**AGENDA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome, Introductions and Framing Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon. Gordon Baranco, Superior Court of Alameda County, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 – 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>It Takes a BIG Village: The Success behind the VA’s Homeless Veterans Outreach Initiative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2009, President Barack Obama and VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced the goal of ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. Since 2009, the number of Veterans who are homeless has dropped by 17.2 percent. Together with partners and supporters nationwide, the VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Initiative has facilitated the establishment of a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary and highly effective network of programs addressing the myriad barriers to ending homelessness among veterans. The network includes outreach initiatives, housing, income supports, medical and mental healthcare, education, job training, reentry planning and other critically needed services. The network also includes the Veterans Justice Outreach Program which seeks to prevent the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans. As a result of VA leadership, the legal community across the country has joined together to create not only Veterans Treatment Courts, but a variety of pro bono and specialty programs aimed at addressing the civil and criminal legal issues facing veterans. The panelists will discuss why this comprehensive network has succeeded in ending homelessness among significant numbers of veterans at a time when homelessness among individuals and families continues to increase.

**Moderator:**

Paul Freese, JD, Vice President, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA; Special Advisor on Homeless Veterans, ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty

**Speakers:**

Suzanne Will, JD, Regional Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, San Francisco, CA

Joel Rosenthal, PhD, National Training Director, VA Veterans Justice Programs
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.  The Complexity of Persistent Street Homelessness: A Discussion of Local Efforts

The traditional criminal court system is not designed or equipped to properly address persistent social issues like homelessness. Yet, communities frustrated with the issues associated with chronic street homelessness routinely call upon the police and the criminal justice system to intervene. This session will focus on model approaches to not merely addressing street homelessness, but ending it. Panelists will discuss why criminalization efforts aren’t effective and how they create more barriers to ending homelessness. Panelists will also discuss the importance of outreach by social workers, special training for law enforcement who interact with homeless people suffering from mental illness and addiction, and model diversion programs. Lastly, panelists will explain why collaboration is a critical component to this structure, and how the courts and legal services can proactively reach out to community based service providers and government agencies to develop a more holistic approach to ending homelessness.

Moderator:

Paul Freese, JD, Vice President, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA; Special Advisor, ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty

Speakers:

Elaine deColigny, Executive Director, Everyone Home, Alameda County, CA (invited)

Bevan Dufty, Director, HOPE (Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement), Office of Mayor Edwin M. Lee, San Francisco, CA

Jennifer Friedenbach, Executive Director, Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, CA

Jeremy Rosen, JD, Policy Director, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Washington, DC

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.  Break

11:00– 12:00 p.m.  Courts as a Tool for Engagement? Lessons Learned from Justice Centers, Community Courts and Specialty Dockets

What can (and should) community court programs and specialty dockets do to engage people experiencing homelessness? This session will feature representatives from two community court models – San Francisco’s Community Justice Center (CJC) and New York’s 20 year old Midtown Community Court. Both programs partner with city agencies and community groups to provide on-site services to address the primary issues affecting court participants—substance abuse, mental health issues and homelessness. The session will also feature a presentation on Ventura’s Community Intervention Court:
a program aimed at providing an alternative to traditional court proceedings for defendants who are frequently arrested for offenses in public spaces related to vagrancy. Weekly proceedings strive to interrupt the cycle of chronic homelessness and vagrancy for the individual by connecting them with appropriate and available services.

**Moderator:**

Julius Lang, JD, Director, Training and Technical Assistance, Center for Court Innovation

**Speakers:**

Courtney Bryan, JD, Project Director, Midtown Community Court

Allyson West, Coordinator, Community Justice Center, San Francisco, CA

Hon. Colleen Toy White, Community Intervention Court, Ventura, CA

**12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Networking Lunch**

Attendees will eat lunch in breakout rooms organized by practice area or subject matter. Teams of judges, lawyers and providers will engage attendees in an interactive dialogue and field questions.

- Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness
- Homeless Veterans, Veterans Treatment Courts, and other Specialty Courts
- Homeless Families and Unaccompanied Youth

**1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Deepening Court Involvement: How the Power of Homeless Courts and Treatment Courts Can Address the Root Causes of Homelessness among Individuals, Families and Youth**

Homeless Courts and Treatment Courts (Drug, Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Courts) have proven track records when it comes to providing comprehensive and in-depth wrap around services designed to meet the needs of a particular segment of the homeless population—including homeless individuals, families and youth. Through partnerships with community based service providers and government agencies, these courts are able to connect participants with critical services in a cost-effective manner that results in greater stability and less recidivism on the part of the participant. Panelists will discuss the similarities and differences of the various court models, highlighting the effectiveness of collaboration and individualized approaches as well as the key resources needed to run a successful program. Panelists will highlight various models---from special dockets held in the courthouse to model stand-alone specialty courts---and discuss how communities across the country are tweaking the models to meet the needs and budget realities of their jurisdiction. Panelists will explain why homeless, drug, mental health and veterans treatment courts are wise investments, why they work, and what steps
participants can take to create similar programs in their communities to effectively serve homeless individuals, families and youth.

Moderator:

Hon. Gordon Baranco, Superior Court of Alameda County, CA

Speakers:

Kathie Barkow, Consultant, Homeless Caring Court, Alameda County, CA

Renato Izquieta, JD, Supervising Attorney for Special Projects, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, CA

Hon. Wendy Lindley, Orange County Superior Court, CA (retired)

Hon. Stephen Manley, Santa Clara County Superior Court, CA

2:15–3:15 p.m.  Preventing Homelessness: The Role of Parolee Engagement and Reentry Courts

In the best of times, parolees are challenged to find housing and employment and confront stigma and stereotyping. In an economic climate where cities, counties and state budgets are lean, locating housing and employment opportunities present even more difficult challenges for parolees and reentry populations. Panelists will discuss the VA’s highly effective outreach efforts as well as model Reentry Court programs and provide participants with concrete guidance on what the legal community and service providers can do to prevent homelessness for this population that has significant barriers to housing and employment. Panelists will explain how these special Problem-Solving Courts seek to foster a seamless transition for high-risk offenders leaving our nation’s jails and prisons and reentering the community by providing the necessary rehabilitation and treatment services, as well as the supervision and monitoring required for a successful transition.

Moderator/Speaker: Hon. Gordon Baranco, Superior Court of Alameda County, CA

Speakers:

Hon. Stephen Manley, Santa Clara County Superior Court, CA

Shirley Poe, JD, Consultant, Alameda County Parolee Reentry Court

Chris Watler, Project Director, Harlem Parole Reentry Court, NY

Joel Rosenthal, PhD, National Training Director, VA Veterans Justice Programs
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.  Break

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  Case Studies and Discussion

A series of case studies will be used to engage the audience in a dialogue to better illustrate what was discussed throughout the day and how various service models can be implemented. This interactive discussion will allow participants to discuss how the case studies would play out in their community given their existing resources and allow panelists to provide tips on how to implement more effective approaches aimed at de-criminalizing homelessness and connecting people with appropriate resources. The session will highlight the power of the courts and collaborative partners to better address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Moderator:

Paul Freese, JD, Vice President, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA; Special Advisor, ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty

*NOTE: Most of the speakers from the prior sessions will be on the dais to discuss the case studies and field questions.

4:30 p.m.  Concluding Remarks
ENDING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS: 
THE ROLE OF COURTS, LAWYERS AND ADVOCATES

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Hon. Gordon Baranco
Judge Baranco was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda in 1980 and has presided over cases in complex general and limited civil, felony and misdemeanor criminal, family law, juvenile and civil law and motion. Several years ago, he was appointed by the then Presiding Judge to serve as the Chair of the newly created Community Focused Court Planning Committee, with a goal of attaining the California Judicial Council goals of improving access to and the quality of justice. His leadership, together with the efforts of the many public and private committee and working group representatives, have resulted in the development and implementation of a plan that broadens fair and equal access to the courts in Alameda County.

Judge Baranco was born and raised in Oakland, attending public schools. Judge Baranco attended the University of California at Davis where he received his undergraduate degree. He graduated from the Martin Luther King, Jr., School of Law, University of California at Davis in 1972. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1973.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, he worked as Assistant to the City Attorney in the Oakland City Attorney’s Office, Managing Attorney at the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, Assistant District Attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office and served as a Graduate Legal Counsel in the California State Attorney’s Office.

Kathie Barkow
Kathie Barkow is a consultant from Alameda County, California, specializing in efforts to end homelessness. She is also the Coordinator for the Alameda County Homeless and Caring Court since the program's planning and inception in 2005. Her current work focuses on improving rapid access to permanent housing for people who are homeless and helping communities ensure its limited resources support the most cost effective and outcome-driven system of care. Ms. Barkow is a seasoned trainer, planner, and facilitator, particularly for efforts involving multiple stakeholders such as direct service staff, executive directors and CEOs, program participants who are homeless or formerly homeless, and staff from other systems of care including behavioral health, health care, and criminal justice.

Courtney Bryan, JD
Courtney Bryan is the project director of the Midtown Community Court, a demonstration project of the Center for Court Innovation. She has held several positions at the Center both before and after receiving her law degree, including in the domestic violence and community court technical assistance teams, and at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center. Before returning to the Center in 2008, she was a criminal defense attorney with The Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn, New York. Previously, she was a staff attorney at the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, an organization that provides technical assistance to criminal defense attorneys representing battered women defendants. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia and Temple University School of Law.
Elaine deColigny
Elaine de Coligny is the Executive Director of EveryOne Home, the organization leading the implementation of Alameda County, CA’s plan to end homelessness by the year 2020. EveryOne Home is a collaborative of local non-profits, housing developers, and government agencies committed to utilizing proven strategies and best practices to ensure that every resident of Alameda County has a stable, affordable and decent place to call home.

Under her leadership EveryOne Home designed and implemented a county-wide prevention and rapid re-housing program that assisted over 6,000 people to retain or obtain permanent housing. EveryOne Home’s emphasis on outcomes has seen exits to permanent housing increase across the system while lengths of stay in shelters and transitional housing have dropped. Additionally, EveryOne Home has promoted the creation of hundreds of permanent supportive housing units and subsidies, bringing mainstream partners to the delivery of housing and services including Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Social Services Agency, the Housing Authorities of Alameda County and Oakland, and multiple law enforcement agencies.

Prior to joining EveryOne Home in 2007 Ms. de Coligny spent 15 years as the Executive Director of a community based organization that provided shelter, supportive housing, and services to women, children, and survivors of domestic violence. She served on the County’s Homeless Continuum of Care Council since 1997 and as its Co-Chair from 2002 until 2007. In that role she participated in the development of the Alameda Countywide Homeless and Special Needs Housing Plan, now known as the EveryOne Home Plan.

Ms. deColigny has received the following recognitions: Supportive Housing Champion Award, Corporation for Supportive Housing (2012); induction into the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame by the Alameda County Health Care Foundation, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (2005); Bank of America Local Hero Award in recognition of dedication in serving homeless and battered women and children (2005); Leadership Award for Innovation in Creating Affordable Housing, in recognition of Military Base Conversion efforts, Northern CA Association of Non Profit Housing (1997); featured in San Francisco Magazine’s article, “40 under 40 — The Best Young Talents Changing our World” (1996).

Bevan Dufty
Bevan Dufty was appointed to serve as the Director of Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE) on January 27, 2012 by Mayor Edwin M. Lee. HOPE is dedicated to addressing homeless services and better outcomes for individuals who are homeless or live in supportive housing.

Bevan Dufty has more than 18 years of public service to the City and County of San Francisco, including five years as the City’s Director of Neighborhood Services and eight years on the Board of Supervisors. As Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services for Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., Dufty helped neighborhood residents and merchants connect with City employees from every department to address issues of homelessness, public safety, housing, employment, traffic, pedestrian safety, and youth issues.

Dufty was twice elected to represent District Eight on the Board of Supervisors beginning in 2002. The same seat was once held by Harvey Milk. As Supervisor, Dufty demonstrated how local government can change lives tangibly by honoring the public trust, responding to community concerns and respecting differing viewpoints.

Dufty has worked hard to address homelessness, strongly supporting Care Not Cash and Mayor Newsom’s Housing First approach that dramatically expanded supportive housing. He helped to establish the Castro Young Adult Housing Collaborative for 22 homeless youth, funding neighborhood-based homeless
outreach/case management teams, establishing case managers at the Main Library, and secured Board approval for the highly successful Community Justice Center. He has been focused on prevention for our transitional youth, chronically homeless and restructuring the courts approach to habitual offenders.

Dufty holds a degree in Political Science and Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation, he served as Senior Legislative Assistant for Education to U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm of New York and served as Chief Legislative Assistant to U.S. Representative Julian Dixon of Los Angeles. Dufty has also served as Chief-of-Staff to former Supervisor Susan Leal.

**Paul Freese, JD**

Paul L. Freese, Jr., is the Vice President of Public Counsel, the public interest law office of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations and the largest provider of pro bono legal services in the United States. He has been a member of the California State Bar since 1988. From 1988 to 1994, he worked as a litigation associate with the law firm of Perkins Coie. He joined Public Counsel in March, 1994, and acted as Directing Attorney of the Homelessness Prevention Law Project for more than six years before being promoted in January 2001 to serve as Director of Litigation & Advocacy. He was again promoted in 2010 to his current position as Vice President in which he supervises more than 60 attorneys and their staff. He works extensively in collaborative projects with the American Bar Association, including serving as Special Adviser on Veterans Advocacy to the ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty and as Chair of the ABA Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits & Services. In recognition of his commitment to law and the public interest, the national law firm, Irell & Manella selected him to be their first “Endowed Chair in Public Interest Law” in 2012. He serves the Board of Directors for the National Trust to End Youth Homelessness, The Jonas Project, the Coalition for Residential Education (CORE), the Children’s Law Center, PATH Ventures, Angels Nest TLP, and Imagine L.A., and also has served on an array of working groups and task forces that address the needs of the poor and marginalized, including the Leadership Committee for L.A. County Youth Development Services and the L. A Superior Court’s Collaborative Courts Steering Committee to name a few. He served as the delegate for the City of Los Angeles to the Mental Health Services Act Stakeholders Process. He has spoken and published extensively on topics relating to homelessness and poverty and holistic advocacy and has received numerous awards and commendations. He is a former Maryknoll Lay Missioner who served as the Justice & Peace Coordinator for the Philippine Region and is also a veteran of the U.S. Army. He graduated from Loyola High School in Los Angeles, St. Mary’s College in Winona Minnesota, and UCLA Law School, where he was selected to be a commencement speaker for his class.

**Jennifer Friedenbach**

Jennifer is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco. She has worked for the Coalition for 19 years, as Executive Director, as organizing director, substance abuse and mental health work group coordinator and fundraiser. Previous to coming to San Francisco, Jennifer was Director of the Hunger and Homeless Action Coalition of San Mateo County. Ms. Friedenbach has a long history of community organizing, and has worked on a range of poverty-related issues including welfare rights, housing, homeless prevention, health care, disability, and human and civil rights. During her tenure, she has achieved several significant victories alongside homeless people including the creation of a local housing subsidy serving hundreds of homeless families, the major expansion of prevention efforts resulting in the halting of displacement of more than a 1,000 households, expansion of substance abuse treatment resulting in decreased overdoses and shorter waits, spearheaded numerous legislative reforms protecting the rights of homeless people, and garnered funding for programs that have saved countless lives. Ms. Friedenbach has co-authored several reports for the Coalition on Homelessness including The Runaround, Shelter Shock, Housing First for Families,
Locked Out and more. She is also a tireless advocate for a fair city budget, as founding member of the People’s Budget Collaborative, a group dedicated to redirecting city funding towards ending poverty in San Francisco. Jennifer is a former member of the San Francisco Ten Year Implementation Council, Local Homeless Coordinating Board, and was a founding member of the Treatment on Demand Planning Council. Ms. Friedenbach has been the recipient of several awards including “Woman of the Year” by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2008, Community Hero award from St. Francis Hospital, Open Palm Award from Dolores Street Community Services, and Tenderchamp from Central City Hospitality House. Ms. Friedenbach grew up in Redwood City, attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St. Francis High School. She attended college at San Diego State University.

Renato Izquieta, JD
Mr. Renato Izquieta is a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Orange County (LASOC). Mr. Izquieta started his legal career in legal services in 1997. At the LASOC Mr. Izquieta works as Staff Attorney in the litigation department assisting low income clients in a variety of civil legal issues such as family law, landlord tenant, public benefits, consumer matters, IRS tax, and a variety of other civil legal issues.

Mr. Izquieta also supervises the Homeless and Veteran’s Project at LASOC. He provides direct services to the homeless and is a collaborative partner of Orange County’s Homeless Court.

Mr. Izquieta currently served the ABA Commission on Homeless and Poverty from 2010-13 and now is a liaison to the Commission.

In 2012, Mr. Izquieta received Humanitarian Person of the Year award presented by the Orange County Superior Court, Homeless Outreach Court.

Julius Lang, JD
Julius Lang has been the Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Center for Court Innovation in New York City since 2002. In his work at the Center, Mr. Lang is responsible for delivering technical assistance and consulting services to jurisdictions around the nation and internationally, on topics such as community justice and collaborative courts. He currently spearheads national technical assistance under the Problem-Solving Justice Initiative of the U.S. Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance. Mr. Lang’s areas of expertise include problem-solving courts and the application of their core principles more broadly across systems; community courts; community prosecution; and holistic defense. He is also currently working with The California Endowment and the U.S. Justice Department’s COPS Office on a national initiative to help law enforcement take advantage of collaborations with the public health sector to prevent violence.

Prior to 2002, Mr. Lang served for five years as the coordinator of the Midtown Community Court, the nation’s first community court. Prior to that time, Mr. Lang was chief of staff to New York City’s Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development. He received a B.S. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. cum laude from the Villanova University School of Law. He also spent several years as an associate at the international law firm of Shearman & Sterling, serving in their New York and London offices.

Hon. Wendy Lindley
Judge Wendy S. Lindley recently retired from the Superior Court of Orange County, California, after having served on the bench since 1998, and before which she served four years on the bench with the Municipal Court. Since 1994 she created and presided over may of the Orange County Collaborative Courts, which feature a multi-agency approach to sentencing and rehabilitation of non-violent offenders. She presided over the Adult
Drug Court, the Co-Occurring Disorders Drug Court, the Homeless Outreach Court, the Veterans Court, and three Mental Health Courts, all of which she played a crucial role in establishing.

Her experiences with both substance abusers and the mentally ill have sensitized her to the need for early intervention, and the importance of providing services to the indigent population. She recognized that a failure to divert the homeless population from the criminal justice system contributes to an escalation in the level of crimes committed by homeless individuals, and creates barriers to re-entering society.

Judge Lindley received her Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine Law School in 1978. Before her appointment to the bench in 1994, she held various positions of advocacy, particularly representing victims of domestic violence.

She is currently an active member of both the court and county communities. In 1997 and 1998, she served as the Presiding Judge of the South Orange County Judicial District. She served on the Drug Court Oversight Committee, the California Council on Mentally Ill Offenders, and the Orange County Coalition for Comprehensive Mental Health Services.

**Hon. Stephen Manley**

Judge Manley is a Superior Court Judge in Santa Clara County and has served as a Judge for over 30 years.

He presently serves as the Supervising Judge of all Felony and Misdemeanor drug and mental health cases in the Criminal Division of the Court.

He developed and personally presides over a number of Treatment Court programs and calendars, that include more than 2,300 offenders who participate in treatment and rehabilitation services while on probation supervision or parole, who are mentally ill, mentally challenged and substance abusers.

He established one of the first Mental Health Courts in the Nation in 1998 and one of the first Veterans Treatment Courts in 2012. The Mental Health Court is the largest in the Nation.

He advocates for the creation and expansion of mental health courts and evidence based practices in working with the mentally ill in courts, as well as legislative change and sentencing reform. He participated in drafting Federal legislation presently pending before Congress that would provide for funding for Veterans Treatment Courts, and has successfully advocated for funding for mental health treatment at the National, State and County Level. He served on the Mental Health Task Force that drafted recommendations for policy change, chairing the Committee that made the recommendations relating to criminal justice.

He serves on the faculty of the California Judicial College, and other judicial education programs throughout the State.

In 2008, he received the Chief Justice’s Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership from California Chief Justice Ronald George, and in June, 2013, he received the Jacob K. Javits National Public Service Award from the American Psychiatric Association for his commitment to reducing stigma and improving the lives of persons with mental illness in the Justice System.

He is a graduate of Stanford Law School.
Shirley Poe, JD
Shirley Poe has over thirty-six years of experience in the field of criminal justice, with extensive experience in Corrections. Shortly after receiving her degree in Criminology in 1976, she began working with juvenile offenders at Riverside County Probation Department, and later with adult offenders as a Parole Agent with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). After holding various positions within CDCR and the Board of Prison Terms, in 2004 she was appointed as the Regional Administrator for Parole where she provided leadership and management to over 750 employees, 26,000 parolees and oversaw a budget of approximately $100 million.

During her tenure in the Parole Division she was known for her work in reentry, and for implementing new and innovative programs. She developed the first parole pre-release family orientation meeting designed to orientate family members about parole services and local community based services available to assist their love ones upon their return home. She helped to develop a parole program known as PACT that started in Oakland Ca., The PACT program is a partnership between parole, local police and community based organizations, designed to introduce and connect newly released parolees to program services in their local communities. Early in her career she understood the need to connect offenders with services and established the first onsite substance abuse meetings and parenting classes that were held in the parole office. It was important to her that parole offices be seen by parolees as more than a place to visit their parole agent, but a place where they could receive program services. As the result of her work and others, most CDCR parole offices offer onsite program services from drug education to literacy programs.

Shirley has served on numerous boards and committees effecting changes in parole operations and CDCR polices. She is retired from CDCR and currently works as a Correctional Consultant.

Jeremy Rosen, JD
Jeremy Rosen is the Policy Director for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Mr. Rosen previously served as Executive Director of the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH), as Director for Homelessness and Mental Health in the National Office of Volunteers of America, and as a Staff Attorney at Legal Services of Greater Miami. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994, and his J.D. from The George Washington University Law School in 1998.

Mr. Rosen is an expert on federal, state, and local affordable housing policy, with a focus on homelessness, veterans housing, and housing for children, youth, and families. Mr. Rosen’s work also focuses on access to government benefits for low income people, prisoner reentry, and the intersection of affordable housing policy and the education and child welfare systems. He is a frequent speaker on these topics, and has published numerous journal articles and papers.

Joel Rosenthal, PhD
Dr. Rosenthal received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Georgia State University in 1988 and has been a licensed practicing clinical psychologist in California since 1990. He is currently the National Training Director, VHA Justice Programs. In this capacity, Dr. Rosenthal is responsible for development and oversight of the training and education of the 275 VHA staff responsible for outreach to justice involved Veterans in prisons, jails, and courts throughout the United States. Dr. Rosenthal was previously employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Healthcare System from 1987 to 2010, initially working in psychiatry and at the Men’s Trauma Recovery Program followed by serving for thirteen years as Coordinator of Clinical Services for the 100-bed Domiciliary. In addition, Dr. Rosenthal was VISN 21 Coordinator for Reentry and Justice Services from 2007-2010. This included direct involvement in the justice-related activities of VA Palo
Alto, with notable involvement in jail and prison outreach/reentry planning as well as assistance in the development of and ongoing staffing of the Santa Clara County Veterans Treatment Court from its inception in November, 2008.

Christopher Watler
Christopher Watler is project director of the Harlem Community Justice Center, the community court in Harlem focusing on housing, youth crime, and offender reentry. As director, he oversees day-to-day operations and program development. Mr. Watler previously served as the Deputy Director of National Technical Assistance where he provided information & assistance on community justice initiatives to a broad audience, by leading site-visits to the Center’s demonstration projects, conducting training, providing hands-on assistance to jurisdictions developing community court and prosecution programs, assisting in the development of community justice curricula, and coordinating partnerships with model community justice programs. Mr. Walter has also served as part of the original planning teams for the Red Hook Community Justice Center and the Crown Height Community Mediation Center. Before coming to the Center, Mr. Walter worked as the Operations and Training Manager at the City Volunteer Corps and as a Community Center Director for the Union Settlement Association where he supervised programs involving youth and seniors. He holds a Masters of Public Administration from John Jay College of the City University of New York.

Allyson West
Allyson West has more than 13 years of experience dealing with criminal justice clients. In 2010, Allyson joined the San Francisco Superior Court as the Coordinator of the Parole Reentry Court. In 2012 she became the Coordinator of the Community Justice Center, a community court serving the Tenderloin, Civic Center, and South of Market area of San Francisco.

Allyson is the Executive Director of the California Reentry Program, a nonprofit she founded in 2003 that provides pre-release parole planning and service referrals to prisoners at San Quentin State Prison.

Ms. West has her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from UC San Diego, and done graduate work in South Asia at UC Berkeley. Her work history includes commercial banking, public health, nonprofit work, and consulting. She speaks, reads and writes Hindi and Urdu.

Suzanne Will, JD
Suzanne C. Will was recently confirmed as the Deputy General Counsel for Legal Operations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). She now supervises 400 attorneys and paralegals in the 22 General Counsel Regions throughout the United States.

Prior to her appointment, she was the San Francisco Regional Counsel for 15 years, providing all legal services for the VA facilities located in California, Hawaii, the Pacific Trust Territories, and Manila, the Republic of the Philippines. She had the largest Region in the Office of General Counsel, with 36 attorneys, paralegals, and support staff.

After joining VA as a staff attorney in 1994, she was promoted in 1997 to the position of Assistant Regional Counsel. One year later, in 1998, she became Regional Counsel. The number of staff, clients, and the responsibilities of her position doubled in 2003 when her original area of jurisdiction was consolidated with Southern California. In 2004, she was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES).

Ms. Will worked in private practice as a trial attorney, eventually becoming a partner in the law firm of Cordova and Will. She focused primarily on employment law, land use, real estate, product liability, and environmental law.
In 1970, she received her baccalaureate from the University of Minnesota, graduating magna cum laude with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Thereafter, she received a degree in commercial interior design, working for various institutions, including the Department of Navy in San Bruno, California. In 1977, she decided to change her career path and applied to law school. She was accepted at the University of San Francisco (USF), which she attended at night while continuing to work full-time during the day. She graduated with a JD and passed the California Bar in 1981.

In 2009, she received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Senior Executive Service.

She comes from a long line of veterans, including her father (WWII and Korea), her grandfather (WWI), and her great, great grandfather (Civil War). She has been married to Bob Davis for 40 years and has two grown children, Casey Jane and Alexander.

**Hon. Colleen Toy White**

Judge Colleen Toy White was elected by the citizens of Ventura County in June 1994 and appointed by Governor Pete Wilson in November of that year. She began her judicial assignment in the Family Law Department and became the Supervising Family Law Judge. She became aware of a need to assist litigants who were representing themselves in the Family Law courts and Judge White established the first Pro Per clinic.

A graduate of the Ventura College of Law, she began her legal career in the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office. She became the Special Assistant District Attorney and Chief Assistant District Attorney during which time she led pioneering efforts in the establishment of domestic violence and elder abuse prevention programs by creating the first Domestic Violence Restraining Order Program for victims of domestic violence.

While in the District Attorney’s office, she established a Senior Citizens Hotline for Ventura County, chaired the Ventura County Domestic Violence Task Force, helped develop and distribute a law enforcement protocol and medical protocol for domestic violence victims, co-authored and published a Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Order manual and a handbook for sexual assault victims, entitled Raped-What Happens Now?

In 1997 she became the Dependency Court Judge where she handled the abuse and neglect cases of children. Her awareness of another urgent need led her to establish the Dependency Drug Court. A court designed to provide early intervention for newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol and/or drugs while strengthening the ability of families to care for their children.

Her passion to help innocent children inspired her to volunteer as a member of the Ventura County Perinatal Substance Abuse Committee and Board of the Interface Children and Family Services.

Judge White has devoted numerous hours as an instructor for many Southern California Colleges and has donated time giving presentations and speeches for organizations, including many Ventura County women’s groups, state universities, and national conferences. She has given of her time to numerous committees and task forces such as the Victim Services Committee, Attorney General’s Serious Habitual Offender Advisory Committee, City of Ventura’s Crime Prevention Committee, and the Teen Pregnancy Task Force. She helped develop RAAP (Rape Awareness and Prevention), a joint project of the District Attorney’s office and the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center to prevent sexual assault.

Judge White received the Ventura County Bar Association’s Ben Nordman Award in 1992 for outstanding public service and was named California Legislature Woman of the Year, 37th District in 1994. She is also a recipient of the JC Penney Golden Rule Award and received the Knights of Columbus Community Service Award in 1998 recognizing her leadership.
In 2002, she was honored by the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation as Volunteer of the Year, received the Woody Deem Award for her outstanding contributions to the legal and justice system. She was recognized by the Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence for her significant contributions to end violence in the community.

She has been selected for inclusion in the publication, *Who’s Who in California*.

She is presently assigned to the Criminal Trial courts and presides over the Prop 36 – Drug Court calendar. She serves as the Ventura Superior Court Presiding Judge for 2007 and 2008. She previously served as the Assistant Presiding Judge for 2005-2006.