

Dr. Richard Montgomery is a native of Akron, Ohio and a graduate of East High School. As an accomplished student-athlete, he attended historically Black colleges in Louisiana and Virginia on athletic scholarships. He earned his bachelors' degree in education from Norfolk State University in 1995. One year later, Dr. Montgomery was selected as a graduate fellow in the Akron Children's Hospital-Kent State University fellowship program, where he was trained to clinically evaluate infant and toddler development and develop therapeutic intervention plans to support their early education. Dr. Montgomery graduated summa cum laude with a master's degree in early childhood special education with a minor in school psychology. His ongoing passion for institutional change in education led him to pursue his doctorate in the educational leadership school superintendency program at The University of Toledo. Dr. Montgomery focused his dissertation research on the achievement gap and how teachers' thinking and beliefs impact their classroom practices.

Dr. Montgomery's modest beginnings have compelled him to use his education to serve his community, both locally and globally. As a graduate student at Kent State University, Dr. Montgomery founded the Kent State University Student Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the chapter was recognized for becoming one of the largest and most active chapters in the region. During his tenure as president, the chapter led a number of successful policy campaigns to improve the quality of life for students on campus. More recently, Dr. Montgomery was featured in an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer in which he argued that, as the largest producer of college graduates in the region, Kent State University must support the exposure of each graduate to the exploration and study of people from the African and Latin American diaspora. As President Emeritus of the NAACP chapter, Dr. Montgomery led a successful campaign to increase the financial investments being made to the cultural studies department.

Dr. Montgomery's leadership for acquiring and sustaining policy equity for underrepresented groups at the college level has been recognized nationally. In 2014, Dr. Montgomery was nominated for Steve Harvey's Neighborhood Awards in the category of Community Leadership for the Northwest Ohio region and was ranked in the top five among the national finalists. As an administrator and assistant professor in The University of Toledo's College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Montgomery recognized that nearly 90% of the African American males entering as freshmen were ineligible to return for the sophomore year, a statistic that was much different than those for other cultural groups. In 2007, Dr. Montgomery initiated a program to increase the number of African American males who were retained through graduation. Over a five-year period, the program grew to nearly one hundred students, with a retention rate over 80%. In 2014, 1 in 4 black male graduates from the university were participants in this program.

Included in Dr. Montgomery's service to the community is his international work. In 2004, Dr. Montgomery was appointed as education adviser to Jetsun Pema, former president of the Tibetan Children's Village in Bhagsu, India and ex-officio Tibetan parliament member, Nawang Lhamo. As education adviser, Dr. Montgomery provided expert advice on special education and workforce development strategies, with the goal of improving outcomes for Tibetan orphans with disabilities in the seven Tibetan colonies across India. In addition to his work with building the educational and economic

Shakyra E. Diaz  
Policy Manager  
ACLU of Ohio

Shakyra Diaz works as policy manager for the ACLU of Ohio. She works on public policy campaigns, legislative advocacy, coalition building initiatives, and impact programming. Diaz has also overseen the organization's Spanish language translation and its award-winning summer internship program.

During her time at the ACLU she has worked on initiatives that have successfully reversed long-standing racially disparate practices. Diaz develops impact policy campaigns. Diaz has worked on efforts that examine hip-hop as a form of political activism, reproductive health care access for Latinas, and ineffective gang initiatives. She has worked on initiatives that have brought about reforms in drug law policies, selective enforcement, youth and police relations, school-to-prison pipeline, anti-immigrant policies, juvenile access to counsel, juvenile shackling, sentencing, seclusion and restraints in schools, collateral sanctions, and voting rights for currently and formerly incarcerated people.

Diaz has co-authored or contributed to several ACLU of Ohio publications. Some of those reports, include *Reform Cannot Wait: A Comprehensive Examination of the Cost of Incarceration in Ohio from 1991-2010*; *Prisons for Profit: A Look at Private Prisons*; *Overcharging, Overlooking, Overspending: Cuyahoga County's Costly War on Drugs*; *Evaluating Juvenile Justice In Ohio: A Report Card*; and *Your Health and The Law: A Guide for Teens*.

