



# Southern District of West Virginia

## HOPE Family Drug Summit

(Healing, Opportunities and Possibilities to Empower)

January 15, 2025

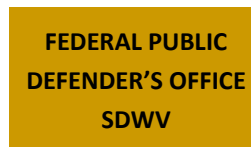
HOSTED BY:



Register for this IN-PERSON only Summit at the following link:

<https://usao.webex.com/weblink/register/rfa15b791de6b90815e505560609c203c>

### In Partnership with:



# Message from the United States Attorney



William S. Thompson  
United States Attorney, SDWV

*Very few in West Virginia remain untouched by the drug epidemic. Too often, the results of substance use or abuse have been devastating: deaths, shattered families, and ruined lives. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia is sponsoring the HOPE Family Drug Summit to bring Healing, Opportunities and Possibilities to Empower families who have been impacted by this scourge. The Summit will provide support and resources to those who have endured tragedy and loss because of substance abuse and overdoses. This summit is also an opportunity to channel the grief caused by substance use disorder into a resolve that can save lives. I am greatly encouraged by the wonderful array of partners who have joined with our office to ensure the success of this summit. I look forward to coming together to further the goals of awareness, prevention, treatment, and recovery.*

# Message from the Drug Enforcement Administration



Jim Scott  
Special Agent in Charge  
DEA, Louisville Division

*The opioid epidemic has swept across our nation like a tsunami for the past 25 years and no state has been hit harder than West Virginia. The Mountain State has lost more lives per capita than anywhere else in America. Thousands of mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters have died in this devastating scourge, leaving broken families behind. I can't overstate how difficult it is to make sense of the loss of a friend or loved one who was taken from us too soon. The HOPE Family Drug Summit is an opportunity to learn, grieve and heal. The opioid epidemic is not a problem that law enforcement alone can solve. We all need to work together, and events like this are a positive step forward in the journey toward building a safer and healthier community. I hope you will join us.*

# Hosted by the University of Charleston

The University of Charleston is a private university with its main campus in Charleston, West Virginia. It also has a location in Beckley, known as UC-Beckley. The school was founded in 1888 as the Barboursville Seminary of the Southern Methodist Church. In 1901, it was renamed Morris Harvey College. In December 1978, the school changed its name to the University of Charleston.

The University of Charleston offers a unique opportunity for those who want an exceptional education in a smaller, private setting.

The University's history is rich with interesting milestones (the campus buildings were literally ferried across the river to the current location in 1947). The University's mission is one of preparation for a lifetime of striving to do more and do better. Their leadership provides a strong vision for making UC the best it can be for its students, faculty and staff, and surrounding community.



## SPONSORED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Drug Enforcement Administration, Louisville Division

Federal Public Defender's Office, SDWV

First Choice Services

Jobs & Hope West Virginia

Legal Aid of West Virginia

Mission West Virginia

West Virginia Center for Children's Justice

West Virginia Department of Homeland Security

West Virginia Fusion Center

West Virginia Public Defender Services

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals

# **Southern District of West Virginia**

## **HOPE Family Drug Summit Agenda**

8:30 am	Welcome <i>William S. Thompson, United States Attorney for the SDWV</i> <i>Marty Roth, President, University of Charleston</i>  <b><i>Geary Student Union Ballroom</i></b>
8:45 am	Our Story: The Tragic Consequences of Drugs <i>Terri Damron and Brandon Kirk</i>  <b><i>Geary Student Union Ballroom</i></b>
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	West Virginia: Epicenter of the Drug Crisis <i>Richard Lawrence Merkle, MD, University of Virginia</i>  <b><i>Geary Student Union Ballroom</i></b>
11:15 am	Neurobiology of Addiction <i>Jeremy Hustead, MD, West Virginia University School of Medicine</i> <i>Dorothy Van Oppen, MD, West Virginia University School of Medicine</i>  <b><i>Geary Student Union Ballroom</i></b>
12:15 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm	Breakout Session 1 ( <b><i>Appalachian, Frankenburger &amp; Erma Byrd Gallery</i></b> )
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Breakout Session 2 ( <b><i>Appalachian, Frankenburger &amp; Erma Byrd Gallery</i></b> )
3:45 pm	Break
4:00 pm	Trauma & Resiliency <i>Mark Hamm, DEA EAP Area Clinician, Louisville Field Division</i> <i>Tina Hamm, DEA EAP Area Clinician, Louisville Field Division</i>  <b><i>Geary Student Union Ballroom</i></b>
4:50 pm	Closing Remarks  <b><i>Geary Student Union Ballroom</i></b>

