

**Court Improvement Training Academy**

**Dependency Court Practice for Judicial Officers**

March 2-4, 2020

Spokane, Washington

The Court Improvement Training Academy presents a dynamic three-day training program on child abuse and neglect hearings that promote safety, due process, timely permanency, Family First Act implementation, and hope and resilience for children and families.

The training will take place at

**The Centennial Hotel**

**303 West North River Drive**

**Spokane, WA 99201**

**Presenters**

In 1990 **Judge Finlay's** boyfriend now husband persuaded her to leave Adams county where she was working as a Deputy prosecutor to come to Mason County. She was employed as a deputy prosecutor in Mason county until 2002 when she decided to go part time as a Municipal Court Judge to have time for her children and to teach a student under the rule 6 program. In 2009 she was elected to the Mason County Superior Court and has enjoyed being a part of the family juvenile law committee and the criminal law committee for the superior court association.

**Mary Cardoza** achieved her Juris Doctorate from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco after completing undergraduate school at Seattle University. She worked for several years as an attorney in various areas of the law including corporate, criminal and family law. She also represented families in dependency cases in Tribal Court, and became familiar with the parent’s issues and difficulties in providing a safe and reliable home for their children. She then sat as Chief Judge for the Lummi Tribal Court for eight years. She had the privilege of starting a Family Wellness Court at Lummi, and oversaw its success with several happily reunited families. More recently, she has served on the Bench in several Tribal Courts as a regular Pro Tem including Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Stillaguamish, and Ute Tribes. She also serves as Appellate Judge for several Tribes including; Klamath, Hoopa, Puyallup, Kalispel, and Shoalwater Bay. She hopes to continue to provide support and guidance to Courts seeking to establish Family Wellness Courts, and to achieve success in the reunification of children with their families.

**Heather Cantamessa, Parent Ally**, has the privilege of being a mother to six amazing children and two grandchildren. She is the owner of Re-Unify Family Solutions LLC, currently managing contracts with the WA State Office of Public Defense and Children’s Home Society. She launched the Parents for Parents Program and Reunification Day Celebration in the Spokane Superior Court and continues to implement Parents for Parents programs across Washington State. As a recovering addict and parent who successfully navigated the child welfare system, she utilizes the skills of her peers to engage parents currently involved in the dependency court system. Ms. Cantamessa is a member of local, state, national and global parent advocacy groups. The driving force behind her passion is her belief that "The best way to help kids is to help their parents. Kids want to be with their parents and parents want to be what their kids need."

**Hon. Monty Cobb** was appointed to the Mason County Superior Court in April 2018. Previously, he served as Deputy Director and Chief Counsel for the Washington Association of County Officials (2011-2018), Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor in Cowlitz County (2011), deputy prosecutor in Mason County (starting in 2003 eventually being promoted to Chief Civil Deputy and then Chief Deputy until December 2010). Before moving to Mason County, Judge Cobb worked as an Assistant Attorney General in southeast Washington, as Whitman County Deputy Prosecutor and in private practice in Spokane. Judge Cobb received his law degree from Gonzaga University Law School.

**Commissioner Matthew Clucas** (Kitsap County) earned his Juris Doctorate and Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the Willamette University College of Law. Previously he worked in both the public and private sector, practicing criminal, family, and probate law.  He began his career as a Deputy Prosecutor where he helped develop the Adult Drug Court program.  Commissioner Clucas is the recipient of the 2015 Washington State Bar Professionalism Award.  He has also received the Kitsap Bar Humanitarian Award and the Hon. Robert J. Bryan American Inn of Court Civility Award.

**Hon. Elizabeth Berns** is a native to Seattle and graduated from the University of Washington in 1989 with a B.S. in Environmental Health and Law. Before beginning her legal career, Judge Berns was a research scientist and author in the field of chemistry and indoor air pollution. Her concern for the rights of others as a result of contamination issues brought her to the University of Puget Sound School of Law, where she received her J.D. in 1993. Judge Berns began her legal career working with the State Attorney General’s Office, Division of Labor & Industries, doing workers’ compensation law. She then opened her own practice where she spent the next two decades supporting individuals, families, and businesses in the areas of workers’ compensation, estate planning and probate, business and intellectual property, and family law. In 2009, she began serving as a Pro Tem Judge in municipal courts and King County District Court, and as a Pro Tem Commissioner in King County Superior Court. Judge Berns joined the King County Superior Court Bench in January 2013 and is currently the Lead Dependency and Family Treatment Court Judge. She has co-authored chapters in the Sexual Offense Bench Guide for Judges, and in the Domestic Violence Manual for Judges. She is the Project Chair for the King County Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Oversight Committee and is also the Judicial Lead for the King County Superior Court’s Trauma Care Project. She is on the Advisory Board for the Center for Children and Youth Justice eQuality Project, a National Advisor to the Battered Women’s Justice Project, and on the faculty for the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges judicial education programs entitled “Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases.”

**Sheldon Spotted Elk** (Northern Cheyenne) works as an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Director at Casey Family Programs, placed as an employee within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Justice Support, working with Tribal Courts. He has expertise and presents on Tribal law, child welfare and juvenile issues. He regularly works directly with tribes and states to increase capacity in child welfare systems including the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), specifically ICWA Courts.

Sheldon is a judge on the Ute Indian Tribe Court of Appeals of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (Fort Duchesne, Utah), where he once practiced representing children and parents in dependency. He worked as an adjunct professor at Lewis and Clark Law School, teaching a summer course on Family Law in Indian Country.

Sheldon holds a Juris Doctorate from University of New Mexico School of Law, where he was Professional Articles Editor on the *Tribal Law Journal* and awarded the *CALI* Excellence for the Future Award. Sheldon published a legal article on tribal constitutional reform in 2012 and authored articles on the ICWA. He holds a Bachelors in Social Work from University of Utah. He has two sons and enjoys playing basketball with them.

**Bobbie Jo Norton** began her legal career in Portland, Oregon, in 1986. Since that time, she has worked as a legal assistant/paralegal in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho in several areas of law. Bobbie Jo has dedicated the last eleven years of her career to Tribal Courts in Washington and is the current Tribal Court Director for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. During her eleven years working with the Muckleshoot Tribe she has worked with Indian Child Welfare cases within the Tribal Court. In addition, she is a Board Member for the Northwest Intertribal Court Systems; she has organized and was a speaker at CLE trainings with the University of Washington Native American Law Center for attorneys Representing Parents in Muckleshoot Youth in Need of Care Cases; she is the Project Manager of the Federal Children’s Bureau’s Tribal Court Improvement Grant the sole purpose of which is to work collaboratively with Muckleshoot Child and Family Services to better serve the Muckleshoot Community on Indian Child Welfare Cases.

**Stacey Lara, JD**, is the Director of the Parent Advocacy Project at Native American Law Center at University of Washington School of Law. She received her JD from University of Washington School of Law, and her MPA from the Institute of Public Service at Seattle University. Stacey worked for five years at The Defender Association in the criminal, dependency and Becca Bill (youth in need of care and truancy) divisions. Immediately prior to coming to UWLS, she served as Director of the Center of Professional Development at Seattle University School of Law. Stacey provided pro bono legal services for indigent defendants charged in the Tulalip Tribal Court from 2009 –2013. As the Director of the Parent Advocacy Project, Stacey has provided trainings for legal practitioners and service providers in the child welfare community across the country. Stacey has served on the National Advisory Committee for Equal Justice Works, and on the Board of Directors for Legal Counsel for Youth and Children. She is admitted to practice in the Tulalip Tribal Court, the Muckleshoot Tribal Court and is a member of the Washington State Bar Association.

**Dorry Peterson**, JD, LLM is a Hawaiian native who has lived in Washington State for 30 years. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Washington and went on to complete her JD at Seattle University School of Law in 2001. Dorry returned to law school in 2016 to become one of the first graduating classes of Seattle U’s new LL.M program in Indian Law. Prior to working for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Dorry worked as a public defense attorney with Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons in King County, WA for almost 17 years where her primary focus was on Dependency cases. For the last 2 ½ years, Dorry has been working at the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe as a Prosecutor putting to use her experience in criminal, juvenile, and civil litigation. Moreover Dorry’s experience working in therapeutic courts such as Family Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, and Drug Court, have been instrumental in implementing two of the three Wellness courts (Family Healing to Wellness and Juvenile Healing to Wellness), as well as the Truancy Court at Muckleshoot Tribal Court.

**Nicholas Oakley, JD**, is Director of Programs & Policy Counsel at the [Center for Children & Youth Justice](https://smex-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fccyj.org&umid=8fa1e990-2bca-402a-bd46-c3e4f6f14ce3&auth=307af4a8b3e2584c3e2a57c41227f86cfbf88d45-e13830ed8a0ae53b2001abe5343719b835473559), where he directs statewide reform initiatives on behalf of LGBTQ+ youth involved in systems of care, as well as commercially sexually exploited children. In this capacity, he spearheaded the development of the *Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care*. The Protocol sets forth a framework for providing safer and more affirming care for system-involved LGBTQ youth. He currently oversees the implementation of the Protocol in eleven courts and agencies across Washington State. Nicholas’ work is based on close partnerships with juvenile justice, child welfare, and homeless youth service providers across Washington. Nicholas also provides training on LGBTQ+ youth to various stakeholders nationally. Prior to joining CCYJ, Nicholas worked at the Seattle law firm of Carey & Lillevik, PLLC, representing children, youth, and families in juvenile offender, dependency, education, domestic, and criminal matters. He also served as a lecturer in the University of Washington School of Law Child and Youth Advocacy Clinic.

**Dae Shogren (she/they), MPA** is the LGBTQ+, Disproportionality, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Statewide Program Manager for Child Welfare Programs at DCYF. Before joining DCYF, she spent nearly 20 years in the private sector supporting children, youth, and young adults with agencies such as Community Youth Services, Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court, Mountlake Terrace School District, University of Washington Reconnecting Youth program, and the Crisis Clinic of Thurston/Mason Counties. Throughout her career, she has worked on behalf of the communities most vulnerable and marginalized populations with a consistent integration through mentorship, partnering with key agencies, and leadership. In Olympia, Dae serves as Co-Administrator for RENEWS Womxn’s Group and serves on the Advisory Board with Empowerment 4 Girls. Ms. Shogren firmly believes that when our children and young people are supported and nurtured, we all thrive.

**Kelly Warner-King, JD**,is Co-Director of the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) at the Administrative Office of the Courts. An attorney with extensive legal and policy experience in child welfare and education, Kelly designs and delivers training for judicial officers and court partners, facilitates interdisciplinary court improvement efforts and serves on a variety of state-level workgroups to improve the administration of justice in child welfare. Kelly’s experience includes work in the dependency court system as an attorney for parents and children, the manager of the King County Family Treatment Court and the coordinator of the Supporting Early Connections program for the Center for Children & Youth Justice. She received her law degree from New York University, where she focused on juvenile rights and representation. Kelly currently serves as Board President of The Mockingbird Society, a statewide advocacy organization that elevates youth voice to improve foster care and end youth homelessness.

**Rob Wyman, JD MSW**, is the Co-Director of the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) at the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts, where he works with judges, commissioners, court staff, attorneys, social workers, CASA and other stakeholders in child welfare. CITA uses data to inform strategic planning and facilitates the process of innovation and change in child welfare systems, and delivers training to judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders. Rob is also an attorney consultant with the Judicial Engagement Team of Casey Family Programs, currently working in Maricopa County Juvenile Court in Arizona to further the goal of safely reducing the number of children and youth in the foster care system. Rob spent five years after college working in the juvenile corrections systems in Washington and Oregon in many capacities. He then went to the University of Denver to attain an MSW and JD, specializing in the representation of children and youth in the foster care system. After graduation, Rob worked at The Defender Association in Seattle for 12 years, and supervised attorneys representing parents and youth in the dependency division for eight years.