Prior to joining the ACLU, Diaz worked in Cleveland and served as project director for Youth Opportunities Unlimited and education specialist for Case Western Reserve University's Upward Bound Program preparing high school students for college.

Diaz frequently provides commentary to members of the media on a wide range of issues. She is also a member of The New Jim Crow Speakers Bureau.

Diaz received her Bachelor of Arts from Case Western Reserve University in communication sciences and sociology with a concentration on social inequity.

**David W. James  
Superintendent  
Akron Public Schools**

Akron Public Schools Superintendent David W. James is the 22<sup>nd</sup> chief executive of the Akron school system. He oversees roughly 21,000 pupils, 3,000 employees, and operations of more than 50 school buildings.

The Akron Board of Education selected Mr. James in August of 2008 to lead the public school system through what would be a period of great transition.

**New Environment for Learning**

Among David James' most significant responsibilities, and achievements continues to be overseeing the largest building and renovation project in the 166-year history of the Akron schools. Halfway completed, the \$800 million endeavor, when done, will have converted all of Akron's school buildings into community learning centers---schools by day, community learning centers (CLC) for residents during evenings and weekends. The 30 new CLCs have also modernized and helped solidify neighborhoods throughout the 62 square miles that comprise Akron.

**Innovating**

Now included in the learning landscape, under David James' leadership, are the National Inventors Hall of Fame® STEM middle and high schools. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Mr. James has also given students a leg up on college with the dual enrollment program agreement with Stark State College, the Innovation Generation Scholarship Program and the requirement that ACT testing for college entrance begin in students' junior year so they may take the test twice. *(Learn more about these and other opportunities by visiting [www.akronschools.com](http://www.akronschools.com))*

Part of being an innovator is working smarter. David James has developed deficit reduction plans to keep pace with an often-uncertain economy and significant changes in State funding to public education.

**Valuable Partnerships**

As superintendent, Mr. James has worked diligently on community and business partnerships to benefit Akron students. The building project is done by virtue of a one-of-a-kind partnership with the City of Akron.

David's leadership has brought an expansion of the innovative---and nationally recognized--Akron After School program, also in partnership with the City of Akron.

He has also leveraged the After School collaboration into a partnership with the LeBron James Family Foundation to offer the Wheels for Education Program for kids encouraging them to work hard, achieve and graduate.

Student and employee safety are his most vital concerns. David James continues to foster a strong relationship with the Akron Police Department in providing School Resource Officers to 17 middle and high schools.

#### The Right Stuff

His depth of experience prior to being selected as superintendent of Akron Public Schools makes Mr. James uniquely qualified to lead. Beginning in 1992 with APS, David James was an environmental-program manager and the energy environmental health and safety manager.

In 2002, he was selected to become executive director for business affairs, responsible for managing support operations including: maintenance; custodial; grounds; purchasing; warehousing; distribution; food service; energy; environmental, health and safety management and telecommunications and information technology.

David James has his bachelor of arts degree in economics and his master's degree, from Cleveland State University, in public administration.

He is also a graduate of Leadership Akron and the 2007 recipient of the Harold K. Stubbs Humanitarian Award in Education.

#### His Community

Those who talk to David James will often hear him say, "Education is everyone's responsibility. Build the future. Take part."

He spreads this message to the many boards on which he serves, including:

United Way

University Park Alliance, Chair

Summit County Social Services Advisory Board

Summit Forum

First Things First

Project Grad

Leadership Akron

Akron Tomorrow

Ohio Families First

Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Executive Committee

Ohio 8 (Ohio's eight largest cities) Coalition of Superintendents, Co-Chair

David and Jean, his wife, live in Akron with their two children, one of whom attends Akron Public Schools.

# Introducing Willa R. Keith

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Willa Keith has served as the Community Liaison Officer for the Mayor's Office of the City of Akron since 2007 where she keeps her pulse on community climate and assesses the needs of the residents. In 2008, she helped to create the Akron PeaceMakers program and serves as the coordinator of this 100 plus member youth civic/anti-crime program for high school students.

Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Willa was a police officer with the Akron Police Department for 17 years, serving the last seven as a sergeant and assistant commander of the Community Relations Bureau. There, she directed background investigations and recruiting for new hires, supervised the D.A.R.E. program and community safety education programs. She is a graduate of the University of Akron and the Ohio Peace Officers Academy and holds an several professional certifications. Willa loves working with young people and invites you to visit their website at [www.akronpeacemakers.org](http://www.akronpeacemakers.org) and see first-hand what teenagers with an agenda can accomplish.

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[wkeith@akronohio.gov](mailto:wkeith@akronohio.gov)

[www.akronpeacemakers.org](http://www.akronpeacemakers.org)



**Mark Williamson**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Akron Public Schools**

Mark Williamson is director of communications for Akron Public Schools and manages internal and external communications, marketing, advertising, media relations and all social media. He has been with APS since February of 2013.

Williamson also served as communications director for the city of Akron and as press secretary for former Mayor Don Plusquellic for nearly 16 years.

Prior to that, Williamson worked as a television news director and news anchor for WAKC (ABC) in Akron for close to 20 years.

**Senator *Peggy* Lehner**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District**

Peggy Lehner is currently serving her first full term as the State Senator for the 6th Ohio Senate District, representing portions of Montgomery County. Lehner is no stranger to public service, having served one term in the Ohio House of Representatives as well as 10 years as a member of Kettering City Council. Prior to serving on City Council, Senator Lehner served on the Ohio Ethics Commission, serving two terms as the Commission Chair. Senator Lehner currently serves as the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and serves on the Joint Committee on Multi-System Youth.

Currently, Senator Lehner is working on a piece of legislation regarding zero tolerance. She has convened a group of interested parties over the past few months to receive recommendations from the field. The legislation aims to rework the zero tolerance system and how zero tolerance is enforced in schools throughout Ohio. The hope is to provide guidelines for best practice. Senator Lehner plans to introduce the legislation soon, along with Senator Cecil Thomas, and begin hearings in the coming months.

Erich Merkle, Ph.D., Ed.S., NCSP  
Pupil Adjustment Program,  
Student Support Services & Security  
Akron Public Schools

Dr. Erich Merkle is a specialist in comprehensive school psychological services within the educational arena for individuals ranging from infancy through adulthood. Within the school psychology specialty, Dr. Merkle has concentrated his work on consultation, evaluation, and intervention for students with severe social-emotional and behavioral health needs that have resulted in substantial educational disciplinary sanctioning, expulsion, placement into residential facilities, or the judicial system. Dr. Merkle serves as a central office consultant on disability law and education, crisis situations, and general pupil personnel administration. Beyond these activities, Dr. Merkle provides professional development to District personnel and area social service agencies on myriad school psychological topics.

Dr. Merkle has committed himself towards lifelong scholarship, accumulating nearly 700 hours of collegiate coursework, including a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in psychology from Heidelberg University, a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in community counseling, a Master of Arts (M.A.) in human development, an Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) in PreK-12 educational administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in school psychology and psychology during his tenure as a graduate student at Kent State University. He holds educational licensure as both a school psychologist and PreK-12 administrator as well as national certification as a school psychologist (NCSP). In addition, Dr. Merkle previously served as a clinical mental health counselor with professional competencies in marital/family therapy and comprehensive mental health assessment. Dr. Merkle commits himself to service within the professions of psychology and education, serving on the governance boards of numerous professional and community agencies, including the Ohio Psychological Association (OPA) Board of Directors and President of the Ohio School Psychologists Association (OSPA) for 2014-15.



**Daniel J. Rambler**

Director of Student Support Services & Security  
Akron Public Schools

**Daniel J. Rambler** is currently the Director of Student Support Services and Security at the Akron Public Schools, Akron, Ohio. In this central office role, he is responsible for managing numerous aspects of pupil personnel administration of a large, urban public school district. Among his responsibilities are School Resource Officers (SRO), District safety and security, iCare mentoring, school climate, Districtwide attendance, alternative education programming, central registration, open enrollment, District athletics, McKenny Vento services for homeless and displaced students, District discipline, and disciplinary hearings.

