

**Speaker Resumes**  
**NAPCO Webinar • Wednesday, December 3, 2023; 3 PM (EST)**  
*Storytelling as a Leadership Tool*

**Hon. Kevin Burke (ret.)**

...served as a District Judge in Hennepin County, Minnesota for 37 years. He retired from the bench in early 2021. Burke is one of the most recognized leaders within American state judiciaries. He was elected for four terms as Chief Judge and three terms as Assistant Chief Judge. During this time, he instituted social science studies and reforms improving procedural fairness. From 1991 – 1996 he served as the Chair of the Minnesota Conference of Chief Judges. He chaired the State Board of Public Defense and was a leader in the effort to improve and expand the state’s public defender system.

Judge Burke has been named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in the history of Minnesota by Law & Politics magazine. In 1996 he was named a Toll Fellow. The Toll Fellowship identifies emerging state leaders from all three branches of government. In 1997 he received the Director’s Community Leadership Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 2002 the National Center for State Courts awarded him the Distinguished Service Award, and in 2003 he was selected as the recipient of the Center’s William H. Rehnquist Award. The Rehnquist Award is presented annually to a state judge who exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. He was awarded Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine in 2004. In 2005 the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates named him Trial Judge of the Year. The American Bar Association named him Judicial Educator of the year in 2010.

He teaches at the University of Minnesota and University of St. Thomas law schools. For many years he served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute’s Reflective Leadership Program. He has been a speaker in 38 states as well as Abu Dhabi, Canada, Egypt, Mexico, China, India, and Ireland regarding improvement in judicial administration and court leadership.

Burke has authored numerous articles and is the co-author of two American Judges Association White Papers, “Procedural Fairness: A Key Ingredient in Public Satisfaction” and “Minding the Court: Enhancing the Decision-Making Process.” He presently serves on the Board of the Institute for the Reform of the American Legal System and the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO). He is a past Board member of the National Center for State Courts and the American Judicature Society.

He began his legal career in 1975 as an assistant public defender for Hennepin County. In 1979, he became a partner with the law firm of Ranum, Quackenbush & Burke. The following year, he left to be a partner of Chestnut & Brooks, P.A., where he worked until his 1984 judicial appointment.

Burke received a B.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1972 and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1975. During college, he interned with the Office of

the Minnesota Senate Counsel (1971) and Congressman Michael J. Harrington (1972). He was also a research associate for the Minnesota Experimental City (1972), an administrative assistant to the Chairman of the Metropolitan Council (1973), and the student director for the Legal Aid to Minnesota Prisoners (1975).

### **Hon. Nushin Sayfie**

...is the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida serving Miami/Dade County. She was initially elected by her peers as Chief Judge in 2021 and began serving a two-year term on July 1, 2021. Subsequently, she was re-elected to a second term in July 2023. She is only the second female Chief Judge in the history of the court. Judge Sayfie was appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor Crist in 2007, and was re-elected without opposition in 2010, 2016, and 2022. In March 2013, she was appointed Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division. During her time in the Criminal Division, Judge Sayfie presided over 90 jury trials as well as the Felony Mental Health Division court and is one of the founders of Miami's Veterans' Court.

Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Sayfie was an Assistant Public Defender in Miami beginning in 1994. As a litigator, she tried over 75 felony cases, including homicide and death penalty cases. She also trained and supervised lawyers in the Felony Division.

Judge Sayfie has served on the board of Casa Valentina, since 2006, an organization that provides housing and support for young people aging out of foster care. She has served as a board member and now an honorary board member since 2010 of the Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment. She serves on the Dade Miami Criminal Justice Council and was Vice Chair from 2013-2021. She chaired its main subcommittee, the Public Safety Coordinating Council, from 2013-2021. She served on the Florida Bar's Criminal Procedure Rules Committee and Standing Committee on Mental Health & Wellness from 2017-2022. She has served on the board of the National Association of Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO) since August 2022. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami School of Law teaching Litigation Skills.

