



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**

HEALTH AND LEGAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

# **DOING BETTER**

INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO  
HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

**OCTOBER 3-4**

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 - AGENDA

8:00 - 9:00am

**Registration**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

**Breakfast**

*Perrin Family Lobby*

9:00 - 9:20am

**Welcome Remarks:**

**Dean William C. Hubbard**, School of Law

**Dr. Carolyn Harmon**, College of Nursing

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

9:20 - 10:00am

**Session 1 - Keynote Address: James J. Sandman**

**President Emeritus**, Legal Services Corporation

**Professor, Penn Carey School of Law**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

10:00 - 10:15am

**Break**

10:15 - 11:30am

**Session 2 - Healthcare Legislative Update**

**Jacqueline R. Fox, JD** Professor of Law,

Joseph F. Rice School of Law

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

11:30 - 12:45pm

**Working Lunch**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

**Racial Discrepancies in Emergency Room Care**

**in Alabama:** Three Case Studies

**François M. Blaudeau**, MD, JD -

Founder and Senior Trial Counsel

Southern Med Law

**Rural Health on Life Support:**

**The Growing Crisis in Access to Care**

**Robert Harrison**, JD, LLM, DBE, FACHE, FAALM

Adjunct Associate Professor

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 - AGENDA

12:45 - 2:15pm

## Session 3 - Breakout Groups

### 1) Ethical Obligations of Lawyers When Facing Challenges Presented by Generative AI

*Room 301*

**David Sella-Villa** JD,

Assistant Professor of Law  
Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Or

### 2) From Code to Care: Exploring the Intersection of AI and Healthcare Access

*Room 389*

Moderator: **Carolyn S. Harmon**, PhD, DNP, RN, NI-BC, CSSGB,  
Past President - American Nursing Informatics Association  
Director, Healthcare Leadership & Nursing  
Informatics Programs and Professor  
USC College of Nursing

Panelist: **Katherine Taylor Pearson**, DNP, RN, NI-BC, CLSSBB,  
CPHIMS, CPBI, CKM,  
Incoming President - American Nursing Informatics Association  
Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University

Panelist: **Rebecca Freeman**, PhD, RN, FAAN,  
Vice President of Health Informatics  
University of Vermont Health Network

Panelist: **Jamie Wolf**, MSHI, BSN, RN, NI-BC,  
Sr. Clinical Informatics Specialist  
Universal Health Services, Kansas City Missouri

2:15 - 2:30pm

**Break**

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 - AGENDA

2:30 - 4:00pm

## Session 4 - Breakout Groups

### 1) Reproductive Rights Update Panel

*Room 301*

Moderator: **Laura Lane-Steele**, JD,  
Assistant Professor of Law,  
Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Panelist: **Marcia A. Zug**, JD,  
Miles and Ann Loadholt Professor of Family Law  
Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Panelist: **Vicki Ringer**, Director of Public Affairs,  
Planned Parenthood South Atlantic,  
Columbia, South Carolina

Panelist: **Shanna M. Combs**, MD, FACOG,  
Cook Children's Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology,  
Ft. Worth, Texas

Panelist: **Allison M. Whelan**, JD, M.A. Bioethics,  
Assistant Professor of Law,  
Georgia State University College of Law, Health & Society

4:00pm

## Daily Announcements and Adjourn

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 - AGENDA

2:30 - 4:00pm

## Session 4 - Breakout Groups

### 2) Legislative and Policy Update: How Recent Changes Impact Veterans' Care

*Room 389*

Moderator: **Meghan Brooks**, JD,  
Assistant Professor of Law and Veterans Legal Clinic  
Director at the Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Panelist: **Kenneth H. Dojaquez**,  
Shareholder and Director of Litigation at  
Carpenter Chartered

Panelist: **Eleanor Morales**, JD,  
Assistant Clinical Professor of Law,  
Director of Veterans Legal Clinic, Wake Forest Law  
(Via Zoom)

Panelist: **Jackson Slappy**, MD, MSC, FACS,  
Chief of Staff, VA Charleston Healthcare

4:00pm

## Daily Announcements and Adjourn

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 - AGENDA

8:00 - 9:00am

**Breakfast**

*Perrin Family Lobby*

9:00 - 10:00am

## **Session 1 - Fraud Schemes Healthcare Providers and Lawyers Should Look For**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

**Michael Anderson**, JD,  
Smith Anderson  
Raleigh, North Carolina

10:00 - 10:15am

**Break**

10:15 - 11:30am

## **Session 2 - Telehealth's Impact on Access to Healthcare: The Benefits and Risks**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

Moderator: **Heather Miller**, JD,  
Assistant VP and Senior Corporate Counsel,  
MultiCare Health System,  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Panelist: **Christopher W. Goodman**, MD,  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Panelist: **Yaa-Serwa Williams**, MSL, LICSW,  
Veterans' Suicide Prevention Counselor  
Columbia VA Healthcare System

10:00 - 10:15am

**Break**

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 - AGENDA

10:15 - 11:30am

### **Session 3 - Practical Methods for Legal and Medical Providers to Work Together**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

Moderator: **Macaulay Morrison**, JD,  
Assistat Director, Carolina Health Advocacy  
Medicolegal Partnership (CHAMPS Clinic)

Panelist: **Davida Finger**, JD,  
Clinical Professor and Law Clinic Director,  
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

Panelist: **Renee Danser**, JD,  
Associate Director & Strategic Partnerships,  
Access to Justice Lab, Harvard Law School

11:30am - 12:30pm

### **Refreshments**

**AI in the Family** *A film by* **Laura P. Valtorta**

12:30 - 2:30pm

### **Labor Unions and Collective Bargaining to Preserve the Professional Judgement of Physicians**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

Moderator: **Thomas Bojko**, MD, MS, JD, FCLM, FAALM

Panelist: **Robert Bitonete**, MD

**And**

### **Opioid Prescribing Disparities: Rural, Urban, and Income-Level Perspectives – Medical, Legal and Policy Implications Comparing South Carolina with the United States**

*Karen J. Williams Courtroom*

Moderator: **Thomas Bojko**, MD, MS, JD, FCLM, FAALM

Panelist: **Rick Chavez**, MD

2:30 - 3:00pm

### **Closing Remarks and Conference Takeaways**

**James J. Sandman**

3:00pm

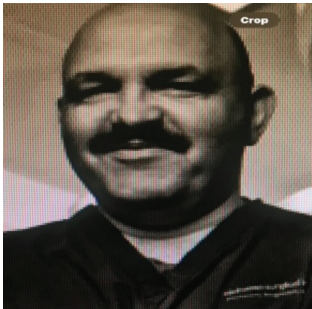
**Adjourn**

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Robert Bitonte** is a Southern California-based physician and attorney. He is board certified in both Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Legal Medicine. He provides services to the government as well as the private sector. His interests are brain injury medicine and human damages assessment, and physician representation. Dr. Bitonte earned his bachelor's degree at the Ohio State University and master's degree from the University of Southern California, Medical degree from the University of Miami (Fla), Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern

University, and a Master's of Law degree from the University of San Diego. He has practiced in South-Central Los Angeles for over 2 decades and was on faculty at the University of California (Irvine) for 37 years. Dr. Bitonte has served as president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, president of the California Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, president of the City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability and president of the American Academy of Legal Medicine. He also serves as a Vice President of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists and serves on the Los Angeles County Bar Association Healthcare Law executive committee.



**François M. Blaudeau** is the Founder and Senior Trial Counsel at Southern Med Law in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Blaudeau is both a practicing minimally invasive gynecological surgeon and a practicing plaintiff trial lawyer focusing on medical device, medical negligence, and pharma cases. Dr. Blaudeau has also been very involved in civil rights litigation. He has been a pioneer in making the operating room a safer place for patients and has been involved in numerous mass torts national litigations involving health related issues affecting women. Dr. Blaudeau has tried cases to jury verdicts in twelve states and has a national litigation

practice. He has served in numerous leadership positions in organizations at the intersection of law and medicine. He attended Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama Medical School at Birmingham (UAB) and completed his residency training in OBGYN at Tulane University at Charity Hospital New Orleans. Dr. Blaudeau attended the Birmingham School of Law while practicing as an OBGYN and has been practicing law continuously since 1998.



# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Thomas Bojko** is President and Managing Partner of Aviva Healthcare Solutions (AHCS) and Founding Partner of Thomas & Krail, LLC. AHCS is a consulting firm assisting healthcare organizations, entrepreneurs, attorneys and medical groups. AHCS provides a variety of consulting services for the US and global healthcare market, including: litigation support, assisting foreign healthcare companies to access the US market, accreditation guidance and fostering international facility cooperation. Hospital Experts – a business unit of AHCS, is the leading authority on hospital corporate negligence. Thomas & Krail, LLC is a law firm focusing on

general practice in Freehold, NJ. Dr. Bojko has spent over two decades in healthcare where he has held both clinical and executive leadership positions in hospital and medical administration. Most recently, he was the Executive Director of Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood, NJ. Prior to that, he was the Director of Medical Services and Clinical Operations at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital / Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, as well as an Associate Professor and Senior Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, Department of Pediatrics, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He gained national prominence serving as a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Critical Care Executive Committee and as a member of the NACHRI (National Association of Children's Hospitals) Board of Trustees. Dr. Bojko is currently a Clinical Associate Professor at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In addition, he has authored numerous articles, policy statements and editorials in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Bojko has held statewide offices in New Jersey as the chair of the State AGMEC (Advisory Graduate Medical Education Council), and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Medical Society of New Jersey.



**Meghan E. Brooks** is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina School of Law, and the Director of the Veterans Legal Clinic. Professor Brooks teaches Administrative Law and public benefits, and her work focuses on veterans' law and agency adjudication more generally. Professor Brooks was the Robert M. Cover Fellow in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School. Prior to that, she was a Justice Catalyst Fellow in the Veterans Benefits and Special Litigation Units at New York Legal Assistance Group, where she represented veterans and their families in benefits appeals. Professor Brooks holds an A.B. magna cum laude with highest honors in the Comparative Study of Religion from Harvard College, and a J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was an Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism and was awarded the Charles G. Albom Prize for Appellate Advocacy.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Dr. Rick Chavez** is Medical Director of Family and Adult Medicine at Prime Wellness Community Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Los Angeles. He also consults for the DEA, U.S. Department of Justice, the Medical Board of California, and the legal community.

Dr. Chavez is recognized for his expertise in chronic pain and addiction medicine, particularly in the safe prescribing and monitoring of controlled substances. Since 2007, he has provided expert reports and testimony in state and federal courts and advised agencies including the FBI, Los Angeles District Attorney, and multiple state medical boards nationwide.



**Shanna M. Combs, MD, FACOG**, received her undergraduate degree in ballet from Texas Christian University (TCU). Dr. Combs received her medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She then returned to Fort Worth, Texas, where she completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at John Peter Smith Hospital. She has continued her practice in Fort Worth as an Obstetrician and Gynecologist since 2012. In 2021, Dr. Combs transitioned her practice to Cook Children's focusing primarily on Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. In this role, Dr.

Combs provides contraception counseling, LGBTQ+ healthcare, initial reproductive health guidance, minimally invasive surgeries and fertility preservation, and STD testing and treatment. Dr. Combs also works as an OB hospitalist, taking care of pregnant patients in the hospital setting. She enjoys teaching and has worked in medical education since completing her residency. She works as a preceptor and research mentor to medical students and residents and is an Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology for the Burnett School of Medicine at TCU.



**Kenneth H. Dojaquez**, Shareholder and Director of Litigation Kenneth H. Dojaquez is dedicated to representing service members and veterans. A retired U.S. Army Major, Kenny led soldiers around the world, including during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. Using these experiences, he approaches his practice as a team endeavor, coordinating with veterans and their families to achieve their goals. Kenny practices at all levels of agency and court proceedings.

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**Rebecca Freeman** is a second-career nurse with a focus on healthcare informatics, specializing in the implementation of enterprise electronic health records. Her first career was in the field of Information Technology; she specialized in networking and device management, analytics, and large-scale IT project management. Rebecca approaches EHR/HIT with a unique understanding of the key non-technical variables (i.e., training, culture, organizational excellence) that can derail the best-laid technical plans, especially regarding data acquisition and secondary use. Rebecca is currently the Chief Nursing Information

Officer for the University of Vermont Health Network. She has previously served as the Chief Nursing Officer for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and as an executive nurse informaticist in a variety of practice settings. She facilitates change, enhances practice, and integrates interdisciplinary practice and research in the medical record. She also advocates for the optimal use of computer systems to feed a learning health network, which can only happen when end users come on board with their practice.



**Davida Finger**, Clinic Professor and Law Clinic Director, has taught the Community Justice section of the Law Clinic, Externship course, and the Law & Poverty course. Her scholarship interests include poverty law, clinical education, community lawyering, access to justice, delivery of legal services, housing, and post-disaster government accountability. She and her clinic students represent on cases such as landlord-tenant, post-disaster housing, housing discrimination, and on other civil rights matters. In addition to litigating cases, Professor Finger strives to provide support and collaboration on community advocacy for anti-

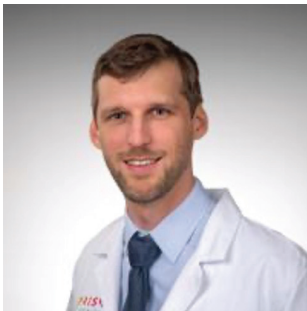
poverty and justice initiatives. Professor Finger serves as the Rene August and Mary Jane Pastorek Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law. She also serves as Director of the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center. The U.S. State Department has named Professor Finger a Fulbright Specialist, an honor that will allow her to continue to teach at the College of Law while being available as a specialist to Fulbright institutions through 2026. Professor Finger's empirical research on housing justice presented the first comprehensive look at the eviction crisis in New Orleans. In 2020, the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) named Professor Finger co-editor of the Best Practices blog, which grew out of CLEA's best practices committee and serves as an information hub on current reforms in legal education. While in law school, Professor Finger was the founding Editor in Chief of the Seattle Journal for Social Justice and an Associate Editor on the Seattle University Law Review. At graduation, she received the Faculty Scholar Award for excellence in high academic achievement and substantial service to the law school community. In 2007, Seattle University Law School named her an inspiring alum.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Jacqueline Fox** is a professor of law at the Joseph F. Rice School of Law at the University of South Carolina. She received her JD and LL.M. from Georgetown University, was a postdoctoral Greenwall Fellow at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities, and a Donaghue Visiting Scholar in Research Ethics at Yale University. She recently completed a Fulbright Global Scholar fellowship at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at Oxford University and Melbourne Law School. Her research interests focus on the intersection of the law and policy of healthcare financing mechanisms and bioethics. Her current project is a comparative

study of methods used to calculate the amount of money spent on healthcare and how these methods can do harm and good.



**Dr. Chris Goodman** practices and attends in both the inpatient and outpatient settings at Prisma Health, the clinical affiliate of the University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine. He earned his medical degree at USC and completed his residency training at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Goodman is an academic generalist, teaching residents and students in a variety of educational settings with a focus on social medicine, interprofessional care, and quality improvement training. His professional interests include health equity and addiction medicine.



**Dr. Carolyn S. Harmon** is a Professor and Director of Healthcare Leadership and Nursing Informatics at USC College of Nursing. She also serves as an ACORN Center Nurse Scientist, Propel AI Scholar, and Provost's AI Teaching Fellow at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Harmon received her Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina and DNP from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is an ANCC Board Certified Informatics Nurse, Certified Six Sigma Green Belt, and an Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellow. She currently serves as a Past President of the American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA) and chairs the AI Subgroup

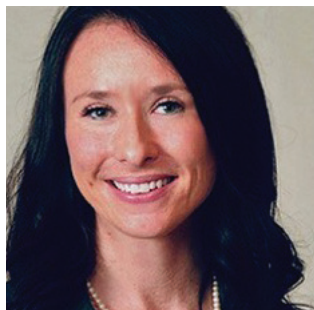
for the Nursing Knowledge Big Data Science (NKBDS) Initiative's Learning Collaborative for Digital Health Workgroup. She has been selected for induction as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing for October 2025.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Robert R. Harrison** is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. He teaches courses in health care law and policy, health care regulation, regulatory law, and professional ethics; directs the Colloquium in Law and Biomedical Sciences; and serves on the University Institutional Review Board. Professor Harrison is a graduate of the University of Richmond, the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Saint Louis University School of Law. He was a Fellow at the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy at Loyola University Chicago, earning a Master of Laws

in Health Law with a concentration in regulatory compliance, and holds a doctorate in Bioethics from the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. His academic interests focus on issues at the intersection of regulatory law and ethics in human subjects research, health policy and medical professionalism. Recent selected works are published in *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, *Ethics and Human Research*, the *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics*, and the *Journal of Health Care Compliance*. He is currently researching a book about unconsented experiments conducted by the United States Public Health Service in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948. Professor Harrison served for seven years on the faculty of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, was Senior Counsel at the Johns Hopkins Health System, and taught bioethics at the University of Texas Rio Grande School of Medicine, where he held an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. He is a past Chair of the Health Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a Fellow and President-Elect of the American Academy of Legal Medicine.



**Heather W. Miller** is an accomplished health lawyer with over a decade of experience as in-house counsel for hospitals and health systems. She currently serves as AVP, Senior Corporate Counsel for MultiCare Health System and is based out of Raleigh, NC. As a trusted in-house partner, Heather has counseled corporate clients on a wide range of legal matters impacting health systems, including complex transactions, corporate governance, fraud and abuse, privacy and data use, pharmacy compliance, 340B, HIPAA, patient matters, and clinical research. Heather has a particular interest in health care operations and technology, the intersection

of transactional and regulatory matters, and privacy and security.



# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Eleanor Morales** is responsible for directing the Veterans Legal Clinic. Professor Morales joined the Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps in 2010, upon graduation from Wake Forest School of Law. During her time on active duty, she served as a legal assistance attorney, criminal prosecutor, and administrative law attorney. Professor Morales also deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, where she served as an operational law attorney in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. forces. In 2015, Professor Morales transitioned to the Army Reserves where she currently serves as an Army judge advocate in the

rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 2018, Professor Morales was awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award, an honor that is presented to fewer than 30 Army junior officers each year. She has most recently worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice (DOJ) for five years. In that role, she was awarded the Department of Justice Director's Award for Superior Performance as a criminal Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) in 2019. Under Professor Morales' guidance and supervision, the Wake Law Veterans Legal Clinic received the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Award for Excellence In a Public Interest Case or Project in 2024. The CLEA Award recognizes clinical work that effectively calls attention to and significantly redresses a high-priority need of underserved or low-income residents or communities and makes a notable contribution to the advancement of civil rights, civil liberties, human rights or legal services for the underrepresented. The award was given in honor of the work the Veterans Legal Clinic did to secure a Purple Heart, an Honorable discharge, comprehensive VA healthcare, and tax-free VA disability compensation for Private James Brown, a veteran who was unjustly denied these benefits for over 70 years. Morales' scholarship analyzes the intersection of military justice and veterans disability law. Her work has been published in the Duke Law Journal, the Connecticut Law Review and the Army Lawyer. She is also a fellow with the National Institute of Military Justice.



**Macaulay Morrison** is the Assistant Director for the Carolina Health Advocacy Medicolegal Partnership (CHAMPS) Clinic. Macaulay represents low-income children and their families in civil matters that address the social determinants of health and collaborates with partners at Prisma Health. Prior to joining the CHAMPS Clinic, Macaulay was the Legislative Resource Attorney for the Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children. In this role she worked with policymakers, service providers and stakeholders to identify the most pressing needs of children in the state and to make policy and legislative recommendations

to improve the lives of South Carolina's youngest citizens. Macaulay has a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law and a B.S. from Clemson University. While in law school, Macaulay earned her Children's Law Concentration Certificate and worked with the South Carolina Department of Education and in the South Carolina Attorney General's Sexually Violent Predator Division and was a student attorney in the Education Rights Clinic. Upon graduation from law school Macaulay was the Child Law Fellow at the Children's Law Center.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Katherine Taylor Pearson** is a distinguished nursing informaticist, educator, and retired U.S. Army Colonel with over three decades of service in federal healthcare leadership. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, where she leads graduate-level coursework in project management, public health informatics, and cybersecurity. Her passion lies in advancing the nursing profession through innovation, mentorship, and the integration of technology into clinical practice and education. Dr. Pearson earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership from the

University of Alabama at Birmingham and an MSN in Nursing Informatics from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She is ANCC board-certified in nursing informatics and holds multiple additional certifications including Certified Professional in Health Information Management Systems (CPHIMS), Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, and Certified Knowledge Manager. During her military career, Dr. Pearson served in key leadership roles including as a Flight Nurse, Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Medical Informatics Officer, and regional Chief Information Officer. She is a proud Member of the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit, which recognizes exceptional contributions to the U.S. Army Medical Department. Her military decorations and civilian honors reflect a lifelong commitment to excellence, mentorship, and service. Dr. Pearson currently serves as the President-Elect of the American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA), where she leads national initiatives focused on AI literacy, workforce development, and academic-practice partnerships. She is also an advocate for using AI and data science to address health disparities and strengthen patient-centered care.



**David Sella-Villa** is an Assistant Professor at the Joseph F. Rice School of Law at the University of South Carolina. His primary research and teaching interests focus on law and technology, privacy, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. He brings extensive practical experience to his academic role. He served as South Carolina's Chief Privacy Officer, leading the Enterprise Privacy Office and educating state agencies on privacy best practices. Before that, he was Assistant General Counsel for the South Carolina Department of Administration, where he advised the state's IT division. He has also maintained a solo law practice

focused on serving pro bono clients. Professor Sella-Villa's scholarship appears in *University of Richmond Law Review*, *University of Missouri Kansas City Law Review*, the *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, and *The Business Lawyer*. He is an active member of the Sedona Conference Working Group on Data Security and Privacy Liability. His work has also been selected for discussion at the Privacy Law Scholars Conference. He holds a J.D. from William & Mary Law School. He also earned an M.Sc. in European Political Economy from the London School of Economics and dual bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University. Professor Sella-Villa holds the highest designation from the International Association of Privacy Professionals – Fellow of Information Privacy (FIP). He is admitted to practice law in South Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Jim Sandman** is President Emeritus of the Legal Services Corporation, the largest funder of civil legal aid in the United States. Jim was President of LSC from 2011 to 2020. He practiced law for 30 years at the Washington-based law firm of Arnold & Porter and served as the firm's Managing Partner for a decade. He is a past President of the 110,000-member District of Columbia Bar. Jim is Chair of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Advisors of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Vice Chair of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence, and Vice Chair of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the American Law Institute, and serves on the boards of Albany Law School, the Pro Bono Institute, and the International Senior Lawyers Project. Jim previously served as chair of the American Bar Association's Task Force on Legal Needs Arising Out of the Covid-19 Pandemic, chair of the District of Columbia Circuit Judicial Conference Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, chair of the boards of the Meyer Foundation and Whitman-Walker Health, and as a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, the ABA's Commission on the Future of Legal Services, and the boards of the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, the Neighborhood Legal Services Program of the District of Columbia, the NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education, and Wilkes University. Jim is a recipient of American Lawyer's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was named one of the "90 Greatest Washington Lawyers of the Last 30 Years" by Legal Times. The University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School has honored him with its Alumni Award of Merit and its Howard Lesnick Pro Bono Award. He has also received the District of Columbia Bar's highest honor, the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Award, as well as the Wiley A. Branton Award from the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Legal Rights and Urban Affairs, the Washington Council of Lawyers' Presidents' Award, and the American Bar Association's Presidential Citation. Jim is a summa cum laude graduate of Boston College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a cum laude graduate of Penn Carey Law, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as Executive Editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Max Rosenn of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit



# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Dr. Jackson Slappy** graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1988 with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering followed by a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1990. He received his Doctor of Medicine from the Emory University School of Medicine in 2000. While in medical school he was accepted into the Health Professions Scholarship Program with the US Navy. After completing his residency in General Surgery at the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville in 2005, he was placed on active duty and assigned to the Naval Hospital Charleston, SC. While there, Dr. Slappy was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

as Officer in Charge of a Shipboard Surgical Team and served on board the USS Momsen and USNS Stockham with Marine and Navy special forces. After separating in 2008 he was in private practice in Atlanta, GA. He subsequently joined the surgery faculty at the Emory University School of Medicine in Acute and Critical Care Surgery in 2011 where he was the Medical Director for Acute and Critical Care Surgery as well as Care Coordination for Surgery. He started his VA career at the Atlanta VA Healthcare System in 2013 and held the positions of Chief of General Surgery, Acting Chief of Surgery, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, and Acting Chief of Staff. Dr. Slappy became the Chief of Staff at the Columbia VA Healthcare System in February of 2022 and joined the faculty at The University of South Carolina School of Medicine. He continues to be clinically active in minimally invasive robotic foregut, hernia, and endocrine surgery. In January of this year, he became the Chief of Staff at the Charleston VA Healthcare System.



**Laura Lane-Steele** joined the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2022. Her research focuses on questions of sex discrimination across different areas of law, including constitutional law, anti-discrimination law, and family law. Prior to joining South Carolina Law, Lane-Steele was a Forrester Fellow at Tulane Law School. She also clerked for the Honorable Jane R. Roth of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and practiced law at Steptoe & Johnson LLP. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 2016 and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 2010. Prior

to law school, she taught middle and high school math and science in Washington, D.C.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Allison M. Whelan**, assistant professor of law, joined Georgia State University College of Law in fall 2022. Her research and teaching encompass a broad set of medical, science, and social policy issues at the intersection of administrative law, health and FDA law, reproductive justice, constitutional law, and bioethics. Through her work, she aims to identify the public, private, and ethical factors that converge and influence the topics she writes about. In an era of political polarization and distrust, Professor Whelan probes whether ethical norms and expectations related to public and individual health are best policed and enforced at the public or private level. Prior to joining Georgia State Law, Professor Whelan was a Sharswood Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and an Associate Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. She was also an associate at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington D.C. in the firm's Food, Drug, and Device Practice Group. Professor Whelan clerked for the Honorable Guido Calabresi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Honorable William J. Kayatta, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She also served as the inaugural senior fellow for the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy at the University of California, Irvine School of Law. Professor Whelan is the author of numerous law review articles. Her work is published or forthcoming with the Vanderbilt Law Review, Minnesota Law Review, Cornell Law Review Online, Iowa Law Review, Harvard Journal of Law and Gender, Washington & Lee Law Review, Fordham Law Review, Illinois Law Review, Oklahoma Law Review, UC Irvine Law Review, and the Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, among others. She is the co-author and co-editor of numerous book chapters and books, and she has published op-eds and commentary, including for the Harvard Bill of Health, Harvard Social Impact Review, Philadelphia Inquirer, and Ms. Magazine. Professor Whelan graduated first in her class, summa cum laude and Order of the Coif, from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2014, where she served as Lead Note and Comment Editor for the Minnesota Law Review. She also holds a Master of Arts in Bioethics from the University of Minnesota.



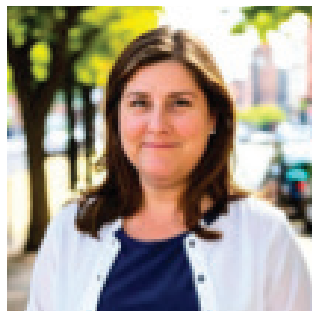
**Laura Puccia Valtorta** has been an attorney in private practice in Columbia since 1993. She wrote the manual, Social Security Disability Practice, published by Knowles Publishing for ten years. Since 2011 she has also been a filmmaker. Her films, such as Bermuda, "Disability," and the Disease Detective Looks at Aphasia, are available on Amazon, Tubi, Fawesome, and other streaming channels. She directed a series of seven documentaries about drinking water problems in the rural South for SERCAP (Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project), a non-profit that works with the USDA. See her website at [www.gattafilms.com](http://www.gattafilms.com).

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**Ms. Yaa-Serwa Williams** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker that serves as a Suicide Prevention Clinical Telehealth Therapist for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In this capacity, she conducts risk assessments, facilitates referrals for life-saving interventions and support, and develops mental health treatment plans for at-risk veterans. She is certified in Evidence-based Psychotherapies to include Advanced Safety Planning Intervention, Problem Solving Therapy- Suicide Prevention, and Cognitive Behavior Therapy-Suicide Prevention. Ms. Williams holds multiple degrees from the University of South Carolina including a Master of Social

Work, a Master's in Studies in Law in Health Systems Law, and a Graduate Certificate in Drug and Addiction Studies.



**Ms. Jamie Wolf** specializes in Behavioral Health EHR implementations across the United States. She brings extensive experience from her previous role as a Lead Clinical Consultant at Cerner, later Oracle, where she provided strategic guidance to multi-facility organizations. Her work included establishing governance structures, driving staff adoption, and supporting clients in their transition to cloud-based platforms. She has successfully led projects across numerous states and in Canada. In addition to her informatics leadership, Jamie maintains her clinical practice at The University of Kansas Health System on

the Neuroscience Step-Down Unit. She holds a Master of Science in Health Informatics from the University of Illinois Chicago and has been board certified in Nursing Informatics by the ANCC for over a decade. Passionate about healthcare innovation, Jamie's current interests focus on the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare—its potential benefits as well as its risks.

# DOING BETTER: INNOVATION IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL JUSTICE



**Professor Marcia Zug** is the Miles and Ann Loadholt Professor of Family Law at the Joseph F. Rice School of Law. She teaches classes on Family Law, Reproductive Rights, Immigration Law, and Federal Indian Law. She has written numerous articles on these topics that have appeared in publications including The Yale Law Journal, The UC Davis Law Review, The BYU Law Review, The American Indian Law Review, and The Virginia Law and Policy Review. Professor Zug's family law scholarship focuses on marriage law and policy. Her first book, *Buying a Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Matches*, was published in 2016

and reviewed in The New Yorker, The Atlantic and The Times Literary Supplement. Her second book, *You'll Do: A History of Marrying for Reasons Other Than Love*, will be published in January 2024. Professor Zug has also written for publications such as The New Republic Magazine, Slate Magazine, The New York Times and The Atlantic. She has been quoted in media outlets such as The Associated Press, CNN.com, The Guardian, NPR and BBC Radio and advised national organizations such as The Women's Refugee Commission, The National Indian Child Welfare Association and The Southern Poverty Law Center. In addition, she has been an invited speaker at numerous universities and institutions including Duke Law School, Yale Law School, Dartmouth College, The British Library, The University of Sydney, Queen's University, Wharton Business School, American University, and Washington University, St. Louis.



**Michael Anderson** is a member of Smith Anderson's Business Litigation group with extensive experience in complex civil litigation and government enforcement. A longtime Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of North Carolina, he served as Chief of the Civil Division, overseeing matters ranging from False Claims Act and Controlled Substances Act enforcement to civil rights, tort, and government contracting disputes. His work spanned healthcare, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, financial services, cybersecurity, and other regulated industries. During his tenure, Michael tried eight federal cases and argued four federal appeals. He previously practiced in Washington, D.C., handling complex litigation, before returning to North Carolina. His years leading federal civil enforcement and his trial and appellate background make him a trusted advocate in government investigations and high-stakes litigation.

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**Vicki Ringer** is the Director of Public Affairs and chief lobbyist for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic. She is responsible for public policy and legislative affairs, working to preserve reproductive health rights in South Carolina. She oversees the SC electoral work on behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes South Atlantic. She is committed to protecting reproductive choices for her children and grandchildren – and yours. Previously she served as press secretary for the South Carolina Department of Revenue, Deputy Director of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and Director of Public Relations for Conway Hospital

and the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. She owned her own public relations firm, New Media Concepts, prior to joining Planned Parenthood. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in journalism. vPlanned Parenthood South Atlantic is the regional affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, providing healthcare in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Planned Parenthood has served patients in South Carolina for more than 60 years. They provide care each year to about 14,000 unique patients from all 46 counties and numerous other states at their health centers in Columbia and Charleston.



**Renee L. Danser** is Associate Director of Research and Strategic Partnerships at the Access to Justice Lab. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (B.A., J.D.) and the Institute for Court Management Fellows Program, she has served as Court Administrator for the 43rd Judicial District of Pennsylvania and Deputy Director of the Self-Represented Litigation Network. She has held leadership roles with the National Association for Court Management, the Monroe County Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and

before the U.S. Supreme Court.

## NOTES

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## NOTES

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