



CORRECTIONS PANELISTS

Biographies



Beverly Smith

Beverly Smith is the Assistant Deputy Director with the Michigan Department of Corrections. She oversees the Metropolitan Territory which consists of 9 counties. Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties, the three largest counties in the State of Michigan, as well as Livingston, Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, and Jackson Counties. Beverly Smith began her career with the Michigan Department of Corrections, Field Operations Administration (FOA) in 1987 as a Probation Agent with the Court Services Unit in Wayne County. She advanced steadily in her career, holding positions in various FOA offices, and working briefly at Huron Valley Women's Facility, as the Deputy Warden of Housing. There she developed a renewed passion for trauma-informed principles. Beverly Smith believes in servant leadership, mentoring and team building. She encourages diversity of thought and actively seeks a culture of trust. Mrs. Smith was selected by The National Institute of Corrections to participate in their Executive Excellence in Leadership Program, in Aurora, Colorado. Beverly Smith has received various awards and certificates throughout her career with the Michigan Department of Corrections, most notably the Director's Award for Professional Excellence in 2011. Ms. Smith is currently working with experts to implement a coaching model designed to transform the way offenders are supervised utilizing effective cognitive behavior change techniques. Beverly Smith holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology from Wayne State University.



Mark Diaz

Mark Diaz is a Recruiter for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. He has been a sworn member of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office since July of 2019, after serving with the Detroit Police Department for twenty-six years. Mark has served in various positions in his law enforcement career ranging from uniform patrol duties, field training, undercover assignments, and a police instructor teaching: Police Ethics, Cultural Diversity, Law Enforcement Computer Investigation Systems, and De-escalation Techniques, to name only a few fields of instruction. From 2011 to 2019, Mark served as an elected Trustee on the Detroit Police and Fire Retirement System Board. Mark also served from 2013 to 2018, as the elected president of the Detroit Police Officers Association. In addition to the elected positions Mark has held, he was a Board member of the National Association of Police Organizations as well as the Michigan Association of Police Organizations. In 2016, Mark was appointed by former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), serving in that capacity until his retirement from the Detroit Police Department in 2019. In July of 2019, Mark accepted an Executive position with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, under the tutelage of the late Benny Napoleon, serving in Internal Compliance. In May of 2021, under the direction of Sheriff Raphael Washington, Mark was re-assigned to head up recruiting efforts for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Mark has a bachelor's degree in Public Safety Administration and is currently finishing his master's degree in Business Management. Mark has also attained his certification in Executive Portfolio Management from Wharton University, as well as certification in Labor Law and Life Studies from Harvard University.



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Robert (Bob) Poikey

Robert W. Poikey is the Supervisory Law Enforcement Specialist for the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. He oversees the intel, outreach, law enforcement coordination and office security unit. Robert is the primary liaison to all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies within 34 Michigan counties. He oversees several law enforcement initiatives as well as numerous community outreach programs. Since 2007, his accomplishments have gained national recognition from three U. S. Attorney Generals and three U.S Attorneys. In addition, Robert has received awards, citations and accolades for his work on numerous Department of Justice related programs at the state and national level for his work in violent crime task force operations, multi-jurisdictional planning and capacity building as well as curriculum development. In 2014, in addition to his position as the Law Enforcement Specialist, he was appointed Security Manager for the Eastern District of Michigan US Attorney's Offices. Prior to obtaining his present position, Robert was employed with the Michigan Department of corrections for 15 years. Within this agency he held several line and management positions which allowed him to gain extensive law enforcement, administrative and management experience in sworn law enforcement activities, contracts, grants, public and media information and training. Mr. Poikey holds a bachelor's Degree from Wayne State University and a graduate Degree from the University of Detroit. Robert is a member of several professional organizations. In addition to his position with the US Attorneys Office, Robert has held the position of adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy and Wayne State University since 1998 and 2013, respectively.



David Felton

David Felton currently holds the position as Recruiter for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Raphael Washington. He has served with the agency for 12 years in various positions. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Office, David was an impactful member of the MPRI (Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative) team, that covered Wayne, Monroe, and Oakland counties. His primary responsibilities included providing linkages for men and women on parole to "wrap around services" that would assist with them staying home. Linkages included pro-social activities and workforce development. During this time, he was afforded the opportunity to partner with MDOC, DOJ, FOB, and other law enforcement agencies.