

# MICHIGAN SAFETY & JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

## SPEAKER BIOS

THE WESTIN BOOK CADILLAC DETROIT  
1114 WASHINGTON BLVD, DETROIT, MI 48226  
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**Kevin J. Bowling**, JD, MSJA is the Trial Court Administrator and Attorney Referee for the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court and the Ottawa County Probate Court in Ottawa County, Michigan. He is a Past President of the National Association for Court Management, Co-Chair of the COSCA/NACM Joint Technology Committee, and Chair of the DOJ Global Advisory Committee. His work in the judicial system spans more than 35 years with time spent as a court manager, attorney, judicial educator and court consultant, including service in western Africa as Deputy Chief of Party for the Nigeria Justice Sector Assistance Project.

Mr. Bowling also served for 20 years in a variety of positions with the Michigan Supreme Court, including State Judicial Educator and Regional Court Administrator.

Mr. Bowling received his B.A. in Political Science/Public Administration from Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island; a M.S. in Judicial Administration from the University of Denver College of Law; a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, and is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Ottawa County Bar Association, National Association for Court Management, National Association of State Judicial Educators, and Michigan Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20.

**HUDSON  
WEBBER  
FOUNDATION**

**MCJJ** Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice  
State Advisory Group



**Melanca Clark** is president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to improving quality of life in Detroit. The foundation's core mission areas are community and economic development, safe and just communities, the built environment and arts and culture.

Prior to joining the Foundation in August 2016, Melanca held several senior positions in the Obama Administration including Chief of Staff of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Senior Policy Advisor with the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Senior Counsel with DOJ's Access to Justice Initiative.

Prior to her government service, Melanca served as Counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, a John J. Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest and Constitutional Law at the Gibbons law firm, and a Skadden Fellow and Assistant Counsel with the Economic Justice Group of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. She also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr., U.S. District Court of New Jersey; adjunct professor at Seton Hall University School of Law, and a litigation associate with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

Melanca earned her law degree from Harvard Law School and her undergraduate degree from Brown University.



**Paul Elam**, PhD serves as MPHI's Chief Strategy Officer. He is responsible for aligning the priorities of MPHI with national interests as well as diversifying the Institute's portfolio to address cutting edge issues that affect the health and well-being of our society. His past leadership includes mentoring and training professionals from historically underrepresented groups with evaluation expertise in the areas of child welfare and juvenile justice. His deep understanding of youth violence and prevention, crime and justice, and child maltreatment is nationally recognized. Dr. Elam brings a wealth of knowledge and experience measuring racial and ethnic disproportionality and believes that sound public policy analysis should include an examination of whether all people are being treated fairly and equitably.

Before joining MPHI, Dr. Elam was president of Public Policy Associates, Inc., where he worked closely with government, philanthropic, university, and nonprofit clients, providing strategic consultation to advance public policy decisions in ways that would improve lives, advance social justice and produce equitable outcomes.



(continued) Dr. Elam earned a PhD in Family and Child Ecology, a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and Urban Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, all from Michigan State University.



**Mary Beth Kelly** Retired Justice, Michigan Supreme Court, Ms. Kelly joined JAMS as a 16-year veteran of Michigan courts, including serving on the Michigan Supreme Court from 2011 to 2015. Prior to joining Michigan's highest court, Ms. Kelly served as Chief Judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court for three terms, where she remains the only woman in history to hold the position. In private practice, she concentrated on commercial litigation, often in the class action context. Ms. Kelly's JAMS practice focuses on mediation/arbitration of

complex business/commercial matters and employment disputes. Her time on the bench provides unique expertise in the family law arena, particularly in high-asset disputes, which may involve business valuation issues. JAMS clients also look to Kelly's appellate experience for unbiased, confidential case evaluations, allowing them to fine-tune arguments for matters on appeal, reassess settlement options, manage client expectations and ultimately proceed with heightened confidence and a winning strategy.



**Mary King** began working with inmates as an intern at the Huron Valley Women's Correctional Facility in the early 1980's. In 1988, she created the Women's Program at Option's Center, serving women who had a felony conviction. Mary went on to become the first Coordinator for the Children's Visitation Program, a project of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, which brought children from all over Michigan for structured visits with their incarcerated mothers.

Mary spent eight years, from 2006 – 2013, as the Community Coordinator for the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, where she engaged key stakeholders in a unified effort to provide evidence-based services for returning citizens.

In January 2016, Mary returned to the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD) to serve as its Executive Director. MCCD is a research, policy and advocacy organization that recently celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> year working to make the Michigan criminal and juvenile justice systems more fair, effective and affordable.





**Vincent Schiraldi** has extensive experience in public life, founding the policy think tank, the Justice Policy Institute, then moving to government as director of the juvenile corrections in Washington DC, and then as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. Most recently Schiraldi served as Senior Advisor to the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Schiraldi gained a national reputation as a fearless reformer who emphasized the humane and decent treatment of the men, women, and children under his correctional supervision. He pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration in NYC and Washington DC. Schiraldi received a MSW from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University.



Since 1994, **Alice G. Thompson** has served as the CEO of Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI), whose mission is "To strengthen and enhance the lives of children, youth, and families through partnerships that support safe, nurturing, vibrant homes, schools and communities."

Alice was educated at Wayne State University (WSU), where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Social Work Administration. She later served for 10 years as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work. In 2007 and 1992, she was the recipient of the "Social Worker Alumna of the Year Award". She presently serves as Chair of the WSU School of Social Work Board of Visitors. Alice serves on many Boards, with a focus on quality of life issues and the revitalization of the City of Detroit.

Alice is a graduate of Leadership Detroit Class of XXV. In 2013, she completed the Harvard Business School Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management. Alice's professional skills include: Creating and sustaining collaboration; Licensed Restorative Practices Trainer by the International Institute for Restorative Practices; Program Design, Planning, Development, & Consultation; Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance; Grantsmanship; Family Preservation Consultant; and, Speaker and Trainer on Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, and Over-Representation of Children of Color.

