



**National Consortium on
Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts**

**2020 Virtual Symposium
October 16th, 2020**

**Session A:
Examining Barriers to Civic Engagement
for People with Felony Convictions**

Speaker Biographies



Hon. Scott M. Bernstein, a member of the Board of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, was Chair of the Florida Supreme Court's Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity from 2007-2016; he continues to serve on that Committee. He was appointed Chair by 6 different Chief Justices of the Florida Supreme Court.

Judge Bernstein is the Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges. He also serves on the Florida Court Education Council.

Judge Bernstein has been on the bench for 22 years. He has served in the the Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Dependency, Felony, Civil and Family Divisions. He now serves as Administrative Judge of the 11th Judicial Circuit's Family Court.

Judge Bernstein was elected to membership in the American Law Institute in 2015.

Judge Bernstein lives in Miami with his husband, Judge David Young, and their dogs, Murray and Rosie.



Whitley Carpenter is a Staff Attorney at Forward Justice, a law, policy, and strategy center dedicated to advancing racial, social, and economic justice in the US South. Her work regularly reflects her strong commitment to advocating for and uplifting the voices of oppressed and systemically disenfranchised communities. Whitley is originally from Winston-Salem, NC. She attended NC State University where she helped recruit underrepresented groups of students and coordinated college visits for middle and high school students of color. She graduated in 2012

with a B.A. in Psychology and a B.A. in Political Science. Whitley received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2015. During law school, she worked with the UNC Center of Poverty, Work, and Opportunity where she focused on bringing attention to issues impacted North Carolina's poor communities and with the UNC Civil Legal Assistance Clinic representing clients in housing and education cases. She also worked with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice doing Second Chance advocacy and direct-services work, which has been a large part of her focus since. Since law school, Whitley has focused her work on developing the necessary tools and strategies to fight against racism and to liberate and empower oppressed communities. She has participated in the planning and implementation of more than twelve Clean Slate Clinics across North Carolina and filed thousands of expungement petitions across the state. She also has worked with grassroots organizations and community members to advocate for Second Chance policy changes at the state and local level. She currently serves on the advisory board of the Durham Expunction and Restoration Program, is an active member of the NC Second Chance Alliance, leads the NC Fines and Fees Coalition, and sits on the National Board of Directors for the National Conference of Black Lawyers while also serving as the Vice President of the NC Chapter. Whitley brings a tireless commitment and a determined passion to her work on behalf of those who have often been silenced.



Aaron Greene is an Associate Counsel at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Aaron is a native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, and is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from the University of South Carolina in 2016. During his undergraduate years, Aaron served two terms as the President of the Association of African American Students.

Aaron held numerous leadership roles as a law student including: President of the Matthew J. Perry Chapter of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), National Director of the Earn Our Vote movement, recruiter for the Admissions Office, and a member of the Law School's Pro Bono Board. During his tenure as president of NBLSA, the organization received the regional chapter of the year award for its work in the community and throughout the country.

Aaron served as the 2017 Diversity Initiatives Summer Intern at the Law School Admission Council, in the summer of 2018 was an Ella Baker Legal Intern at the Center for Constitutional Rights and was a coordinator for the Right2Vote Movement in 2019. In December of 2018, he was the youngest facilitator selected to participate in the biannual Southern Human Rights Organizers Conference.



Hon. Milton C. Lee, Jr. was appointed to the District of Columbia Superior Court in 2010 by President Barack Obama.

Judge Lee is a native of the District of Columbia. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the American University School of Justice in 1982. He obtained his Juris Doctor from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law.

Following law school, Judge Lee joined the District of Columbia Public Defender service as a staff attorney. There he served as a trial attorney for many years, representing indigent persons in the Family, Misdemeanor, and Felony Divisions of the

Superior Court. He also argued a number of appellate cases before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Judge Lee took leave from the Public Defender Service and taught as a Visiting Associate Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center in the Criminal Justice Clinic. He also served as a supervisor in the E. Barrett Prettyman Program. He returned briefly to the Public Defender Service as Deputy Trial Chief where he had oversight of the daily operations of the trial division. In 1993 Judge Lee joined the faculty at the former District of Columbia School of Law, where he supervised students in the Juvenile Law Clinic. In 1995 he received the Professor of the Year from the student body. In 2004 he received the same award for his service as a member of the adjunct faculty.

Judge Lee joined the District of Columbia Superior Court as a Magistrate Judge in November 1998. Since his appointment, Judge Lee has served in Criminal and Civil Divisions of the court as well as in the Family Court. He served as the presiding magistrate judge from 2006 until his nomination. Judge Lee has remained active in the both the legal and academic communities. He continues to serve the law school community as an adjunct faculty member. Judge Lee and the members of the Juvenile Law Clinic published a manual for practitioners in the area of special education advocacy. Judge Lee later authored an article entitled “What Truth Do We Seek?” supporting greater discovery in criminal cases.

After serving on the Superior Court Task Force for Families and Violence, Judge Lee assisted in the development of the Teen Court Diversion Program. In addition, Judge Lee has been a consistent contributor to the Criminal Practice Institute, Neglect Practice Institute as well as many other local bar programs. He has also taught in the Harvard Trial Advocacy Program for several years.

Recently Judge Lee has spearheaded the development of the District of Columbia Superior Court’s Fathering Court. The initiative represents a partnership between the Court, several governmental agencies and the private sector directed toward creating opportunities for noncustodial parents to become meaningful contributors to the development of their children. The initiative has worked with many reentry parents by providing employment, educational training, parenting training and support groups as well as wrap around services for the entire family. The Fathering Court Initiative has garnered national recognition for its innovative problem-solving approach to reunited families.



Alexander Shalom is Senior Supervising Attorney and Director of Supreme Court Advocacy at the ACLU-NJ. Alex primarily litigates cases on issues that disproportionately impact people of color. He appears in trial and appellate courts throughout the state seeking to ensure more accountable police practices, criminal justice and juvenile justice systems that are more just, better conditions for those in prisons and jails, expanded voting rights, fairer treatment for immigrants, and more equitable access to education.

He also engages in policy advocacy in each of those issue areas, meeting with policymakers, testifying before legislative and rulemaking bodies, and appearing in the media. While at the ACLU-NJ, he has appeared more than 50 times before the New Jersey Supreme Court on cases focusing on issues including pretrial justice, the right to counsel, sentencing, search and seizure, and public access to police records. Before joining the ACLU-NJ, Alex worked as an Assistant Deputy Public Defender in Essex County. Prior to that, he served as capital cases clerk for Hon. Deborah J. Poritz, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. In 2017, the New Jersey Law Journal named him the Attorney of the Year. He is a fellow at the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.