# **Southern District of West Virginia**

## **HOPE Family Drug Summit**

### **Break Out Session One**

#### **GPS: Getting People Support by Navigating Systems (1A) Appalachian**

*Misty Adkins, Deb Harris, Krista Neophytou, Hanna Thurman*

Family engagement and support enhances treatment outcomes. Families impacted by Substance Use Disorder (SUD) often need services and support in many areas— from assisting children and family members caring for children—to counseling and career training. Navigating systems can be challenging for many families for a variety of reasons. This workshop will provide information about vital programs and resources that support children and families affected by substance abuse.

#### **Breaking the Cycle: Evidence-Based Mentoring for Frankenburger**

##### **Youth in Foster & Kinship Care (1B)**

*Ashley Arthur*

This workshop will highlight evidence-based mentoring in West Virginia to improve outcomes for youth in foster/kinship care. Participants will learn how to recognize the role of family engagement and articulate why family engagement is a critical component of mentoring programs, outline strategies for maintaining consistent and meaningful follow-through with families, identify and address barriers for students, and develop approaches to meet the unique needs of students to improve educational outcomes.

# **Southern District of West Virginia**

## **HOPE Family Drug Summit**

### **Break Out Session One (continued)**

**Understanding the Criminal and Civil Legal Systems: Erma Byrd Gallery**

**A Primer for Substance Use Disorder Impacted Families (1C)**

*Dana Eddy, Wesley Page, and Brendan Wood*

**Criminal Legal Services Overview**—In this workshop, you will learn the basics of how the state and federal systems of **criminal justice** operate in Southern West Virginia, similarities and differences between those systems, what court-appointed attorneys can and cannot do for clients and families, how you can help (or hurt!) loved ones who have been charged with crimes and are awaiting bond hearings, trial, or sentencing hearings, and potential alternatives to prosecution or incarceration for certain eligible defendants. Specific information will be provided about the movement to “holistic” defense including programs the Public Defender Services has implemented to assist clients with SUD and clients trying to navigate the child abuse and neglect legal process with discussions about the role of family in a holistic defense model.

**Civil Legal Services Overview**—the types of **civil legal services** generally sought by people in recovery typically include expungement, driver’s license reinstatements, employment discrimination, public benefits, and family law, including abuse and neglect, domestic violence, child custody, guardianship establishment and modification, and exploring post termination/relinquishment parental rights. In this workshop, there will be a brief overview of the applicable laws and the appropriate recovery timelines before pursuing civil legal remedies.

# **Southern District of West Virginia**

## **HOPE Family Drug Summit**

### **Break Out Session Two**

#### **Getting Through:**

**Frankenburger**

#### **The Tough Journey to Recovery (2A)**

***Deb Harris***

The process of recovery is highly personal and occurs through many pathways. This powerful workshop will share the real-life journey of the survivor of substance use disorder, explain barriers to recovery, and highlight successful interventions leading to long-term healing. You will learn how to recognize the signs of substance abuse, how to intervene effectively for yourself or your loved one, and better understand the many stages of recovery. This workshop will provide hope and encouragement for those impacted by SUD.

#### **Law Enforcement Embedded Peers (2B)**

**Appalachian**

***Lata Menon and Chief Shawn Schwertfeger***

Law enforcement plays an important role in ensuring SUD related calls are responded to appropriately, and mental health issues are addressed. Law enforcement agencies across the country are enhancing their responses by establishing police-mental health collaborations and embedding clinicians in their programs. In recent years, peers have been providing valuable support to those seeking SUD treatment. In 2024, the Wheeling Police Department (WPD) partnered with First Choice Services and launched a new program embedding a Peer Recovery Support Specialist within the department. Early data showed great promise and resulted in the addition of a second peer. This presentation will provide an overview of a law enforcement embedded peer program including implementation challenges, program successes and resulting data. Participants will learn the benefits of this unique collaboration, in particular, the value of law enforcement embedded peers who become ambassadors for law enforcement while reducing stigmas both within the agency and in the community.

