

# *Investing in Safety and Survivors*

A DISCUSSION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MINNESOTA

9:00AM-4:00PM

June 7, 2024

Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
875 Summit Ave St. Paul, MN 55105

**MITCHELL HAMLIN**  
**Sex Offense Litigation and Policy**  
Resource Center



## **ABOUT THE CO-SPONSORS**

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) is a statewide coalition driving transformative culture change to address sexual violence through advocacy, prevention, racial justice, and systems change and policy.

The Sex Offense Litigation and Policy Resource Center (SOLPRC) at Mitchell Hamline School of Law collects and disseminates information about cases on issues of sexual violence policy, and facilitates communication, sharing, and the development of strategies among the lawyers, advocates and academics who seek a more sensible and effective public policy on sexual violence prevention.

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## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE \$100 MILLION COMMITTEE**

SOLPRC acknowledges the critical role that the \$100 Million Committee has played in producing the Report, organizing this Conference, and advocating for Sunset and Reinvest. The \$100 Million Committee seeks to dramatically reduce sexual violence in Minnesota by sunseting the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (“MSOP”) and reinvesting the \$110M/year operating budget into programs and interventions that prevent sexual violence and address the harm it causes. Assembled after the hunger strikes and EndMSOP protests in 2021, the Committee is composed of detainee representatives, victims/survivors of sexual harm, legal and policy professionals, reentry specialists, families of detained persons, and mental health, human rights, restorative, and racial justice advocates. Members of the \$100 Million Committee contributed to the April 2024 report on sex offense civil commitment in Minnesota, published by the Sex Offense Litigation and Policy Resource Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and helped to plan today’s conference. If you would like to get involved with the \$100 Million Committee to sunset/reinvest MSOP and devise legislation for 2025, sign up at the registration table.

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*Please note that today’s conference will not be recorded or livestreamed.  
We ask that participants respect that decision.*

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*We have applied for Continuing Legal Education credit.  
We will notify attendees when we receive news about the CLE credit application.*

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*Certificates for Continuing Education Units will be available at the end of the event.*

## EVENT SCHEDULE

<b>8:15 AM-9:00 AM</b>	<b>Registration and breakfast</b>	<u>Speakers</u>
<b>9:00 AM-9:05 AM</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	Vice Dean Morgan Holcomb
<b>9:05 AM-9:35 AM</b>	<b>Keynote</b>	President and Dean Emeritus Eric S. Janus
<b>9:35 AM-9:50 AM</b>	<b>Introduction from MNCASA</b>	Kate Hannaher
<b>9:50 AM-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Victim/Survivor Support panel</b>	Liz De La Torre Jude Foster Ashley Taylor-Gougé <i>Moderated by Kate Hannaher</i>
<b>10:30 AM-10:55 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:55 AM-11:35 AM</b>	<b>Primary Prevention and Education panel</b>	Hunter Beckstrom Pogi del Rosario Wilson Yang <i>Moderated by Kate Hannaher</i>
<b>11:35 AM-12:15 PM</b>	<b>Treatment and Reentry panel</b>	Mark Bliven Ronda Disch Bill Donnay Katie Holmgren <i>Moderated by Dr. Brenda Frye</i>
<b>12:15 PM-1:05 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>1:05 PM-1:45 PM</b>	<b>Interim Steps panel</b>	Dr. Michael H. Miner Andrew Pieper Judge Jay M. Quam Jen Thon <i>Moderated by Pete Dross</i>
<b>1:45 PM-2:15 PM</b>	<b>Collaborative Problem Solving Process presentation</b>	Professor Sharon Press
<b>2:15 PM-2:30 PM</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>2:30 PM-3:30 PM</b>	<b>Breakout groups</b>	
<b>3:30 PM-4:00 PM</b>	<b>Report back and closing</b>	Professor Sharon Press President and Dean Emeritus Eric S. Janus

## **PANELIST AND SPEAKER BIOS**

**Andrew Pieper** (he/him) is a Litigation Partner at Stoel Rives LLP. The Minnesota State Bar Association has repeatedly recognized him as a North Star Lawyer for annually donating 50+ hours of pro bono legal services, and he currently serves both as a member of the firm's Pro Bono Committee and as the pro bono coordinator for Stoel Rives' Minneapolis office. Andy recently argued successfully before the Minnesota Supreme Court on behalf of two individuals under civil commitments and obtained a result finding a clearly established federal constitutional right in timely implementation of court orders while overcoming a qualified immunity defense.

