

TENNESSEE FAITH & JUSTICE ALLIANCE

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY TRAINING

MARCH 31ST, 2016

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

JUSTICE CONNIE CLARK

Cornelia A. (Connie) Clark was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court in September 2005 and was elected to a full eight-year term in August 2006. On September 1, 2010, she was sworn in as chief justice, becoming the second woman in Tennessee history to serve in that role. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Clark served as director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for six years. Clark was appointed circuit court judge of the 21st Judicial District in October 1989 after practicing law for 10 years at Farris, Warfield & Kanaday, now Stites & Harbison. She was elected to a full eight-year term in 1990, and was re-elected in 1998. Clark earned her bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in 1971 and her Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University in 1972. Before attending law school, Clark taught high school history and government for four years. In 1979, Clark received her J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law, where she served as a member of the editorial board for Vanderbilt Law Review.

In 2010, Clark was inducted into the Nashville YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement and was also named Appellate Judge of the Year by the Southeastern Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2005, Clark received the Williamson County Bar Association's inaugural Liberty Bell Award for promoting a better understanding for the rule of law and encouraging civic responsibility. Clark is a native of Franklin, where her family has lived for eight generations. An active member of the community, Clark served as Franklin City Attorney and as a board member of the Williamson County-Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Clark is a life-long member of First United Methodist Church in Franklin, where she has previously served on the Board of Trustees and as chair of the Administrative Board and the Site Selection and Building Committee.

DOUGLAS BLAZE

Doug Blaze has served on the college's faculty since 1993, when he joined as the director of clinical programs. He served as dean of the College of Law from 2008 to 2015, when he returned to teaching full-time and to serve as director of the college's Institute for Professional Leadership, which he co-founded. Before coming to UT, Blaze was a member of the law faculty at Arizona State University, where he helped establish a community-based legal service clinic. He also practiced with the firm of Fennemore Craig in Phoenix, where his practice involved commercial and tort litigation.

Blaze currently serves as chair of the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and has served as a member of the commission since 2009. He is also very active on various bar committees, including the Tennessee Bar Association Access to Justice Committee and the Knoxville Bar Association Access to Justice Initiative. Blaze is co-author of *The Law of Negligence in Arizona*. His work has been published in the law reviews of Arizona State University, Georgetown University, the University of Tennessee, and the College of William and Mary. Through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Blaze conducts trainings in professional skills for law firms and legal service organizations around the country.

He has received numerous honors and awards, including UT's prestigious Thomas Jefferson Prize. In 2013, he received the Deborah Rhode Award from the Association of American Law Schools for his work in promoting pro bono and access to justice. He also received the Bass, Berry & Sims Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench and Bar, the Harold Warner Outstanding Teacher Award, and the Carden Institutional Service Award. For his efforts to promote equal access to justice in Tennessee, he received the B. Riney Green Award in 2003. As much as he loves teaching, Blaze would rather be out in the mountains hiking. He hiked the entire Appalachian Trail when he was younger. Now, he is slowly hiking it again in bits and pieces, usually with his family.

ROBERT DOWNS

Robert Downs is Legal Aid of East Tennessee's (LAET) staff attorney at the Knoxville Family Justice Center. He has worked with LAET since December 2012 and focuses on representing victims of domestic violence in Order of Protection court and in divorce actions. Before coming to LAET, Mr. Downs was in private practice and represented clients in Orders of Protection, juvenile court, and criminal defense. Recently, Mr. Downs has argued in front of the Court of Appeals and submitted briefs in two matters related to Orders of Protection and divorces. Mr. Downs received his B.A. in Criminal Justice from Murray State University in 2003 and obtained his J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2011. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Downs was an officer with the Knoxville Police Department for four years. Mr. Downs is a member of the Knoxville Bar Association and the Tennessee Bar Association. Mr. Downs regularly provides training on domestic violence issues to advocates and other community partners at the Family Justice Center.

DANIEL ELLIS

Daniel Logue Ellis is an Attorney with Ellis and Ellis Law, P.C. in Knoxville, Tennessee where he represents individuals, non-profits, and businesses in many types of Civil Litigation including personal injury, car wrecks, and divorces. He represents parents of children with disabilities obtain appropriate educational services for their children. Daniel represents employees in Security Clearance Hearings and Appeals, claimants in Social Security Disability cases, and adults and juveniles who have been accused of crimes. Daniel also helps prepare Wills, Advanced Care Plans and Powers of Attorney. Daniel also has had significant experience as a Guardian Ad Litem both in Circuit and Juvenile Courts. Prior to graduating from University of Tennessee College of Law, Daniel was selected the Tennessee Bar Association's Law Student Volunteer of the Year as well as receiving several other awards. Since graduating from the University of Tennessee, Daniel has been selected to participate in both: the Tennessee Bar Associations Leadership Law Class of 2016 and the Knoxville / Knox County Community Action Coalitions Leadership Class of 2016. Also, since he began practicing law, Daniel has served on the Board of Directors for Hope of East Tennessee, the Emory Valley Center, and Horse Haven of Tennessee all of which are non-profit agencies serving east Tennessee. Daniel is a member of the Tennessee, Knoxville, Roane, and Anderson County Bar Associations. Daniel is also a member of the Hamilton Burnett Chapter of the American Inns of Court and the Tennessee Association for Justice.

