



APPA AWARDS

President's Award

Monica Miles-Steffens

Director of Court Services-Juvenile Services Division
Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation
Lincoln, NE



Monica Miles-Steffens is currently the Director of Court Services in the Juvenile Division for the Nebraska Administrative Office of Courts and Probation. In this position she is responsible for the implementation of a continuum of evidence-based programs and services aimed at rehabilitation and restorative justice. Her career also includes direct care work in juvenile detention; overseeing state and federal grant funding for youth and victim services; grant writing, management, and training; community and strategic planning; facilitating state level juvenile justice coalitions; and implementation of evidence-based initiatives such as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Monica has worked diligently in Nebraska and nationally with stakeholders to enhance and expand community-based programs and services, implementing new policies, procedures and legislation to improve Nebraska's juvenile justice system. Monica currently serves on the Access to Justice Minority Justice Committee, and Crime Commission Diversion and Community Planning Committees. She has served as adjunct faculty at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She is a former executive director and board member of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Board.

“Reach Out Program”

Maricopa County Adult Probation Department
Phoenix, AZ

The purpose of the Reach Out Program is to properly address and treat substance use disorders and criminogenic factors in order to achieve prosocial change while reducing recidivism. Reach Out staff conducts clinical assessments, and for those assessed as needing residential care, staff facilitate placement and a smooth transition to community-based treatment. Historically, there have been significant barriers to probationers' placement in residential SUD treatment, with a major factor being lack of healthcare coverage. Over the

past three years, the strong collaboration among criminal justice and healthcare partners increased the number of probationers placed through Reach Out by an astounding 769%. In fiscal year 2015, the program placed 107 probationers in residential treatment; placements increased to 154 in FY2016, 622 in FY2017, and 930 in FY2018.

In addition to significantly increasing treatment capacity, the Reach Out partners successfully implemented multiple process improvements, which include the following enhancements and modifications. Agreements were reached regarding clinical assessment and the determination of medical necessity for residential treatment. Peer support specialists, employed by the providers, now transport participants from the jail directly to the treatment program, which has proven to be a very effective means of engagement.

Joe Kegans Award for Victim Services in Probation and Parole

Shalandra Robertson

Victim Services Director
Georgia Office of Victim Services
Atlanta, GA



A former parole officer, Shalandra has served as the Director of the Georgia Office of Victim Services since its creation in 2005. Shalandra and her staff are responsible for providing post-sentencing support and information to crime victims, their families, and members of the community. In this role, Shalandra has proven to be an empathetic advocate for victims with each of our agencies. Her experience as a parole officer has enabled her to help victims better navigate the intricacies of incarceration, the parole process, and community-based supervision. In her time as Director, Shalandra has emphasized improved communication between her office, our agencies and victims. Largely due to her efforts to increase awareness, Georgia has gone from 10,000 to over 35,000 registered victims.

An unfortunate reality is that many victims often feel neglected in a process that is increasingly focused on providing opportunities for offenders. This is why it is important that we never forget that victims, by the actions of others and not by their own choice, are part of the criminal justice system. The simple truth is that having a dedicated and vocal advocate in Shalandra has done more for victims in the state of Georgia than anyone could possibly imagine. The progress made under Shalandra's leadership is remarkable and a source of great pride for each of our agencies.

**ALL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE PLENARY SESSION ON
MONDAY, MARCH 11 AT 8:00 AM.**



APPALAWARDS

SCOTIA KNOUFF LINE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Ron Cunningham

Probation Officer

Hennepin County Community Corrections
and Rehabilitation



Ron Cunningham is an outstanding probation officer with the Hennepin County Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Department in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ron is well-respected for his dedication to, insight on, and care for each of his probationers. He is a probation officer without equal. Ron's caseload consists solely of the top chronic offenders within the City of Minneapolis who are on probation for misdemeanor and/or gross misdemeanor crimes.

Ron was involved with the program called The Downtown 100. This program was developed to reduce crime, while addressing the underlying needs of the offenders to achieve longer term improvements. The program was first developed with the idea that by arresting and putting individuals in jail, they would eventually tire of the process and either stop or take their activity out of the area. Ron brought his kindness and developed relationships with his chronic offenders and turned the program into a success. He has proven to be one of the most integral parts of The Downtown 100, and the program is successful because he stepped up.

Because of his compassion, empathy, and dedication, he is a constant source of positivity for probationers, co-workers and community partners. He is an incredible assistant to the Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation, as well as the entire Hennepin County Criminal Justice System. He represents the very best of what a probation officer can do to improve the lives of his probationers – reducing recidivism and making the community stronger and safer.

**SCOTIA KNOUFF LINE OFFICER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NOMINEES!**

Teddy Archuletta

12th Judicial Distric – Probation
Alamosa, CO

Tracey Felker

Division of Parole Supervision
Scotsbluff, NE

Olga Lattarulo

Massachusetts Probation Service
Chelsea, MA

Lindsay Long

Miami County Probation Department
Peru, IN

Melissa Moore

Georgia Department of Community Supervision
Jasper, GA

Jon Newman

Yavapai County Adult Probation
Prescott, AZ

Christiane Williams

Mississippi Department of Corrections
Jackson, MS



MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

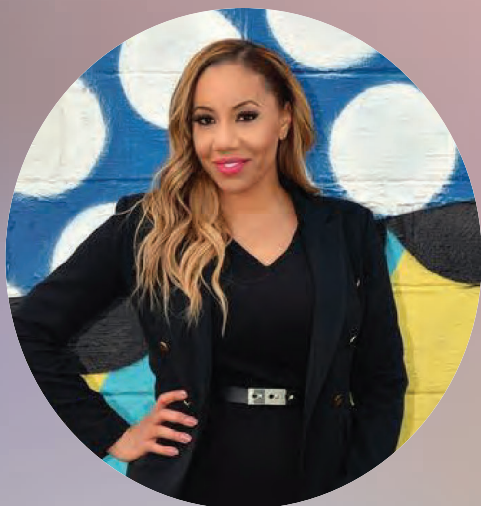
Alisha James

CEO of James Group Consulting and Former Assistant Commissioner, Community Supervision, Tennessee Department of Corrections

Alisha Shoates James committed herself to a career in the criminal justice system – recognizing her passion for justice, public service, and integrity in delivery of services in the community. She has served as a police officer, a federal probation officer, and state probation administrator.

As a member of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), she personifies the characteristics identified as representative of this award. She is a dedicated member and an innovative industry leader whose vision and leadership style bridges the cross-section of generations in today's workforce to create a unified team. Her experience and exposure to diverse populations through her domestic and international presentations and seminars on topics related to criminal justice reform, probation and parole, community relations and leadership distinguish her as a leader who is committed to addressing today's challenges in the probation and parole community.

Alisha joined APPA as an agency member in 2014. After attending her first APPA conference, she quickly became an active individual contributor – conducting workshops and attending committee meetings. In 2017, she was elected as a regional representative. She epitomizes a Board member and understands the value of offering resources to advance APPA's mission. During the 2018-2019 period she recruited countless members, worked to secure a new corporate member, participated on the Board Governance Work Group to help consider ideas to restructure the Board, conducted workshops in both training institutes. During the training institute she will facilitate an officer safety panel discussion and fashion show (highlight importance of weapons training, appropriate attire, and well-functioning equipment).



WALTER DUNBAR MEMORIAL AWARD

Mack Jenkins

Chief Probation Officer (Ret.)
San Diego County Probation

For nearly 40 years, Mack Jenkins has demonstrated his dedication and commitment to the field of criminal justice at both the local and national levels. He began his career in probation in Orange County, California in 1977 as a Deputy Probation Counselor. He worked there for 30 years. While there, he helped design the jurisdiction's first drug court and subsequently helped develop additional drug, DUI, and mental health courts. Beginning in 2007 until his retirement in 2016, he served as Chief Probation Officer for San Diego County, where, among other workgroups, he chaired the San Diego County Community Corrections Partnership and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

Mack has also made significant contributions to the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) where he has been a member since 2005. He served on the board of directors and its executive committee. From July 2013 to July 2015, he served as vice president of the Board of Directors. Most recently, he facilitated the workgroup tasked with redesigning APPA's Leadership Institute, a program for emerging leaders.

Mack is a nationally recognized expert in the implementation of evidence-based practices in community corrections. His commitment to continuous improvement in the field is particularly evidenced in his involvement with the National Institute of Corrections, training other probation professionals and executives, and through his recent appointment to the Probation Reform and Implementation Team (PRIT) established as part of an ongoing effort to reform the Los Angeles County Probation Department.



**ALL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE PLENARY SESSION
ON MONDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 8:00 AM.**