



LEGAL CAREERS' PANELISTS

Biographies



AJ Hamilton

Antwanisha ("AJ") Hamilton is a Staff Attorney currently working for the Detroit Justice Center (DJC), a nonprofit organization committed to fighting racial Justice and economic equity. She advocates for returning citizens who have pending issues with family law, criminal and civil matters. So far, AJ has spent her legal career working in public interest. Right after being admitted to Michigan State bar in 2018. AJ worked as a Staff Attorney with Lakeshore Legal Aid providing pro bono legal services to low income and seniors in the community.



**Judge
Kenneth King**

Judge Kenneth J. King was raised on the southwest side of Detroit. He earned his Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 1995. Judge King was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in May 1996. He worked as an attorney for the Misdemeanor Defender's Office, an Associate Attorney for Bell & Gardner, P.C., and then later maintained his own general practice firm before accepting a position as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in 1998. In the seven years employed with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, he was assigned to the Trial Division as a Principal/Special Assignment Attorney; the Homicide Unit; the Community Prosecution Unit; the Research, Training & Appeals Division and the Forfeiture Unit. In 2004, Judge King accepted a position with the Department of Wayne County Executive as an Executive Administrator in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility, where he reviewed policy and procedure, as well as investigated allegations of abuse and misconduct by employees on residents. In June 2006, Judge King was appointed Judge in Detroit's 36th District Court by Michigan Governor, Jennifer Granholm. In 2010, Judge King was appointed to Chief Judge Pro Tem and was appointed to serve as the court's Chief Judge from January 2012 to August 2013 by the Michigan Supreme Court.



LEGAL CAREERS' PANELISTS

Biographies



Marilena David

Marilena David is the Deputy Director at the State Appellate Defender Office where she represents individuals on appeal of their felony convictions and individuals who are being resentenced after serving unconstitutional juvenile life without parole sentences. Marilena also manages Project reentry, a program she launched that is focused on supporting people on their journey home from prison. Marilena served as Manager of SADO's Criminal Defense Resource Center from 2015-2022 where she focused on providing training and resources to the defense bar. Previously, she launched and managed SADO's Crime Lab Unit, a federal grant funded unit tasked with analyzing the impact of potentially faulty Detroit Crime Lab evidence on criminal convictions following the shocking 2008 Detroit Crime Lab closure. Marilena serves on the Board of Directors for the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan (CDAM) and the Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference Foundation. Marilena is past chair of the State Bar of Michigan's (SBM) Prisons & Corrections Section. She serves on the National Association for Public Defense Core Well-Being Committee and contributes to developing and implementing national standards for public defense sustainability. Marilena is the recipient of the 2014 SBM Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, the 2014 CDAM Justice for All Award, and the 2018 Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Community Impact Board. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Community Corrections Board. In 2021, she was appointment by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve on the Michigan Judicial Council. Marilena received her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University and her law degree from Wayne State Law School.