

BIOGRAPHIES

USC Annenberg's Institute for Justice and Journalism
2006-2007 Criminal Justice Fellowships

***“Crime and Punishment in America: The Politics and
Consequences of Removal, Incarceration and Reentry Policies”***

FEBRUARY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

SPEAKERS

KARLA KERLIN is a deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Kerlin is assigned as the special assistant to the chief deputy district attorney, for whom she handles legislative issues. For six years, Karla was assigned to the Major Crimes Division to prosecute high-profile homicide cases. For eight years prior to that, she prosecuted sex crimes and child abuse cases. Kerlin regularly trains prosecutors, law enforcement, medical and crime lab personnel, students and social workers, as well as the community, on the investigation and prosecution of sex crimes and child abuse cases, and drug-facilitated sexual assaults. She was recently honored by the FBI for the prosecution of a complex special circumstance double homicide case.

NENA P. MESSINA, Ph.D., is a criminologist at UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs and has been involved in substance abuse research for more than 12 years. Messina's areas of expertise include the association between crime, psychiatric disorders, and substance abuse, and the specialized treatment needs of drug-dependent women offenders. She recently has focused her efforts toward identifying the long-term outcomes of drug-exposed children. She is currently the principal investigator of the Children Exposed to Methamphetamine Use and Manufacture Study, a two-year pilot study to assess the medical, developmental, and placement outcomes of children removed from methamphetamine labs in Los Angeles County. Messina is also the principal investigator of several NIDA-funded grants assessing the effectiveness of gender-responsive treatment for women offenders (on parole, in prison, or under community supervision such as drug court and Proposition 36). She has collaborated on numerous publications on the psychosocial correlates of substance abuse treatment outcomes and has contributed to the understanding of co-occurring disorders, specifically Antisocial Personality Disorder and treatment responsivity for women offenders.

ALAN MOBLEY, Ph.D. is assistant professor of Public Administration and Urban Studies at San Diego State University. He holds degrees in economics, sociology, and criminology, law and society. Prior to entering academia, he managed a financially successful criminal enterprise for which he spent 10 years in federal prison, five years on parole and performed 3,000 hours of community service. Mobley now specializes in community justice action-research, with a particular focus on prisoner reentry and community revitalization. For the past five years he has worked to identify and link organizations and individuals with the skills, willingness, and connections to bring sustainable business enterprise to areas with high rates of prisoner return. His current project is Just Business, a project of the Society for Organizational Learning, to create a nationwide network of cross-sector partnerships to change the dysfunctional dynamics of

high crime neighborhoods through equity-creation, community building, and adherence to a “triple bottom line.” He is a Founding Member of All of Us Or None, a national civil rights initiative seeking to restore rights and respectability to former felons. He also sits on boards of justice-oriented social service agencies.

SAUL SARABIA is the director of the UCLA Law School’s Critical Race Studies Concentration. He is teaching the course “Latinos and the Law” this semester, and has taught at UCLA and Loyola Law School. Previously he served as a program director at the UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty, working with transnational social change activists. He has served as a program director at the Community Coalition in South Central Los Angeles and as an Advocate at the Central American Human Rights Commission in San Jose, Costa Rica. His community-based social justice advocacy has ranged from documenting human rights violations in Central American countries to community organizing with poor people on welfare and in the foster care system in Los Angeles. He has written numerous articles that have been published worldwide on a host of issues affecting Latinos living in the United States and in Latin American countries.

R. SCOTT STICKNEY is a special assistant for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. He has worked for the Probation Department for more than 30 years, serving in various capacities in the Department’s Juvenile Halls, Camps and Community-Based Supervision Programs. For the last 6 years, his duties have included legislative and legal research, legislative analysis and liaison to justice agencies. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Whittier College and a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School.

KIMBERLY WONG has been an attorney with the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office for more than 12 years. She has conducted dozens of misdemeanor and serious felony trials as well as juvenile adjudications, and she was also assigned to the Department’s Public Integrity Assurance Unit where she sought post-conviction relief on behalf of wrongly convicted clients. Wong currently serves as legislative/criminal justice policy advisor to Michael P. Judge, the public defender. Wong is also the co-chair of the Legislative Issues Committee of the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, and chairs its Ad Hoc Committee to address Incarcerated Survivors/Defendants. Two of her current projects focus on diverting incarcerated domestic violence survivors out of the criminal justice system and into comprehensive women-focused treatment services. First, through the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council and with collaborating partners, Wong is developing the Project STAR project, which will focus on diverting domestic violence survivors charged with non-violent, non-serious felonies, and who have prostitution prior convictions, out of a prison sentence and instead into wraparound services. Second, in collaboration with law enforcement, government and community agencies, Wong helped develop the Second Chance Women’s Re-entry Court, which will focus on ensuring that appropriate women parolees who pick up a subsequent felony charge are not returned to prison but are placed in women-focused treatments. Such treatment emphasizes not only substance abuse and mental health treatment services but also incorporates counseling for domestic violence and other trauma and includes parenting, educational and vocational components.