

# WOMEN IN PRISON CONFERENCE 2017

## SPEAKER BIOS

**Jeff Auxier**, District Attorney, Columbia County, Oregon

Jeff Auxier graduated from the Willamette University College of Law in 2006. After spending two years a Deputy District Attorney in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Marion County District Attorney's Office, Mr. Auxier moved to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office where he spent the last nine years working as a prosecutor. While in Multnomah County, he worked in the office's gang and sex crime units. In July of 2017 Governor Kate Brown appointed Mr. Auxier to the position of Columbia County District Attorney.

**Teresa Conlan**, Counselor, Allies in Change

Teresa Conlan is a Licensed Clinician Social Worker (LCSW) moving from Minneapolis, MN where she worked as a therapist with inner city youth and families struggling with domestic violence and street related trauma. She is currently working for Allies in Change as an individual and couples' therapist, and group facilitator for the women's anger management groups as well as the men's criminal lifestyle specialty group. Teresa is a trauma informed clinician, specializing in CBT intervention. In addition, she has also been trained in the Allies in Change curriculum model, focusing on the belief systems associated with abusive behavior in both men and women. Teresa prides herself on being a compassionately direct clinician; offering empathy for experiences and provoking clients' accountability for their mal adaptive behavior. Teresa obtained a BA from the University of MN in sociology, and a Masters of Social Work from Fordham University in New York City.

**Dr. Carma Corcoran**, Chippewa-Cree, Lewis & Clark Law School - Indian Law Program

Dr. Corcoran is the Indian Law Program Director at Lewis and Clark Law School. Carma's Bachelor's degree is in Communication with a dual focus on Cross Cultural Communication and Conflict Resolution. Carma has a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on Organizational Administration and Cultural Humility. She has a strong background working with non-profit organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Josiah Hill Clinic and Raphael House of Portland. She is the former Board Chair of Red Lodge Transition Services and has also served on the board of the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University as well as board committees of several non-profits. She also has a consulting business; Carma Corcoran Consulting working with a number of non-profit clients. Carma has taught as an adjunct at the University of Oregon and currently teaches at Portland State University. She recently completed her PhD writing about the issue of Incarceration and Native American Women in her dissertation titled "The Juxtaposition of Gentle Action

Theory and Traditional Ways of Knowing and Being: In the Provision of Services to Native American Women Experiencing Incarceration". Dr. Corcoran employed an Indigenous Research Paradigm in the research and writing of her dissertation.

**Amy Davidson**, Crime Survivor Program Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice  
Raised in Boston, MA, Amy learned early of the divides born of racial and ethnic tensions in the days of bussing in the 1970's. It was a keen love for the outdoors that eventually led her to Bend, OR after decades of activism in social justice movements around the country. In Bend, Amy helped launch Mary's Place, a Supervised Visit & Exchange Center that was a program of Saving Grace, the regional Domestic Violence Sexual Assault program, Amy came to PSJ with over 15 years of experience supporting and advocating on behalf of crime survivors. Through policy work, professional development, and community engagement, Amy's developed a keen understanding of intersectionality and the complexity of crime victim and survivor work. She celebrates really good pens, old episodes of Soul Train, wood splitting and whitewater canoeing.

**Robin Davis**, organizer with Black Lives Matter PDX

Robin Davis currently works at the Joint Office of Homeless Services, and she previously worked at Bradley Angle for over three years, first as an Advocate in the Healing Roots Program, a culturally responsive program for Black/ African American survivors of domestic violence (DV), and later as the Program Coordinator. She centers her DV work on the impacts of DV in the Black community, and how it intersects with colonialism, anti-black racism, heteropatriarchy, classicism, and other forms of violence. She also understands that that marginalized communities are more than our stories of oppression, and it is important to recognize the unique cultural strengths, resiliency, and resistance within these communities. Robin received her Bachelor's and her Master's Degree in Social Work from PSU.

