

Children's Law Committee

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

David Michael

David Michael has been working with at-risk youth and their families in South Carolina since 2002. David has served families through interventions such as School-Based Mental Health, Multi-Systemic Therapy and Detention Case Expediting. Through roles such as the DJJ Mental Health Liaison and Client Services Director for the Continuum of Care, David has been able to strategically impact programs to impact at-risk youth. He enjoys the challenges of system coordination and creation of programs to help families.

David received his Master's degree at Columbia International University in 2001, received his Professional Counselor license in 2004, and his Professional Supervisor license in 2010. He is married and has three daughters.

Dione C. Carroll

Dionè C Carroll has practiced law since 1994. She practices in the areas of environmental law, Native American and American Indian law, equine law, family law, alternative energy law, public interest law, commercial law, business law, criminal law, open government law, civil rights law, government affairs, gaming law, entertainment law, lobbying affairs, litigation and appeals.

For 6 1/2 years of her career, Ms. Carroll served with distinction as General Counsel to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and has spent the vast majority of her career representing the interests of Native Americans and Native American Tribes and environmental public interest groups.

Ms. Carroll resigned her position as General Counsel in February of 2009 to launch Carroll Law Offices, P.A. In her capacity as sole owner and principal attorney to the firm, she continues to represent Native Americans, Native Businesses and Tribal Nations, as well as other varied, primarily business clients. For the last several years, she has dedicated a large portion of her time to meeting the legal needs of the Catawba Indian Nation; the only federally recognized tribe in the State of South Carolina. Carroll Law Offices, P.A., has an office in Aiken, South Carolina, and one in Miami, Florida, which provide bases of support for Ms. Carroll's services.

Ms. Carroll holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics, Cum Laude, from the University of South Alabama and was graduated Cum Laude from the Florida State University College of Law. At FSU, she was Articles and Notes Editor for the Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law, on the University's Moot Court Team (Mock Trial Division), and a member and President of the Phi Delta Phi fraternity and honor society. Ms. Carroll is a distinguished member of the Florida Bar, South Carolina Bar, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Federal Southern District Court of Florida Bar, Federal Middle District Court of Florida Bar, Federal District Court of South Carolina Bar and the United States Supreme Court Bar. Also she has practiced extensively in other various tribal and state courts.

Ms. Carroll's accomplishments do not end in the legal sphere. She is an accomplished musician, horse rider and horse trainer as well as a competitor and foxhunter. She is First Whipper-In to Edisto River Hounds and is very involved in the care and management of the pack. She has also attained the rank of 4th degree black belt in Yoshukai Karate. Ms. Carroll was made a Shihan (teacher of teachers) and is therefore among the elite leaders of this style of karate. Her training and competing includes full-

contact fighting, breaking and the use of weapons such as bo staff, nunchaku, sai and katana (samurai long) sword. She is very happily married to Desmond A. Hughes, who is originally from Northern Ireland. They live together at Striking Horse Farm, their horse farm in Aiken, South Carolina.

Harold “Pat” Patrick

“Pat” Patrick, MSW, LISW is the Director of South Carolina Families First, a movement within the South Carolina Department of Social Services implementing family group decision making models statewide for families involved in the child welfare system. He has extensive experience in children services including child sexual abuse prevention programming, program development and service delivery in both residential and community-based settings for children with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances and their families.

Mr. Patrick has served on a number of local, state, national and international committees and coalitions advocating for child sexual abuse prevention campaigns along with promoting family centered approaches and services including the National Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Coalition and the National Fatherhood and Child Welfare Network. As a member of the statewide Trauma Informed Care Committee, he is currently working on bringing trauma informed care approaches to children and their families involved in the child welfare system.

He received his BS from the College of Charleston and his MSW from the University of South Carolina. He is licensed as an Independent social worker in the state of South Carolina.

Kelli Scurry

Kelli is a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Social Work. She is currently the Trauma Initiative & Training Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ). She leads the department’s efforts to become a trauma-informed agency. Prior to this mission, she served Beckman Mental Health in Greenwood as a high school-based therapist, as director of the Pathways Children’s Day Treatment Program, and as on-site therapist for girls incarcerated with SCDJJ. Her career began with inpatient psychiatric work in the Low country of SC and most recently included work in two non-profit sexual trauma centers in Upstate SC. She has provided trauma training since 2006.

Sarah D. Smith

Sarah Smith currently works at the Department of Juvenile Justice as Assistant Legal Counsel. She has spent her career focused on the juvenile justice system and the children and families that this system serves. Sarah worked for several years as a Juvenile Public Defender in Columbia (Richland County), South Carolina and then, later, as the Juvenile Justice Resource Attorney for the Children’s Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Sara currently serves as the Chair of the South Carolina Bar’s Children’s Law Committee.

Steve Davidson

Steve Davidson graduated from the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business with a double major in International Business and Finance and a minor in Spanish. He received his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Prior to law school, Steve served as a legislative monitor for Moore & Van Allen, PLLC. While in law school, Steve clerked for the South Carolina House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and also served as a summer associate at Young Clement Rivers, LLP and as a law clerk to the Honorable J.C. Nicholson, Jr. Steve now serves as Staff Counsel to the South Carolina House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and Ethics Committee and also as a screening attorney for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.

Tammy Besherse

Ms. Besherse graduated from Ohio Northern University College of Law. For her first four years as a lawyer, she was a public defender. While working as a public defender Tammy represented numerous Latino (Hispanic) clients. While representing them she encountered many of the issues that immigrants face regarding healthcare, public benefits, and their rights in general.

Tammy currently works SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center to improve immigrants' rights in the areas of public benefits, housing, domestic violence, and health care, through policy efforts and legal trainings. She also works with SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the SC immigrant Victim Network to assist immigrant crime victims. Tammy routinely conducts trainings for agencies on immigration law and policies.

She co-authored "Ten Biggest Myths About Immigrants and the Law in South Carolina", which was published in *The South Carolina Lawyer* November/December 2005. She also co-authored "South Carolina Court Interpreters and the Rules of Professional Conduct". This article was published in the July 2007 edition of *The South Carolina Lawyer*. An article she wrote titled "The DREAMers: America's Undocumented Youth" was published in the Fall edition of the American Bar Association's Children's Rights Section. On April 17, 2008, she received the Excellence in Legal Services Award for the Southeast Region by the Mexican American Legal Education and Defense Fund. In March of 2011, she received the Award of Excellence from the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for her advocacy for better domestic violence laws in the state. In May 2012, she received the Outstanding Service to Underserved Victims Award from the SC Victim Assistance Network for her role in ensuring better and more comprehensive anti-human trafficking legislation.

Tana G. Vanderbilt (Course Planner)

Tana Vanderbilt is the General Counsel for the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. She has a JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law and a BA from Furman University. She has worked for the South Carolina Department of Social Services and the Children's Law Center; part of the University of South Carolina School of Law. She also served as the pro bono coordinator for Nelson Mullins, Riley and Scarborough Law Firm.

She has conducted training sessions statewide on legal issues. She has presented numerous times at the South Carolina Bar Continuing Legal Education seminars for lawyers and judges. She has spoken at national conferences. Past chairperson and present member of the South Carolina Bar Children's Committee and Children's Justice Act Taskforce. She serves on the Conventions and Children's Committee of the Bar and is a board member of South Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

She has also published articles in South Carolina Jurisprudence on “Termination of Parental Rights” and South Carolina Lawyer on “Child Abuse and Neglect Cases.” Additionally Ms. Vanderbilt is co-editor and contributing author of the two-volume edition of Representing Children in Family Court: A Resource Manual for Attorneys and Guardians Ad Litem.

Additional Speakers without Submitted Biographies:

Pamela D. Robinson