Mr. Rambler holds a baccalaureate degree in education from the University of Akron and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Cincinnati. In addition, he has successfully completed training across many social service programs such as the Child Family Leadership Exchange (CFLE). Mr. Rambler commits himself to community service on various boards, such as the Juvenile Detention Center JDAI Executive Committee, Summit County Opiate Taskforce, Methamphetamine Taskforce, and Child Fatality Review Board.

Personally, Dan is married to his wife, Tammy, for the past 14 spectacular years. Tammy and he have been blessed with four children, ranging in ages from five to eleven years old. All of Dan's children proudly attend the Akron Public Schools in the Ellet Cluster.

**Sabine Ferran Gerhardt, PsyD, CFCS**  
**Associate Professor**  
**School of Family & Consumer Sciences**  
**The University of Akron**

I'm the moderator for the Children of Incarcerated Parents panel. I hold a MA in Child and Family Development and a Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology) in Criminology and Justice Studies. I'm a professor of Early Childhood Development at the University of Akron and one area of my research focuses on children and families impacted by the criminal justice system.

**Joseph Worthy**

Children's Defense Fund

Ohio Director of Youth Leadership & Organizing

Joe is CDF-OH Director of Youth Leadership and Organizing. He is responsible for curriculum development and evaluation of CDF's Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT) program. Based in his native Cleveland, he also works to expand the CDF Freedom Schools program and recruit YALT participants in Ohio. Joe is a graduate of Heidelberg University where he majored in Political Science. He also studied at the Harvard Kennedy School as a Community Fellow. Prior to his work with CDF, Joe worked at The Education Resources Institute (TERI). He is a former City Year Corps member who led the effort to hold a Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Youth Summit for 150 City Year Corps members in Boston.

**Eric Hutzell**  
**Summit County Public Health**

Performing Continuous Quality Improvement and performance management In Early Childhood Programs; formulating policies and procedures for Help Me Grow programs; developing community outreach programs with stakeholders and community members; educating parents in parenting skills during home visits in the Help Me Grow program; creating training programs for Community Health Workers in Summit County

Public Health Specialist offering 10 years' leadership, innovation, data collection and evaluation, and process improvement expertise in the military and public sector. Collected and analyzed data, evaluated operational resources in military and public sector using evidence based methods. Prepared primary and secondary quantitative and qualitative data using various programs for evaluation. Developed operational plans, procedures, and systems. Managed risk and stress to oversee the accomplishment of logistical mission critical objectives in a timely manner. Possesses a comprehensive background in leadership, training, and strategic planning from 10 years of service as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army and Army Reserves. Career supported by Master's Degree in Public Health from Kent State University

**Lieutenant Brian Harding**

Promoted to rank of lieutenant on 12/9/2015

Brian Harding, 43, investigative subdivision, juvenile/auto theft and missing persons. He started Aug. 28, 1995, and was promoted to sergeant May 11, 2001.



## **J. Dean Carro**

**Professor of Law, Emeritus  
The University of Akron School of law**

### **Retired**

**Director, Legal Clinic**

**Director, Appellate Review Office**

**Dean's Club Professor of Law**

**Professor of Clinical Education**

**J. Dean Carro** has been with The University of Akron School of Law since he received his J.D. degree here in 1978. He is currently the Dean's Club Professor of Law, Professor of Clinical Education, Director of the Appellate Review Office and Director of the Legal Clinic. He received his B.A., cum laude, from State University of New York at New Paltz. Professor Carro teaches Clinical Seminar: Criminal Law, Appellate Advocacy, Trial Advocacy, and Criminal Procedure. His areas of research include prisoner civil rights actions, post-conviction (state and federal), criminal and appellate (state and federal).

He is admitted to practice in Ohio and before the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. In addition to being a past president of the Akron Bar Association (2007-08), his professional memberships include the Scanlon Inn of Court, American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, American Arbitration Association, Federal Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Panel and Rules Advisory Committee, and Association of American Law Schools Committee on Clinical Education.

