

SACJJD Member Profiles

The Honorable Brian Back of Camarillo was appointed to the SACJJD on December 18, 2012. After 20 years on the bench, including serving as Presiding Judge and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, he retired from the Ventura County Superior Court in 2018. He was an attorney with Arnold Back Mathews Wojkowski and Zirbel LLP from 1990 to 1997, Arnold and Back from 1989 to 1990, and Nordman Cormany Hair and Compton LLP from 1977 to 1989. He earned a Master of Arts degree in government from Claremont Graduate School and a Juris Doctorate degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law. He has taught numerous courses related to juvenile law and delinquency prevention. He is also a past member of the California Judicial Council as well as the Council's Juvenile & Family Law Advisory Committee

Victoria Birch, joined the OYCR Youth Advisory Board YAB because she is passionate about giving back to her community and healing people who have been through the carceral system. She loves doing this work because not only can she see how far she has come, but can see the growth in other people as well.

Sergio Coronel is a Central Valley native who experienced the juvenile system and gangs as a youth. He is the founder of Youngsters for Change (YFC), where he runs a credible-messenger mentorship program for “at-future youth” impacted by the juvenile system and gangs in the Central Valley. Mr. Coronel earned his bachelor’s degree as a double major (history and criminology) and his master’s degree in criminology (focusing on youth gangs and incarceration), from California State University, Fresno. He also works as the Community Director for the Community Justice Center (CJC) in Fresno and consults as an Independent Forensic Gang Expert working with lawyers across California. He is a sitting member of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and SB 823 Realignment Subcommittee, a gang consultant for schools and probation, and a published author who writes about youth impacted by gangs.

Dr. B.J. Davis of Elk Grove was appointed to the SACJJD on November 9, 2016. Dr. Davis is the owner of Davis Consulting, and the Senior Manager of Training and Clinical Quality at WellSpace Health. He recently served as the Executive Director of Strategies for Change Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Mental Health Treatment Agency. In addition to his work at WellSpace Health, Dr. Davis is an Adjunct Professor in the Forensic and Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Alliant International University, is a consultant to the Sacramento Aids Housing Alliance, and is the past vice chair of the CAADAC Counselor Certification Board. Dr. Davis is active in conducting research that focuses on treatment effectiveness and outcomes and is recognized for his innovative work in treatment approaches based on Choice Theory and Motivational Interviewing. Recently, Dr. Davis has facilitated several workshops related to the psychology of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and its impact on providing recovery related services for African American clients. Dr. Davis holds a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology, a Master of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Science in Community Counseling, and is licensed by the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPPP).

Keven Flores is a 18-year-old psychology major with a background in gang culture, violence, and poverty. He made choices that led him into the system early, but he always wanted something different. While incarcerated, he earned his high school diploma at 15 and shifted his mindset, eventually enrolling in college. Now, he co-facilitates CBI workshops in the juvenile hall where he was detained, teaching youth skills for communication and emotional control. Keven joined the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) because he understands the feeling of being unheard and unsupported. His goal is to ensure no young person feels stuck in the life they were born into

Mikaela Galvis-Venegas is from East Oakland, and uses she/her pronouns. She is enrolled in school for public health. Her parents were formerly incarcerated, and had family and friends also impacted by the system. I've seen first-hand how much struggle and stress goes into navigating the whole process. I don't think incarceration is the solution, but I understand we can't just drop it. Until we get there, I want to improve the circumstances for people still being impacted by the system so we can prevent further trauma.

Sandra McBrayer is the Chief Executive Officer of the Children's Initiative and an internationally known advocate for children, youth and families. In 1987, she founded and developed the first successful school in the United States for homeless and unattended youth, serving as head teacher for the Homeless Outreach School (now known as Monarch High School) in San Diego until 1996. Later she was appointed by the California Governor to chair the State Advisory for Before and After School Programs and the California State Committee on Juvenile Justice and appointed by the Chief Justice of California to serve on the Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee. Ms. McBrayer chairs and serves on numerous local, state and national boards including Agency for Instructional Technology, San Diego Workforce Youth Council, Department of Justice - Project Safe Neighborhood, California After School Partnership and the San Diego Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Christina Peoples is an experienced leader, advocate, and visionary with over 17 years of experience in community organizing, nonprofit leadership, and trauma-informed program development. As the Founder and Executive Director of The Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center (AAAWLC), Christina has built a healing-centered organization dedicated to uplifting underserved individuals and families in San Joaquin County through programs rooted in health, education, social justice, and healing.

Laura Ridolfi, of Berkeley, is the Law and Policy Analyst for the W. Haywood Burns Institute. Ms. Ridolfi provides technical assistance to Burns Institute sites in analyzing whether and to what extent policies and practices contribute to disparities in juvenile justice systems. She also assists in developing local strategies to reduce disparities. Prior to the Burns Institute, Laura worked for several juvenile and criminal justice organizations and was a Fulbright Fellow in Kenya, where she conducted original research on the juvenile justice system. Laura is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley School of Law. There, she coordinated the Boalt Hall Chapter of

the National Lawyers Guild and the Youth and Education Law Society, where she created and implemented a street law program for youth in San Francisco and Alameda County juvenile detention facilities. She also clerked for East Bay Community Law, representing youth and adult ex-offenders in sealing or expunging their criminal records, and the San Francisco Public Defender, Juvenile Division.

Dr. William Feather of the Round Valley Indian Tribe is working on Educational Doctorate in Organizational Leadership at Chaminade University. He is focusing on enhancing education services for Native American students in K-12 and correctional education systems. Feather simultaneously serves as the Special Education-Mental Health Counselor at the Ukiah Unified School District, Special Education Department. He also serves as the Tribal Cultural Coach for Mendocino County Child Welfare Services, a Disabilities Contractor with the California Tribal Families Coalition and a professional Academic Coach for Cal Poly Humboldt, Department of Social Work. He plans to continue championing tribal students in educational systems, while working towards creating educational pathways for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated tribal people.