Criminal Justice/Legal Studies Speed Mentor Bios
October 30, 2014
6-8pm Wisconsin Union South – Varsity Hall

Lori Baker (Senior U.S. Probation Officer, wiwp.uscourts.gov) has a B.A. degree in sociology and a M.A. degree in criminal justice from Washington State University. Lori has approximately 24 years of experience working in the juvenile and adult justice systems. She began her career as a counselor and supervisor at a group home for juveniles. Her experience also includes working in the probation and parole fields at both the county and state level in Washington, as well as serving on various statewide committees regarding juvenile justice. Lori has been employed with the U.S. Probation Office for over 13 years. She is the Sentencing Guideline Specialist, serves on national committees, mentors new officers and oversees the internship program.

Lindsey Beischel (Dane County Department of Human Services, Ongoing Child Protective Services Social Worker) has a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Winona State University and a certificate from the National Child Protection Training Center in Winona, MN. She also has a Masters Degree from UW-Madison in Social Work/Child Welfare. She was a IV-E student in graduate school and interned at LaCrosse County Human Services and Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center. Lindsey started her career in Milwaukee at Children’s Service Society as a foster placement specialist and currently works in Ongoing Child Protective Services in Dane County. She has been at Dane County for 5 years. In her current position, she works with families to remedy conditions in their home which led to the children being unsafe. Lindsey attends court regularly and updates the Judge on case progress, as well as writes court orders and proposals for children's placements and permanency. She also works with inter-disciplinary teams in the community to get families the help they need. Lindsey worked previously as a group home counselor and a crisis advocate at a domestic violence shelter. She has worked with orphans in different areas of Ukraine as well as in Haiti after the earthquake.

Sherri Charleston (Director of Center for Pre-Law Advising) earned her B.A. from Columbia University (2001), a Ph.D. in United States History in 2009 (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor), followed by her J.D. from UW Law in 2012. She has worked with undergraduate students for more than 10 years as a graduate student, law student, lecturer, and now as the Director of the Center for Pre-Law Advising. While in Law School, Sherri was the President of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender, and Society, and participated in Mock Trial (BLSA). She also served as a student attorney for the Wisconsin Innocence Project and held legal internships/externships in the WI Department of Justice, WI Supreme Court (Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson), and WI State Senate (St. Sen. Lena Taylor). Following graduation, Sherri accepted a position in the Elections Division of the WI Government Accountability Board, the state’s non-partisan agency responsible for overseeing WI elections. There she advised the members of the G.A.B. (a board of former Judges) on policy related to the certification and approval of contracts with voting equipment vendors operating within the state.

Amy Collins (Associate Attorney at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, www.staffordlaw.com) is a 2012 graduate of UW Law School. She is a second year associate at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP specializing in family law, estate planning and LGBT legal issues. She is also on the board of the Legal Association for Women and volunteers pro bono services for the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service.

Hayley Collins (Deputy, Dane County Sheriff’s Office) grew up in Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University in May of 2008 with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and an additional major in Criminal Justice. Shortly after graduating college, in May of 2008, Hayley joined the Dane County Sheriff’s Office as a Deputy Sheriff. She is currently part of the Security Services Division of the Sheriff’s Office. From January of 2012 until mid-October 2014, Hayley was the agency’s full-time recruiter. In her recruiter position, she was tasked with recruiting quality candidates for careers within the Sheriff’s Office as well as coordinating the internship program, mentor program and numerous other duties. Hayley is a Boat Patrol Deputy in the summer months and in November of 2014, she will be assigned to Task Force. In her Task Force position, she will be assigned to many areas of the agency, including patrol and jail.

Taya Dolsen (Detective with City of Madison Police Department) has a bachelor’s degree from Ball State University in Criminal Justice and Criminology and Master’s degree in Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I’ve been with Madison Police for nearly 12 years where I’ve worked in patrol, the criminal intelligence section and as a
detective. I've investigated all types of crimes as a detective including sensitive crimes against adults and children, property crimes, financial crimes and person's crimes (homicide, robbery, etc).

**Michael Eckhardt** (City of Madison Police Department Officer) graduated from UW-Madison in 2005 with a B.S. in Psychology and the Criminal Justice Certificate. After graduating, he was hired by the UW-Madison Police Department. During his time at UWPD, Michael was a Police Training Officer, a member of the Dignitary Protection Unit, a member of the bike unit and a member of the PERU team (a protest unit). After working 6 years on 2nd shift patrol, he took a position within the department as a Community Officer for University Apartments. While working as a Community Officer, he spent much of his time focusing on child and family safety, such as becoming a NHTSA child safety seat technician. In 2014, he took a new career path when he accepted a job with the City of Madison Police Department. He is currently training as a new officer with the department and is looking forward to returning to patrol.

**April Fox** (State of Wisconsin Public Defender Office Investigator) has a BS in Social Welfare from UW-Milwaukee, with a major in criminal justice. She has been working for the State Public Defender Offices in Wisconsin for 30 years in several positions, currently as a criminal defense investigator for the past 17 years. April is one of three investigators in the Madison office who take on cases ranging from traffic to homicide. She has had student interns in the past as well as students shadow her. April volunteers at Second Harvest once a week and organizes annual fundraising, in her office, for Second Harvest.

**Allison Gilmore** (UW-Madison School of Social Work - MSW Candidate 2015) graduated from UW-Madison in May 2013 with a B.A. in Legal Studies and Sociology, along with certificates in Criminal Justice and Gender & Women's Studies. She is pursuing a Masters of Social Work with an emphasis on Children, Youth, and Families. Allison is a member of the Title-IV Training Program, which provides funding and support for students committed to working in Public Child Welfare. She is currently interning at Jefferson County Human Services - Child Protective Services in the initial assessment unit.

**Ben Gonring** (Juvenile Unit of Madison Trial – Public Defender Office) graduated with high honors from the University of Notre Dame in May of 1993, earning a B.A. in Government. He received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, graduating with honors in December of 1995. Admitted to the Bar in January of 1996, he began working for the Office of the State Public Defender in June of the same year. Representing hundreds of children per year, he has worked in the juvenile unit of the Madison Trial office his entire career and is currently the head of that unit.

**Jason Gonzalez** (Gonzalez Law Office, LLC; Attorney and Counselor at Law; Owner)

**Mike Hall** (Director of Student Life, UW Law School, law.wisc.edu) has been on the University of Wisconsin Law School staff since 2004. Originally from Great Falls, Montana, he has a B.A. in Political Science from Montana State University, an M.A. in English from St. Cloud State University, and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. While in law school, Mike served as President of the Student Bar Association, and for two years he was co-producer of Stuart’s Law Revue, the law school’s comedy variety show. He also was the law school’s organizer for the Dean’s Cup, the annual month-long multi-event competition between the UW Law School and Medical School, whose proceeds all go to charitable causes.

**Ben Harvath** (Private Investigator, Diversified Investigations, llc. www.diinv.com) graduated from UW-Madison and majored in Legal Studies, Sociology, and obtained a certificate in Criminal Justice. Ben interned for Diversified in the summer of 2012 and also interned for the US Marshals Service in the spring of 2013. In May of 2013, Ben accepted a full-time role at Diversified. As a private investigator, Ben has investigated a wide variety of cases involving: violent crime, white collar crime, workplace violence, background investigations, along with serving court paperwork. Most of Diversified's clients consist of attorneys, non-profit organizations, insurance companies, businesses, municipalities, or anyone that could utilize the services they provide.

**Kiara Hibler** (Mitigation Specialist Assistant) returned to school to pursue a new career path after working with children in education for several years. She graduated from UW- Madison with a Legal Studies degree and a Criminal Justice certificate. Her summer internship with the Public Defender’s Office- Investigations was an especially positive and
rewarding experience, aiding her ability to be successful in her current job. Kiara is the assistant to Lisa Rickert, an independent Mitigation Specialist who works solely on capital (death penalty) cases. The case they are working on now is that of a man being held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

**Caitlin Holzem (Law School student)** is a second year at the University of Wisconsin Law School and attended UW-Madison for undergrad. Caitlin graduated in May 2013 with a degree in Political Science and East Asian Studies and went straight through to law school. During undergrad Caitlin interned at the Wisconsin State Capitol during her junior year with Rep. Richards from Milwaukee. While in law school Caitlin is a member of the Women’s Law Students Association and Phi Alpha Delta. Upon graduation Caitlin hopes to work in civil litigation.

**John Markson (Dane County Circuit Court Judge)** graduated from the UW Law School in 1978. He was law clerk to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice William Callow for a year, and then practiced as a trial lawyer in Madison for the next 28 years. He was appointed to the bench by Governor Jim Doyle in 2007. He has served as a Dane County Circuit Court judge since then. He has worked in both the criminal and civil rotations. He was the presiding judge in Dane County's drug court for four years and continues to serve in the OWI treatment court. He is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

**Chloe Moore (Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections; Probation and Parole Agent)** received a BS degree from UW-Madison in 2013, majoring in Neurobiology, Psychology, and receiving a certificate in Criminal Justice. Currently, she is employed as a Probation and Parole Agent in Beloit, WI. Prior to becoming an Agent, she completed an internship with the Department of Corrections through the Criminal Justice Certificate program. Through this internship, Chloe’s interest and passion for working with individuals in the criminal justice field became solidified. She currently is the Drug Court Liaison Agent for Rock County, and has a special interest in working with clients struggling with drug or alcohol addiction.

**Robert Nagel (Law Offices of Robert Nagel)** has over 25 years experience as an attorney, campaign consultant, and policy analyst. Among his many successes are owning and managing his own law firm, managing Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin’s first campaign for the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1992, suing environmental polluters, and raising two children. He has also worked for TechLaw, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Common Cause, and on the staff of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin. Robert earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is known for his ability to apply a broad base of experience to formulating effective results.

**Michael Nolan (U.S. Probation and Pre-Trial)** is a 2002 UW alumni who graduated with a double major Sociology and Behavior, Science and Law with a CJ certificate. He worked for Dane County Juvenile Court system while attending UW and interned with the U.S. Marshals Service through the certificate program. Michael worked for WI DOC as a probation and parole agent in Milwaukee for about two years after college. He then was hired by the City of Chicago as a police officer where he worked for five years while attending graduate school at DePaul University. He received his graduate degree in Sociology in 2008. As a USPO Michael attended the National Training Academy in Charleston, SC four separate times studying all facets of the job. He is the district safety officer instructing all facets related to officer protection and safety. He currently works as a supervision officer supervising both post conviction offenders and pretrial defendant and primarily supervises Rock County, Wisconsin. He regularly interacts with the U.S. Attorney's office, agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service, Federal Defender's Office, local law enforcement agencies and our community outreach partners.

**Erin Perkins (Milwaukee Health Department)** serves in the Health Department's Office of Violence Prevention as the Coordinator for the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. In this role, she oversees legislative advocacy, policy development, and community education in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault on behalf of the City of Milwaukee. She previously worked for Safe & Sound, a non-profit organization focused on reducing crime through law enforcement, neighborhood organizing and youth development. Erin has previous experience supervising male offenders in a residential AODA program and serving as the intake supervisor of a local homeless shelter. She earned her degree in Legal Studies and Sociology, in addition to a Criminal Justice certificate, from UW-Madison in December 2008.
Robert Piehl (Deputy Sheriff with Dane County Sheriff’s Office) graduated from UW-Madison in December of 2011 with a BS in both Legal Studies and Political Science and the Criminal Justice Certificate. In the summer/fall of 2011 he was an intern with the Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation (DOJ-DCI). Robert was assigned specifically to the Wisconsin Statewide Information Center (WSIC). In May of 2012, Robert joined the Dane County Sheriff’s Office as a Deputy Sheriff. He currently works in the Dane County Jail/Security Services Division of the Sheriff’s Office and is also a new Deputy mentor. Most recently Robert became a SWAT team member with the Sheriff’s Office Tactical Response Team (TRT) where he is assigned to the team as a sniper.

Officer Kristin Radtke (Officer with UW-Madison Police Department) graduated from UW-Madison in 2001 with a major in Behavioral Science and Law (now Legal Studies) and certificate in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation she was hired by UW-Madison Police Department and worked a few years on 3rd shift. For almost 11 years now she has been the Central Campus Community Officer. As a community officer she builds and improves relationships and partnerships with community members while reducing crime. In December 2012 Kristin received a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Platteville.

Valyncia Raphael (UW-Madison Division of Student Life Dean of Students Office, Title IX/Clery Act Investigations Intern) is a double Badger in that she attended UW-Madison for both her undergraduate and law degrees. For her undergraduate studies, she majored in Political Science and English and completed the Criminal Justice Certificate. In law school, she worked in the Frank J. Remington Center’s Family Law Project, and externed in the Civil Litigation Unit of the Wisconsin Dept. of Justice. Valyncia will become a triple Badger in May when finishes her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis within the UW-Madison School of Education. After graduation, she plans to practice higher education law.

Paige Resch (Law School Student) graduated from UW Madison in 2014 with a BA in Political Science and a certificate in Business. During undergrad, she was a rower and coxswain and held a legal internship at Oshkosh Corporation. Paige graduated from undergrad in three years and went straight to law school. She is currently a 1L at University of Wisconsin Law School.

Mark Silbernagel (Special Events Lieutenant for the University of Wisconsin Police) earned a BA in Criminal Justice from UW-Eau Claire. He began his career working at a juvenile treatment center in Eau Claire and later worked for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections as a Probation and Parole Agent in Milwaukee. He was hired at the UWPD as a police officer in 1999. He has held several positions and in addition to his current assignment as the special events lieutenant he also manages the police training officer program, the motorcycle unit, the UW Housing liaison program, the grenadier unit, and the honor guard unit. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He is a member of the Police Society of Problem Based Learning.

Rick Spoentgen (UW Madison police officer and 3rd year law student) graduated from UW-Madison in 2008 with a B.S. in Psychology and a certificate in Criminal Justice. He was hired by the UW-Madison Police Department in October 2008 as a security officer, promoting to police officer in February of 2010. Rick is a police training officer currently assigned to 2nd shift patrol, the motor unit, and is a liaison officer for the Chadbourne Residential College. He oversees the UWPD’s banned persons database and graffiti task force and is also currently enrolled as a part-time student at the UW Law School.

Martha Stacker (Department of Corrections, Corrections Program Supervisor - WCCS) Martha Stacker holds Bachelors of Sciences in both Criminal Justice and Social Work from UW-Milwaukee. Ms. Stacker has a Master’s Degree in Human Services from Springfield College and is currently a PhD Candidate in Human Services at Capella University in the School of Public Leadership with an emphasis on Community and Social Services. Ms. Stacker is employed within the DOC Wisconsin Correctional Center System (WCCS) and currently provides programming, education, social services, records and funding oversight for the 14 adult male correctional centers in the State of WI. She has also been employed by the DOC as an Institution Social Service Director at Oakhill Correctional Institution which supervised the Social Services and Records Departments. Ms. Stacker has also been employed with the State of WI as an Initial Assessment Service Manager that supervised first responder social workers with the Dept. of Children’s and Families and also an Institution Unit Supervisor in the Dept. of Human Services institution contracted with DOC working with inmates that have mental
illnesses and severe physical handicaps. Ms. Stacker has also held the position of Program Supervisor for an non-profit youth and family services that served at risk youth.

Jackie Tadych (District Attorney’s Office, Domestic Violence Unit) graduated from University of Wisconsin Madison with a BA in Social Work and obtained a certificate in Criminal Justice. After college she began her career at the Jefferson County Department of Human Services in the Child Sexual Assault treatment team for 5 years. For the past 23 years she has worked at the Dane County District Attorney’s Office as a Victim Witness Specialist. Her caseload has consisted of sensitive crimes, including homicides; opiate related offenders; general crimes and most recently juvenile offenders. She has facilitated survivor groups relating to sexual assault victims and parents of those who have overdosed as a result of opiate use. She is a former Board president of the Victim Witness Professional Board that represents all victim witness staff statewide. Her most recent project includes being a member of the workgroup to address the NO HIT ZONE project that currently exists in the courthouse.

Mitch Turner (Probation/Parole Agent, Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections) is currently an agent on POR (Point of Release), a high-risk unit supervising offenders who were just released from prison. He has a high concentration of mental health cases. For over 10 years, he supervised a mental health specialty caseload comprised of offenders found Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect and others on supervision with a Major Mental Illness. He has mentored 6 interns in the past 3 years who were working towards a Criminal Justice Certificate, including one who was recently hired as a Probation/Parole Agent with the Department. He has had many college students job shadow with him over the past several years. He is a Motivational Interviewing Ambassador to the Department. He is a member of Abuser Treatment & Monitoring Subcommittee of the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and created a domestic violence education program called Stay Focused on Healthy Relationships. He is currently doing an externship at Family Service in the Alternatives to Aggression program, facilitating domestic violence groups to a population of clients referred from Deferred Prosecution. He attends Dane County Forensic Interface where law enforcement, corrections, and jail officials, meet with Journey Mental Health – Emergency Services Unit and other service providers to discuss ongoing issues with the mentally ill in the criminal justice system. He received a B.A. with a major in Psychology and a M.S. in Counseling, both from UW-Madison. On 7-19-13, he obtained his Professional Counseling Training License and is working on getting 3000 clinical hours to be licensed as a Professional Counselor.

Connor Valentyn (First Year Law Student at University of Wisconsin Law School) graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BA in Political Science and Legal Studies. After graduation, he worked as a Property and Casualty insurance agent at M3 Insurance in Madison where he bound professional liability coverage with assisted living facilities. Connor is currently a 1L student at the University of Wisconsin Law School and an elected member of the Student Bar Association.

Sir Williams (UW Law School, Director of Admissions) works with the Admissions Office team to recruit highly qualified, diverse and interesting prospective students to UW Law School’s entering class. Before beginning his career in law school administration, Sir served as a Special Prosecutor in the Dane County District Attorney’s Office here in Madison. Sir graduated from UW Law School in 2011 with dual concentrations in Criminal Law and Family Law. During law school, he served as a Remington Center student attorney (Family Law Project, Prosecution Project), a Submissions Editor for the Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender, and Society, and as a Student Ambassador.