**Ashley Taylor-Gougé** (she/they) is the Associate Director of the Sexual Violence Center (SVC), a rape crisis center dedicated to serving Carver, Hennepin, and Scott Counties. With nearly 15 years of experience in domestic and sexual violence organizations, Ashley is responsible for supervising SVC's programs, managing outreach and education initiatives, curating the agency's social media presence, and coordinating programmatic evaluation.

**Bill Donnay** (he/him) worked for the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) for thirty years until his retirement in 2014. During his career at the DOC, Bill held a variety of positions, all but one of which focused on the reduction of sex offense recidivism. From 2003 until his retirement, he was the Director of the Risk Assessment and Community Notification Unit. In this role, he oversaw the Unit's operation of forwarding to county attorneys cases for legal review and possible petition for civil commitment and the provision of risk level recommendations to End of Confinement Review Committees for the purpose of community notification, coordinated risk level assignments for all people convicted of sex offenses in MN (including in correctional facilities and secure treatment facilities), and managed community notification services to local law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Since retiring, Bill has served as a member of the Special Review Board for the Department of Human Services and as a resource to programs that provide community-based outpatient programming for people with a history of sexual assault.

**Dr. Brenda Frye** (she/her) has been working with people who have engaged in sexual harm since 2002. She earned her PhD in Clinical and Forensic psychology in 2004 from Palo Alto University. She has a Master's degree in Leadership from the University of Minnesota (1998) and a Masters in Clinical Psychology (2002) from Palo Alto University. She has served in several professional roles, including treatment provider, evaluator and clinical director in both outpatient and residential settings with adults and juveniles who have acted out sexually. She currently works with the Institute of Forensic Psychology, which is a forensic program that conducts evaluations, including psychosexual evaluations and Commitment Appeal Panel (CAPS) Evaluations. She is also a university professor.

**Eric Janus** (he/him) is the Director of the Sex Offense Litigation and Policy Resource Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and President and Dean Emeritus. Between 1973 and 1984, Eric worked as an attorney for the Minneapolis Legal Aid Society. He later was co-counsel in constitutional litigation challenging use of civil commitment for people convicted of sex offenses. Eric's scholarly focus has been on constitutional and public policy considerations in the

development of so-called regulatory approaches to sexual violence prevention. Eric is the author of the book *Failure to Protect: America's Sexual Predator Laws and the Rise of the Preventive State*, and a co-author, together with Drs. Robert Prentky and Howard Barbaree, of the book *Sexual Predators: Society, Risk and the Law*. Eric was appointed to the 2012-2014 Sex Offender Civil Commitment Advisory Task Force.

**Hunter Beckstrom** (he/him) is the Prevention Program Coordinator at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Since joining in 2020, Hunter has focused on developing community-level, primary prevention strategies that are rooted within approaches of anti-oppression. Hunter strives to uplift and build capacity for the diverse and comprehensive prevention projects MNCASA members are implementing throughout the state. He also demonstrates how direct services providers can embed prevention efforts into their response. Hunter has been a part of the anti-violence movement since 2015 when pursuing his bachelor's degree from Winona State University. He has also received a Master's degree in Gender & Women's Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**Judge Jay M. Quam** (he/him) is a judge in the Fourth Judicial District of MN and has served as the Chief Judge of the Commitment Appeal Panel since 2022. Prior to his current appointment, Judge Quam was assigned as the Presiding Judge of Probate/Mental Health Court, the Assistant Chief Judge of the Family Court, and to the Criminal court. Before being appointed to the bench in 2006, Judge Quam was an attorney at Fredrikson and Byron and an adjunct professor at the St. Thomas University School of Law. Judge Quam is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School and the University of Minnesota Forensic Psychology Fellowship Program.

