

## Presenter Bios

**Tarassa Froberg:** Tarassa Froberg, MSW, is the current Dependency Training Specialist for the Administrative Office of the Court's (AOC's) Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP). She has extensive experience working in child welfare. She worked at the Department of Children Youth and Families for 27 years prior to working at AOC. This included 19 years at a local office working directly with families and as a supervisor. She has worked as the statewide program manager for Child and Family Welfare Services, Family Voluntary Services, CPS-Investigation and CPS-FAR. In addition, she has managed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Children's Justice Act Grant, facilitated Citizen Review Panels, written federal reports, analyzed legislation, managed program improvement plans, trained system partners and much more. Tarassa holds a bachelor's degree in psychology for Washington State University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. She is passionate about maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children and the preservation of families through system improvement.

**Marci Comeau:** Marci is a Managing Attorney with the Parents Representation Program at the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD). Prior to joining OPD in 2022, Marci served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Administrative Hearings handling Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, Child Support Cases, Public Benefits Cases, and other types of cases. Before that, Marci worked as a public defender representing parents and children in dependency cases, and as an Assistant Attorney General representing DSHS (now DCYF). Among her duties at OPD, Marci manages the contracts for the state's largest county, King County, and manages contracts for the state's pre-filing representation programs and the Voluntary Placement Agreement Legal Consultation Hotline – programs devoted to prevention and interrupting child welfare services involvement prior to the initiation of court proceedings. Throughout her career, Marci has provided local, statewide, and national trainings to dependency stakeholders on topics including dependency practice and procedure, discovery, the mental health of dependency practitioners, pre-filing legal representation, anti-racist dependency practice, and other relevant topics. Marci has been published by the American Bar Association's Litigation Section and has authored several chapters of the Washington State's Juvenile Non-Offender Benchbook. Marci holds a B.A. from the University of Washington and a J.D. from Seattle University School of Law.

**Jeffrey Adams:** Jeffrey is the Children's Representation Program's (CRP) Training and Operations Manager at the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA), supporting the CRP Program on programmatic objectives and the development and delivery of standards-based training for child welfare contract attorneys. Jeff is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children and has taught American Indian Children and the Child Welfare System as an Adjunct Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law. Jeff is also a member of the Washington State Juvenile Forms Committee, and Treasurer and Legislative Director of the Washington State Bar Association, Juvenile Law Section. Prior to joining OCLA, Jeff spent 13 years representing indigent clients in child welfare cases, including 10 years as part of an Indian Child Welfare Act court. Jeff has also taught Business Law for Eastern Washington University, served as a

commissioner pro-tempore in Spokane County, and served as a director for a local Public Broadcasting Station affiliate.

**Kaelen Brodie:** Kaelen is an Assistant Attorney General in the Children, Youth, and Families Division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. Kaelen represents DCYF in dependency and termination appeals and provides program advice. Kaelen received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Spanish from Western Washington University in 2011 and graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2017. He began his legal career as a judicial law clerk for Commissioners Aurora Bearse and Eric Schmidt at Division II of the Court of Appeals. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, gardening, the Mariners, and birding.

**Morgan Chaput:** Morgan (she/her/hers) serves as the Advisor to the Child Advocate Program of Pierce County, representing Pierce County Juvenile Court volunteer Child Advocates and staff Guardians ad Litem (GALs) in advocating for the best interests of children in dependency. She also advises a number of other departments within PCJC. Since joining PCJC in 2017, she has given many internal and external presentations on juvenile criminal and dependency issues. Morgan also serves as a pro tem commissioner for the King County Juvenile Court dependency bench. Prior to working in child welfare, Morgan spent six years doing civil litigation throughout the Puget Sound area, including statewide management of all SPR98.16W minor settlements for a top-two auto insurance carrier. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Puget Sound and her Juris Doctorate from Seattle University. In her spare time, Morgan is a CrossFit Level 2 Trainer at Imperial CrossFit in Kent, Washington, a Citizen Archivist for the National Archives, and an award-winning quilter.