**Eric Deitrick**, Attorney, Office of Public Defense Services

Eric Deitrick is Deputy General Counsel for the Office of Public Defense Services, which administers Oregon's public defense system. Previously, he worked as public defender at Multnomah Defenders, and has served as Counsel for the Oregon House and Senate Judiciary Committees. Mr. Deitrick is also a member of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Legislative Committee. He attended Penn State University and Lewis and Clark Law School, and lives in Multnomah Village with his family.

**Emily Elison**, Attorney, Tarchia Law PC

Emily Elison is a member of the Oregon State Bar and is admitted to practice in the federal United States District Court for the District of Oregon. She is a member of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Oregon State Bar Animal Law

Section, and the Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court. She has been recognized by SuperLawyers in the area of criminal defense. Emily is a graduate of the Lewis & Clark Law School, where she earned a Certificate in Criminal Law and Procedure while graduating cum laude. Furthermore, she represented Lewis & Clark in competition as a member of the Appellate Moot Court team as well as working as the Editor in Chief of the Animal Law Review. During her time in law school, Emily worked as a clerk for the Oregon Federal Public Defender's Office in Portland. Upon graduation, Emily was chosen as a member of the Cornelius Honor Society of Lewis & Clark Law School.

**Professor Caroline Forell, University of Oregon School of Law**

Professor Caroline Forell joined the UO law faculty in 1978 right after law school, where she served on the staff of Iowa Law Review. She is currently semi-retired, participating in the UO's tenure reduction program and teaching one semester a year. Her research focuses on legal issues affecting women. She co-authored, with Donna Matthews, the book: "A Law of Her Own: The Reasonable Woman as a Measure of Man" (NYU Press, 2000) (paperback 2001). Recently Forell's scholarship has focused on domestic homicide and the problems with the provocation defense. She has examined and critiqued how the United States, Canada and Australia have struggled with reforms. Her 2006 article, "Gender Equality, Social Values and Provocation Law in Australia, Canada and the United States," was well-received in all three countries. She revisited domestic homicide and provocation in her 2017 article "Domestic Homicide: The Continuing Search for Justice". She holds dual American/Australian citizenship and grew up on Australia's Gold Coast

**DeAnna Horne, Attorney, Metropolitan Public Defender Services**

DeAnna Horne has been a public defender since the summer of 2004. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon Law School. She lives in SE Portland with a really nice man, a dog and two cats. She regularly hangs out with horses to keep herself sane.

**Dr. Chris Huffine, Executive Director, Allies in Change**

Chris Huffine, Psy.D., licensed psychologist, is the Executive Director of Allies in Change. He offers individual and couples counseling with adults on a variety of issues including mood disorders, stress management, relationship/intimacy issues, and addictions. Chris is also a facilitator in three of our counseling groups. During his career, he has worked with over a thousand abusive men and hundreds of female and male victims of abuse. He is an adjunct faculty member at Portland State University where he teaches an anger management class and speaks on domestic violence. He also offers a graduate level class on domestic violence at Pacific University. He regularly speaks publicly and offers trainings on a variety of issue related to domestic violence. He is a member of the advisory group to the state attorney general to monitor standards for batterer intervention programs.

**Trish Jordan**, Creek, Executive Director, Red Lodge Transition Services

Trish has been working with women in prison, and has been an active volunteer working within the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC), since November 2000. She received the ODOC Volunteer of the Quarter award in July 2011. Trish's collaborative efforts working with the ODOC administration have resulted in several new programs and procedures being adopted state wide, on behalf of the Native American prison population. Trish has a Bachelor of Science degree, and is working toward her Master's in Health Care Administration. Trish also helps manage a small group of volunteers for Friends of Red Lodge, a small non-profit business, which when fully functioning, will help support the Women's Transition Home.