# **Southern District of West Virginia**

## **HOPE Family Drug Summit**

**Break Out Session Two (continued)**

### **West Virginia Drug Trends (2C)**

**Erma Byrd Gallery**

***Jack Luikart***

The presentation will provide an overview of the most recent data on emerging drug trends impacting communities in West Virginia. You will learn about specific drugs that are being transported into our state by both lone actors and drug trafficking organizations. Participants will better understand the drug crisis in West Virginia, what to look for, and how to report drug crimes.

## **SUMMIT HANDOUTS**

A copy of the presenters' handouts will be available on the United States Attorney's Office's district website— [WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO-SDWV](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO-SDWV). A link will be provided prior to the summit.

## **CERTIFICATES**

A Certificate of Attendance can be obtained following the Summit. You will receive an email with a link to access the Overall Summit Evaluation and a Certificate of Attendance.



# **Southern District of West Virginia**

## **HOPE Family Drug Summit**

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS/UNITS**

Continuing Education Credits/Units have been approved as follows:

The Law Enforcement Training Subcommittee: C2024-219 (8)

West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners: 490129 (6)

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

WVCADV-Endorsed: Survivor-Centered Intervention Strategies 5.5 hours

WVCADV-Endorsed: Trauma Informed Advocacy 2 hours

WVCADV-Endorsed: Behavioral Health 1 hour

West Virginia State Bar: 100370 (7.2)

Your attendance at each session of the summit is required in order to receive full continuing education units. Please be sure to sign in for each session of the Summit.

### **DINING OPTIONS**

#### **Restaurants Close to Campus**

Near campus you can find most well-known chains, including McDonalds, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Subway, Penn Station, Cookout, Jimmy Johns, Captain D's, Burger King, Applebee's, Cracker Barrel, and Arby's.

There are also several independent restaurants nearby, including Pepperoni Grill, China One, Nawab Indian Cuisine, and Plaza Maya.

M&M Mart serves deli-style options, including subs and salads (and convenience store choices as well).

Food trucks can also be found on the Piggly Wiggly parking lot on a regular basis.

# EASY ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE CAMPUS.



- 1 PRESIDENT'S HOME**  
- 2122 KANAWHA AVENUE
- 2 THE BOATHOUSE (OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTER)**
- 3 MORRISON FITNESS CENTER**
- 4 THE RUSSELL & MARTHA WEHRLE INNOVATION CENTER & SPORTS COMPLEX**  
- GORMAN PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING  
- ATHLETIC OFFICES
- 5 CLAY TOWER BUILDING (CTB)**  
- SCHOENBAUM LIBRARY
- 6 GEARY STUDENT UNION (GSU)**  
- APPALACHIAN ROOM  
- BALL ROOM  
- BOOKSTORE  
- COFFEETAVERN (STARBUCKS)  
- DINING HALL  
- FRANKENBERGER ART GALLERY
- 7 RIGGLEMAN HALL (RGH)**  
- ADMISSIONS  
- ERICKSON ALUMNI CENTER  
- ERMA BYRD GALLERY  
- FINANCIAL AID  
- PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
- ROTUNDA/AUDITORIUM  
- STUDENT SOLUTIONS
- 8 SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**
- 9 EAST APARTMENTS**
- 10 RATRIE HALL**
- 11 MIDDLE HALL**
- 12 BROTHERTON HALL**
- 13 WELCH ATHLETIC COMPLEX**  
- LOCATED TWO BLOCKS WEST OF CAMPUS
- 14 UC STADIUM AT LAIDLAY FIELD**  
- LOCATED AT 1549 PIEDMONT RD



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VISITOR PARKING



STUDENT/FACULTY/STAFF PARKING  
Permit Required - Additional Parking @ 15th Street

# PRESENTERS

## ***Arthur, Ashley***

Ashley Arthur, a West Virginia native, is passionate about promoting family engagement, implementing evidence-based practices, supporting school systems, and addressing the needs of the whole child in foster and kinship care. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Marshall University and has spent the past three years as the Bridge Program Manager at Mission West Virginia. In this role, Ashley leads a dedicated team and oversees a program serving five counties, working closely with schools to develop sustainable foundations that promote long-term growth and success.

