2024 Conference Speaker Bios

Deborah Dunn, PAC, MBA (she/her) is a family practice physician assistant and the Trans Health Coordinator of the Center for LGBTQ Health Equity of Chase Brexton Health Care. In addition to graduating from Howard University's physician assistant program in 1983, she holds an MBA from Johns Hopkins University. In her position at Chase Brexton, she provides leadership and coordination of care for transgender-identified patients, establishes best practices for medical transgender care, trains other medical providers, provides consultation to external organizations on transgender-related issues including employee transition, engages in advocacy at the state level, and identifies research and funding opportunities related to transgender care. She recently served on a national team of expert transgender medical professionals to write guidelines for treating and prescribing medications for adults and adolescents who were transitioning. She also was part of the team that wrote Gender: JOY (Journeys of Youth), a multidisciplinary program written for trans/gender diverse youth, adolescents, and families. She has presented at numerous national conferences, engaged in strategic planning with several nonprofit organizations, and volunteered throughout the local community. Debb Dunn, PAC, has completed the courses toward certification for WPATH. She was awarded the Physician Assistant of the year 2018 by MAPA (Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants).

Hon. Jennifer S. Fairfax began her career as a judicial law clerk in 1997 and then entered private
practice in Montgomery County focused in Family Law. Her practice was primarily in the Circuit Courts across the State of Maryland. She handled complex family law cases involving divorce, custody, child support, third-party custody, parentage, domestic violence, alimony, and marital property. She became a trained mediator and collaborative attorney and assisted numerous clients in creative resolutions before launching her law firm, which focused on family building.
During her over 25 years of experience, Jennifer handled international and domestic adoption and
assisted reproductive technology cases. Her law firm focused on family formation through adoption, surrogacy, and alternative family-building options. Ms. Fairfax authored the preeminent book on adoption law and has worked with lawmakers on advancing legislation related to both adoption and assisted reproduction for over a decade before being appointed to the bench. Ms. Fairfax is a Fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys, where she served as both a Trustee and Vice President. During her career, she lectured for law schools along the East Coast on the adoption law and process, contract drafting and negotiation, and family building. Jennifer has published extensively in this field for local, state, and national publications. She has edited bench books and practitioner guides and contributed to committees that advance changes in rules and statutes in Maryland. Ms. Fairfax received her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law and was licensed in Maryland, Virginia, and District of
Columbia before taking the bench. Jennifer is a "Bar Leader" for the Bar Association of Montgomery County and has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout her career, including the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, Fellow of Distinction,

2023, American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, President's Award, 2016, District of Columbia Super Lawyers, since 2015
Maryland Bar Foundation, Excellence in Leadership, 2014, and Maryland Super Lawyers, since 2014

Nesta N. Johnson, JD, is an LGBTQ+ family law attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Nesta works to advance the rights of LGBTQ+ parents, parents of LGBTQ+ children, and diverse families through legislative and policy advocacy, public and professional education, and impact litigation. Nesta also advocates for equitable access to medical care, including reproductive and transgender health care. She believes that every person should be able to make decisions about their own bodies and relationships, that every family is entitled to recognition and respect regardless of genetic connection, financial situation, or marital status, and that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, supportive, and accepting home.

Eva N. Juncker, JD, is a partner in the firm's Washington Metropolitan area (DMV) offices
and Co-Chair of the firm's DMV Family Law practice group. She focuses her practice on all areas of family law, including divorce, juvenile law, international family law, custody, support, equitable distribution, post-divorce modification, partition actions, transgender issues, prenuptial agreements, postnuptial agreements, marital settlement agreements, and property settlement agreements. She also served as a qualified guardian ad litem in Virginia for over 10 years. Ms. Juncker's experience as qualified guardian ad litem enabled her to focus on the best interests of the child while also supporting her client's objectives. Ms. Juncker has published numerous articles on a variety of LGBTQ issues, DEI, and cultural concerns, as well as Family Law. She participates in marriage, transgender, and family law seminars, support groups, and panels. Ms. Juncker has been recognized in "Top Lawyers" in Washington Magazine in 2020-2024; "Influential Women of Law" in Virginia Lawyers Weekly in 2020; "Top 100 Lawyer", by The National Advocates in 2016; "25 Best Divorce Lawyers in Montgomery County", Bethesda Magazine, in 2013 and 2017; "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" by the National LGBT Bar Association in 2011; and Virginia Super Lawyers "Rising Star" in 2008.
Ms. Juncker is licensed to practice in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and the United States Supreme Court. She received her B.A. from the University of Virginia in 1996 and her J.D., cum laude, from the George Mason University School of Law in 1999.

Laura Kane, JD, represents clients in divorce and custody cases throughout Maryland. She is frequently appointed to serve as a Best Interest Attorney. In that role, Laura recognizes that each custody case presents its own unique circumstances and challenges, and Laura strives to meet every child's needs based on the facts of each individual case. Laura also serves as a Parent Coordinator and Mediator for many families.

Katherine (Kate) A. Kuvalanka (she/her) earned her Ph.D. in family studies from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2007 and is a Professor in the Department of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University in Ohio. Her research has focused on families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) family members. She is interested in how factors in various contexts (e.g., family, school, legal climate) pose challenges to and foster resilience among families with LGBTQ members. She is the principal investigator of the Trans*Kids Project, a longitudinal study of 50 families with transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) children, which began more than a decade ago. Her research related to custody cases involving TGD children has been cited in regional and national news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*, *Vox*, and *Harper's Bazaar*.

David D. Marshall holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a Master's in Vocal Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory. He began his career as a music educator before pursuing a full-time operatic career, performing with Bronx Opera, Garden State Opera, and Opera Ebony. In 2013, David returned to Baltimore to lead his family's business, Marshall Jr. Inc., the oldest Black-owned refuse removal company in Baltimore County, where he expanded job opportunities and focused on supporting the reentry population. In 2017, David became the adoptive father of his son, Josiah, which inspired him to found Journey to Josiah Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to increasing adoption and foster rates for 2SLGBTQIA+ families. The organization has received national recognition, including features in People Magazine and GMA3. David also serves on the Maryland Citizens Review Board for Children, advocating for permanency in foster care, and has lectured at several universities. He is an active member of the NAACP and the Equality Chamber of Commerce in DC.

Lucille (Lucy) McCallistar is a passionate advocate for foster care youth and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, drawing from personal experiences to inspire and educate others. Having spent much of their childhood in the foster care system, Lucy has a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by young people in care, especially those navigating issues of identity, belonging, and mental health. As an adult, Lucy has embraced her journey as a transgender individual, becoming a voice for transgender rights and visibility within and beyond the foster care system. Her personal transition highlights the critical need for inclusive and supportive environments for all youth, particularly those who identify as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Dr. Charlotte J. Patterson is the Commonwealth Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia. Best known for her research on the role of sexual orientation in human development and family life and, in particular, for her work on child development in lesbian- and gay-parented families, Patterson is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) and a past president of the Society for Psychological Study of Sexual and Gender Minority Issues (which is Division 44 of the American Psychological Association). She has been recognized with a number of awards, including the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy Award. She was a member of the United States Institute of Medicine Committee

on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Issues, whose 2011 report, The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding, has been highly influential. Patterson also co-chaired the United States National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine committee, whose 2020 report was entitled Understanding the Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations.

Dr. Elyse Pine (she/her) is a board-certified pediatric endocrinologist and Trans Youth Lead Physician at Chase Brexton Health Care in Maryland. She earned her BA in English and Natural Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, and her MD at Washington University in St. Louis. She completed her pediatrics residency training at the Mount Sinai Hospital in NY and moved to the Baltimore area for fellowship training in pediatric endocrinology at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Pine began working with gender-variant children and adolescents while serving as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Transgender care has been the most interesting, exciting, and rewarding part of her clinical practice. She has been at Chase Brexton since 2015 to help lead the Gender Journeys of Youth program, which serves gender-diverse children, adolescents, and young adults. She has published numerous articles related to transgender care and lectures frequently.

Wendy Schwartz, JD, is the founder of Wendy H. Schwartz and Associates, PLLC. She has been a trial attorney for 32 years and has settled and litigated family law cases in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland involving high conflict custody cases and complex equitable distribution cases. Because of her background and education, she has expertise in addressing psychological issues, addictions, and learning disabilities in the context of custody disputes and divorce. Prior to opening her own firm in 2004, Wendy was the managing partner of another family law firm. She began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Cheryl M. Long in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Wendy has spoken at law school ethics classes on topics related to drug and alcohol abuse and the risks lawyers face when this is an issue. Wendy has also lectured at CLEs on issues related to custody, mental health issues, and substance abuse issues in custody cases. Wendy is also trained in collaborative law and is a mediator. During her tenure with Judge Long, the Family Division in the Superior Court went to a calendar system for the first time, and Judge Long was one of the first judges assigned to one of three domestic relations dockets. Prior to starting her legal career, she worked in advertising, employee training, consulting for women's homeless shelters, and government service at the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. She also worked at the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Prisons while in law school. Wendy attended Mercy College of Detroit (B.A., cum laude, 1978) and the American University, Washington College of Law (J.D., 1990). Wendy was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1990, and the District of Columbia and Virginia bars in 1992.

Lee Westgate, MSW, MBA, LCSW-C, LCSW (he/him/his) is a transgender advocate with extensive professional experience in social work policy, practice, research, and education. He has held numerous organizational leadership roles and has served as an educational consultant to a variety of associations and organizational clientele. He has worked as a medical social worker in oncology and critical care, and in integrated

behavioral health settings. Mr. Westgate has participated in a CSWE-sponsored National Trauma Task Force workgroup that focused on the intersection of ethics and trauma-informed practice, and he was awarded an immersion fellowship through Boston University to study addiction and behavioral health. He has participated in AIDS Education and Training Center on behalf of the University of Maryland, School of Social Work since 2017 and has participated in the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Workgroup on COVID and HIV. Mr. Westgate continues to serve as a Clinical Instructor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and his scholarship includes integrated behavioral health, clinical work with LGBTQIA+ populations, working with individuals with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, healthcare policy, and health equity. As a faculty member, he has received numerous teaching awards, including the Energizer Award, the Camara Jones Faculty Award of 2022, the Innovation in Social Work Award of 2022, and the Exemplary Faculty Member of the Year Award, along with the Dean's Teaching Award for several consecutive semesters. He has been published in *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, The Social Worker, The Journal of Employee Assistance, Infusion Magazine, Provider Magazine, and Social Work Today.*

Dr. Ruth Zitner, Ph. D provides a variety of services to families, attorneys, and the court as an expert at the intersection of mental health, child development**,** and family law. She serves as a parenting coordinator and child specialist. Dr. Zitner has presented and lectured on families and divorce, parenting plans, post-separation contact refusal, interpersonal violence, and teen intimate partner violence. Her practice focuses on empowering parents and families to resolve conflict with creativity, dignity, and empathy.