicial Branch at the end of June 2021 upon completing 37 years of service. Outside of work, he is active in local and regional choral groups and in community theatre productions. He is married to Marie and they have a daughter who is a physician in residency in the Twin Cities.

## **Brenda J. Wagenknecht-Ivey, Ph.D.**

... Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey helps organizations of all types take the *right actions* to improve performance and enhance employee well-being. She helps leaders, managers, and teams achieve their goals, shape, and seize new opportunities, and create and implement practical and effective responses to widespread disruption and ongoing challenges. Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey uses a variety of proven practices to bring about change and achieve results. She draws upon a sound understanding of organizational psychology and organizational theory to provide the following services:

- ✦ Visioning, long-range strategic, scenario, and recovery planning.
- ✦ Large-scale system and organizational (and culture) change.
- ✦ Organizational performance measurement and organizational design/re-design.
- ✦ Leadership and management development including 360-degree feedback and executive coaching.
- ✦ Talent management (onboarding, learning/development, succession planning).
- ✦ Collaborative decision making and consensus building.
- ✦ Team development and team building.
- ✦ Public/community involvement and engagement.

Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey has facilitated more than 150 strategy and organizational improvement and change processes with private, public, and not-for-profit organizations over the past 25 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 Boards and teams of all types to help them set and achieve goals, including eliminating institutional/structural racism and discrimination. She helps leaders establish organizational performance measurement systems, develop, and implement onboarding and succession planning programs, and restructure their organizations in light of their strategic directions and long-term priorities. 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.

Her clients have included: Illinois Judicial Branch; California State Bar and State Bar Court; King County Superior Court (Seattle); Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator; 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (Miami/Dade), 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (Detroit); Ottawa, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Van Buren, and Gogebic/Ontonagon County Courts (MI); Maricopa, Pima, Cochise, Mohave, and Coconino County Courts (AZ); First and Fifth Judicial Districts of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Pittsburgh); Santa Barbara Superior Court; Judiciary of Guam; Guam Attorney General's Office and Public Defender's Office; Pacific Judicial Council, and others. Other clients have included: MKK Consulting Engineers (CO); the Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, and Colorado Pharmacists Associations; Boston University, School of Public Health; Longmont United and Exempla Saint Joseph Hospitals (CO). Executives, managers, public/court administrators, supervisors, judicial officers, attorneys, legislators, scientists, physicians, hospital executives, pharmacists, and engineers have benefited from her services.

Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey worked for the 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (Battle Creek, MI), the Michigan State Court Administrative Office, and the National Center for State Courts. 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/guidebooks on strategic planning, executive leadership, managing change, quality improvement, 360-degree feedback, succession planning/talent management, and procedural fairness. Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey received the distinguished *Executive Board Medal* from the Michigan Pharmacists Association in 2015, an award bestowed upon individuals who

demonstrate extraordinary personal commitment to the Association, and who are instrumental to the Executive Board and in advancing the pharmacy profession

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