

WATCP 2014 Conference

Presenter Biographies

Patrick Isenberger

Pat Isenberger has been working in the AODA field for 20 years. He has worked at Eau Claire County Department of Human Services for over 13 years and started assisting the drug court advisory board with developing the Eau Claire County Drug Court in October 2003 and has been the coordinator of the program since it started accepting participants in October 2004. He is the past president of the AODA advisory board at the Chippewa Valley Technical College and has also served on the Wisconsin Association of Drug Court Professionals executive board from February 2004 to present. Pat Isenberger is the President Elect for the WATCP Association for the 2013-2014 year.

Carol Carlson

Carol Carlson is the coordinator of the Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee and Master of Social Work degree from University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee with specializations in direct practice and administration. She is currently enrolled in the Masters of Science program for Helen Bader School of Nonprofit Management at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Her social work experience includes work with adults, children and families in fields of physical, mental, and behavioral health, criminal justice and child welfare at the Tennessee Department of Human Services; Victim Witness Services with the Nashville, TN District Attorney's Office; and the Brain Injury Rehab Center in Milwaukee. Competencies include direct practice skills and group counseling; working with multidisciplinary teams of professionals; staff supervision and training; program management and planning; resource development and budget planning and management.

Judge Robert G. Rancourt

Judge Robert G. Rancourt is a District Court Judge in Chisago County, Minnesota. He was appointed on February 8, 2002 and since that time has attended numerous training opportunities on the rise of methamphetamine, addressed substance abuse and dual diagnosis problems in the courts, and worked with a team of dedicated professionals in implementing a juvenile drug court in the Tenth Judicial District. Judge Rancourt also served as Chair of the Board for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Prior to his appointment, Judge Rancourt worked in private practice in Center City, Minnesota.

Paul L. Cary, M.S.

Paul Cary is director of the Toxicology and Drug Monitoring Laboratory at University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia Missouri. For over thirty years, Mr. Cary has been actively involved in the management of a nationally-recognized toxicology laboratory (SAMHSA certified) that performs drug testing for drug courts, hospitals, mental health facilities, attorneys, coroners and medical examiners, athletic programs, and public and private employers. He has authored numerous scientific publications and monographs, has served on a variety of clinical and technical advisory committees, teaches at the university, is involved in drug testing research, and serves as a consultant in toxicology-related matters. Mr. Cary has also provided judicial education including lecturing at the National Judicial College on alcohol pharmacology, the use of expert testimony and on drug testing issues. He has been certified as an expert and provided expert testimony in court (local, state and federal) and in labor arbitration. Mr. Cary has been a resource to drug court teams throughout the nation and overseas and serves as visiting faculty for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Center for Court Innovation, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National Drug Court Institute.

Mike Loeffler

Mike Loeffler is an Assistant District Attorney with the Creek County District Attorney's Office in Bristow, Oklahoma where he is primarily responsible for the filing, trial and disposition of thousands of criminal cases, including numerous capital cases. He also serves as municipal judge for the towns of Mounds and Kellyville, Oklahoma. He graduated with honors with a BBA in Economics from the University of Oklahoma, Price College of Business in 1985 and College of Law in 1987. Mr. Loeffler also attended the University of Oklahoma-Oxford University Student Exchange Program at Queen's College, Oxford University in 1986. In 2006, he received the Alma Wilson Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association (OBA) for distinguished service as a prosecutor for assisting children of families affected by drug/alcohol addiction. In 2009, he was awarded Prosecutor of the Year in Oklahoma by the OBA Criminal Law Section.

Mr. Loeffler was formerly in private practice concentrating on litigation with the law of firm Loeffler, Allen and Ham (founded by Louis Loeffler in 1919) in Bristow and Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He also has worked for the former Oklahoma Appellate Public Defender's Office and Cleveland County, Oklahoma Legal Aid. In addition, Mr. Loeffler is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) in Alexandria, Virginia. He also serves on national steering Committee of the National Center for DWI Courts and as a Fellow for the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI). As an NDCI Fellow since 2001, he has contributed to numerous publications and spoken to groups from all fifty states on various topics. In 2000, he was part of the multi-disciplinary team that developed the Drug Court Program Initiative, implemented jointly with the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice since. He also has been a consultant with the U.S. State Department on drug policy issues and training in Bermuda, The Bahamas and Mexico.

Liesl Nelson

Liesl Nelson is an Attorney Manager with the State Public Defender in the Hudson Trial Office. Ms. Nelson graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1996. She serves on the St. Croix and Pierce County Drug Court Teams; the Pierce County Veteran's Court Team and is a past President of the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals. She began her career in private practice focusing on criminal defense and guardian ad litem work before becoming an Assistant Public Defender in 2003.