Professor Carro was appointed to two magistrate judge re-appointment committees by Chief Judge Carr of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and to chair one of the committees. He has appeared on two merit cases in the United States Supreme Court, as well as numerous merit cases in the Supreme Court of Ohio and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Including over 125 oral arguments before various state Courts of Appeals, Professor Carro has presented over 175 appellate arguments. Professor Carro was presented with the 2009 OSBA Legal Education award and named an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2009, an award given to only 5 percent of lawyers in the state. He frequently presents CLEs to judges and attorneys and is a ready resource for the media.

**Erin Davies**

**Juvenile Justice Coalition, Executive Director**

Erin became the Executive Director of JJC in July 2014. Erin previously worked at the Children's Law Center, Inc. focusing on youth in the adult court system in Ohio, including writing two reports and starting a story collection project for youth and their families who had been through the adult system. Before moving home to Ohio, Erin worked for 6 years in Washington DC with the Campaign for Youth Justice and with two Members of Congress. She is originally from northwest Ohio and earned both her undergraduate and law degrees in the state.

# Officer Michael Gould Sr.

Officer Michael Gould Sr. was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He was oldest of 4 boys born to Jerry and Marcha Gould. He attended Akron Public School and graduated from South High School. He attended the University of Cincinnati. He later graduated from Friend's International Christian University and received his Master Degree in Biblical Studies.

He worked at Alcohol Services of Erie County as an Alcoholism worker/ counselor for 7 years in Buffalo, N.Y. He returned to Akron to work as a Program Coordinator at the Urban Ounce of Prevention Services for 2 ½ years before he started his career as a police officer October 4, 1993.

Officer Michael Gould Sr. has been an Akron Police Officer for 22 years. He has also worked in Akron Public School for approx. 21 years working security and as a mentor.

He is married to Felisha Gould and has 2 adult children; Michael Jr. and Regina. He is a proud member of the Arlington Church of God since 1991. He is a Sunday School teacher; he has sang in the Mens' Choir and has served in a number of ministries.

Officer Gould has received a number awards for his services to his community, his job and his church. He has been a speaker/ presenter at many different locations (correctional facilities, schools; elementary to college, social services agencies, special community events and churches). He has received a number of accommodations and awards: The Akron Optimist Club Police Officer of The Year in 2004, The University Park Alliance Award for Service in 2013 ", and the "Most Outstanding Student" of his class during his D.A.R.E.

Officer Gould has been involved with a number of youth and mentoring programs. He is proud of a project he started in 2003; called "Consider". The reason that I started "Consider" was to motivate young people to think and strive to do better in school and in life.

"You achieving your greatness can provide you a great nest".

Michael Gould Sr.



***Elisha Swanson's Bio:***

Elisha is a former Higher Ed professional and a powerhouse program planner at The University of Akron where she was an Associate Director of the Multicultural Center. Program credits include but are not limited to Rethinking Race, Black Male Summit, Diversity Week, Black History Month, Shirla A. McClain Gallery of Akron's Black History and Culture. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Master's Degree in International Relations at The University of Akron. She is now in pursuit of her professional call to work with families as a family law attorney and mediator in Northeast Ohio.

Elisha is a Torchbearer Class 2015, NAACP member, CANAPI Board shadow, College Now and Roo Crew Mentor.

**Dr. John E. Queener**

Professor

The University of Akron

School of Counseling

Biography

Courses Taught: Multicultural Counseling, Practicum

Program Affiliations: Collaborative Program in Counseling  
Psychology

Professional Licenses: Licensed Psychologist

Research Interests: Multicultural Issues, Culturally Specific  
Interventions, Resistance to Multiculturalism

Education, Degree: Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology (University of  
Akron)

# Dr. Delila Owens



**Title:** Associate Professor

**Dept/Program:** Counseling

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**Curriculum Vitae:** [Download in PDF format](#)

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## Biography

**Dr. Delila Owens** is an associate professor of School Counseling and Counselor Education. She is also a Licensed School Counselor. Professor Owens earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Michigan State University. She has authored or coauthored numerous refereed journal articles and book chapters. Her primary research interests include school counseling, multicultural counseling and urban education.

