

7TH ANNUAL SIM CONFERENCE



Veterans and the Criminal Justice System: Intercept & Disparities
February 26, 2021



David Galloway

David Galloway served in the United States Marine Corps from 2003 - 2007 as an Infantry Machine Gun Squad Leader. During his enlistment he was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom two times. After leaving the Corps David enrolled at the University of Maryland College Park, where he attained his Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice. David now serves as the Education and Outreach lead and the Western Maryland Regional Resource Coordinator for Maryland's Commitment to Veterans. Drawing on his experience working with veterans and personal experience to educate the community and veterans on Veterans behavioral health. His duties include connecting fellow Veterans, family members, and community providers to appropriate resources both inside the federal VA system and in the community.



Lisa Coles, LCSW-C

Lisa Coles is the Supervisory Social Worker for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. Mrs. Coles began her tenure at the VA in 2006 as an Outreach Worker, advocating for street homeless Veterans and connecting them to VA healthcare. Currently, she serves as the subject matter expert in homeless services and resources for the VAMHCS and supervises all homeless programming to include the Veterans Justice Programs.

Mrs. Coles began her civilian federal service working with active-duty military at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as a psychiatric social worker in 2004. She has since dedicated her professional career to serving the most vulnerable Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration. Mrs. Coles is passionate about identifying and dismantling barriers to Veterans achieving stable, permanent housing and access to care for issues contributing to their homelessness. Mrs. Coles has recently been recognized for assisting with getting Veterans in VA shelters vaccinated for COVID19 and volunteering to assist with COVID vaccination initiatives of elderly and immunocompromised Veterans during the CDC second phase of the vaccination rollout.

Mrs. Coles is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Social Work and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). She enjoys watching romantic comedies and running 5k's with her husband Eric. Pre-pandemic, Mrs. Coles was an avid contributor and participant in Habitat for Humanity builds in South and Central America and the Caribbean. Fun fact: she has 15 Veteran family members including both of her parents as well as her brother.



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Honorable Melvin Jews

The Honorable Melvin Jews was born and raised in Cambridge, Md. His parents are Melvin L. Jews (deceased) and Mrs. Audrey George; He has six siblings. Judge Jews is married to Mrs. Jodi Cavanaugh Jews, Esquire. They have four wonderful children: Melvin, Evan, Malcolm and Adam.

Presently serving as the Judge for the District Court of Maryland for Dorchester County, Judge Jews is the first African American Judge appointed to the bench in Dorchester County and the second African American Judge appointed on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Prior to his appointment to the bench by Governor Martin O'Malley, he practiced law with his wife. Judge Jews is a sought after, dynamic speaker, known throughout the MidAtlantic region.

Judge Jews graduated from the following schools: Cambridge-South Dorchester High School, Cambridge, MD; University of Maryland, College Park; and University of Maryland School of Law.

In addition to the above, Judge Jews is licensed to practice law before all Maryland courts; the United States District Court for Maryland; the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; and the United States Supreme Court. He previously worked as an attorney for the following organizations: Legal Aid; Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office; Baltimore City Law Department; and as a private attorney.

Judge Jews is a member of the Equal Justice Committee, the Legislative Committee, and ADR Committee. He created the first Regional Veterans Treatment Court in the state of Maryland and serves on the board for Mid Shore Community Mediation, Inc.



Latasha Nichols, MPA, ICM Fellow

Latasha Nichols is the Problem-Solving Court Coordinator for the District Court of Maryland for Dorchester County Adult Drug Court and the Regional Veterans Treatment Court Programs. She previously held positions with the District Court for Prince George's County, Maryland as the Adult Drug Court Program Coordinator as well as the Mental Health Court Coordinator, and the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland as the Juvenile Drug Court Program Coordinator. She has served as a Director of a Partial Hospital Program of a private outpatient mental health clinic. She has served as a counselor and a crisis intervention specialist which provided training, counseling and support for crisis prevention, identification, and intervention to law enforcement, correction facilities and community settings.

Ms. Nichols' work includes the research, design, and implementation of the very first Regional Veterans Treatment Court in the State of Maryland. Additionally, Ms. Nichols helped to develop and teaches the Maryland Problem-Solving Courts Case Management Curriculum. She has experience in program development, grant writing, developing and managing budgets, grants, financial reports and data collection for program evaluation and management reports. She currently is a member of the Maryland Judiciary Office of Problem-Solving Courts Training Workgroup and the Office of Problem-Solving Courts Performance Measures Workgroup. Ms. Nichols is a graduate of the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management: Certified Court Manager, Certified Court Executive, and Certified Fellows Programs. Also, Ms. Nichols is a certified instructor through the National Center for State Courts. Additionally, Ms. Nichols serves as faculty for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

Ms. Nichols has earned numerous certificates and awards including the Justice For Vets: Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative Certification, Maryland Mid-Shore Behavioral Health: Achieving Excellence Caliber Award, State of Maryland Governor's Citation, Maryland General Assembly/Maryland State Senate Citation, and the Maryland General Assembly/Maryland House of Delegates Citation. Ms. Nichols holds a Master of Science degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.



Joseph Allegretti

Joseph Allegretti graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland with a degree in engineering. After graduation, Mr. Allegretti served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer including combat tours. After separating from the Marine Corps, Mr. Allegretti had a career in business and received another degree in counseling, including substance abuse counseling. Mr. Allegretti has held several positions counseling people with substance use disorders



Sharon T. Egerson

Sharon Egerson, is the third child of seven to the late George and Ruby Woolford of Cambridge Maryland, the wife of John Egerson and the mother of Rebekka Logan-Drayton. She has four degrees: an associates degree in career-Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology and a bachelor's degree in Business Management/Human Resource Development, both earned while in the military. After retiring she obtained a bachelor's degree in Psychology/Christian Counseling and a master's in Pastoral Counseling: Life Coaching.

Mrs. Egerson enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in June 1975 but entered on Dec 9, 1975 due to a back injury. She retired in October 2002 for more 26 years of service and obtained the rank of Chief Master Sergeant or E-9, which is the highest enlisted grade you can obtain, representing only one percent of all enlisted members. More than 12 years of her career was spent in Germany and the rest in the middle states of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Her final assignment was at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton Virginia, the Air Combat Command Headquarters. She was assigned to manage personal, equipment, training, and deployment of troops in my career field at 41 stateside Air Force Bases along with Southeast Asia and Pacific Air Command bases.

Upon her retirement in 2002 she did two things, first took care of her mother who was very ill, and second started a business refurbishing aerospace ground support equipment that she worked on throughout her career. In 2005 she obtained a partner and moved the company from Maryland to Georgia where it is still in operation. After more than 14 years of managing the company from Maryland, she stepped aside completely in 2016 to focus on her employment with the State of Maryland as a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP). In 2017 she was promoted to a DVOP/Local Veteran Employment Representative Veteran (LVER). This new position allows her to continue to work with veterans with significant barriers to employment and business owners and hiring managers. She takes great pride in what she does to help veterans, their family members, and caregivers to get the help they need.



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Lore' L. Chambers, PhD

With over 30 years of professional development and training, Dr. Chambers has provided training and assistance in grant writing, program development, strategic planning, financial management, program review, performance management, community and economic development, and emergency preparedness.

She has worked with non-profit organizations, city and state and federal government, the banking industry and faith-based organizations. She is the owner of Chambers Business Service, a consulting company created in 1995.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore with a doctorate in organizational leadership in May 2012, Dr. Chambers also holds a master's in Business Administration and a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and Communications.





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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!