

## JTDC Advisory Board Member Bios



**Meade Palidofsky – Board Chair**

**Meade Palidofsky** is the Founder of Storycatchers Theatre and served as its Artistic Director from 1984-2021. She is an award-winning playwright, director, and youth development artist. Her awards and honors include the Bright Promises Visionary Award, the Schweitzer Leadership Award, the Theatre in Social Change Award, the Meier Achievement Award, and the Mercedes Mentor Award. In 2010, Meade was a Chicago Community Trust Experienced Leader Fellow. During that year, she worked closely with Trauma Psychologist Bradley Stolbach, comparing Storycatchers' writing, and performing processes with Complex Trauma Therapy. Palidofsky and Stolbach co-authored a paper in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma about the evolution of Storycatchers' methodology. In 2020-21, with Dr. Stolbach's annotations, she wrote a training handbook entitled *The Transformative Power of Story and Song, Working Through Trauma with Youth in the Justice System*.

Over her 37 years as Storycatchers Artistic Director, she guided and collaborated with community, detained, and incarcerated youth in over 120 workshops and 60 full productions. She also wrote and directed four professional touring productions based on the stories of community youth and their families. Her work was featured on *This American Life*, and in the documentary *Girls on The Wall*.

Since leaving Storycatchers, Meade has been collaborating with former participants at the Juvenile Detention Center from the 1990s. Together, they are creating a musical TV docudrama series entitled *Remember Our Names*.



**Garien Gatewood – Board Co-Chair**

**Garien Gatewood** was named Director of the Illinois Justice Project in 2021. Gatewood joined ILJP in April of 2019, his work focuses on strategies to divert youth and adults from the justice system and to provide support for men and women leaving incarceration and returning to their home communities.

He previously was Director of Policy Advocacy at the Juvenile Justice Initiative, a nonprofit focusing on legislation and policy reform for youth in Illinois. His career in the justice reform field began in 2014 when he worked in Ohio and Kentucky for the Children’s Law Center, a non-profit legal service center protecting the rights of youth.

In 2021, Gov. J.B. Pritzker appointed Gatewood to the board of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the state agency charged with developing evaluating, and coordinating programs for the improvement of public safety for all and the administration of criminal justice.

Gatewood was selected as a 2022 Leadership Greater Chicago Signature Fellow. Each year, a diverse group of Chicago’s most promising professionals and leaders are selected for the LGC Signature Fellows Program where participants are immersed in major socioeconomic issues facing the community and build connections that facilitate solutions.

In 2015, he was one of 10 people selected as Youth Justice Leadership Institute Fellow of the National Juvenile Justice Network. During his fellowship, he developed a statewide youth reentry guide for Ohio and partnered with organizations throughout the nation to develop youth reentry programs.

Gatewood had the distinct honor of serving as a Co-Chair for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice’s 21st Century Illinois Transformation Model Advancing Transformation Committee, where he and other key community partners, stakeholders, and youth were charged with developing recommendations to create a new vision for juvenile justice in Illinois. Currently, he also serves on Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Advisory Board, the Illinois Prison Project’s Advisory Board, and Action Now’s Board of Directors.

Gatewood earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi. During his time in law school, he clerked with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Mississippi Innocence Project. Prior to law school, he earned his master’s degree in public administration from Belhaven University and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Jackson State University.



**Briana Payton – Board Secretary**

**Briana Payton** Briana Payton is a Policy Analyst at the Chicago Community Bond Fund and Pretrial Fairness Act Policy Coordinator for the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice. She also serves as the Youth Engagement Committee Co-Chair for the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and the Secretary for the JTDC Advisory Board. Prior to these roles, Briana has worked in Re-entry, youth services, and public

defense mitigation. She received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University and Her Master's Degree from the University of Chicago Crown School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice.



**Darius Ballinger – Board Member**

**Darius Ballinger** is a human services professional highly skilled in community engagement, project management, and staff development. His work is focused on ensuring quality care is provided to individuals with behavioral health and social service needs. Darius' lived experience and academic knowledge helps him to effectively work toward improving criminal justice reforms and public health interventions. Darius currently serves as an administrator for Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC, Inc.).



**Lisa D. Daniels – Board Member**

**Lisa D. Daniels** is an advocate, leader, and speaker in the field of restorative justice who helps individuals and families find healing in the aftermath of violence and crime. After the death of her youngest son, Darren, whom she lost to gun violence in 2012, her own journey toward healing inspired her advocacy work. She is the founder of the Darren B. Easterling Center for Restorative Practices (The Center), a nonprofit organization that seeks to transform the effects of violent crime and mass incarceration, on communities of color, by providing trauma-informed therapeutic support to those who have been directly impacted.

