

INDIANA CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE 2023



OCTOBER 26, 2023

**IVY TECH CONFERENCE CENTER
2820 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46208**

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

JUSTICE GEOFFREY G. SLAUGHTER

INDIANA SUPREME COURT

Geoffrey G. Slaughter was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court by Governor Mike Pence in May 2016. He took the oath of office as Indiana's 109th Supreme Court Justice on June 13, 2016. He was retained by voters in 2018.



Justice Slaughter was born in Gary, Indiana, in 1962 and grew up in nearby Crown Point. After graduating from high school in 1981, he attended Indiana University in Bloomington, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and in 1985 received a bachelor of arts in economics, graduating with high honors. In 1989, he received an M.B.A. in finance from IU's Kelley School of Business and his juris doctor cum laude from IU's Maurer School of Law.

After law school, Justice Slaughter served for two years as a law clerk to Chief Judge Allen Sharp, United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana in South Bend. He then worked in private practice with the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis, concentrating on antitrust, bankruptcy, and other complex business litigation. From 1995 to 2001, he served as special counsel to the Attorney General of Indiana.

Before joining the Indiana Supreme Court, Justice Slaughter was a partner with Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Indianapolis and litigated complex business disputes in both state and federal courts.

Justice Slaughter has been an active member of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, the appellate-practice sections of the Indiana State Bar Association and the Indianapolis Bar Association, and The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies. Committed to furthering civics and constitutional education, Justice Slaughter has volunteered as a judge for the "We the People" competition since 1996.

In his spare time, Justice Slaughter is an avid reader and roots for the Chicago Cubs and IU football.

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

HON. MARIA GRANGER

FLOYD COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT



Hon. Maria Granger is a trial court judge in Floyd County, Indiana, where she presides in a court of general jurisdiction, and she oversees two problem-solving courts addressing the unique behavioral health needs of veterans and families in crisis.

Judge Granger is lauded in the community for her work in establishing Indiana's first Veterans Court and in increasing veteran's courts throughout the state.

Before her being elected in 2009 to the trial bench, Judge Granger was a deputy prosecutor, attorney in private practice and Title IV-D Referee in Southern Indiana. She served on Indiana's Commission for Equity and Access in the Court System, and is a member of local, state, and national bar associations and the American Law Institute.

She holds a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from IU McKinney School of Law and Bachelors of Science from Indiana University.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:15AM - 11:15AM

SESSION TITLE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

SESSION PRESENTERS

Civil Protection Orders:
Top 10 Practice Tips
Room 118

Approximately 30,000 civil protection order cases are adjudicated each year in Indiana. This presentation is designed to cover the most important practice tips for representing victims/survivors in protection order cases.

Hayley Kemp
J.D., LAV Civil Attorney,
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services
Raio Krishnaya
J.D., Executive & Legal Director, Center for
Victim and Human Rights

Providing Clients a
Second Chance Through
Expungement
Room 119

This session will focus on basic navigation of Indiana's Expungement Statute, and address changes to the statute resulting from the last legislative session.

Jeremy Pilkington
J.D., Director of Re-Entry Justice,
Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

Coding Evictions:
St. Joseph County
Eviction Court Watch
Room 120

From May to October, 2023 Katherine Wines, Legal Navigator with Pro Bono Indiana and Judith Fox, Clinical Professor of Law Emeritus coded eviction data for more than 600 eviction cases gathered from direct observations and MyCase court data in St. Joseph County. This session will reveal what the findings can tell us about the eviction process in Indiana and how those findings can improve advocacy for tenants across the state.

Nell Collins
J.D., Staff Attorney,
Indiana Legal Services
Katherine Wines
Legal Navigator, Pro Bono Indiana

Protecting the Educational
Rights of Students with
Disabilities
Room 121

This session will provide an overview of federal and state laws protecting the education of students with disabilities. Attendees will learn how to identify educational issues and resolve disputes regarding special education eligibility, accommodations, services, and discipline.

Margaret Jones
J.D., Executive Director, Disability Legal
Services

Accessing Justice with
Zoom: Experiences and
Outcomes in Online Civil
Courts
Room 109(1)

This session will focus on the research findings of a recent study that examined the experiences and outcomes for unrepresented litigants within in-person and remote hearings in over 50 of Indiana's civil courts administering evictions, small claims, debt collections, and family law hearings and bright spots on how to conduct these remote hearings to lift the experiences of these litigants.

Prof. Victor Quintanilla
J.D., Indiana University Maurer School of
Law
Hon. Catherine Stafford
Monroe Circuit Court IV
Taylor Bachus
J.D., Indiana Legal Services

Drawing the Line: Ethics
Tips for Working with Pro
Bono and Legal Aid
Clients
(Ethics credit)
Room 109(2)

This seminar will help pro bono volunteers and legal aid staff recognize and address ethical issues that arise in the context of providing free legal assistance to those who can't afford to hire an attorney. Presenters will focus on professional responsibility rules regarding nonlawyer assistants, conflicts of interest, limited scope representation, communication, competency, confidentiality and clients with diminished capacity.

Monica Fennell
J.D., Pro Bono Counsel & Director, Taft
Law
Jeff Heck
J.D., Pro Bono Director and Interim
General Counsel, Indiana Legal Services

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

11:30AM - 12:30PM

SESSION TITLE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

SESSION PRESENTERS

High Conflict Family Law
Cases
Room 118

Join one judge and two attorneys to explore options for low-income families in high conflict cases.

Hon. Catherine Stafford
Monroe Circuit Court IV

Nuts & Bolts of Name &
Gender Marker Change
Room 119

This session will cover basic guidance on the statutory and case law framework for assisting clients with name and gender marker change issues, including practice tips for before, during and after hearings, and a review of required documents.

Megan Stuart
LGBT Project Director, Indiana Legal
Services

Housing Partnerships for
Building Stability
Room 120

When we work together with partners in our communities, we build a team of professionals and organizations that can serve people more efficiently. Staff attorneys, pro bono attorneys, coordination staff, housing assistance experts, and social service agencies provide an umbrella approach that helps connect individuals and families with resources for their immediate needs.

Rebekah Brooker
Volunteer Coordinator for Housing Stability,
Volunteer Lawyer Program of Northeast
Indiana
Jeremiah Otis
Director of Innovation, Fortify Life
Shirley Rork
Eviction Intervention Program Director,
Just Neighbors
Andrew Thomas,
J.D., Housing Resource Attorney, Indiana
Legal Services
Ruth de Wit,
Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyer
Program of Northeast Indiana (Moderator)

Hunger Instability
Legislation... Tools for
Spotting and Fixing Legal
Issues
Room 121

This session will focus on state legislation affecting food security issues for low-income and elderly clients, policy updates, and how best to spot and fix benefits issues.

Emily Weikert Bryant
J.D., Executive Director,
Feeding Indiana's Hungry

Networking Space
Room 109(1)

Use this room to meet and talk with colleagues.

Micro-Resilience
(Ethics credit
Room 109(2)

This session will focus on the small decisions and actions that we can take throughout the day as professionals and attorneys to increase the effectiveness of our decision-making, provide better client service, avoid ethical pitfalls, and support our physical and mental health.

Angka Hinshaw
J.D., Senior Counsel,
Amundsen Davis

NETWORKING LUNCH

2ND FLOOR BALLROOM

12:30PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

1:30PM - 2:30PM

SESSION TITLE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

SESSION PRESENTERS

Paternity Law and Why it Matters to Survivors of Domestic Violence
Room 118

We know that being pregnant is actually a risk factor in domestic violence cases, so how do we best advise our pregnant survivor clients about existing paternity law and what to expect when a child is born out of wedlock? In this presentation we will discuss Indiana's paternity law, what happens in the hospital when a child is born out of wedlock, and how to preserve the survivor's control and autonomy in higher lethality cases.

Kerry Hyatt Bennett,
J.D., Chief Legal Counsel, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Indiana's Proposed New Guardian ad Litem Guidelines
Room 119

Come learn about Indiana's proposed new GAL Guidelines that were circulated for public comment in June of 2023. Explore the new requirements in the proposed Guidelines, including training GALs in trauma informed care, the ethical obligations of a GAL, the importance of face-to-face contact with the youth, and understanding diversity, equity, and poverty issues.

Maureen Keefe
J.D., Direct Representation Program, Child Advocates
Katherine Meger-Kelsey
J.D., Chief Legal Counsel, Director of the Children's Law Center, Kids' Voice of Indiana

Carey Haley
J.D., Chief Legal Counsel, Child Advocates

Senior Housing Issue
Room 120

As the elderly increasingly become targets of housing exploitation, this session will focus on the legal issues affecting senior adults in guardianship situations who are in need of housing assistance. The Center for At-Risk Elders (CARE) provides services that are designed to offer protection for disabled adults and elders who are being financially abused or neglected, or at imminent risk of being so. This session will explore CARE's interventions and best practices in these situations.

Mollie Golden
J.D., Legal Director, Center for At-Risk Elders
Tylyn Johnson
Center for At-Risk-Elders

Medicaid Unwinding & Legislative Updates
Room 121

This session will focus on the unwinding of Medicaid post-Covid and the expansion of certain Medicaid benefits in recent legislation.

Adam Mueller
J.D., Executive Director, Indiana Justice Project

Bankruptcy Law Basics for Professionals Serving Low-Income Clients
Room 109(1)

Learn about the basics of bankruptcy law, including the effects and considerations surrounding bankruptcy proceedings. Discuss how best to issue-spot as you are assisting low-income clients with food, shelter, family, safety, and consumer law issues.

Mark Zuckerberg
J.D., Law Office of Mark S. Zuckerberg

Micro-Resilience (Ethics credit)
Room 109(2)

This session will focus on the small decisions and actions that we can take throughout the day as professionals and attorneys to increase the effectiveness of our decision-making, provide better client service, avoid ethical pitfalls, and support our physical and mental health.

Jocelyn Alday
J.D., Staff Attorney, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Daniel Rey-Silva
J.D., Defur Voran LLP
Alexander Limontes
J.D., Hurst Limontes LLC
Karla Lopez-Owens
J.D., Director of Community Outreach, Marion County Prosecutor's Office
Tabitha Villarrubia
J.D., Villarrubia & Rosenberger, P.C.

BREAKOUT SESSION 4

2:45PM - 3:45PM

SESSION TITLE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

SESSION PRESENTERS

Guardianship, Third Party
Custody, and De Facto
Custodians: What's the
Proper Place and
Standard?
Room 118

This session will examine case law and statutes that are relevant to understanding the proper place and standard for Guardianship, Third Party Custody, and De Facto Custodians.

Katherine Meger-Kelsey
J.D., Chief Legal Counsel,
Director of the Children's Law Center,
Kids' Voice of Indiana

Worker's Rights 101
Room 119

This session will focus on workplace and employment legal issues, including the Family and Medical Leave Act and the new Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Jennifer Terry
J.D., Indiana Legal Services

Networking Space
Room 120

Use this room to meet and talk with colleagues.

Screening for Public
Benefits Eligibility
Room 121

This session is geared towards attorneys and non-attorney advocates to help better understand what programs are available for low-income clients, and how to ask the right questions of clients to see if they may be eligible to access benefits that can lead to more stable income and housing.

Kay Pechin
J.D., Staff Attorney,
Indiana Legal Services

Defending Debt Collection
and Attacking Faulty
Judgments
Room 109(1)

Learn about effective defenses and counterclaims in debt collection lawsuits; which cases to take; and litigation strategies. For post-judgment cases, this session will provide guidance on setting aside faulty judgments; challenging abusive practices; and helping clients with arrest warrants for failure to appear.

John Brengle
J.D., Staff Attorney,
Indiana Legal Services

Intention and Impact in
Communications for
Public Interest
Practitioners
(Ethics credit)
Room 109(2)

This session will bring awareness to the ways that our intentions may not align with the impact that we are having on others. We will discuss how bias, exclusive language, and microaggressions can show up even when our intention is to be helpful.

Princess Darnell
M.A., Deputy Director,
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Indiana
Supreme Court

BREAKOUT SESSION 5

4:00PM - 5:00PM

SESSION TITLE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

SESSION PRESENTERS

Family Law Statutory &
Case Law
Round Up
Room 118

Come hear updates on current and proposed legislation and case law that affects family law practitioners.

Kate Bacon

J.D., Kids' Voice of Indiana

Stephanie Sluss

J.D., Kids Voice of Indiana

The Road to Driving
Privileges: Perspectives
of the Prosecutor's Office
and Second Chance
Partners
Room 119

Take a ride with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office staff and Second Chance partners as they discuss the winding road to become a valid driver in Indiana. This session will cover the nuts and bolts of suspensions, driving privileges, and the barriers to driver's license reinstatement. It will also provide practical solutions to assist your clients in getting back on the road with a valid license.

Lucas Niekamp

J.D.,

Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives,
Marion County Prosecutor's Office

Emily Shrock

J.D., Chief of Staff,

Marion County Prosecutor's Office

Lahny Silva

J.D., Professor of Law,

Indiana University

Robert H. McKinney School of Law

Alexis Sizemore

J.D., Major Felony Attorney,

Marion County

Public Defender Agency

Defeating Evictions in
Land Contract Cases
Room 120

Learn about how best to defeating evictions in land contract cases, including case law developments which may also cover mobile home sales.

John Brengle

J.D., Staff Attorney,

Indiana Legal Services

Miller and Other
Medicaid Trusts
Room 121

This session reviews how and when Miller Trusts are used to obtain and maintain Medicaid eligibility for nursing home residents and recipients of Medicaid waiver services. It will also review Medicaid's treatments of other trusts and discuss how trusts can be used to protect funds for disabled persons.

Dennis Frick

J.D., Senior Law Project Director, Indiana
Legal Services

Ask a Consumer Lawyer
Room 109(1)

Come learn about hot topics in consumer law. Bring your questions about credit reporting, debt collection, repossessions, home improvement fraud, the lemon law, auto fraud and other consumer topics.

Robert Duff

J.D., Indiana Consumer Law Group,

The Law Office of Robert Duff

Compassionate Candor:
Practicing
Communication that is
Both Clear and Kind
(Ethics credit)
Room 109(2)

Clear communication, setting and maintaining boundaries, and navigating difficult conversations are skills attorneys must employ every day, yet they are often labeled as "soft skills" and neglected in traditional legal education. Failing to build proficiency in these areas impacts attorneys, clients, and the entire justice system, resulting in repetition of difficult situations or issues, resentment, anger, and burnout. This session will set forth a framework for communicating in a way that is clear, kind, specific, and sincere. Participants will leave this session with a clearer understanding of how to communicate and actively manage boundaries, as well as how clear communication supports behavior that is consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Jill Carnell

J.D., M.A., Chief Contemplative Officer,
Thought Kitchen

Loretta Oleksy

J.D., L.S.W., Mindful Life and

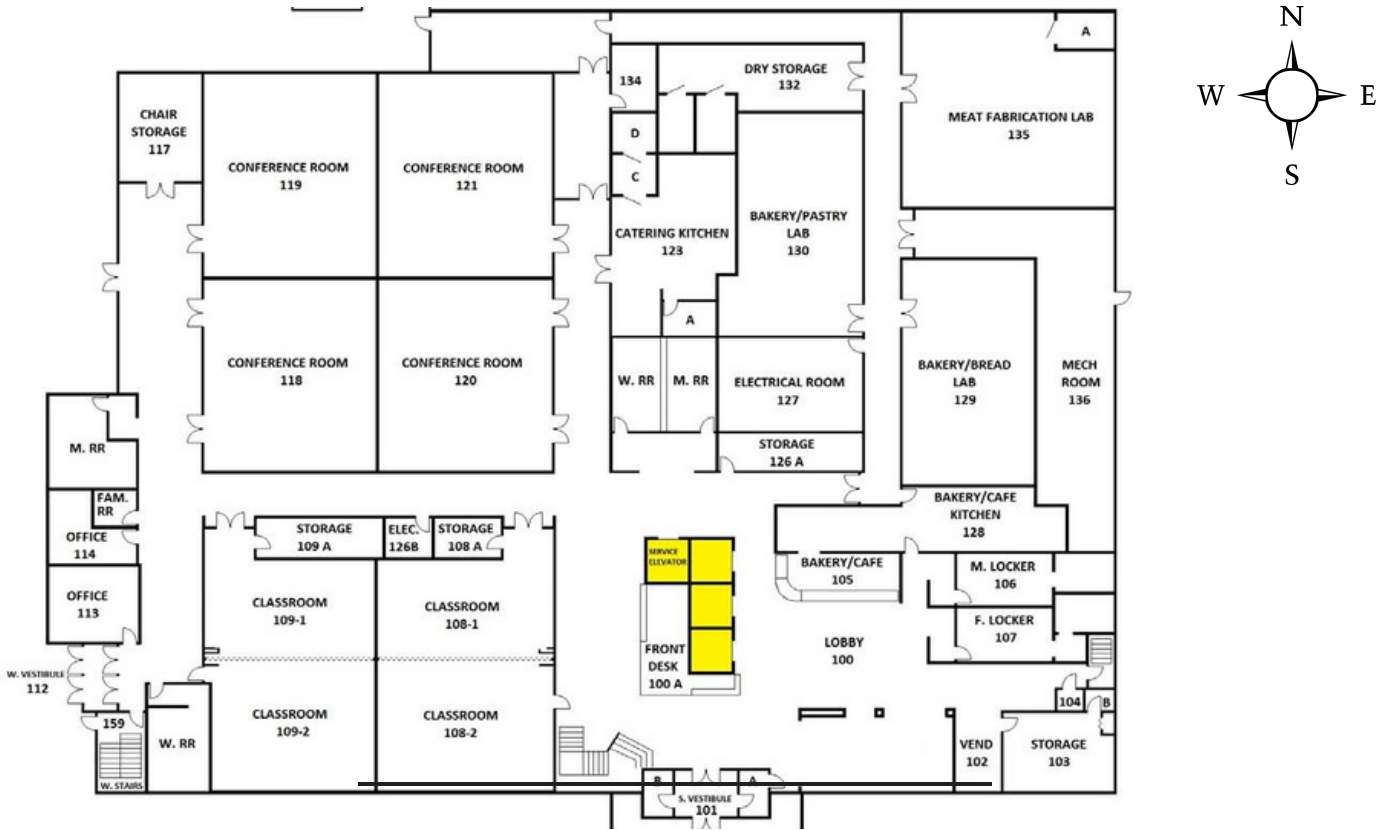
Work Coach, Thought Kitchen

RECEPTION

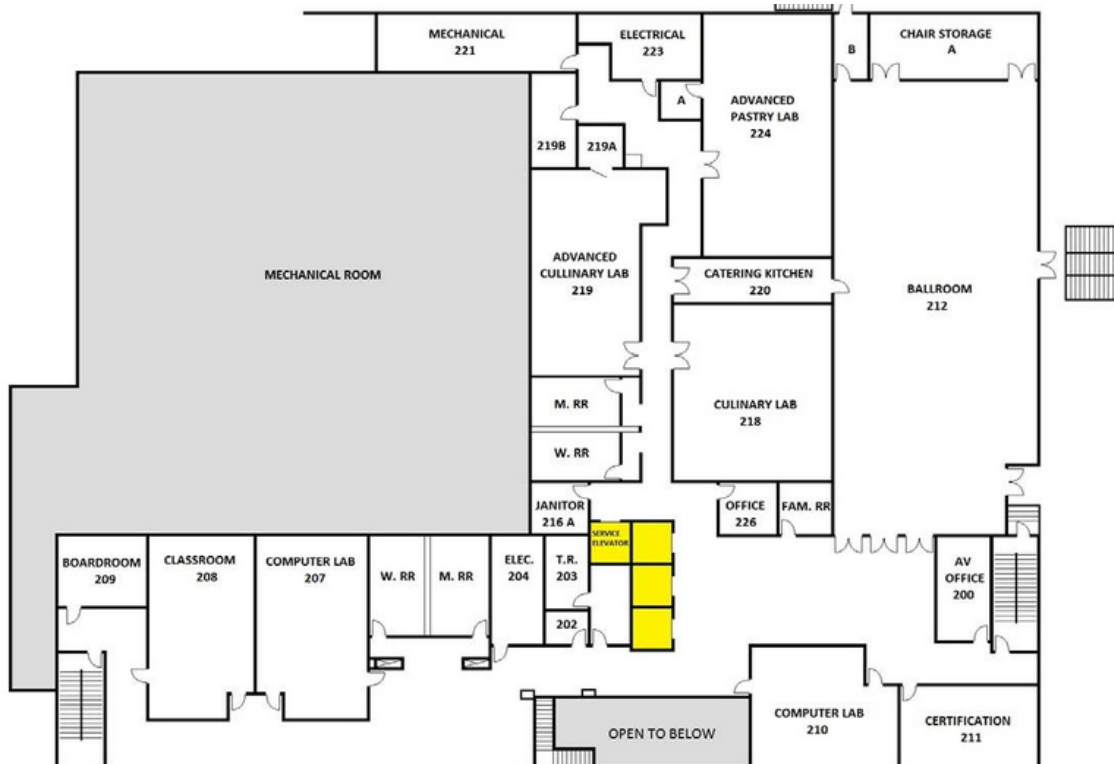
2ND FLOOR BALLROOM

5:00PM - 6:00PM

IVY TECH CONFERENCE CENTER- FIRST FLOOR



IVY TECH CONFERENCE CENTER- SECOND FLOOR



About the Coalition for Court Access

The Coalition for Court Access was created in 2016 by the Indiana Supreme Court to improve the availability and quality of civil legal services for people of limited means in Indiana. The Coalition for Court Access currently has six work groups:

Data Collection; Pro Bono; Resource Development; Rural Legal Services; and Self-Help & Court Access

For more information on the Coalition for Court Access, see <https://www.in.gov/courts/admin/diversity/court-access/>

About the Indiana Bar Foundation

The mission of the Indiana Bar Foundation is to inspire and lead change to improve civic education and legal assistance for all Hoosiers. The Foundation provides funding for civil legal assistance, staffs the Coalition for Court Access, and manages the Indiana Legal Help program. IndianaLegalHelp.org is a hub for self-help court forms and resources and connects Hoosiers to free and low-cost legal aid providers in their area. The website has resources to help with civil (non-criminal) issues including family and safety, housing, consumer, driving, expungement, and other civil matters.

For more information about the Indiana Bar Foundation, see <https://www.inbarfoundation.org>.

For more information about Indiana Legal Help, see <https://indianalegalhelp.org>

Ivy Tech Conference Center Wi-Fi Network



WiFi Network: IvyGuest

Accept terms & conditions/No password

Conference Webpage



Scan the QR code to access the Conference materials. The CLE Certificate will open after the conference has concluded. The deadline for submission to the Foundation is November 14, 2023.

Thank you to the Conference Program Committee



Kerry Hyatt Bennett - Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Kara Clements - Center for Victim and Human Rights

Phyllisia Gant - Indiana Supreme Court

Jeff Heck - Indiana Legal Services

Jewel Patterson - Indiana Bar Foundation

Marilyn Smith - Indiana Bar Foundation

Jennifer Terry - Indiana Legal Services



Follow and Like the Indiana Legal Help Facebook page!