Professor Owens currently serves on the editorial boards of the Career Development Quarterly, Journal of School Counseling and the Journal of Excellence in College Teaching.

Margaret Castro is an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio with expertise in civil rights law, juvenile issues, labor and employment and mediation. In that role, Ms. Castro has litigated significant civil rights cases on behalf of the Department of Justice, including claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Prior to becoming an Assistant United States Attorney in 2006, Ms. Castro was in private practice and clerked for two federal judges. Ms. Castro is an active member of the Cincinnati Bar Association and on the Board of Directors of the John W. Peck Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, as well as a graduate of the Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers Class XIX. Ms. Castro received her J.D. with Honors from The George Washington University Law School.

Updated: March 28, 2016

## **The Honorable Linda Tucci Teodosio**

### Summit County Juvenile Court

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio was elected to the Summit County Juvenile Court bench in 2003. In the decade since, she has received local, statewide and national recognition for her innovative programming and progressive approach to juvenile dispositions and rehabilitation. Among the unique programs she has introduced at the Summit County Juvenile Court are the Crossroads Program, a specialized docket for youth with co-occurring mental illness and/or substance dependence, the Family Resource Center which provides case management services that link youth and families to services in the community and New Paths Probation for youth with developmental delays. The Court actively participates in the Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Crossover Youth Practice Model developed by Georgetown University. The common thread woven through the development and implementation of these programs is Judge Teodosio's penchant for bringing community collaborators to the table to help shape and implement programs that focus on the particular strengths and needs of children and families through the use of evidence-based and promising practices.

Her efforts have led to several appointments to statewide and national panels, committees, commissions and task forces. Among them is a fellowship in the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. The MacArthur Foundation also appointed her to the Collaborative for Change Steering Committee earlier this year. She was member of Columbia University's National Advisory Commission on Substance Abuse at America's High Schools. She serves on the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Project SOS Judges Leadership Group.

Statewide and locally, Judge Teodosio has been honored by both the Ohio Juvenile Court Judges and Magistrate's Associations with their Judicial and Distinguished Services Awards, respectively. She was named Ohio's Public Official of the Year by the state's chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and she was named an Outstanding Alumna of the University of Akron's School of Law. In late 2012, Judge Teodosio received the prestigious Award for Innovation from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation. In 2010, she received the MacArthur Foundation's "Champion for Change" Award for her work in the Models for Change Mental Health Juvenile Justice Action Network. Judge Teodosio was honored by the Diocese of Cleveland with the St.

Thomas More Award which is awarded annually at the Red Mass in recognition of the virtues of integrity and public service that reflect those of Thomas More. She was named and Athena Finalist by Inside Business Magazine in 2014 and received the 2014 Peter Bommarito Community Award for Outstanding Voluntary Community Service from the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, AFL-CIO in cooperation with United Way of Summit County.

Judge Teodosio is married to General Division Common Pleas Judge Thomas Teodosio. Their son Christopher is a practicing attorney who makes his home in Summit County with his wife, Katherine. They remember their late daughter through the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.

**Keysha Myers**

Cognitive Behavioral Therapist/Case Manager  
Summit County Juvenile Court

Keysha L. Myers is a Cognitive Behavioral Therapist/Case Manager at the Summit County Juvenile Court. In addition to her regular job duties, Ms. Myers also serves as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) sub-committee co-chair on the Peace, Justice and Equality (PJ&E) Committee. Ms. Myers' role on the PJ&E committee is to develop and steer reform as it relates to local decision points emanating throughout the system. As a result, she has had a positive impact on the lives of youth and families by ensuring that equal and fair treatment is provided to those that come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Ms. Myers has participated in several panel discussions and speaking engagements including: The University of Akron's Law and Leadership Program, The DMC Planning Committee's Takin It to the Streets, Akron Reads, and many more. Ms. Myers was the recipient of the 2013 Summit County High Point Award, recognizing her as an Employee of the Year in the Juvenile Court of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. She has been recognized as an "emerging leader" in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Applied Leadership Network.