At the heart of Lisa's work is her belief that no one's life is the sum of the worst thing they've ever done or experienced and that everyone who seeks it, should be extended the grace of a second chance. By working to rewrite the narrative about who Darren was and the legacy he left behind, she must give him

the second chance his untimely death took away. When she could have chosen vengeance and anger, she chose forgiveness and peace, pleading leniency for her son's killer during his sentencing hearing so he, too, could receive a second chance at life.

Sharing the story of Darren's loss ignited her commitment to be a voice for those impacted by violence. Through The Center, she oversees initiatives that provide individuals and families affected by gun violence and mass incarceration, the tools, resources, and support they need to erase the residue of trauma.

In 2018, she was appointed by the Governor of Illinois to serve as a member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, a quasi-judicial body that makes decisions regarding parole, conduct, and executive clemency of incarcerated individuals, where she served until January 2023.

Lisa has spoken on issues surrounding restorative justice, criminal justice reform, trauma resolution, and life after loss in both media and institutions including, the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and the National Network for Safe Communities. Additionally, Lisa currently serves on the Illinois Sentencing Advisory Council (SPAC) and the Council on Criminal Justice.

With over 20 years of experience in human and civil service work, Lisa uses her knowledge to advance her cause and create real change in her community and beyond. Her goal is to help others experience true peace and grace, as grace is the fabric from which second chances are woven. Lisa is a tenacious woman of faith, and relishes in creating new memories with her family and friends.



**Savannah (Sav) Felix – Board Member**

**Savannah (Sav) Felix, LCSW** currently serves as the Director of Legislative and External Affairs at the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender. In this role, Sav is responsible for managing the Public Defender's juvenile and young adult justice legislative reform agenda. Sav transitioned to this role after serving as the Program and Legislative Coordinator of the Justice Advisory Council.

Sav has over 12 years of experience providing direct services and policy advocacy alongside youth and young adults directly impacted by the criminal legal system. Sav received her Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. Sav is currently serves on the National League of Cities Emerging Adults Community of Practice and Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and was a 2022 University of Chicago Civic Leadership Academy Fellow.



**DaKeda Horton – Board Member**

**Dr. Dakeda Horton** is board certified as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years of experience working with children and families in several capacities and a variety of settings. Over 6 of those years were spent working in the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Mental Health Department. Dr. Horton currently works as a Supervisor for the Circuit Court of Cook County. In addition to the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (CCJTDC) Advisory Board, Dr. Horton is a board member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and holds memberships with the American Psychological Association and the Association of Black Psychologist-Chicago Chapter.



**Amanda Klonsky – Board Member**

**Dr. Amanda Klonsky** is a Research and Policy Fellow at the UCLA Law COVID Behind Bars Data Project. Prior to the pandemic, Amanda worked as an educator in jails and prisons for more than 15 years. She speaks widely on issues of education and incarceration. Her work focuses on expanding access to education for people who are impacted by mass incarceration. More recently, Amanda has been engaged in the efforts to respond to the crisis of COVID-19 in jails and prisons, contributing editorials and commenting in media venues including The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Chicago Sun-Times, and PBS News Hour.

Amanda earned a Doctorate in Education Leadership at Harvard University (2018) and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Chicago (2011). Her doctoral thesis traces the stories of young men in Chicago who were detained in the Cook County Jail during the period of emerging adulthood.

Before entering Harvard, Amanda taught youth in confinement in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, where she co-led an arts and literacy program for detained youth. She went on to launch a district-wide initiative at Chicago Public Schools, to support post-release youth in returning to their home communities and schools. Most recently, Amanda served in the leadership of a large prison education organization that operates in jails, prisons, and detention centers across the Northeastern United States.



**Marjorie B. Moss – Board Member**

**Marjorie B. Moss** joined the CFJC in 2005, where she spearheaded the Juvenile Defender Resource Institute, which provides litigation support for Illinois juvenile defenders and the children they represent in juvenile and criminal court. In September 2012, Marjorie became the CFJC's social work supervisor and in 2022 she was instrumental in the creation of the Social Work Advocacy Program for the entire Bluhm Legal Clinic and became its first Director.

The Social Work Advocacy Program provides critical support for legal teams, including the creation of documents filed in court; for example, social histories, and mitigation reports and comprehensive re-entry plans for clients returning home from detention or prison. The Social Work Advocacy Program also develops and maintains strong working relationships with the entities essential for the clients' success,

Prior to her current role, Marjorie spent the earlier part of her career at the Defender Association of Philadelphia and at the National Juvenile Defender Center advocating for youth involved in the juvenile and criminal justice system. Marjorie received dual degrees from Loyola University of Chicago in social work (MSW) and law (JD) in 2001.