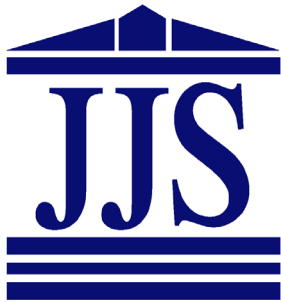


# ACJS Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Spring 2019, Issue III



*The Juvenile Justice Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences promotes research, theory, and best practices for juvenile related concerns. Join the conversation!*

## Welcome from the Chair



Welcome to the ACJS Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Section (JJDS)

Thank you for joining this section! We are excited to have this opportunity to serve and to

share with you. The newsletter is an outlet to celebrate and to promote your achievements, to introduce you to individuals with similar research interests, and to share developments in the field. Please distribute it to your colleagues and friends.

As the current Chairperson, I want to express my gratitude to our past Chairperson Nadine Connell for her hard work and dedication to our section for the past two years. She continues to assist the section with her

time and expertise to ensure the continued growth of the section. Given everything she has done for our section, we are on a better path today. Also, a huge bouquet of thanks to outgoing officers: Secretary/Treasurer Steven L. Brewer; Executive Counselors—Jennifer Peck, Anne Hobbs, and Veronyka James for everything they have done to serve and promote our section.

### Inside this issue:

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## Executive Board Members

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Further, please join me in welcoming the new members to the Executive Board:

Secretary/Treasurer Steve Dyer (Thomas College) and Executive Counselors: Robin D. Jackson (Prairie View A&M University), Rochelle McGee—Cobbs (Mississippi Valley State University), and J. Renee Trombley (Claflin University). In addition, a special welcome to all new members!

Lastly, thank you for sharing your time and accomplishments with us. We look forward to continuing to learn more about everyone and celebrating your achievements! See you at the annual reception in Baltimore!

Best,

Marika Dawkins

## 2019 Tory J. Caeti Award

Named in honor of Dr. Tory J. Caeti, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of North Texas, the Young Scholars Memorial Award was established in 2007. Dr. Caeti, the founding Editor of Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice (YVJJ), was heavily

involved in juvenile justice scholarship and education, as well as the Juvenile Justice Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. The Young Scholars Memorial Award gives recognition to junior scholars who have made significant contributions to the field of juvenile justice and delinquency in the seven years or less that they have been out of school. At the 2019 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Baltimore Juvenile Justice Section members will enthusiastically gather to award this prestigious honor to Dr. Dena C. Carson of Indiana University – Purdue University, a well-deserving assistant professor.



Dena C. Carson is an assistant professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI. Her appointment followed her Ph.D.

and post-doctoral work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Dena's broad research interests includes youth violence and gangs, but, more specifically, her work focuses on the role of group processes in gangs and delinquent peer groups, gang disengagement, as well as the impact of gangs in the school setting. Her recent publications have appeared in *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, *Justice Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*. She also serves on the editorial board of *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*.



Cheryl Johnson is a doctoral candidate at the University of Cincinnati whose research interests include juvenile delinquency, gender issues, weapon carrying, and mental health. She has a book review published in *International Criminal Justice Review*, and articles in *Violence and Gender and Criminal Justice and Behavior*. In her free time, Cheryl loves to play tennis and relax with her cat, Arbor.

## 2019 Executive Board Members



**Sherill V. C. Morris-Francis, Ph.D. MSW, BSW** (*Vice Chairperson*) is an Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Criminal Justice at Mississippi Valley State University. She also holds the post of Director of Academic Assessment since July 2019. Dr. Morris-Francis earned her BS and MS degrees in Social work from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. In 2009, she earned her Ph.D. in Juvenile Justice from Prairie View A&M University. She is the Co-Chair of the Caribbean Crime Study Group and the current Vice Chair for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Section. Her research interests include Program Implementation and Evaluation; Minorities and the Juvenile Justice System; School Factors and Delinquency, Juvenile Mental Health Issues, Female Juveniles, Domestic Violence; and Restorative and Community Justice. Dr. Morris-Francis most recent publication (2019) is a book entitled *Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Lessons from Jamaica*.

## Student Paper Award Winners

### Ph.D. Student Paper Award:

**Winner:** Cheryl L. Johnson of University of Cincinnati.

**Title:** *Reoffending Among Serious Juvenile Offenders: A Developmental Perspective.*

**Steven M. Dyer**

(*Secretary/Treasurer*) is an Instructor of Criminal Justice & Criminology at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine. He is a Ph.D. candidate at Nova Southeastern University where he is studying Criminal Justice with a concentration in Behavioral Science. His doctoral dissertation includes a phenomenological look into the victimization of human trafficking and the intersection of adverse childhood experiences. He has been teaching at Thomas College for the past 9 years. Previously, Steve served as a police officer for 10 years before going to work in the private sector for 16 years conducting fraud investigations & security services. Most recently, he co-founded the Mid-Maine Youth Court, which is housed at Thomas College as a juvenile diversion program offering services in Kennebec & Somerset Counties.



## 2019 Executive Counselors



**Rochelle E. McGee-Cobbs** received her Ph.D. in Juvenile Justice from the Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) in 2015. She holds two Master Degrees: a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master of Education with concentration in Sociology from Delta State University. She has over 15 years teaching experience in criminal justice and sociology. She is an Assistant Professor, Faculty Advisor of Zeta Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, and the Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Criminal Justice at Mississippi Valley State University. In addition, she has published scholarly articles/papers in professional academic journals and anthologies. Her research

include Program Implementation and Assessment; Restorative and Community Justice; Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice; Community Policing; Rural Policing; Use of Force; Terrorism; Risk Assessment; White Collar Crime; Race and Crime; Gender and Crime; and Applied Quantitative Methods and Measurements. She is also a grant recipient of the Health Disparities Research Training Program Junior Faculty Scholar Award, The Jackson State University Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH/NIMHD, Jackson State University, MS, Grant #: SP60MD006899.

Dr. McGee-Cobbs is an Executive Counselor (EC) of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Section (JJDS) Executive Board, American Society of Criminal Justice. She is the President of the African Criminology Justice Association. She is also the Director of Scholarship at Dorothy I. Height Counties Quad Section, National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

She has over ten years of experience as a criminal justice practitioner serving in various capacities, including Chief of Police in two Mississippi municipalities and an Investigative Chief for the Department of Corrections in Parchman, Mississippi, which is the largest correctional facility in the State of Mississippi. In addition, she is a certified police officer and law enforcement instructor; and an expert on police use of force; and she is the proud wife of Mr. Alfred Cobbs and mother of Shenicia, DeAndre, Gavin, Germanica and Janesia.



**Robin D. Jackson** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies at Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Jackson currently serves as the Criminal Justice Club Faculty advisor. Additionally, she serves on the editorial

board of the Journal of Criminal Justice and Law Review and is a reviewer for Criminal Justice Policy Review, Youth and Justice as well as the Journal of Knowledge and Best Practices in Juvenile Justice & Psychology. Dr. Jackson's research interests include racial/ethnic and gender issues in the criminal and juvenile justice systems; substance use among African Americans, juveniles, and women; risk (discrimination, substance use) and protective (racial and gender socialization) factors related to crime and delinquency and more recently the school to prison pipeline. Previously, Dr. Jackson was a Policy Analyst with the Council of State Governments Justice Center in New York, NY. During her time with the Justice Center, Dr. Jackson collaborated with national experts, government officials, advocates and stakeholders to develop long range strategies for reentry related issues. While working as a policy analyst, Dr. Jackson also served as the project manager for the What Works in Reentry

and she conducted research related to justice involved individuals with mental health challenges. Dr. Jackson has also worked in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University as a Research Assistant and Instructor. Additionally, Dr. Jackson has worked as a K-12 public school teacher in Houston, Texas, and as a Correctional Officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She earned a B.A. in Journalism/Public Relations from Sam Houston State University and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management. Dr. Jackson earned a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University in August 2014. Due to her background as a correctional officer, public-school educator and as a juvenile/criminal justice researcher, Dr. Jackson has a unique perspective on issues related to juvenile justice and delinquency. This coupled with her willingness to be involved with the discipline and to bridge the gap between academia and the field will help her serve you as an Executive Counselor.



Dr. J. Renee Trombley completed her PhD in Juvenile Justice from Prairie View A&M University in 2012 and continues to explore research extending from graduate work on violence among youth, including willingness to use violence and effects of exposure to community violence. In addition, she has been actively engaged in developing and implementing training for faculty/staff/ and students in restorative justice and peacemaking processes and has been working with students as they develop a Restorative Justice Student Organization at Claflin University, providing numerous opportunities for service-learning activities both on campus and in the surrounding community.

**Around the JJS...**  
**Check out the great things our section members have accomplished!**

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