**Presenter Biographies**

**Alexis Smith** is currently the Executive Director of New Haven Legal Assistance Association (LAA). Alexis served as LAA’s Deputy Director from 2012-2017 and prior to joining LAA she was a staff attorney at Greater Hartford Legal Aid, where she practiced in the education and employment units. Alexis obtained her B.A. from Duke University and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Alexis is admitted to practice in Connecticut, the District of Connecticut and the U.S. Supreme Court. She has served as president of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association and Secretary of the Connecticut Bar Association. She currently serves on the Statewide Grievance Committee and the Board of Directors for Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology (CONNCAT), Leadership Education Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) New Alliance Foundation, Discovering Amistad, Highville Charter School, The YMCA, and Elm City Internationals. In her spare time, Alexis enjoys running, traveling, and refereeing youth soccer and basketball. She and her husband, Ken, live in Hamden with their three children Carlton, Deborah, and Kayden. Alexis Smith may be reached at

asmith@nhlegal.org.

**Yvonne Mariajimenez** is a Los Angeles native, born and raised in East Los Angeles. She holds a B.S. from USC in Business Administration and a J.D. from Loyola Law School. She has dedicated her entire professional career as a lawyer to advocating with and on behalf of the poor. Her work is very personal to her having been born into and raised in poverty. Yvonne is the Deputy Director for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA), a private, nonprofit law firm funded to provide free legal services and advocacy to poor and low income families and individuals residing in Los Angeles County. She helps to oversee a budget of $13 million, a staff of 100, including 40 lawyers. In 2013, NLSLA served over 80,000 individuals. Yvonne works closely with immigrant communities and addresses issues that most often impact these families. She began her legal services career in 1978 at San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services where she specialized in federal subsidized housing and equity fraud cases. She currently focuses on policy advocacy projects related to housing/foreclosures, health care, domestic violence, workforce development and immigration. For several years, Yvonne has lead a team of lawyers and worked with One L.A. member institutions comprised of faith based organizations and non-profits in pursuing principal reduction foreclosure prevention strategies. Yvonne presented such a plan to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan and the U.S. Treasury which vetted and supported it. A pilot project has been funded with $10 million in TARP funds to implement the strategy in the hardest hit communities of the City of Los Angeles. Yvonne was a nominee for Woman of the Year by the Mexican American Bar Association. Yvonne is a former member of the Advisory Council of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, an advisory group to former President Vicente Fox, Republic of Mexico. She is past Vice-President for the Los Angeles County Commission for Women and member of Comision Femenil, Yvonne was named Loyola Law School Public Interest Attorney of the Year, honored as a Pioneer Woman of the Year by the Los Angeles City Council and a recipient of the 2013 Opening Doors to Justice Award in recognition for her work on behalf of Californians in need. Yvonne may be reached at ymariajimenez@nls-la.org.

**Jon Laramore** has been executive director of Indiana Legal Services, an LSC-funded program, since March 2015. He began his career as a legal services lawyer, followed by work in state government and private practice, where he concentrated on appellate matters. He also is a member of Indiana’s access to justice commission. Jon may be reached at jon.laramore@ilsi.net.

**César Torres** is the Executive Director of the Northwest Justice Project, a statewide, publicly funded legal aid program serving low-income communities throughout Washington State since 2006.   Previously, he served as Deputy Director of Essex Newark Legal Services, Newark, NJ (1998–2006) and was the Managing Attorney for that program’s Housing & Income Maintenance Unit (1989 – 2006). Beginning in 2003, he litigated and supervised a Predatory Lending Practices Project. He began his legal services career immediately after law school as a staff attorney at Hudson County Legal Services. During law school, he clerked for the Legal Aid Society (civil) in New York and completed an externship at the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington D.C.  César’s advocacy efforts in Essex County, New Jersey combined litigation with community struggles to limit the loss of federally assisted and affordable private housing, address the Hope VI and Mark-to-Market housing programs, and include significant state appellate advocacy experience. César earned his J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law and his B.A. from Yale University. He is currently Chair of the MIE Board of Directors. César may be reached at

cesart@nwjustice.org**.

Emily Hickman, MSW**, is the Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Project Manager at Indiana Legal Services. Graduated with a Bachelor’s in Social Work from IUPUI in 2010 and a Master’s in Social Work from IUPUI in 2013. Emily has over ten years of experience working with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Indianapolis community and surrounding area. Emily has been a certified yoga instructor since 2016 teaching locally.

**Aimee Patras, MSW**, (she/her) is the Eviction Avoidance Project Administrator at Indiana Legal Services. As part of the housing team at ILS, Aimee assists clients with non-legal barriers impacting their legal outcomes. This includes applying for rental assistance, looking for new housing, and connecting to other community resources. In addition to this, Aimee also collaborates with other ILS social workers on trainings and resource development, and she is an active participant of the organization's Wellness Committee.

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**Lisa McLaren** is the Statewide Advocate for the Legal Assistance for Victimized Adults (LAVA) Project out of the South Bend regional office of Indiana Legal Services. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, 2015; and a Master of Social Work degree and a Specialist in Aging Certificate from the University of Michigan, 2016. She has worked in Michigan at an Area Agency on Aging as a Social Work Supports Coordinator for the MI Choice Waiver Program and as Social Worker at a PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) center. Lisa may be reached at lisa.mclaren@ilsi.net.

**Mary Asbury** is the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati . Her responsibilities include developing and implementing the plan and strategies for resource development, and active personal engagement in fundraising activities. Mary is a member of the MIE Board and Training Committee. She has participated in many MIE conferences and training events , including the Fundraising Conference, Managers Conference, Supervising Legal Work, and Financial Essentials. She is also Executive Vice President of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation, and in that capacity works with the Foundation Board to encourage private bar support for pro bono legal services. Mary may be reached at masbury@lascinti.org.

**Jacquelynne J. Bowman** is the Executive Director at Greater Boston Legal Services in Boston, MA. She previously served GBLS as Deputy Director, where she oversaw management staff, including substantive unit managers and human resources. She was also responsible for overseeing the program’s advocate evaluation system and professional development initiatives. Jacqui has practiced Family and Juvenile Law for over twenty years including serving as the Manager of GBLS’ Family Law Unit and as staff at Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, responsible for state support in Family and Juvenile Law. She serves on numerous committees and commissions including the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts’ Access to Justice Commission where she is co-chair of the Social Services Subcommittee and a member of the Commission’s Committee on Planning. Jacqui has been involved in managing and supervising staff for more than twenty-five years. She has been engaged in developing training, delivering training and learning about training particularly around the topics of management and supervision for more than twenty years. Jacqui may be reached at jbowman@gbls.org.