During Judge Sayfie's career as a lawyer and judge, she has received numerous awards and accolades for her work, including May 2016: Annual Mental Health Conference of the 11th Judicial Circuit, *Paul Kaminsky Commitment to Justice Award*; March 2017: Miami-Dade County Parks & Rec. Dept., *In the Company of Women Award*; May 2017: Transition, Inc., *Community Service Award*; April 2019: Iranian American Foundation, *Distinguished Iranian-American Woman of the Year*; May 2019: Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Miami Chapter, *Justice Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award*; October 2021, Miami Dade Bar Association, *Sookie Williams Outstanding Community Service Award*; December 2021: Cuban American Bar Association, *Advancing women in the legal profession*; February 2022: University of Miami Law Alumni Association, *Annual Awards*; May 2022: Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc, *Equal Justice Judicial Leadership Award*; September 2022: Miami-Dade Trial Lawyers' Association, *Justice Harry Lee Anstead Professionalism Award*; February 2023: FIU Law School, *Leadership in the Law Award*; March 2023: Cuban American Bar Association, *Judge Mario P. Goderich PAVER Award*; November 2023: Miami Dade Bar Association, *Young Lawyers' Division Judicial Vanguard Award*.

Judge Sayfie received her Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1993 and is a member of both the New York and Florida Bars. She earned her undergraduate degree in 1990 from Georgetown University. She was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, and she has three (mostly) grown children.

### **David Yamasaki**

... is the Court Executive Officer and Clerk of Court for the Superior Court of California, County of Orange (Greater Santa Ana), a position he has held since December 2016. It is a unified trial court, ranking as the fifth largest in the nation with 140 judicial officers, 8 locations, 1500 employees and 500,000 annual case filings. He has over 33 years of experience in the California Judicial Branch, including Chief Executive Officer (2008-2016) in Santa Clara County Superior Court; Assistant Executive Officer (1998-2008), Director of Criminal Operations (1993-1998), and Coordinator of Criminal Operations (1992-1998) in San Diego County Superior Court; Administrative Operations Manager (1988-1992) in North County Municipal Court in Vista CA; Senior Administrative Assistant (1987-1988), Legal Research Assistant (1986-1987) in Los Angeles Municipal Court; and Deputy Clerk II (1985-1986) in San Diego Municipal Court.

During his various positions within the California court system, Mr. Yamasaki has served on numerous committees, commissions, and task forces with the Judicial Council, California's judicial system governing board, and as a member of the Council itself. Additionally, he also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO).

Mr. Yamasaki has a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, and M.A. Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Judicial Administration from the University of Southern California.

### **Gordon Griller**

... is the Executive Director of the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO), a nonprofit, public benefit corporation composed of state and local trial court leadership judges, court executives, and court leadership teams. He serves pro bono in that capacity but will leave the position in February 2024. Up until early October 2023, he worked part-time with the National Center for State Courts' Court Consulting Services group, having retired in January 2020 as a Principal Court Management Consultant after 14 years of full-time service with the Center. His consulting engagements were wide-ranging, including caseload management, court operations improvement, reengineering, court facility studies, strategic planning, efficiency analyses, systems and procedures, organizational development, and leadership programs for presiding judges, chief administrative officers, and program professionals in general, limited, and specialized courts.

Prior to his work with the Center, Mr. Griller held numerous private and public positions dedicated to trial court improvement and reform, including Vice President of Justice Practices for the State and Local Solutions Group at Affiliated Computer Systems (ACS), a division of the Xerox

Corporation; the first Administrator of Trial Courts for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County (Greater Phoenix); Court Administrator for the Superior Court in Maricopa County; the first Judicial District Administrator of the Second Judicial District of Minnesota in Ramsey County (Greater St. Paul); and Court Administrator of the Municipal Court of Hennepin County, Minnesota (Greater Minneapolis) prior to the unification of Minnesota's state and local trial courts. He began his career in trial courts in 1972.

In his 50+ years working with state and local trial courts, Mr. Griller has served as President of the National Association of Trial Court Administrators where he co-chaired the Special Commission in the 1980s that created the National Association for Court Management (NACM), the largest professional association in the world dedicated to the improvement of trial court administration. He is a recipient of the National Center's *Warren E. Burger Award* for outstanding contributions to court administration, the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts' *Tom C. Clark Award*, NACM's *Award of Merit*, the Institute for Court Management's *Star Award*, the Justice Management Institute's *Ernest C. Friesen Award* for vision, leadership, and sustained commitment to excellence in the administration of justice, and in 2023 he received the inaugural *Gordon (Gordy) Griller Award for Excellence in Court Leadership* which will be presented annually by NAPCO to a person or persons who demonstrate leadership, innovation and access to justice for all.

Gordy holds a B.A. Degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota, and a M.A. Degree in Public Administration from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis).