

# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR CRIME REDUCTION

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## **Alan R. Hanson**

*Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs,  
U.S. Department of Justice*

Alan Hanson is the Acting Assistant Attorney General effective January 30, 2017. Mr. Hanson brings more than 17 years of Congressional policy, management, appropriations and political experience. His expertise includes a comprehensive appreciation for policy issues, strategic planning and execution, bipartisan stakeholder coalition building, executive agency interaction, constituent relations, and personnel team building, motivation, and management. Mr. Hanson has served as the General Counsel, Chief of Staff, and Legislative Director for U.S. Senator Richard Shelby. Prior to serving as the General Counsel and Chief of Staff, Mr. Hanson served as the Legislative Director for U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions and U.S. Congresswoman Anne Northup. Mr. Hanson also served as the Professional Staff for the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations and as Deputy of Staff and Chief Counsel for U.S. Congressman Spencer Bachus. He earned his Juris Doctor degree, cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center, and his Bachelor of Engineering degree, magna cum laude, from Vanderbilt University.



## **Tracey Trautman**

*Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice  
Programs, U.S. Department of Justice*

Tracey Trautman currently serves as the Acting Director for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Office of Justice Programs. She is also assigned as the Deputy Director for the Programs Office within in the Bureau of Justice Assistance. In this capacity, she provides oversight for all grants management activity within BJA, including application review, award processing, liaison with grantees, performance measurement and programmatic grant monitoring. BJA awards approximately 1,500 new grants each year, while managing a portfolio of almost 4,000 open and active grants worth approximately \$2 billion dollars. She also manages the development and execution of all formula grants and payment programs within BJA, including OJP's flagship program, the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Prior to her position at DOJ, Ms. Trautman worked at the Department of Homeland Security's Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) as the Deputy Assistant Administrator, with responsibility for the oversight of all programmatic and financial activities for the DHS/FEMA preparedness grant programs. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from North Dakota State University, a Masters of Public Administration from George Mason University in Virginia and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.



**Maurice Jones**  
*President and CEO, LISC*

Maurice Jones was appointed as LISC's president and CEO in September 2016. Prior to joining LISC, he served as the secretary of commerce for the Commonwealth of Virginia, where he managed 13 state agencies focused on the economic needs. He previously served as deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) overseeing operations for the agency and its 8,900 staff members. Prior to that he was commissioner of Virginia's Department of Social Services and deputy chief of staff to former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner. Maurice worked during the Clinton Administration at the Treasury Department, where he also helped manage a then-new initiative called the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) fund. In the private sector, Maurice was the general manager of The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk and went on to become president and publisher of its parent company. He also worked for a Richmond law firm and a private philanthropy investing in community-based efforts to benefit children in Washington, D.C. Raised by his grandparents in a rural southern Virginia community where his family had a tobacco and corn farm, Jones attended Hampden-Sydney College. In 1986, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was selected as a Rhodes scholar. At Oxford University, he earned a master's degree in international relations. In 1992, he graduated from the University of Virginia Law School.

## SESSION SPEAKERS

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**Sean Varano**  
*Associate Professor, Roger Williams University*

Sean Varano is an Associate Professor in the School of Justice Studies at Roger Williams University. Dr. Varano's area of expertise are in law enforcement policy and practice, innovative approaches to violence reduction, youth gangs, and evaluation research. He is a graduate of Michigan State University (MS; Ph.D.) and The Pennsylvania State University (BA). Dr. Varano also previously worked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office).



**Zoe Vitter**  
*Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy*

Zoe Vitter is a doctoral student in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University. She received a MA in the same in 2014. Her research interests include crime and place, evidence-based policy, issues of youth crime and justice, and community. Zoe is currently a Graduate Research Assistant in the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy.



## **Christopher Walker**

*Director of Research and Assessment, LISC*

Chris Walker is responsible for assembling, conducting, sponsoring, and disseminating research on community development's contributions to the well-being of individuals, families and communities for LISC and supports the research activities of the 30 LISC local programs throughout the US. Currently, he is working on studies of LISC public safety, asset-building, and creative placemaking programs, as well as analyses of patterns of low-income neighborhood change. In recent years, he has published analyses of the effects of LISC investments in low-income neighborhoods, factors that predict gentrification, and the effects of commercial revitalization programs on neighborhood business districts. Prior to joining LISC in late 2005, Mr. Walker directed a community and economic development research program at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, where he led national studies of federal- and foundation-funded affordable housing, community lending, arts and culture, and other community development issues.



## **John Hockenberry**

*Journalist*

A multiple Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist, John Hockenberry is the host of public radio's live national daily news program *The Takeaway*. He has traveled the globe reporting on a wide variety of stories in virtually every medium for more than three decades. Hockenberry has written dozens of magazine and newspaper articles, a play, and two books, including the bestselling memoir "*Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs, and Declarations of Independence*." He has appeared at numerous idea conferences including TED, the World Science Festival and the Aspen Comedy Festival. He has served as a Distinguished Fellow at MIT's Media Lab. Hockenberry and his wife Alison have five children and live in Brooklyn, NY.



## **Barb Biondo**

*Senior Projects Coordinator, Seattle Neighborhood Group*

Barb Biondo has over 15-years' experience facilitating collaborative community safety projects in Seattle's most culturally and economically diverse neighborhoods, and is currently Project Manager and Coordinator of the Seattle BCJI FY 2012 project, *Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth*. She brings to this work experience in community engagement, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), strategic planning and program management, and a passion for developing effective, community-oriented approaches to public safety. Biondo is also the Senior Project Coordinator at Seattle Neighborhood Group, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization that partners with community residents, businesses, law enforcement and other organizations to prevent crime and build community. Biondo holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.



## **Paul Pazen**

*Commander, Denver Police Department*

Commander Paul Pazen has served the Denver community in various capacities within the Denver Police Department for over seventeen years. He joined the Department in January of 1995, after honorably serving five years in the United States Marine Corps during the Gulf War. After serving as a patrol officer, Commander Pazen was selected to become a full time member of the Metro/SWAT team. In January 2003, Commander Pazen was promoted to sergeant in Northeast Denver. In June 2006, Commander Pazen was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and served under the deputy chief. In November 2006, Commander Pazen was assigned to District One and has served the Northwest Denver Community over the last five years. In 2011, Commander Pazen graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. He has served as commander since 2012. Commander Pazen is a Denver native who now serves the same vibrant and diverse neighborhood where he was raised. Throughout his career, Commander Pazen has placed a high value on individual accountability, quality leadership and dedicated public service. Commander Pazen is passionate about community outreach and committed to making Denver a safer place to live and work. Commander Pazen is married and has three children.



## **Tina Shepard**

*Director of Community Initiatives, ONE Neighborhood Builders*

Tina Shepard is facilitating two major initiatives at ONE NB in Providence: The Olneyville Health Equity Zone, funded by RI Department of Health, and the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Project, funded by the Department of Justice. She received a BA in History from Rhode Island College and a MS in Organizational Management from Springfield College. She has worked extensively within the Providence community, including as Scholarship Coordinator/ Community Partner Manager at Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education (RISE) and as Director of Out of School Time at John Hope Settlement House. Tina was the Co-Founder and Director of Project Ujima, a local health initiative that trained and educated students to utilize theater to educate their peers about making healthier life choices. She has served as a board member for Sojourner House, Co-Chair of the RI Community Planning Group for HIV prevention, and adult coordinator for Inner Circle, the youth voice of the RI Community Planning Group. Most recently, Ms. Shepard received Governor appointed positions to the Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council Advisory Board and the Outdoor Recreation Council. Tina has also joined the Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI Corporate Board and recently completed the first Providence Police Department Citizens Academy.



## **Dreama Gentry**

*Executive Director, Partners for Education at Berea College*

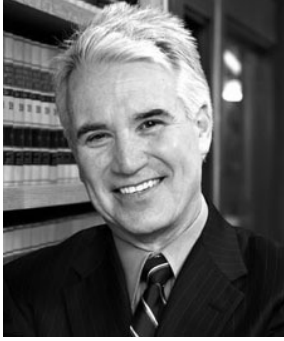
Dreama Gentry provides leadership and vision to Partners for Education at Berea College. Partners for Education utilizes a place based, student focused approach to improving educational outcomes in Appalachian Kentucky. Through programs including Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), Investing in Innovation (i3) and the nation's first rural Promise Neighborhood, Partners for Education leverages more than \$24 million annually to provide interventions to 35,000 students and their families. Dreama advocates for rural students living in poverty to ensure their inclusion in the national dialogue around educational success. In 2013, Dreama received the Outstanding Alumnus of Kentucky during the Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship and received the 2012 University of Kentucky College of Law Community Service Award. A first generation college graduate from rural Appalachia, Dreama holds a B.A. in Political Science from Berea College and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law.



## **Bob Reeder**

*Program Director, Rural LISC*

Bob Reeder is the Program Director and Program Field Manager for Rural LISC. An 11-year veteran of the organization, Bob has built a thirty-year career devoted to social and economic justice, permanently affordable housing, equitable public policy advocacy, community engagement and comprehensive community and economic development. He actively represents Rural LISC at conferences on housing development and finance; grants and loans; organizational capacity building; and comprehensive community and economic development focusing on economic, cultural and environmental equity. With Rural LISC he has worked with several national Arts and Culture-based entities to elevate and to provide funding to support creative place making. He currently serves on the task force for Smart Growth America and USDA Rural's 'Strong Rural Communities' initiative. He is Advisory Board Co-Chair of 'The Art of Community: Rural South Carolina' and an Advisory Board member of 'Next Generation: The Future of Arts & Culture Placemaking in Rural America.' He also has been a participant in White House convenings on rural housing, creative placemaking and the national opioid crisis.



## **George Gascón**

*District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco*

George Gascón is the District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco. In his more than 30-year career in law enforcement, Gascón rose through the ranks of the Los Angeles Police Department from patrol officer all the way to Assistant Chief. He has also served in the U.S. Army, as Chief of Police in Mesa, Arizona, and as Chief of Police in San Francisco. In 2011, Gascón was appointed District Attorney of San Francisco. During his tenure he has worked to modernize the criminal justice system by launching innovative programs geared toward reducing and preventing crime in San Francisco, and by advocating for reduced reliance on jails and prisons. In San Francisco, he has launched the nation's first Alternative Sentencing Program, California's first Crime Strategies Unit, and the state's first Neighborhood Courts Program. Statewide, he has been the leading voice behind Propositions 47 and 36. He is also responsible for the world-wide movement known as the Secure Our Smartphones Initiative which resulted in SB 962, landmark legislation that has drastically reduced robberies involving smartphones.



## **Donna Griffin**

*Propreitor, Community Capacity Builders*

Donna Griffin is committed to empowering communities for social and economic change to bring about equitable neighborhood revitalization. She is the owner of Community Capacity Builders (CCB) a consulting company whose focus is to improve the ability of individuals, organizations, businesses and government in their efforts to learn, acknowledge a community's present conditions and develop strategies and relationships to carry out decisions for a healthy future. Donna previously served as the Director of the City of Philadelphia's Weed and Seed Project, an initiative designed to stimulate synergistic relationships among community and faith-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, and residents to improve the safety, housing, economic, and social environment. In 2008 she earned a Community Economic Development (CED) Master's Degree from Southern New Hampshire University. She is an Advisory Committee Member and Instructor for the Philadelphia City Planning Commission's Citizen Planning Institute.



## **Del Quentin Wilber**

*Los Angeles Times Staff Writer and Author*

Del Quentin Wilber covers the Justice Department for the Los Angeles Times. An award-winning crime reporter, he previously worked for the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post and Bloomberg News. He is the author of "Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan," which was a national bestseller in 2011. His book, "A Good Month for Murder," which chronicled a homicide squad in Maryland, was published in June.



**James Brodick**

*Director of Brooklyn Community Justice Centers (Red Hook & Brownsville), Center for Court Innovation*

James Brodick oversees the operations of the Brooklyn Community Justice Centers, including the Brownsville Community Justice Center and the Red Hook Community Justice Center. Currently in the planning stage, the Brownsville Community Justice Center is the Center for Court Innovation's newest operating program. Mr. Brodick is working with the New York State Office for Court Administration, elected officials, the Kings County District Attorney's Office, the New York Police Department, community organizations, and residents to build support and raise money for the project. Brownsville will be modeled after the award-winning Red Hook Community Justice Center—the nation's first multi-jurisdictional community court—which Mr. Brodick directed for seven years. Since joining the Center for Court Innovation in 1998, Mr. Brodick has held several positions, including director of NYC Community Clean-up and deputy director and director of community programs in Red Hook. Mr. Brodick is a graduate of Saint John's University and is a New York State certified mediator.



**Melanca Clark**

*President, Hudson-Webber Foundation*

Melanca Clark is President and CEO of the Hudson-Webber Foundation in Detroit, MI. Prior to joining the Foundation in August 2016, Melanca held several senior position 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.



**Kevin Davis**

*Police Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department*

Kevin Davis was confirmed as Police Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department after having served as the Interim Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Investigations & Intelligence Bureau. Prior, Commissioner Davis served as the Chief of the Anne Arundel County Police Department, and retired as the second-in-command of the Prince George's County Police Department after 21 years of service. A fourth generation public safety professional, Commissioner Davis is the son of a retired Prince George's County police officer, and grandson and great-grandson to Washington, D.C. fire fighters. He is one of two living persons to be awarded the Key to the City of College Park. Commissioner Davis earned his bachelor's degree in English from Towson University, and received his master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and FBI National Executive Institute, and is a regularly featured speaker at the FBI National Academy and International Association of Chiefs of Police training events. Commissioner Davis and his wife, Lisa, raise four children.



### **A. Elizabeth Griffith**

*Associate Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice*

A. Elizabeth Griffith is an Associate Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Ms. Griffith leads strategic efforts such as evidence generation and planning, integration of research and data into program and policy development including BJA's Smart Suite; and policy areas including adjudications including indigent defense, pretrial, procedural justice and problem solving and drug courts; violent crime and place based initiatives including Project Safe Neighborhoods, Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation and Building Neighborhood Capacity programs. At BJA, Ms. Griffith has also served as the Acting Deputy Director of Planning and Associate Deputy Director for Justice Systems. She started her career at DOJ in the National Institute of Justice as the Director of the Development. Before that, Ms. Griffith worked for over a decade on criminal justice at the local level, serving as the Director of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice for the City of Baltimore where she advised the Mayor and managed criminal justice initiatives and grants, including the development of the Baltimore Drug Court Program and the Comprehensive Communities Program. Prior to her work in criminal justice policy, Ms. Griffith was in general practice, focusing on civil and criminal litigation.



### **Ronal W. Serpas**

*Former Chief of Police, Nashville and New Orleans  
Co-Chair, Law Enforcement Leaders for Reducing Crime and Incarceration*

Ronal W. Serpas, Ph.D., is a Professor of Practice, Criminology and Justice, Loyola University New Orleans. Dr. Serpas recently retired from a 34-year career in American law enforcement, serving as the Police Superintendent in New Orleans, LA, Police Chief in Nashville, TN and Chief of the Washington State Patrol, where he advanced Community Policing and implemented Justice and Legitimacy principles in the delivery of police service. While Superintendent of Police in New Orleans, Dr. Serpas worked closely with the U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Team, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the FBI to investigate several criminal and administrative violations of police officers before and after the Hurricane Katrina. He is current Chair of the IACP Community Policing Committee and founding Co-Chair of the IACP Research Advisory Committee. Dr. Serpas is the Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration and serves as an Executive Fellow to the Police Foundation, a National Advisory Board Member to Cure Violence and a National Advisory Board Member to the National Police Research Platform. Dr. Serpas has published several articles on topics such as Compstat accountability systems, police disciplinary systems, firearm violence in America, challenges in crime following natural disasters and implementing Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy.