

## MEMBERS OF THE ARIZONA DEATH PENALTY ASSESSMENT TEAM

### **Chair, Sigmund “Zig” Popko**

Professor Popko is currently a Legal Writing Professor at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Prior to joining the faculty in October 2001, Professor Popko served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the District of Arizona from 1994 to 2001. From May to October 2000, Professor Popko served a temporary detail as a visiting Assistant Federal Public Defender to the General Counsel of the United States Sentencing Commission. Before entering public service, Professor Popko was an associate at the Phoenix law firm of Meyer, Hendricks, Victor, Osborn & Maledon. He also clerked for the Honorable Stanley G. Feldman, Vice Chief Justice for the Arizona Supreme Court from 1988 to 1989. Prior to his clerkship, Professor Popko worked at a criminal defense firm in Tucson, Arizona. Professor Popko is currently a member of the Board of Governors of Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice (AACJ) and serves as the Editor of the AACJ’s quarterly publication, *The Defender*. Professor Popko also sits as a *pro tem* judge in the Tempe Municipal Court. Professor Popko received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from the University of Arizona and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Arizona College of Law.

### **Peg Bortner**

Dr. Bortner is the Director of the Center for Urban Inquiry (CUI) at the Arizona State University. Her scholarship focuses on critical social theory, research methodologies, and youth and justice. Dr. Bortner is the author of *Youth in Prison: We the People of Unit Four* (with Linda M. Williams, 1997), *Delinquency and Justice: An Age of Crisis* (1988), and *Inside a Juvenile Court: The Tarnished Idea of Individualized Justice* (1982). She served as a member of the Arizona Capital Case Commission and chaired the data/research subcommittee. Professor Bortner has been a member of the faculty of Arizona State University for twenty-five years—receiving numerous awards including the Alumni Association Award for Service, the Burlington Teaching Award, the College of Public Programs Outstanding Achievement Award for Teaching, and the ASU Award for Excellence in Teaching and Community Service. Dr. Bortner received her Ph.D from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri

### **Kent E. Cattani**

Mr. Cattani is Chief Counsel of the Capital Litigation Section at the Arizona Attorney General's Office. He also serves on the Attorney General's Opinion Review Committee and the Attorney General's DNA Taskforce. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation. Kent has co-authored an article on the interplay between the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA) and indigent representation in capital cases, and he has provided testimony to United States Senate and House of Representatives subcommittees regarding federal habeas and capital litigation issues. Kent obtained a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1986, and has worked at the Attorney General's Office since 1991. In 1997, he became a Unit Chief/Supervising Attorney, and in January 2000, he was appointed to his current position. In 2002, he received the Attorney General's Statewide Impact Award for his work with the Attorney General's Capital Case Commission.

**Jonodev O. Chaudhuri**

Mr. Chaudhuri recently formed the Chaudhuri Law Office, PLLC, in Tempe, Arizona and serves as Associate Justice on the Yavapai-Apache Nation Court of Appeals. From 2001 to 2006, Mr. Chaudhuri practiced in the Phoenix office of Snell & Wilmer L.L.P., focusing on Indian law, business and finance, and commercial litigation. Prior to entering private practice, he served as Judicial Clerk to Arizona Court of Appeals Judges Noel Fidel and James M. Ackerman. Mr. Chaudhuri is the State Bar representative to the State, Tribal, and Federal Court Forum and has clerked for various courts and offices in all three court systems, including the Federal Public Defender's Office in Phoenix. Mr. Chaudhuri is the immediate past Chair of the State Bar of Arizona Indian Law Section Executive Council and also serves on various community boards and committees, including the Phoenix Indian Center Board. Mr. Chaudhuri has also served as Adjunct Professor at Phoenix College, where he taught Indian Gaming, Practice Court, and Federal, State and Tribal Courts. Mr. Chaudhuri is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, and is also East Indian (Bengali). Mr. Chaudhuri graduated from Dartmouth College and received his law degree from Cornell Law School.

**Larry A. Hammond**

Mr. Hammond is a Partner at the Phoenix law firm of Osborn Maledon, P.A. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Hammond worked at the United States Department of Justice as an Assistant Special Prosecutor to the Watergate Special Prosecution Task Force and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. Mr. Hammond clerked on the United States Supreme Court for Justice Hugo L. Black in 1971 and for Justice Lewis F. Powell from 1971 to 1973. He also clerked for the Honorable Carl McGowan of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1970 to 1971. Mr. Hammond is President of the Arizona Capital Representation Project and the American Judicature Society. He has authored numerous articles on criminal justice and judicial reform. Mr. Hammond also has received numerous awards and professional recognitions including the Arizona State Bar Foundation Walter E. Craig Award for Community Service, the Distinguished Honorary Alumnus Award from the University of Arizona Law School and Civil Libertarian of the Year in 1993 and 2000 from the Arizona Civil Liberties Union. Mr. Hammond received his B.A. from the University of Texas and his J.D. from the University of Texas Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Texas Law Review* and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

**Jose de Jesus Rivera**

Mr. Rivera is a Partner at the Phoenix office of Haralson, Miller, Pitt, Feldman & McAnally, P.L.C., where his practice focuses on international, criminal, personal injury, and election law. Prior to joining Haralson, Miller, Mr. Rivera was appointed United States Attorney for the District of Arizona by President Bill Clinton. Mr. Rivera was the first Hispanic to serve as U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona and the highest ranked Hispanic within the Department of Justice. In this capacity, Mr. Rivera was the chief federal prosecutor and law enforcement officer in the State of Arizona, focusing on law enforcement coordination between local, national, and international authorities, as well as community education issues including borders, immigration, Native American issues, international drug trafficking, alien smuggling, and gun and domestic violence. While U.S. Attorney, Mr. Rivera served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and

chaired the Attorney General's Subcommittee on Northern and Southern Borders. Mr. Rivera is a graduate of the Arizona State University College of Law.

**Thomas A. Zlaket**

Justice Zlaket is a former Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. He was appointed Associate Justice in 1992, and served on the court until 2002. During his tenure on the court, he served a five-year term as Chief Justice from 1997 to 2002. After his service on the Arizona Supreme Court, Justice Zlaket returned to private practice and is currently a solo practitioner in Tucson, Arizona. Justice Zlaket received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and his L.L.B. from the University of Arizona, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Arizona Law Review*. He received an L.L.M. in 2001 from the University of Virginia. In May of 2002, Justice Zlaket was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Arizona.