West Huddleston

West Huddleston is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the Executive Director of NADCP's three divisions, the National Center for DWI Courts, the National Drug Court Institute and Justice for Vets. Located in the Nation's Capital, NADCP represents 30,000 professionals working in over 2,800 Drug Courts, DWI Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts around the world. Prior to being appointed CEO in 2006, Mr. Huddleston served as Director of the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) for nine years.

Mr. Huddleston is regarded as a national pioneer in Drug Courts and other alternative sentencing strategies. Mr. Huddleston has spent the past two decades providing leadership and training to justice teams throughout the world, furthering the Drug Court movement and its impact on the addict, family and community. During his fifteen years of service at NADCP, Mr. Huddleston has authored nineteen publications and briefs; testified before U.S. Congress, numerous state legislatures, and international parliaments; been interviewed repeatedly by radio, television, and print media; and delivered over 550 keynote addresses in forty-six states and ten countries.

Prior to his work at NADCP/NDCI, Mr. Huddleston served as the director of two community corrections programs and as the director of a 125-bed pre-release correctional center. In addition, he lead the team that developed the first two drug courts in the State of Oklahoma, one of which served as a national mentor court for the U.S. Department of Justice from 1995-1997. Mr. Huddleston serves as an advisor and/or consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organization of American States (OAS) and as a distinguished faculty member of the National Judicial College. Mr. Huddleston has received numerous honors throughout his career; most recently the "2010 Friend of the Field Award" from the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence for his national leadership in expanding access of life-saving medications to addicted people; the "2008 U.S. Congressional Horizon Award" for his lifelong dedication to bettering communities throughout the nation; and the "2008 America Honors Recovery Award" from the Johnson Institute for his service to those suffering with addiction.

Guy Anthony Wheeler, MSW, CAP, CCJAP

Guy Wheeler is a national expert in the area of treatment, consulting, and training with a strong focus on substance abuse, mental health, and criminal behavior for both Juveniles and Adults. As a Certified Cultural Competence Trainer, he has traveled the country and abroad addressing trauma, domestic violence, drug court, spirituality, the criminal mind, and how to work with black male participants, and many more. He recently co-developed an Afro-Centric promise practice curriculum called Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy (H.E.A.T). This interactive facilitator/participant manual is one of the first of its kind in America. HEAT is presently being evaluated by (SAMHSA).

Guy has three training videos that are sold around the country. His popular "Absent Father" video/topic was so powerful, the White House invited him to dialog and participate in the Fatherhood Initiative Program. He was recently featured on CNN for his work in the field. Mr. Wheeler presently maintains a clinical practice that works with the Misdemeanor (Marijuana) Drug Court of Broward County Florida. His Drug Court experience dates back to 1990 when he initiated the second Drug Court in the country while also overseeing a jai-based treatment program.

Steve Hanson M.S. Ed. LMHC, CASAC

Steve Hanson is the Associate Commissioner of Treatment and Practice Innovation for the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Steve has been with OASAS since April 2001 when he was appointed as the Director at our John L. Norris Addiction Treatment Center in Rochester. In 2007, he was named Director of the Bureau of Addiction Treatment Centers, and in 2009 he was named Director of Treatment Services. Steve has over 30 years of experience in the field as a treatment provider, educator and consultant.

Andrew J. (A.J.) Myer, Ph.D.

Andrew Myer is an Assistant Professor at Viterbo University and is a Research Fellow with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. Dr. Myer has worked with numerous community and institutional correctional agencies across the United States, focusing on the evaluation of correctional programming and implementation of evidence based practices. He has conducted numerous process and outcome evaluations of correctional programs, including dozens of process and outcome evaluations of treatment courts. Dr. Myer has experience working with different types of treatment courts, including: adult and juvenile treatment courts, gender specific treatment courts, veteran's courts, mental health courts, and drug courts. Dr. Myer has written over 50 technical reports on evidence based program evaluation. He has published in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *Victims and Offenders*, and the *Journal of Crime and Justice*, and is co-editor of the book *The Origins of American Criminology*.

Honorable Elliott Levine

Elliott Levine has been Circuit Court Judge in La Crosse County since 2007. Judge Levine is one of the presiding judges over the La Crosse County OWI Treatment Court. He is a member of the Treatment, Alternative and Diversion (TAD) Program Advisory Committee, the Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee and the Wisconsin Supreme Court Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC). He has Co-Chaired an Ad Hoc Committee for Effective Strategies for Community Justice and Chaired a Subcommittee of Effective Justice Strategies on Wisconsin Specialty Courts Record Keeping Advisory Committee. Judge Levine is a past President of Wisconsin Association Treatment Court Professionals. Currently he is a board member of WATCP and chair of the WATCP Committee on Statewide Standards.

Michelle Cern

Michelle Cern serves as the Statewide Problem-Solving Court Coordinator in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Office of Court Operations. Ms. Cern previously served as a Policy Analyst responsible for staffing the Supreme Court Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) and the State-Tribal Justice Forum. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Michelle.Cern@wicourts.gov