

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF TODAY'S PROGRAM PRESENTERS

FEATURED SPEAKER

Kevin Richardson

April 19, 1989 started off as a normal day for 14 year-old Kevin D. Richardson, but that night would change the course of his life and American society forever. After the brutal attack and sexual assault of jogger Trisha Ellen Meili in Central Park, the New York Police Department rounded up and arrested a total of 10 suspects, including Richardson. Despite there being no DNA and little evidence connecting himself and the four other teens to the crime, Richardson was charged and sentenced to serve 5 to 10 years in jail. After serving seven years for a crime he did not commit, Richardson was put on probation and released from prison.



However, years later the conviction for the attack remained on his record. In 2002, New York District Attorney Robert Richardson joined forces with the other men falsely convicted and filed a lawsuit for \$41 million, which was finally settled in 2014. In 2019, Netflix released *When They See Us*, a mini-series portraying the famous events of the case. The celebrated and award-winning show has brought the injustices Kevin Richardson along with Antron McCray, Raymond Santana, Korey Wise, and Yusef Salaam experienced back into the public's attention.

30 years later, Kevin Richardson is an advocate for criminal justice reform and uses his personal experience with false coercions and unjust convictions to bring about change. He has partnered with the Innocence Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing.

FIRESIDE CHAT MODERATOR AND RESPONSE PANEL LEADER



Jarrett M. Adams, Esq.

Mr. Adams is an attorney specializing in criminal defense and civil rights cases, and practices in both state and federal courts. Mr. Adams is admitted to practice in the state courts of New York, Wisconsin, and Illinois; and the federal courts in the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin; Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; and the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Adams was wrongfully convicted of a crime at age 17 and sentenced to 28 years in a maximum security prison. After serving nearly 10 years and filing multiple appeals, Mr. Adams was exonerated with the assistance of the Wisconsin Innocence Project.

Mr. Adams used the injustice he endured as inspiration to become an advocate for the underserved and often uncouneted. As a first step, Mr. Adams earned his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in May 2015. During law school, Mr. Adams worked as an investigator for the Illinois Federal Defender's Program and was awarded the National Defender Investigator Association Investigator of the Year award for his work with the clemency petition of Reynolds Wintersmith that ultimately was granted by President Obama.

The next step following law school, Mr. Adams served as a public interest law fellow under the Honorable Ann Claire Williams of the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. This is the same court that reversed Mr. Adams' conviction because of his trial lawyer's constitutional deficiencies. Mr. Adams also clerked in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York with the late Honorable Deborah Batts.

Mr. Adams launched the [LAW OFFICE OF JARRETT ADAMS, PLLC.](#) in 2017 and practices in federal and state courts throughout the country. His story of incarceration, exoneration and redemption has been featured widely in the media, and he has become a sought-after motivational speaker for athletes, students, inmates, attorneys, and others.

Mr. Adams is also a co-founder of [Life After Justice](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing wrongful convictions and building an ecosystem of support and empowerment for exonerees as they rebuild their lives after exoneration. In a cinematic story of hope and full-circle redemption, Mr. Adams shares his story in his upcoming memoir, [Redeeming Justice](#), which is in presale wherever books are sold.

RESPONSE PANELISTS

Assistant Attorney General Carolyn Murray

Carolyn Murray was appointed the first Director of the Conviction Review Unit (CRU) in April 2019. Prior to the creation of the CRU by Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, Ms. Murray was nominated and confirmed as Superior Court Judge in 2017. Prior to serving as judge, she served in multiple roles at the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, including as an Assistant Prosecutor from 1988-1995. In 1995, Ms. Murray joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, where she tried criminal cases and served as Anti-Violent Crime Coordinator. Ms. Murray served as a trial attorney in both offices, and gained deep experience in federal and state investigations and prosecutions. She served as first-chair trial counsel in over 80 criminal jury trials, including homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, aggravated assault cases, and fraud.

Ms. Murray returned to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office as First Assistant Prosecutor from 2004-2010. In 2010, Ms. Murray became Counsel to the Attorney General until her appointment as Acting Essex County Prosecutor in 2011. As First Assistant Prosecutor and Acting Prosecutor for Essex County, the Office of the Essex County Prosecutor was converted from a horizontal to a vertical prosecution model over a two-year period and attorney pre-screening of all criminal charges lodged against individuals was instituted. Additionally, a Mental Health Unit for alternative adjudication in appropriate cases was created.

Ms. Murray graduated from New York University School of Law in 1987 and Georgetown University in 1984.

Lesley C. Risinger, Esq.

Lesley C. Risinger became involved in the plight of the convicted innocent in 1991 when the chance reading of an article in The Jersey Journal led her and her mother, attorney Priscilla Read Chenoweth, to undertake to free Luis Kevin Rojas, a high school senior from Weehawken, New Jersey, who had been convicted of a 1990 fatal shooting in New York City. Over the next seven years Lesley and her mother were instrumental in reinvestigating the case, gaining a reversal of the conviction, and finally obtaining an acquittal, which led to Mr. Rojas's complete exoneration and compensation by the New York Court of Claims. This experience more or less inevitably led Ms. Risinger to law school. She graduated magna cum laude from Seton Hall Law in 2003. In 2005 she began reviewing the 1992 murder conviction of Fernando Bermudez, and over the next four years, Ms. Risinger reinvestigated, marshaled the case for innocence, and assembled a team that won Mr. Bermudez's complete exoneration by Justice John Cataldo in the New York Supreme Court in Manhattan in November 2009. She became the founding director of the Last Resort Exoneration Project at Seton Hall Law School in February of 2011.