**Jen Thon** (she/her) is an attorney at Jones Law Office in Mankato, MN. She focuses her practice on civil commitment. She has extensive experience representing clients during sexually dangerous person, sexual psychopathic personality, and/or mentally ill and dangerous initial commitment trials and appeals. Jen also regularly appears before the Commitment Appeal Panel representing clients seeking a reduction in custody from their indeterminate civil commitment. She has served on the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Procedure Governing Proceedings Under the Minnesota Commitment and Treatment Act, the 2013 Mentally Ill and Dangerous Stakeholders Group, and the 2022 Commitment Appeal Panel Task Force.

**Jude Foster** (she/her) has been working with victims/survivors of sexual violence and professionals in the field for more than 30 years. She has worked extensively in developing, implementing, and managing crisis services programs; working with and coordinating multidisciplinary teams; and providing training and technical assistance to victim services, medical forensic programs and criminal justice professionals. Jude serves as the Director of Community Services at Cornerstone, supporting the School Based Services and Civil and Criminal Justice Intervention programs.

**Kate Hannaher** (she/her) is the Director of Law and Policy at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Prior to joining MNCASA, Kate spent five years as an Assistant Hennepin County Public Defender, and later ran the Family, Drug and Alcohol Court practice of the American Samoa Office of the Public Defender. In these roles, she represented adults in felonies, domestic violence, and civil commitment cases, and juveniles in delinquency and child protection cases, among others. From 2019-2023, Kate served as Director of Legal Services at Volunteer Legal Services of

Central Texas, the largest provider of civil pro bono representation in the region. From 2018-2021, Kate also provided consulting services for Gender Justice's reproductive justice advocacy work. Kate currently sits on the Minnesota Crime Victims Reimbursement Board, where she adjudicates claims for reimbursement from victims of violent crime.

**Katie Hubin Holmgren** (she/her) is the Executive Director at Project Pathfinder, Inc., an outpatient sex offender treatment agency. Katie has provided outpatient sex offender treatment for over twenty years, and early on chose to pair her work in the field with fourteen years as an advocate for victim/survivors of sexual violence. Katie holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Counseling and is a BBHT approved Clinical Supervisor. She is certified in administering and interpreting sexual arousal/interest testing (PPG/Abel/ABID). Katie has also served as an officer of the Board for the Minnesota Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (MnATSA) for seven years. She is Chair of their Education and Public Policy Committee, working to help guide statewide policy, education, and prevention efforts. She has contributed to interagency collaborations with the Minnesota Ramsey County Sexual Assault Protocol Team, Minnesota State Colleges & Universities, and most recently MNCASA's Health & Wellbeing Education Standards Workgroup to advance policy for quality sexual education in our schools.

**Liz De La Torre** (she/her) is a sexual assault advocate, community organizer, and former staffer to Representative Betty McCollum. She holds a Bachelor of Science in International Studies and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She currently serves as the Legal Services Coordinator with SOS Sexual Violence Services in Ramsey County. A first-generation American who grew up on St. Paul's East Side, she has served survivors of sexual violence as a crisis counselor and advocate since 2013. SOS offers free and confidential services for victims of sexual violence, their partners, families, friends and other concerned persons.

**Mark Bliven** (he/him) is Director of Risk Assessment/Community Notification (RACN) for the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). His primary responsibility is coordination of policies and processes for those subject to registration under Minnesota Statutes 243.166 and .167 who are leaving prison and returning to the community. A key role of the RACN unit is to ensure that local law enforcement agencies know when those with a sex offense history are returning to or initially moving into their community. RACN provides these agencies with detailed background material and assessments. Mark has been with the DOC for the last twenty-two years. He previously served as Pre-Service Education Coordinator for the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, working with college programs that provide license programs for peace officer candidates. He also spent a two-year sabbatical working as chief of staff to the Wisconsin Assembly Minority Leader 1999-2000.