KATHRYN ELLIS

Since March 2012, Kathryn Ellis has been a staff attorney with Legal Aid of East Tennessee where her primary areas of practice are domestic violence (Orders of Protection and divorces) and housing. Prior to this, she worked as a solo practitioner practicing both criminal and civil law, in areas including child support, DUI defense, misdemeanor defense, and as a firm attorney in areas including personal injury, workers' compensation, wrongful death, and products liability, with an emphasis on drafting appellate briefs. Dr. Ellis graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia in 1996 with a B.A. in History and Political Science. She then completed an M.A. (1998) and Ph.D (2007) in History at the University of Tennessee and obtained her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in May 2010. Dr. Ellis is a member of the Knoxville Bar Association (KBA), the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA), the KBA Barristers, the Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women (TLAW), and East Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women (ETLAW). She is currently the Co-Chair of the KBA Barristers Mock Trial Committee, the Co-Chair of the KBA Barristers Access to Justice Committee, and Co-Chair of the ETLAW Program Committee. In addition, Dr. Ellis is a member of the Blount County Task Force against Domestic Violence, the KBA Access to Justice Committee, the KBA Diversity in the Profession Committee, the KBA Barristers Diversity Committee, and the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (TALS) Family Law Task Force. Dr. Ellis has coached mock trial teams from the UT College of Law since 2010, most recently coaching the UT College of Law Black Law Student Association's Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team. Dr. Ellis is also trained as a Rule 31 Mediator. Finally, Dr. Ellis received the KBA Barristers President's Award in December 2015.

CHRISTINA MAGRÁNS

Christina Magráns is an attorney at Legal Aid of East Tennessee in Knoxville. She received her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville and her B.A. from Rhodes College in Memphis. During law school, Ms. Magráns was a clerk with the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland in Oak Ridge, and she was a published member of the University of Tennessee's *Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*. Ms. Magráns served as the Pro Bono Coordinator for the Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission after law school and later accepted a position with Legal Aid of East Tennessee in 2014. Her work at Legal Aid focuses on housing matters including discrimination under the Fair Housing Act and the Violence Against Women Act. She currently resides in Powell with her fiancé Matt Tillery and their three dogs.

JANE MORRIS

Jane Morris is the managing attorney at Legal Aid of East Tennessee's (LAET) Knoxville office. She began working with LAET in 2009. Her case work focuses on consumer and debtor creditor issues and family law. Ms. Morris received a B.A. with honors in 1986 from the University of Notre Dame. She then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. Ms. Morris attended Cornell Law School and received her J.D., cum laude, in 1991. Jane is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Tennessee. Her first job was with the Philadelphia Office of the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her focus was on health care and Social Security Law. After that, she worked for a few years in two different small law firms with a general practice, including criminal, juvenile, collections, and family law in Central Iowa. In 1998, Ms. Morris started working at the Legal Aid Society in Nevada, Iowa. (Nevada, pronounced Nev-Aye-Da, is the Count Seat of Store County – Home of Iowa State University and the famous Ames, Iowa Straw Poll.) Jane's focus was on bankruptcy, debtor/creditor law, and family law.

PROFESSOR JOY RADICE

Joy Radice joined the UT College of Law faculty in August 2012. She teaches Advocacy Clinic, Criminal Law, a seminar on Poverty, Race, Gender and the Law, and a new Expungement Clinic. Prior to UT, she was an Acting Assistant Professor in Lawyering at New York University teaching legal methods, legal process, legal research and legal writing. Professor Radice has dedicated her legal career to serving those who cannot afford legal representation. While attending Harvard Law School, she was a member of the Legal Aid Bureau, a student-run legal services organization, and she was a community organizer who helped women in Cambridge public housing start their own tenants' organization. After graduating, Professor Radice received a Skadden Public Interest Fellowship to launch the Harlem Reentry Advocacy Project to represent people facing collateral consequences of criminal convictions. The project was housed at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, where she also represented clients in criminal and civil cases. This work fighting the injustices of the criminal justice system led her to begin researching how criminal convictions have an enduring impact on people's lives through post-conviction civil penalties. She is also a co-author for a forthcoming edited book, *Beyond Elite Law: Access to Justice for Americans of Average Means*, which explores the gap in civil legal services for middle-income people and offers models for reform.

TERRY WOODS

Terry Woods is the Pro Bono Manager for Legal Aid of East Tennessee. Before joining LAET in 2000, Terry was in private practice in Knoxville. She graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Tennessee Law Review*. She received the TBA Harris A. Gilbert Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year Award in 2000, the Knoxville Bar Association's Law Through Liberty Award in 2004, and the East Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women Spirit of Justice Award in 2011. She is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Access to Justice Committee and serves on the Pro Bono Task Force of the Tennessee Access to Justice Commission.