

**2024 KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION WORKSHOP  
PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Jeremiah Bourgeois**

Jeremiah Bourgeois, J.D., is a 2023 graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law and a member of Washington State’s Sentencing Guidelines Commission. At age 14, in 1992, he became one of the youngest individuals in the United States to receive a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole. Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2012 ruling in *Miller v. Alabama*—which deemed mandatory life without parole for juveniles unconstitutional—Jeremiah was resentenced to a term of 25 years to life, making him eligible for parole.

After serving 27 years, he was released. Jeremiah now clerks for Judge George B. Fearing at the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III.

**Jermaine Wilson**

Jermaine Wilson is a servant leader who has dedicated his life to serving God and helping others. He currently serves as the Regional Director of Prison Fellowship and Mayor Pro-Tem of Leavenworth, KS.

His desire to serve others comes from his troubled childhood and humble beginnings. Seven years of Jermaine’s life, he spent incarcerated. During his time in prison, he gave his life to the Lord, and that’s when his whole life turned around. He no longer saw himself as a failure and a mistake. He saw himself as a Man of God with a purpose.

Once released from prison, Jermaine started serving his community and created a Non-Profit Organization called Unity in the Community, to help establish trust between Citizens and Law Enforcement. His criminal record was expunged in 2015.

Jermaine Wilson was elected to serve as Leavenworth City Commissioner in 2017 and became the Mayor of Leavenworth, KS, in 2019. Jermaine is an Ordained Minister, Husband, and father of five children. He also serves on the Kansas Sentencing Committee. “With God all things are possible.”

**Arthur Larry Gonzales Jr**

Arthur Larry Gonzales Jr was born in San Jose, California, and moved back and forth between California and Kansas for most of his life, not always having a home.

Growing up poor and needing to help his family, Arthur dropped out of school in his senior year and went to work. Arthur worked for the oilfield, a battery plant, a construction company, a warehouse, ran a restaurant, and attended a technical college before being sentenced to serve 110 months in prison.

Arthur currently works as a forklift operator and is a student at Donnelly College.

**Hon. Mary Katherine Huffman**

Kate Huffman served for twenty-one years as a General Division Judge on the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court and was elected to the Second District Court of Appeals in 2022.

Judge Huffman received her B.A. in political science from Wright State University and her J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law, graduating summa cum laude from each institution, and an M.A. in Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada; she earned Certificates in Judicial Development - General Jurisdiction Trial Skills and Judicial Development - Dispute Resolution Skills from the National Judicial College.

Judge Huffman is a member of the Innovative Specialized Docket Committee and the Criminal Law and Procedure Committees of the Ohio Judicial Conference. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Judicial College. Judge Huffman completed two terms on the Commission for the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Ohio Supreme Court, and served as Chair of that Commission from 2021-2022. She recently chaired the Ohio Supreme Court Task Force to Examine Ohio's Bail System.

Judge Huffman teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Dayton School of Law and on the faculty of the National Judicial College. She currently serves as the American Bar Association Judicial Fellow and frequently provides continuing legal education programs around the country.

### **Jennifer Roth**

Jennifer Roth has been a public defender for 26 years. She started at the Appellate Defender Office (ADO), followed by 13 years as a trial-level defender in Topeka. She rejoined the ADO in 2016, where she is currently a deputy.

Over the past 20 years, Jennifer has testified before the Kansas Legislature approximately 200 times on bills relating to the criminal justice system. She co-founded the Board of Indigents' Defense Services (BIDS) Legislative Committee and served as co-chair from November 2022-May 2024; she is currently a member. Jennifer was a member or chair/co-chair of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Legislative Committee from 2005-2022.

Jennifer was also a member of the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission (July-December 2021), the Kansas Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Sex Offenses and Offender Registration (September 2018-December 2020), and the Kansas Sentencing Commission (July 2009-May 2015).

### **Audrey Cress**

Audrey Cress currently serves as the Statewide Recruitment Manager for the Kansas Department of Administration, addressing the complex problems of recruitment and retention facing the public sector.

She currently teaches in the master's program at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. Previously, she spent ten years leading one of the largest corrections-based victim services divisions in the country, overseeing the Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services direct victim services, restorative justice programming, and batterer intervention programming.

Prior to joining KDOC, Ms. Cress spent ten years working in domestic violence prevention and intervention, as a Police Response Advocate, Hotline Advocate, Court Advocate, Education & Prevention Advocate, and a Certified Batterer Intervention Program Facilitator. She has her master's degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and her bachelor's degree in Family Studies and Human Services from Kansas State University.

### **Mary Stafford**

Mary Stafford leads the team of professionals serving victims of crimes committed by people currently under the supervision of the Kansas Department of Corrections. Secretary Jeff Zmuda named Stafford as the Director of Victim Services in September 2023.

Stafford has 15 years of experience in domestic and sexual violence advocacy, prevention, and education. She has served in multiple domestic violence agencies, advisory boards, and advocacy efforts across Kansas. Most recently, Stafford worked with the Office of Victim Service's intervention programming for people under KDOC supervision who have caused harm.

Stafford holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in social work from Wichita State University.