**Dr. Michael H. Miner** (he/him) is Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota. He has been at the Eli Coleman Institute for Sexual and Gender Health (previously the Program in Human Sexuality) since 1992. Dr. Miner began his work in sexual violence research as the experimental psychologist for California's Sex Offender Treatment and Evaluation Project and since joining the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS); his research has focused on the etiology of sexual abuse perpetration in adolescence, risk assessment, sexual offender treatment and sexual compulsivity. He coordinated adult sex offender treatment at PHS until 2008 and forensic assessment services until December 2020. He is Past President of the

Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abusers and past Vice President of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders. He served as an Associate Editor of *Sexual Abuse* until 2015. Dr. Miner was the recipient of the Professional Service Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse in 2008 and Lifetime Significant Achievement Award from the Association and Prevention of Sexual Abuse in 2020.

**Pete Dross** (he/him) is the Senior Advisor for External Relations for The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT). Pete has worked for CVT for more than thirty years; he joined the CVT staff as director of Development in 1993, was named director of Policy and Development in 2007, director of External Relations in 2011, and vice president of External Relations in 2021, a role in which he and his team were responsible for all aspects of the organization's contributed income, communications, and policy advocacy programs. Pete has managed successful legislative initiatives on state and federal levels.

**Pogi del Rosario** (he/him) is a Prevention Program Coordinator with MNCASA. He previously worked as a Presenter/Educator for Catharsis Productions leading trainings through the SHARP/SAPR offices of the US military as well as presenting at colleges and universities. These research-supported trainings, called *Sex Signals* and *Got Your Back*, use a humor-facilitated approach to examining sex, culture, consent, and bystander intervention. Pogi has also been an actor, playwright, and producer for over 20 years. In his work as both a Fight Director and Intimacy Director for live theater, Pogi prioritizes safety and wellbeing, discusses power dynamics, and encourages consent-based practices while choreographing both violent and intimate moments on stage. He also is in the admin circle of the Minnesota Theater Accountability Coalition (MNTAC) helping encourage more equitable practices at performing arts institutions.

**Ronda Disch** (she/her) is the Executive Director of Alpha Emergence Behavioral Health. As Executive Director, Ronda is dedicated to pioneering innovative approaches in the treatment of sexual offenses. With over eight years of leadership experience, her career is marked by a passionate commitment to the treatment of individuals who have committed a sexual offense and a profound understanding of business dynamics. At Alpha Emergence, she challenges conventional methods and strives for groundbreaking advancements in the field. Ronda's background as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor is instrumental in shaping the organization's strategies and therapeutic interventions. This expertise allows the team to not only address the symptoms but also tackle the underlying issues of sexual offending, setting a new standard for effective treatment.

**Professor Sharon Press** (she/her) is Director of the Dispute Resolution Institute and Professor of Law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, MN. Press currently serves as Co-President of Community Mediation Minnesota and serves on the board of the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation. Press is a Florida Supreme Court certified county and family mediator and on Minnesota's Rule 114 Roster of Civil Facilitative and Hybrid Neutrals. She also mediates regularly in Conciliation, Housing, and Harassment Courts and for the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. Under her leadership, the Dispute Resolution Institute has been involved in the community in a variety of ways including working with the Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution on the Community Conversations in Falcon Heights after the death of Philando Castille and convening

the Truth and Action: Addressing Systemic Racism in the Criminal Justice System in Minnesota in the fall of 2020.

**Wilson Yang** (he/him) is the School-Based Services Program Supervisor at Cornerstone Advocacy Service. The School-Based Services program serves middle and high school students in Hennepin County through one-on-one support and violence prevention education. Wilson has worked in the domestic violence field for five years. He also has experience in other areas, such as electoral organizing and leading culturally focused workshops. He is a Hmong American and a proud son of refugees. Wilson is passionate about supporting youth, addressing gender-based violence, and exploring healthy masculinity.