## ***Atkins, Misty***

Misty Atkins is the Director of the West Virginia Center for Children's Justice which promotes and supports a statewide, trauma-informed response to child maltreatment and children's exposure to violence. The Center, housed in the Crimes Against Children Unit at the West Virginia State Police, streamlines resources and minimizes duplicative efforts to address challenges, barriers, gaps and needed improvements in child maltreatment cases. Ms. Atkins previously worked at the Fayette County Sheriff's Department where she helped to create a trauma-informed response to child victims and witnesses.

## ***Damron, Terri***

Terri Damron is the mother of Eric Damron who tragically passed away of a drug overdose in 2016. Brandon Kirk, Eric's friend, was using with Eric at the time of the overdose. As a result, Brandon was charged and convicted of a crime relating to Eric's death. In a truly remarkable court scene, Terri and Brandon connected at one of the hearings in Brandon's criminal case and agreed, as a condition of Brandon's release, to jointly speak and promote awareness about the horrors of addiction and the challenges families face when dealing with it. Their story is very powerful!

## ***Eddy, Dana***

Dana F. Eddy is a graduate of Salem College, West Virginia, with a double major in mathematics and public administration, and a 1984 graduate of Harvard Law School. Effective July 1, 2013, Dana was appointed to the position of Executive Director of Public Defender Services. Public Defender Services is charged with administering, evaluating, and improving the indigent defense system in West Virginia. Before his appointment, Dana was in private practice, which included service on the Criminal Justice Act Panel for the Southern District of West Virginia. Dana's other positions have included serving as the Managing Trial Attorney in West Virginia for Nationwide Trial Division; an equity partner at the law firm of Jackson & Kelly; General Counsel to former Governor Gaston Caperton; and in-house litigation counsel for One Valley Bancorp.

# PRESENTERS

## ***Hamm, Mark, M. Ed., NCC, LPCC-S***

Mark Hamm is a founding partner, and current Chief Executive Officer for Phoenix Preferred Care, Inc. Mark received a bachelor's in anthropology and psychology from Eastern Kentucky University in 1994 and a Master's in Education with an emphasis in Mental Health Counseling from Western Kentucky University in 2005. He co-founded Phoenix Preferred Care in 1998 and is proud to have been able to offer mental health services to children and families in the Lake Cumberland region for over 25 years. In addition to his duties as PPC's CEO, Mark also provides therapy as an LPCC-S, as well as continuing education, training, and supervision, overseeing more than 45 employees who provide services to nearly 1,100 individuals annually at home, school, in the community, and via Telehealth throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mark has experience working with and treating a wide array of clinical concerns. He currently works primarily in the areas of law enforcement/first responders/military, trauma, physician wellness and professionals seeking to advance in highly demanding careers. Mark is also a Managing Partner for ZL Collective Consulting, LLC, which currently provides consulting, training and clinical work for individuals and professionals nationwide. Since 2019, Mark has served as an Area Clinician for the Louisville Division DEA EAP in which he consults, collaborates, trains, provides clinical work and responds to critical incidents for the DEA. Mark also serves as the Wellness Coordinator for Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital Physician Residency Program.

## ***Hamm, Tina, M.Ed., NCC, LPCC-S, RPT-S***

Tina Hamm is a founding partner, and current Chief Financial Officer for Phoenix Preferred Care, Inc. Tina received a bachelor's in psychology from Eastern Kentucky University in 1997 and a Master's in Education with an emphasis in Mental Health Counseling from Western Kentucky University in 2005. She co-founded Phoenix Preferred Care in 1998 and is proud to have been able to offer mental health services to children and families in the Lake Cumberland region for over 25 years. In addition to her duties as PPC's CFO, Tina also provides therapy as an LPCC-S, RPT-S as well as continuing education, training, and supervision, overseeing more than 45 employees who provide services to nearly 1,100 individuals annually at home, school, in the community, and via Telehealth throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Tina has experience working with and treating a wide array of clinical concerns. She currently works primarily in the areas of law enforcement/first responders, trauma, women's issues/support, and individual wellness. Tina is also the Managing Partner for ZL Collective Consulting, LLC, which currently provides consulting, training and clinical work for individuals and professionals nationwide. She recently became an Area Clinician for the Louisville Division DEA EAP in which she consults, collaborates, trains and provides clinical work for the DEA.

# PRESENTERS

## ***Harris, Deb***

Deb Harris is the Manager for the West Virginia Schools of Diversion & Transition (WVSDT) Reentry Programs and Jobs & Hope WV, a statewide initiative launched by Governor Jim Justice in 2019. The programs aim to address the substance use disorder crisis and support West Virginians in recovery by helping them find meaningful employment. Deb leads a team of 30 staff members who provide critical support and guidance to individuals facing barriers to reentering the workforce. This includes connecting them to essential resources such as career training, high school equivalency programs, and job opportunities. For her exceptional work with Jobs & Hope WV, Deb was honored with the YWCA Women of Achievement Empowerment Award in 2020. In 2023, she was appointed by Governor Jim Justice to serve on the West Virginia Workforce Development Board. Deb brings extensive experience in helping individuals overcome various challenges and barriers. Before her current role, she served as a TANF and Peer Counselor at Bridge Valley Community and Technical College, where she assisted students on academic probation and those requiring state benefits to complete their education. Deb holds a Master's Degree in Adult Continuing Education and Evaluation from Marshall University, a Bachelor's Degree in Leadership and Rehabilitation from West Virginia State University, and an Associate Degree in Behavioral Health Addictions from Bridge Valley CTC. She also served as an AmeriCorps VISTA and Peer Counselor during her studies.

## ***Hustead, Jeremy M.D.***

Jeremy D. Hustead, M.D., serves as an Assistant Professor and the Medical Director of the Addiction Intensive Outpatient Program at WVU School of Medicine's Department of Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry in Morgantown, West Virginia. Dr. Hustead is board certified in General Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine having treated thousands of patients with substance use disorders in outpatient, inpatient, and residential settings. Prior to joining the WVU faculty in 2020, he completed 4 years of General Psychiatry training there including serving as their Chief Resident. After residency graduation, he served as the first Addiction Psychiatry Fellow in program and state history and is currently involved in training both Addiction Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine fellows at WVU and Marshall University. Throughout his career, Dr. Hustead has maintained a keen interest in educating various audiences including other physicians, medical students, nurses, advanced practice providers, peer recovery specialists, and those in the criminal justice system. He has given over seventy formal lectures on various topics from medication-assisted treatment of opioid use disorder to combating stigma in addiction treatment. He is currently serving as the President of the West Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine (WVSAM), the state chapter for the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). In the future, he plans to continue to advocate for effective substance use treatment and to help reduce the enormous amount of stigma that follows those with the disease of addiction.

# PRESENTERS

## ***Kirk, Brandon***

Brandon Kirk speaks jointly with Terri Damron about the horrors of addiction and the challenges families face when dealing with it. Their story is very powerful!

## ***Luikart, Jack***

Jack Luikart was appointed as the Director of the West Virginia Fusion Center in 2020. Luikart has 30 years of experience as a law enforcement officer, with 21 of those years being assigned specifically to drug investigations. Luikart began his career with the Putnam Co. Sheriff's Department in 1987. During his career, he achieved the ranks of Corporal, Detective of the Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, Sergeant and Lieutenant Task Force Commander of the Putnam Co. Narcotics Enforcement Unit and Putnam Co. Sheriff's Department Criminal Investigations Unit, and Chief Deputy. Luikart was also assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration as a Task Force Officer for seven years, three of which he served as the Group Supervisor of the DEA HIDTA Task Force Charleston, WV Office. Prior to being appointed as Director of the Fusion Center, Luikart served as Director of Correctional Substance Abuse Control for the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety from July 2017- January 2020.

## ***Menon, Lata***

Lata Menon is the CEO of First Choice Services, Inc., a West Virginia non-profit that operates many help and crisis lines for West Virginia, as well as for five other states. Lata's work at First Choice Services focuses on increasing public access to social services, health care, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, and other social supports. As an advocate for fair chance employment and a believer in the importance of lived experience, she has prioritized the hire of individuals in recovery, domestic violence survivors, suicide attempt and loss survivors and/or loved ones of those who struggle with addiction or untreated behavioral health issues.

## ***Merkle, Richard Lawrence M.D.***

Dr. Merkel specializes in psychiatry and neurobehavioral sciences at the University of Virginia Health in Charlottesville, VA. He is an Associate Professor of Psychiatric Medicine in the Inpatient Psychiatry, Outpatient Psychiatry division of the Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences department. Dr. Merkel has had clinical and research experience with various refugee groups, the Maori of New Zealand, and is presently focusing on Appalachian populations. He has also worked with Middle Eastern Psychiatrists in establishing training programs for Middle Eastern Primary Care doctors in diagnosing and treating mental health concerns.

# PRESENTERS

## ***Neophytou, Krista LPC***

Krista Neophytou is a Charleston, WV Native and has a passion for people and community. Krista has been an LPC Counselor in West Virginia since 2019 and an Approved Licensed Professional Supervisor (ALPS) since 2023. Krista has had a strong commitment in providing 14 years of mental health services overall. Krista's areas of knowledge are in direct client work and in providing supervision including work with victims of child/adult abuse and neglect, alcohol and substance use disorders, PTSD, depression, anxiety, relationship problems, and other mental health disturbances. Krista has worked with children, adolescents and adults in residential and acute hospitalization, in-home and outpatient services, juvenile drug court, juvenile/adult probation, and adult parole including individual, family, group therapy, wraparound, and crisis intervention.

## ***Page, Wesley***

Wesley P. Page has been the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of West Virginia since 2019. A 2007 graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law, Page began his career as a law clerk for the Honorable Thomas E. Johnston, United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia. In 2009, he was selected through the U.S. Attorney General's Honors Program to serve a 3-year term as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. In 2012, Page returned to West Virginia where he worked in private practice for Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC. While at Flaherty, he served on the CJA Panel and was the CJA Panel Representative in 2018 before being selected as the Federal Public Defender. Page currently chairs the Defender Automation Working Group, serves on the Southern District of West Virginia Court Security Committee, and helped create the Southern District's Alternative Treatment Court in 2021. He also volunteers with Young Life and River Ridge Church.

## ***Roth, Marty Ph.D.***

Dr. Martin S. Roth became President of the University of Charleston in July 2018. Before coming to West Virginia he was Dean and Professor of Management & Marketing at the Barney School of Business, University of Hartford. He was previously Chair of the Sonoco International Business Department, Executive Director of the flagship International MBA Program, and the Chief Innovation & Assessment Officer at the University of South Carolina's top ranked Darla Moore School of Business. As a higher education leader, Roth has spent the past 30 years helping universities excel by focusing on the talent acquisition and development needs of students and organizations. Working closely with faculty and staff, he has led increases in enrollments, rankings, retention, student placement and satisfaction, faculty recruiting and research support, alumni engagement, corporate partnering, fundraising, new curriculum design, and the development and launch of online degree programs. At the University of Charleston, Roth's mission is to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.