**Mary Knight**, Filmmaker

Mary Knight has a Masters Degree in Social Work and 23 years of clinical experience. She did forensic investigations in child custody cases and served as an expert witness over 100 times. She is herself a survivor of extreme child abuse. Knight retired from social work in 2010 and became a filmmaker. She owns Mary Knight Productions and has made two feature films and several short films. She became interested in prison reform after meeting Robyn Drown in a Coffee Creek spiritual book club led by Chaplain Emily Brault.

**Paula McDade**, Founder/Project Director, Not on My Watch Women's Initiative

Paula McDade has been impacting the lives of women and girls for over a decade. She is a trailblazer in Oklahoma, having organized one of the first girl's conferences in our area specifically geared toward adolescent and teen girls. For her community based efforts, she has been recognized by the Oklahoma House of Representatives and given an official Citation of Recognition. Paula is currently pursuing a degree in Public Service from Oklahoma State University, where she is also employed as a Job Coach with the REACH4Work Program. Through her work, she assists single mothers in obtaining employment while seeking to exit the welfare system. Mrs. McDade has been the visionary behind many of her own community based Initiatives which have addressed issues such as sexual abuse/assault, domestic violence, and mental illness. Her personal experiences with these issues are the driving force behind her advocacy work. As an advocate for women and girls, she consistently mentors others to utilize the life skills and leadership lessons that she will share with us today. Paula is a highly sought after speaker across the nation, and has been a guest on many podcasts, radio shows and television interviews. She will inspire you, but most importantly she will compel you to recognize the power of the impact we have on the people around us.

**Lori McGovern**, Counselor, Young Women's Transition Program, Oregon Youth Authority  
Lori McGovern, AAS in social services, BA in social and behavioral studies, Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor 1 (CADC 1). An Oregon resident since 2000. I have worked with at-risk youth for over 20 years – 17 have been with the Oregon Youth Authority's Young Women's Transition program. My experience includes case management, identification of gaps and services for incarcerated young women, program development, community outreach and advocacy, and group facilitation. On my time off, I volunteer for the Audubon Society, hike, create art objects from found materials and am a novice guitar player.

**Steph Ng Ping Cheung**, LGBTQ Program Coordinator, Bradley Angle  
Steph has spent the last six years providing a variety of supports for persons impacted by domestic and sexual violence both in Portland, OR and in Asheville, NC. After graduating with a Master's Degree in Social Work from Portland State University in June 2016, Steph came to work for Bradley Angle as the LGBTQ Program Coordinator. Steph holds an inclusive and community driven approach to anti-violence work and is particularly interested in improving supports for LGBTQ persons who hold other targeted identities as they navigate social service systems and institutions.

**Representative Carla Piluso**, District 50 - Gresham  
A native to Oregon, Rep. Piluso was first in her family to finish college. She graduated from Willamette University with degrees in Political Science and Speech. In 1979, Carla began working for the Gresham Police Department, and served for 30 years. She was the first woman to be promoted through every rank, eventually serving as the Chief of Police for six years before retiring. She later went on to serve as Gresham's first woman Chief of Police. As chief, she focused heavily on domestic violence, and was one of the first to access funds from the federal Violence Against Women Act to better serve the community. She still puts on a domestic violence vigil annually in Gresham. In 2014, Carla was elected to represent House District 50 in the Oregon Legislature and has fought to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. She was sworn in for her second term in January of 2017, and hopes to protect education, serve East County's young children and families, address affordable housing, and continue to improve public safety.

**Brigitte Rodriguez**, El Programa Hispano Católico - Project UNICA  
Brigitte Rodriguez as a first generation Mexican-American feminist woman and is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents. She currently serves as Proyecto UNICA's-Youth and Family Services Program Manager at El Programa Hispano Católico in Portland, Oregon. She has a master degree in social work from Portland State University. Ms. Rodriguez has nine years of community education, outreach, and

advocacy experience. She has developed a unique set of skills, experiences, and interests centered on immigration rights, social justice, and multidisciplinary collaboration. Her passion lies in trauma-informed advocacy work that ensures marginalized communities have all-encompassing, equitable access to community resources and education. In her free time she enjoys time with family and friends, hikes, cooking and eating delicious food, dancing, and horseback riding.

