

Speaker Resumes
NAPCO Webinar • Thursday, January 27, 2022; 3 PM (EDT)
Arizona's Groundbreaking Venture...
Eliminating Peremptory Challenges in Jury Selection

Paula Hannaford-Agor

... is the Director of the Center for Jury Studies at the National Center for State Courts. In this capacity, she regularly conducts research and provides technical assistance and education to courts and court personnel on the topics of jury system management and trial procedure; civil litigation; and complex and mass tort litigation.

Ms. Hannaford-Agor's specific research efforts include:

- A pilot test of jury instructions intended to reduce the impact of implicit bias on juror decision-making;
- Development of a judicial curriculum on preventing and addressing Internet-related juror misconduct;
- A series of case studies of summary jury trial programs in six jurisdictions;
- A pilot study of juror and jury use of new media;
- A study of juror utilization in the Superior Courts of California;
- Development of the *Jury Managers' Toolbox*, an online diagnostic tool to help court administrators, administrative judges, and jury managers evaluate the effectiveness of their jury operations;
- A national survey of judges, lawyers, and jury managers on existing jury improvement efforts;
- A national study of civil bench and jury trials in 46 large, urban courts in 2001;
- A multi-site examination of the frequency and causes of hung juries in felony cases;
- An analysis of judicial removal of jurors for cause and attorney use of peremptory challenges in the Superior Courts of California;
- A compilation of innovations in jury management technology; and
- An evaluation of the impact of Arizona Civil Rule 39(f) permitting jurors in civil cases to discuss the evidence among themselves.

She has authored or contributed to numerous books and articles on the American jury including *Jury Trial Innovations* (2d ed. 2006), *The Promise and Challenges of Jury System Technology* (NCSC 2003) and *Managing Notorious Trials* (1998). She is faculty for the ICM courses *Jury System Management* and *Promise and Challenges of Jury System Technology*. She teaches a seminar on the American jury at William & Mary Law School.

She received her law degree from William & Mary Law School and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy of the College of William and Mary (1995) and her Bachelor of Arts in Government & Politics from George Mason University (with high distinction) (1991).

Hon. John J. Russo

... is a senior trial judge with the Court of Common Pleas of Ohio in Cuyahoga County serving the Greater Cleveland metropolitan area, and Chairperson of the NAPCO Board of Directors. He recently completed a four-year term as the Administrative and Presiding Judge (AJ/PJ) of the Court having been elected unanimously by his 34 colleagues in 2014. As the Court's AJ/PJ he was responsible for appointing committees, coordinating the development of Court policies, and overseeing the four common pleas

functions which include the General, Domestic Relations, Juvenile and Probate Divisions. He had specific responsibilities to administer the dockets in the General Division, the highest-level trial level in the state. Cuyahoga County is the most populous of Ohio's eighty-eight counties. It is home to 1.26 million people (2020 census).

Judge Russo began his career on the Court in 2005. His calendar since then has included felony-level criminal cases and civil cases. Prior to assuming the bench, he was a civil and criminal litigator for 12 years as a principal in his own firm, *Polito & Russo LLP*.

Judge Russo also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, a member of various education committees for the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Judicial College, Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, the National Business Institute, National Center for State Courts, and as a faculty member at the St. Edward High School. He was president of NAPCO in 2016 and hosted the First Annual Conference for the Association in Cleveland and was elected Chairperson of the Board of Directions in August 2019.

Among his other key achievements, Judge Russo has served as Co-Chair of the Ohio Judicial College, Member of the National Center for State Courts' Trends in State Courts Committee, Chair of the Ohio Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, Member of the Ohio Supreme Court Death Penalty Task Force, Member of the Public Health Committee of the Supreme Court to re-write the Public Health Policy Bench Book, Chair, Cuyahoga County Security Committee, Trustee of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association and Westshore Bar Association, and Member of the Ohio Judicial Conference Judicial Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

Judge Russo graduated from John Carroll University in 1987 with a B.S.B.A Degree and from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University in 1992 with a Juris Doctorate Degree.

Jessica M. Salerno, Ph.D.

... is an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Social and Behavioral Sciences division of the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. She is a founding member of the ASU Program on Law and Behavioral Science and the Future of Forensic Science Initiative. She is a fellow of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology and ASU's Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics. She serves as an academic adviser to the NYU Civil Jury Project. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Middlebury College in 2003 and her doctorate in social psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2012.

Dr. Salerno's research interests include several lines of inquiry that apply social psychological theory and experimentation to jury decision making processes. She has published research about a range of topics relevant to jury decision making, including the jury deliberation process, how jurors evaluate the quality of scientific evidence, the role of emotion in jury decision making, the impact of gruesome evidence, juror biases, judicial rehabilitation, and jury selection.

Dr. Salerno's work has been published in top tier peer-reviewed scientific journals as well as law reviews. Her jury decision making research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the American Psychology-Law Society, the American Bar Foundation, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. She has served on the editorial board for *Law and Human Behavior*, the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Psychology, Public Policy, & Law*. She has won awards for her research, such as the American Psychology-Law Society's Early Career Award, and the Association of

Psychological Science's Rising Star Award. Her jury decision making research has been covered by many major media outlets, such as *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, *NPR*, *Huffington Post*, and the *BBC*.

Dr. Salerno is the Principle Investigator for a research project funded by the National Science Foundation to investigate the impact of Arizona's peremptory challenges ban on voir dire practices, racial diversity on juries, and case outcomes. She has consulted on reforms to Arizona's voir dire practices to encourage juror candor and facilitate bias detection in jury selection.

Hon. Joseph C. Welty

... is the Presiding Judge of the Arizona Judicial Branch in Maricopa County. He has supervisory authority over the Superior Court and Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments and oversight authority regarding all lower courts in the County, including both Justice (county) and Municipal Courts. Maricopa County is the fourth most populous county in the United States with an estimated population of 4.6 million people. Judge Welty was appointed to the bench in 2007 and has served in the civil, criminal, family and juvenile departments of the Superior Court. He was appointed by the Supreme Court as Presiding Judge in 2019. There are 150 judicial officers and 3500 staff in the Superior Court, a general jurisdiction court. Twenty-six justices of the peace (county judges) and 24 chief municipal judges handle lower court functions in the County.

Prior to becoming a judge, he served for 16 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona. In that capacity, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section and the Chief of the National Security Section. Judge Welty has been an adjunct professor at ASU and has taught extensively on a broad range of topics for the U.S. Department of Justice and the State Bar of Arizona. And for several years, he co-chaired the New Judge Orientation Program for the Arizona Supreme Court. He has served on numerous Supreme Court Committees and chaired the Supreme Court's Criminal Rules Task Force and the Task Force on Rule 32 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Judge Welty was born and raised in Phoenix. He received his BA from Loyola Marymount University and his JD from the Georgetown University Law Center.