

2020 KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION WORKSHOP

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Governor Laura Kelly

On January 14, 2019, Laura Kelly became the 48th Governor of the State of Kansas.

As a state senator for 14 years, Kelly was a leading voice in promoting healthy families in Kansas, and the importance of top-notch public schools in communities of all sizes. She built a reputation as a no-nonsense leader who worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to get things done.

As governor, Kelly has worked tirelessly to rebuild state's broken foundation. Since taking office, she fulfilled her promise to fully fund public schools, she led the passage of a comprehensive 10-year infrastructure plan, and she has rebuilt Kansas' economic development recruitment tools. All while balancing the state's budget two years in a row.

Kelly has made it her life's work to fight for children and families in her community, on the job, as a four-term state senator and now as Governor.

Erin Harbinson

Erin Harbinson is a Research Scholar at the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. She received her PhD in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati. Erin's dissertation examined the predictive validity of a correctional risk/needs assessment on white-collar offenders. She also managed research projects for the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute and assisted criminal justice agencies with the implementation of evidence-based practices by evaluating correctional programs and conducting training for correctional staff on risk assessment, core correctional practices, and effective programming. Erin's research interests are risk assessment, correctional policy, supervision and program effectiveness, and white-collar crime. Prior to joining the Robina Institute, she worked at the Council of State Governments Justice Center as a policy analyst, where she provided technical assistance to states implementing justice reinvestment legislation and data driven policies.

Kelly Mitchell

Kelly Lyn Mitchell is the Executive Director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota Law School. Mitchell was appointed Chair of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission in 2019, and served as President of the National Association of Sentencing Commissions from 2014 to 2017. Prior to joining the Robina Institute, Mitchell was the Executive Director of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission from

2011 to 2014, and worked as a staff attorney and manager for the Minnesota Judicial Branch from 2001-2011, where she served as a legal advisor to trial court judges and court administrators, as the Branch's liaison to other criminal justice agencies, and oversaw several statewide programs and services such as drug courts, the court interpreter program, and examiner services for sex offender civil commitments. She earned her J.D. from the University of North Dakota Law School, and has a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Connie Utada

Connie Utada is a manager with Pew's public safety performance project where she leads the technical assistance and research initiatives for jurisdictions around the country with the goal of improving outcomes for people on probation and parole. Utada has led Pew's efforts to address challenges facing statewide prison systems through policy reform. Before joining Pew, she developed state policy initiatives for marginalized communities, lobbied on immigration, and served as a defense attorney in Boston. Utada received a B.A. in American Studies from Smith College and a juris doctor from Northeastern University School of Law.

Kira Johnson

Kira Johnson joined the KSSC in July 2017 as the SB 123 Program Director. Her program funds substance abuse treatment as an alternative to imprisonment for thousands of drug offenders every year. She is a Licensed Master's Level Psychologist and holds a Master's in clinical psychology from Washburn. She is currently working on her doctorate in clinical psychology at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. Ms. Johnson has worked as a behavioral health professional at numerous correctional facilities and in community mental health. Most recently Ms. Johnson was responsible for the mental health care and programming of the juvenile female population at KJCC. Her professional interests include anxiety treatment and correctional psychology.

Patrick Armstrong

Patrick Armstrong leads teams helping states understand criminal justice system challenges and develop policy solutions. Prior to joining the CSG Justice Center, Patrick worked at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, as well as for the Brennan Center for Justice in New York. He was also an intern for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in California. As a student-athlete on the basketball team at the University of California, Berkeley, Patrick earned a BA in political science and African American studies. He earned his JD from the New York University School of Law.

Carl Reynolds

Carl Reynolds helps manage and develop projects related to court initiatives, corrections, sentencing reform, and juvenile justice issues. Previously, Carl served as director of the Texas Office of Court Administration. From 1997 to 2005, he was general counsel for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), responsible for prisons, probation, and parole. He also was general counsel to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice—the governing body for TDCJ. Prior to that position, he was the executive director of the Texas Punishment Standards Commission, general counsel to the Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, director of the Senate’s redistricting staff, and a briefing attorney for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Among other projects, he works on the establishment and evaluation of public defender offices and on justice reinvestment strategies. Carl holds a JD from the University of Texas School of Law, an MA from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a BA from the University of Cincinnati.

Hope Cooper

Hope Cooper was named deputy secretary of juvenile and adult community-based services in June 2019. Previously, she served as deputy secretary of community and field services since June 2016.

Cooper joined the KDOC in 2008 as a program consultant in the community corrections division prior to being promoted to the KDOC’s director of community corrections. At the time of her appointment to deputy secretary, she had been serving as warden of the Topeka Correctional Facility since 2011.

Prior to joining the KDOC, Cooper worked as a probation officer for the U.S. District Courts in Topeka and for Community Solutions, Inc., an adult day reporting center in Topeka.

She began her corrections career with Colorado-based Excelsior Youth Center, a treatment center for adolescent females.

Cooper has a master’s degree in counseling and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminal justice, both from Chadron State College, Chadron, Neb.

Ashley Bauman

Ashley Bauman is the president of Bauman Consulting Group, a public and social sector consulting firm offering engaging training workshops, expert technical assistance, supportive coaching services, and innovative products and resources. She has extensive experience working with agencies to redesign their approaches and implement evidence-based practices. Previously, Ashley worked as a research associate studying women’s pathways to criminal behavior and

correctional rehabilitation. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati with dual master's degrees in criminal justice and business administration and is a board-certified coach. She has been published in professional journals and written many technical reports for government agencies.

Breanna Boppre

Dr. Breanna Boppre, Ph.D. is a tenure-track professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Wichita State University. Her research examines correctional policies and practices, women's system-involvement, and the impacts of incarceration on families. Her work appears in top peer-reviewed outlets including *Justice Quarterly*, the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, and *Feminist Criminology*. She has worked on several grant-funded projects for Sedgwick County. She trains agencies across the U.S. on gender-responsive correctional strategies.

Alex Holsinger

Dr. Alex Holsinger is an Associate Dean and Professor in the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department at UMKC, where he has been on faculty since 1999. In the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, Dr. Holsinger is responsible for faculty affairs, graduate programs, graduate student affairs, and research programs.

Associate Dean Holsinger received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in the summer of 1999 and joined the faculty at UMKC the following Fall. For the duration of his time at UMKC Dr. Holsinger taught statistics and corrections-based courses in the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology and focused his research agenda toward risk and need assessment and the evaluation of rehabilitation and treatment programming.

Most of his published work has involved tests of the effectiveness of various forms of correctional interventions (e.g., rehabilitation and treatment, core correctional practices in supervision, dosage probation, notification systems, graduated sanctions). Dr. Holsinger has also conducted research regarding the development and testing of both published and original risk, need, and responsivity assessments. Dr. Holsinger's work has been recognized by the American Probation and Parole Association which awarded him the "Award in Corrections" for outstanding contributions to the field of corrections in the United States and Canada. In 2015 Dr. Holsinger received the Legacy of Leadership Award from the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission for outstanding contributions to public safety in corrections.