Ms. Risinger's review of several hundred prisoner applications has resulted in a number of reinvestigations. After thousands of hours of re-investigation and litigation by a team led by Ms. Risinger (including Larry Lustberg, James Gerrow, Joseph Fortunato, and Daniel Schiff), Kevin Baker and Sean Washington walked free from Trenton State Prison on February 12, 2020, after 25 years imprisonment for crimes they had nothing to do with.

Ms. Risinger has taught a course in Exonerations and a course on fact investigation at Seton Hall Law School and has lectured at Yale Law School on the difficulties involved in obtaining exoneration. She has participated in innocence-related programs of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and has acted as a consultant to the Exoneration Initiative in New York. She is the co-author, with her husband, Professor D. Michael Risinger, of Innocence is Different: Taking Innocence Into Account in Reforming Criminal Procedure, 56 N.Y.L.S. Law Rev. 935 (2012), The Emerging Role of the Innocence Lawyer and the Need for Role-Differentiated Standards of Professional Conduct, a chapter in Sarah Cooper

(ed.), Controversies in Innocence Cases in America (Ashgate Press 2014); and Miscarriages of Justice: a Theoretical and Practical Overview, 7 John Marshall L. Rev. 373 (2014).

PROGRAM CO-HOSTS

The Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the New Jersey Courts

The Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D., was appointed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner as Director of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts on September 1, 2008. Under the leadership and direction of the Chief Justice, he provides the day-to-day management of the court system. He collaborates with the Chief Justice to oversee a court staff of 9,000+ employees, including 460 Superior Court Judges. He is also responsible for overseeing the state municipal courts, comprised of approximately 350 municipal judges and 2,500 administrative staff. The Administrative Director is a constitutional position and Judge Grant is the eighth person to hold the position and the first person of color appointed to lead the New Jersey court system.

He joined the bench in 1998, serving as a Family Judge in the Essex vicinage. Prior to the appointment to his current position, Judge Grant served as Presiding Judge of the Family Part. He was temporarily assigned by now retired Chief Justice Poritz to serve as Acting Chief Judge of the Newark Municipal Court in order to address management and other operational issues.

As Administrative Director, Judge Grant serves as a member of the Judicial Council, the policy-making body of the New Jersey Courts. He chairs or is a member of several New Jersey Supreme Court committees, including: Access and Fairness Committee, Advisory Committee on Information Technology, Minority Concerns Committee, Domestic Violence Committee, Children in Court Committee, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Committee, and the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice Reform.

Prior to his judicial career, Judge Grant served as corporation counsel and business administrator for the City of Newark. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Lehigh University and his law degree from

Catholic University. He studied Executive Management at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of government.

The Honorable Susan F. Maven J.S.C.

President/Moderator of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

New Jersey Superior Court Judge Susan F. Maven was sworn in on December 18, 2001. She is the first and only African American woman to be appointed to the Superior Court in Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage and has been assigned to the Family Division in Atlantic County and the Criminal Division in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Judge Maven also served in the Appellate Division from 2012 to 2016. In 2016, she returned to the Family Division where she presides over the juvenile delinquency docket and other family part cases.

Judge Maven was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in 2008, and became the President/Moderator in July 2018. Judge Maven has participated at diversity awareness conferences, programs and community engagement programs in various states including Nebraska, Florida, Minnesota, Louisiana, Virginia, Colorado, Nevada and Washington, DC. and on Native American tribal lands. In October 2019, she was a presenter at the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) Conference in Minnesota. Judge Maven has presented and trained on human trafficking and child custody matters at conferences in New Jersey and nationally.

Judge Maven is an ardent proponent of diversity and equity initiatives for the court system. In 2009, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner appointed her as Chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns, a position she held until 2014. Judge Maven is the first and only woman to serve as Chair in the Committee's now nearly 40 history. In 2011, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner established the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness and named Judge Maven as Co-Vice Chair, a position she held until her tenure on both Supreme Court Committees concluded in 2014.

Judge Maven is an active member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), a member of the International Committee, and Vice Chair of the Diversity Committee. She is a participant in the NCJFCJ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ("DEI") Initiative. Through a series of collaborative summits, delegates from leading national organizations

representing the judiciary and legal profession convene to identify potential projects that participants can work on together to improve diversity within the legal profession and justice system. The goal of the DEI Project is to leverage the collective strength of its memberships to make a demonstrable impact on the legal profession regarding issues of common interest.

As the lead judge handling juvenile matters in her vicinage, Judge Maven oversaw the development and implementation of a novel pilot program in Atlantic County for court-involved youth who are victims or at-risk of exploitation by sex trafficking. The YES (Youth Empowered for Success) Program is designed to assess the extent of trauma experienced by the youth and provide them appropriate supports and services. Judge Maven remains active in the community participating in legal and civic events. She speaks extensively at schools, churches, and community centers on a variety of topics including civics and basic principles of law, cyberbully, the impact of adverse childhood experiences, and human trafficking. She participates in the Vicinage I “One Judge – One School” programs and speaks to numerous schools in Atlantic County each year offering motivation and mentorship.

Judge Maven graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA in 1983 and the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, PA in 1987. She is an active Temple Law School alumnus and visits annually to speak to students about “Life after Law School.”



For more information about the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, visit www.national-consortium.org.



For information on the New Jersey Judiciary, visit www.njcourts.org.