# PRESENTERS

## ***Schwertfeger, Chief Shawn***

Shawn Schwertfeger became Wheeling, West Virginia's 54<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police in June of 2012. An Ohio Valley native, Chief Schwertfeger graduated from John Marshall High School in 1984, and West Liberty University where earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice/Business Administration in 1989. Prior to joining the Wheeling Police Department, Chief Schwertfeger served as a Deputy Chief (Captain) in the Albemarle County, Virginia Police Department, retiring in 2012 after 21 years of service. During his career in Virginia, he held many positions including patrol officer, detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. Specific assignments included Crimes Against Persons Unit, SWAT operator and commander, Crisis Negotiations Unit operator and commander and Public Information Officer. Specific commands included Patrol Divisions, Community Support Division, and Internal Affairs. He retired with the rank of Bureau Commander where he was responsible for the supervision of 120 personnel and 4 divisions. Chief Schwertfeger is a strong advocate for continuing professional development and is a graduate of the Professional Executive Leadership School at the University of Richmond, and a 2009 graduate of the FBI National Academy. He is the current board President with the West Virginia Chiefs of Police Association and an Executive Board member for Appalachia HIDTA. He previously served on the board of the West Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), the Sexual Assault Help Center in Wheeling, and a Special Wish Ohio Valley.

## ***THOMPSON, WILLIAM S.***

William S. Thompson was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia on October 13, 2021. Thompson was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on August 10, 2021, and confirmed by the United States Senate on October 5, 2021. As United States Attorney, Thompson is the top-ranking law enforcement official in the Southern District of West Virginia. Thompson oversees a staff of 34 attorneys and 41 non-attorney personnel located in offices in Charleston, Huntington, and Beckley. The office is responsible for prosecuting federal crimes in the district, including crimes related to terrorism, public corruption, child exploitation, firearms, and narcotics. The office also defends the United States in civil cases and collects debts owed to the United States. Prior to taking office as United States Attorney, Thompson was a Circuit Court Judge in West Virginia's 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. He was appointed to that position in 2007 and re-elected in 2008 and 2016. Thompson presided over several treatment courts, including the first family treatment court in West Virginia. Prior to becoming a Circuit Court Judge, Thompson practiced law at the law firm of Cook and Cook in Boone County. There, he focused on litigation, which included representing several hundred indigent clients in criminal defense and other matters. Thompson also previously served as President of Madison Healthcare, Inc. and as Vice President of Danville Lumber Company. Thompson was born in Charleston and raised in Boone County, West Virginia. He earned a degree in civil engineering from West Virginia University and a law degree from West Virginia University College of Law.



# PRESENTERS

## ***Thurman, Hanna***

Hanna Thurman is Assistant Director with the Center for Healthy Grandfamilies at West Virginia State University Extension Service. She holds a Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration dual degree from West Virginia University where she also received her Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. Ms. Thurman has served in public and nonprofit organizations working with and on behalf of older adults at the West Virginia University School of Social Work, Bureau of Senior Services, West Virginia Geriatric Education Center, and the West Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

## ***Van Oppen, Dorothy M.D.***

Dorothy Van Oppen, M.D., serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown, WV. She received her undergraduate degree from Carleton College and her medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis. She completed her Psychiatry Residency and Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship at WVU before joining as faculty in 2023. She is currently medical director of the inpatient Dual Diagnosis Unit where she provides high acuity treatment for patients with comorbid psychiatric and substance use disorders. She has a passion for medical education and is involved in teaching and academic development of the psychiatry residency and addiction fellowship programs. She is involved in several addiction-related research projects including two National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) multi-site clinical trials. She has a special interest in healthcare professional wellness and is a Case Management Committee Member of the WV Medical Professionals Health Program as well as an Associate Member of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs.

## ***Wood, Brendan***

**Brendan Wood** grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia, and graduated from West Virginia University College of Law in 2019. Upon graduation, he launched West Virginia's first Recovery Medical Legal Partnership at Legal Aid of West Virginia, providing legal services to both small city and rural clients in recovery by embedding legal services into outpatient healthcare facilities and recovery residences, focusing on removing socioeconomic legal barriers to recovery and improving connection to community and family. The project has since expanded statewide to a total of five attorneys, and he has shared this model with legal services organizations in other rural states. In recognition for this project, Brendan was awarded the WV State Bar Young Lawyer of the Year Award in 2023, and Legal Aid was acknowledged as a Rural Justice Collaborative Innovation Site.

For questions or additional information, contact:

Tracy Dorsey Chapman

304.340.2349 or [Tracy.Chapman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Tracy.Chapman@usdoj.gov)

**Thank you!**