**Kasia Rutledge, Criminal Defense Attorney**

Kasia Rutledge loves being a criminal defense lawyer. For the past 10 years she has been privileged to represent poor people accused of crimes in both Multnomah and Washington counties at Metropolitan Public Defenders. At MPD she represented people accused of major felonies including murder, rape, kidnapping, and promoting prostitution. Recently, Kasia has gone out on her own focusing her practice on aggravated murder capital defense. Kasia fights to protect her client's rights using a client-centered focus, storytelling, and education of the public about the struggles of the people she is honored to represent. She facilitates anti-racism and anti-oppression trainings, mentors students from middle school through law school as well as new lawyers, and volunteers for many organizations trying to make the criminal justice system better. Instead of sleeping, she loves to make complicated difficult meals, camp/be in out in nature, and take photos.

**Representative Tawna Sanchez, Shoshone-Bannock/Ute, District 43 – Portland, Director of Family Services, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)**  
Representative Tawna Sanchez has spent her life working to strengthen our community. Born of Shoshone-Bannock, Ute, and Carrizo descent, Tawna grew up in Portland, and for many years has been a leader fighting for the rights of women, indigenous people, and the most vulnerable. As the Director of Family Services at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Tawna helped create the Early College Academy, expanded early childhood services, affordable housing development, elder support, and assisted in building a nationally recognized domestic violence wrap-around service model. Over time, Tawna has helped raise 18 foster kids, and has been active in state policy making – serving on the Family Services Review Commission and the Child Welfare Advisory Committee. As a state representative, Tawna remains committed to standing up for social justice on the side of the oppressed, and pushing to make our systems more equitable.

**Dr. Sarina Saturn, Associate Professor, University of Portland**

Dr. Sarina Saturn areas of specialty are health psychology and neuroscience. Her research involves a multi-method approach to studying the biology underlying positive social emotions with measures of life histories, behavior, physiology, and the oxytocin system (genetics, epigenetics, and hormones release). Her PhD in neuroscience is from

New York University, and she undertook post-doctoral work at Columbia University, Stanford University, and the University of California – Berkeley.

**Mike Schmidt**, Executive Director, Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

Mike Schmidt came to the CJC directly from his previous role as a prosecutor in Multnomah County. He worked for the Multnomah District Attorney starting in 2007 where he began in misdemeanors, moved on to property crimes, and was specially assigned to drug courts and the restitution project. Mike was counsel for the House and Senate judiciary committees during the 2013 session. He graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2008, and before that taught high school social studies in New Orleans for two years after graduating from Vassar College. Mike was appointed to be the Executive Director of the CJC at the beginning of 2015. As the Executive Director he is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the agency's program areas as well as working closely with the Governor and Legislature on matters of public safety policy.

**Jessica Tibbets**

A domestic violence and sexual assault/ abuse survivor, incarcerated at a young age. After 15 years inside, she is navigating society through the barriers of her criminal record as well as growing up inside. Learning to pay bills, taxes and work as a mother and healthy member of society.

**Vanessa Timmons**, Executive Director, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Vanessa Timmons has been a writer, activist, and women's health advocate for over 25 years. She attended Marylhurst University's Multidisciplinary Studies Program in Portland, Oregon, and has continued her formal education through certificates and training, including the Interpersonal Neurobiology of Trauma Certification Program at Portland State University. Vanessa has served as the Director of Programs at Raphael House of Portland, a Northwest regional field organizer for the National Organization for Women, and the domestic violence program coordinator for the Multnomah County Domestic Violence Coordination Office, in addition to serving OCADSV in the past as the Women of Color Coordinator and Board Chair.