Ms. Myers holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Wheeling Jesuit University and earned her Master of Arts in Public Administration from The University of Akron. She has over a decade of experience in criminal justice and is committed to working for the benefit of youth and families within the juvenile justice system.

## Zakiya Sankara-Jabar

Zakiya is a Parent Organizer & Advocate, Co-Founder and Director of Racial Justice NOW! in Dayton, Ohio.

Throughout her organizing and advocacy at RJN! Zakiya has organized, educated and acted as an advocate on behalf of other parents at suspension and expulsion hearings and at IEP meetings.

In addition, Zakiya is engaged in policy work at the local, state, and federal level pushing for systemic changes in how schools serve African American students and families.

Locally, Zakiya represents RJN! on the Dayton Public Schools Student Code of Conduct Committee and Policy Committee, the Miami Valley Black Health Coalition, and the Kinship Care Coalition of Dayton-Center for Healthy Communities.

Statewide, Zakiya represents RJN! on the steering committee for the Ohio Juvenile Justice Alliance. RJN! has been very involved in pushing for state policy alternatives to punitive school discipline.

Nationally, Zakiya is the Co-Chair of the Dignity in Schools Campaign which is a national coalition of youth, parents, educators, lawyers and advocates working to ensure children are treated with dignity and fairness in schools.

Zakiya studied Organizational Leadership at Wittenberg University and worked as a human resource specialist for the State of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities before transitioning to her role as the Director of RJN!

Zakiya is married to H.A. Jabar and together they have 5 children.

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## **Marc H. Morial**

President and Chief Executive Officer, National Urban League  
Entrepreneur. Lawyer. Professor. Legislator. Mayor  
President, U.S. Conference of Mayors.

In a distinguished professional career that has spanned 25 years, Marc Morial has performed all of these roles with excellence, and is one of the most accomplished servant-leaders in the nation.

As an Entrepreneur, Morial started several successful small businesses -- an apparel wholesale company, a special events company, and a janitorial company, his first venture at age 15 with two childhood friends.

As a Lawyer, Morial won the Louisiana State Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award for his legal service to the poor and disadvantaged. He was also one of the youngest lawyers, at age 26, to argue and win a major case before the Louisiana Supreme Court.

As a Professor, Morial served on the adjunct faculty of Xavier University in Louisiana, where he taught Constitutional Law, and Business Law.  
As a Louisiana State Senator, Morial was named Legislative Rookie of the Year, Education Senator of the Year, and Environmental Senator of the Year, while authoring laws on a wide range of important subjects.

As Mayor of New Orleans, Morial was a popular chief executive with a broad multi-racial coalition who led New Orleans' 1990's renaissance, and left office with a 70% approval rating.

With vigor and creativity he passionately attacked his city's vast urban problems. Violent crimes and murders dropped by 60%, the unemployment rate was cut in half, and New Orleans' poverty rate fell according to the 2000 Census.

The city's economy experienced its most dramatic growth in over 20 years as the Convention Center was expanded, thousands of new hotel rooms were built, the Downtown Casino and Sports Arena opened and New Orleans hosted Super Bowls and Music Festivals, as well as International and Hemispheric Summits. The NBA also returned to New Orleans as he led the effort to relocate the Hornets from Charlotte.

During his tenure, New Orleans won the All-American City Award in 1996 for the first time in 50 years, as well as the prestigious City Livability Award, and finished first in the National Night Out Against Crime Competition on two occasions.

He produced eight balanced budgets, and led the passage of a new City Charter which authorized the creation of a City Revenue Estimating Conference, an Ethics Board and Inspector General.

Elected by his peers as President of the bi-partisan U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), he served during the 9/11 Crisis and championed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federalization of airport security screeners.

The USCM achieved unparalleled visibility and prominence under his leadership.

As President of the National Urban League since 2003 he has been the primary catalyst for an era of change -- a transformation for the 100 year old civil rights organization. His energetic and skilled leadership has expanded the League's work around an Empowerment agenda, which is redefining civil rights in the 21st century with a renewed emphasis on closing the economic gaps between Whites and Blacks as well as rich and poor Americans.