

McLean County Bar Association
2018 Guardian Ad Litem Certification

Speaker Biographies
(alphabetical order)

Zoe Armiros, Professional Liaison, the OurFamilyWizard® website

Zoe has worked in various roles at the OurFamilyWizard website since 2016. As a professional liaison, her role is to educate judges, lawyers, and other family law professionals on the online tools that are used to reduce conflict and increase accountability in high-conflict co-parenting situations. She frequently travels across the U.S. and Canada to represent the company and speak at key events such as industry conferences and continuing legal education seminars. Zoe graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in political science. Her interests include travel, rock climbing, and volunteering as an ESL teacher in Minneapolis.

Hon. Jennifer H. Bauknecht, Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jennifer H. Bauknecht is the Resident Circuit Judge of Livingston County in the 11th Judicial Circuit. Judge Bauknecht was appointed to serve as Associate Judge in 2005 and is the first female Judge to serve in Livingston County. She was elected as Circuit Judge in 2008. Judge Bauknecht received a B. A. from the University of Illinois in 1990 and a J.D. from John Marshall Law School in 1994. Judge Bauknecht is active in the community with her service including the Livingston County Commission on Child and Youth, Livingston County Youth Improvement Team and a past member of the Community Advisory Board of the OSF St. James Medical Center. She is past President and Board Member of the United Way of Pontiac. Judge Bauknecht currently serves on the Illinois Judicial College as Vice-Chair of the Guardian ad Litem Education Committee and previously served on the Illinois Judicial Conference as Chairwoman of the Juvenile Justice Committee, Chairwoman of the Juvenile Justice Benchbook, and member of the Committee on Education focusing on juvenile justice education for the judiciary. Judge Bauknecht also serves on the Special Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues. She is a past board member of the Illinois Judges Association, a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council.

Blair Brown, Psy.D.

Dr. Blair Brown is a licensed clinical psychologist providing therapeutic and psychological testing services for children, adolescents, and adults. She sees clients individually, as part of a couple, or as a family.

Dr. Brown received her doctoral degree from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, IL and completed her internship and post-doctoral fellowship at Streamwood Behavioral Health Hospital. There, she received training in play therapy, collaborative problem solving, dialectical behavioral therapy, crisis management, and applied behavior analysis. Simultaneously, she completed a fellowship in psychoanalysis. Dr. Brown has worked in outpatient, inpatient, school, community, and camp settings. Additionally, Dr. Brown taught at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and gives presentations to schools in the Bloomington-Normal area.

To facilitate the diagnostic process and to inform treatment, Dr. Brown also conducts a range of psychological testing that allows her to examine personality structures, behavioral patterns, learning difficulties, and intellectual capacities. Areas of interest for Dr. Brown include depression, anxiety, women's issues, LGBTQIA/Kink, parenting challenges, eating disorders, autism spectrum disorders, divorce, adoption or attachment related concerns, emotional trauma, and grief or loss. Her multifaceted treatment approach includes dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) in combination with client-centered, psychodynamic (interpersonal), and family systems strategies.

Ted Chapin, Ph.D.

Dr. Ted Chapin is a licensed psychologist in the state of Illinois and a licensed marriage and family therapist. He earned his Ph.D. from Marquette in Counseling. He is board certified in neurofeedback (BCN) and holds certifications in forensic examinations and employee assistance programs. Dr. Chapin is the president and clinical director of Chapin & Russell Associates, a counseling private practice, Resource Management Services, a consultation organization and the Neurotherapy Institute of Central Illinois, a neurotherapy and neurofeedback practice. Ted leads a group of 14 counselors, social workers and psychologists.

He continues to research, write and publish articles, chapters and books on counseling, neurofeedback and clinical supervision. Dr. Chapin presents locally, nationally and internationally on similar areas. He enjoys working on parental allocation evaluations and mediations. The company was awarded the Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Business Integrity.

Hon. Sarah R. Duffy, Associate Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Sarah R. Duffy graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2000 with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and a B.A. in Liberal Arts & Sciences (Spanish). She worked as a Consultant for Deloitte Consulting, Chicago, Illinois before becoming a Systems Analyst at State Farm Insurance Companies, Bloomington, Illinois, and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2007. Judge Foley worked as an attorney at Fellheimer Law Firm, Ltd. from 2007 until her appointment as an Associate Judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in September, 2018. While in private practice, she handled matters in family law, real estate, estate planning, mortgage foreclosure and probate as well as serving as a Guardian ad Litem in cases in Livingston County and McLean County.

Hon. Rebecca Simmons Foley, Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Judge Rebecca Simmons Foley was appointed an Associate Circuit Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in 2004 after practicing law for eight years in McLean County. She was elected Circuit Judge in 2012.

She is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Judges' Association and McLean County Bar Association, and serves as co-chair of its annual Law Day celebration. In 2008, Judge Foley helped to establish a Small Claims Mediation Program for self-represented litigants in McLean County. The program assists persons without legal representation with resolving their court cases outside of court. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the state, as it utilizes non-lawyers as well as lawyers as mediators.

Judge Foley helped establish Recovery Court, a problem-solving court for persons with mental illness or co-occurring disorders involved in the criminal justice system, which began operating in 2010. She was its presiding judge from 2010-2014.

She has a Bachelor of Science in News-Editorial Journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and received her Juris Doctor from the DePaul University College of Law. Judge Foley is currently assigned to hear civil, probate, miscellaneous remedy and mental health cases in McLean County.

Hon. J. Brian Goldrick, Associate Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

J. Brian Goldrick has been an Associate Judge in McLean County since 2013, and is currently the presiding judge for the Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Abuse/Neglect divisions. Prior to his appointment as an Associate Judge, he was in the McLean County Public Defender's Office from 1992 to 1996, and in private practice from 1996 to 2013. While in private practice from 2000 to 2012, he was the contract guardian-ad-litem in McLean County for all abuse/neglect cases. Judge Goldrick has taught the Law in Social Work course at Illinois State University and has been invited to speak on numerous occasions about juvenile abuse/neglect issues.

Susan Harrod, Smart Start

Susan Harrod is the Eastern Regional Director for Smart Start Inc. Previously, Susan was the Division Administrator of the Ignition Interlock Division for the Illinois Secretary of State. Susan developed and implemented one of the first ignition interlock programs for first-time DWI offenders in the USA. Susan led a team in the development of a state-wide automated data management system for the Illinois Interlock Program.

Susan was a founding board member of the Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators (AIIPA). Susan has presented on the subjects of alcohol monitoring, ignition interlocks offender monitoring for entities such as, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators (AIIPA), and the Illinois Bar Association. She has also presented about ignition interlocks at multiple conferences including the 12th Annual Interlock Symposium, Lifesavers, Illinois Judicial Conference, and the Annual Illinois Traffic and Safety Conference.

Prior to that, Susan was the Executive Director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving Illinois (MADD, IL) and a substance abuse counselor working primarily with impaired driving offenders. Susan received her Master's in Human Development Counseling and her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Springfield.

Margie Jordan, CASA Program Director

Margie Jordan earned her degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology at Illinois State University and has provided victim advocacy in McLean County for over 41 years on behalf of children and adults. She was the director of the McLean County Victim/ Witness Service for 25 years and has been the CASA program director for the past 10 years. Margie is passionate about a child's right to be free from abuse and neglect and facilitates training and collaborations regarding child abuse prevention.

Scott Kording, J.D.

Scott Kording is an attorney who maintains a very active general practice with emphasis in criminal defense, family law, and general civil litigation. He is a shareholder with the law firm of Meyer Capel, A Professional Corporation, where he works from the firm's Bloomington office and is presently the supervising shareholder for the firm's family law practice group. Prior to joining Meyer Capel in the spring of 2016, Scott owned and operated Campbell & Kording, Ltd., a general practice law firm he co-founded and managed for about 11 years.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and Political Science from Illinois State University before earning his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. In addition to his law practice, Scott has worked with young people interested in the law at both schools. For about 12 years, he worked as an instructional assistant professor teaching multiple law-related courses (including the Family and Domestic Relations Law course) at Illinois State University, where he also served as head attorney coach for the undergraduate mock trial team. Scott also taught trial skills development and was a Trial Team assistant coach for four years at the University of Illinois College of Law as an adjunct professor of law.

Scott loves being in the courtroom and enjoys preparing for and conducting trials. His scholarly work has been published in the University of Illinois Law Review. He lives in Bloomington with his wife and two young children.

Deitra Kuester, Ph.D.

Dr. Deitra Kuester received her Ph.D. from Purdue University and joined Bradley University in 2006. She is an Associate Professor of the Department of Teacher Education. Her teaching and scholarship centers on autism and related developmental and behavioral disabilities, multidisciplinary collaboration between STEM and secondary education fields of study (specifically robotics), and collaborative experiential teacher preparation. She has published and presented in over thirty refereed journals and international venues, she has multiple patents on her universal game board and has co-authored a book and book chapter. She is a two-time recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Research Award at Bradley.

Hon. Jerelyn D. Maher, Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit (retired)

Jerelyn Maher is a graduate of Bradley University and from Loyola School of Law, Chicago, Illinois. In 1977, she began practicing law in Peoria, Illinois concentrating in personal injury trial and appellate cases.

In 1995, she was appointed as an associate judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit retiring from the bench in 2016. Judge Maher has presided over all types of cases including civil, criminal, juvenile abuse and domestic violence cases; however, most of her judicial career has been spent in family court.

Judge Maher is the past editor of the judicial benchbook on family law. She was very active in teaching judges even after retirement. Judge Maher was a member of the Supreme Court Committee charged with developing education programs and teaching the judges of the State of Illinois. She also served as a member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee. Judge Maher continues to be facilitator for judicial evaluation of other judges.

During her tenure as a judge, she initiated the creation of the Peoria County Visitation Center. This program allows children to be exchanged for visitation in a safe environment as well as provides for supervised visitation. Judge Maher also initiated the Guardian Ad Litem position in Tazewell County to provide representation to children in domestic violence cases. From 2006 until retirement Judge Maher was the judicial coordinator to administer the implementation of Supreme Court Rules applicable to child custody proceedings for the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

Judge Maher is very active in the Peoria County Bar Association, having served as its president in 2016. For over 30 years she has been an annual presenter at the PCBA continuing education programs.

In June 2016, Judge Maher returned to Bradley University where she is the Director of the Center for Legal Studies. She administers the newly created minor in Legal Studies, teaches and advises students.

Hon. Amy McFarland, Associate Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Amy McFarland is the Presiding Judge in the Family Law Division where she hears Dissolution and Parentage cases.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, she focused her private practice on family law, and served as a Court appointed mediator in parenting allocation cases and child protection cases. She served as a Guardian ad Litem and Parenting Coordinator. In 2015, Judge McFarland coordinated and implemented a 40-hour training program for Court appointed mediators in the Eleventh Circuit.

Judge McFarland earned her B.A. from Illinois State University in 1996. She attended the University of Denver, College of Law in Denver, Colorado and earned her J.D. in 2000.

Todd C. Miller, J.D.

Todd C. Miller has practiced law in the State of Illinois for over 25 years. He moved to Central Illinois from the Chicago area in 1990. His practice has focused on family law. In addition to representing client in complex family matters, he serves as Guardian Ad Litem and mediator in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. He volunteers his time to Prairie State Legal Services by assisting with their semi-annual legal advice clinic, and by representing clients referred by PSLS on a *pro bono* basis.

Todd has spoken extensively to bar, governmental and community groups on issues related to child support enforcement, and other aspects of family law.

Todd has been actively involved in the Illinois State Bar Association. He is also actively involved in the McLean County Bar Association serving on the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Underwood Committee, the Guardian Ad Litem Committee, and co-chairing the Bench and Bar Committee. Todd is also a Peer Support Volunteer for the Lawyer's Assistance Program, and a recipient of the Joseph R. Bartylak award for his service to the Lawyer's Assistant Program.

Todd is active in the community, having previously served as Vice President of the Crossroads Areas Student Theatre Board of Directors and currently serving as President of the Board of Directors of Recovery Starts Today (the McLean County Drug Court Board). Todd is also an adjunct professor of Family Law at Illinois State University.

Lori Russell-Chapin, Ph.D.

Dr. Lori Russell-Chapin is a Professor of Counselor Education in the Department of Leadership in Education, Nonprofits and Counseling at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. She earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the University of Wyoming. She is an award-winning teacher and researcher at Bradley University. Currently Lori is co-director the Center for Collaborative Brain Research, a partnership among Bradley University, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and the Illinois Neurological Center. Lori enjoys writing and has published and presented extensively in the local, regional, national and international arenas. She is the author or co-author of eight books on practicum/internship, supervision, conflict resolution, grief and loss, neurofeedback and neurocounseling. Lori is licensed in the state of Illinois as a LCPC (IL), and hold several certifications such as the Certification in Mental Health Clinical Counseling (CMHCC), Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) and Board Certified in Neurofeedback (BCN). She teaches clinical graduate counseling courses and is passionate about her part-time private practice with husband, Dr. Ted Chapin. Dr. Russell-Chapin was named the American Mental Health Counseling Association (AMHCA's) national Linda Seligman Counselor Educator of the Year. Then in 2017 she was honored with the international American Counseling Association Garry R. Walz Trailblazer Award for her work with neurocounseling. In 2018 Lori was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award for the College of Education and Health Sciences.

Quentin M. Wherfel, Ph.D.

Dr. Quentin M. Wherfel is an assistant professor at Bradley University in the Department of Teacher Education. Previously, he worked as a teacher for seven years. He was a band director for three years where his primary instruments were the classical guitar and clarinet. He was also a middle school learning/behavior specialist and department chair where he worked with students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, autism spectrum disorders and other health impairments. His research interests focus on developing ways for students with learning problems to meaningfully access the curriculum in general education classrooms. Specifically, he focuses on co-teaching, evidence-based instructional strategies, classroom assessment practices, and data-based decision-making.

Bruce Zywiec, J.D.

Bruce Zywiec is a 1978 graduate of Indiana State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology. In 2000, he graduated from the University of Illinois at Springfield with a Master of Arts degree in Legal Studies. In 2010, he graduated *cum laude* from Southern Illinois University School of Law. Bruce has spent the majority of his working career as a law enforcement officer. He worked at the Schererville, Indiana Police Department from 1979 until he joined the Illinois State Police in 1983. He retired from Illinois State Police in 2007 at the rank of Captain. In 2001, Bruce had the honor of attending the FBI National Academy, Class #205. As an attorney, Bruce worked at the McLean County State's Attorney's Office from 2010 until 2016, spending most of this time prosecuting juvenile abuse and neglect cases. He now limits his solo practice to *Guardian ad Litem* work in McLean County. He also teaches a criminal law class at Illinois State University.