



ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LAW CLINIC

Presents

GUARDIANSHIP AND ALL THAT JAZZ: LAW, SCIENCE, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Friday, March 15, 2019 | 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Panza Maurer Law Library, 3rd Floor

PROGRAM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Welcome and Introduction *Jon M. Garon, Dean and Professor of Law, Shepard Broad College of Law*

PANEL 1

Identify the Problem I; Legal and Ethical Challenges with Guardianships and Guardian Advocacies

- *The Honorable Mark Speiser, Judge for the Probate and Guardianship Division, 17th Judicial Circuit*
- *The Honorable Yves Laventure, General Magistrate for the Guardian Division, 17th Judicial Circuit*
- *The Honorable Claudette Vanni, General Magistrate for the Guardian Division, 17th Judicial Circuit*
- *Edward O'Sheehan, Partner at Shutts & Bowen and the Chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee (Moderator)*

PANEL 2

Identify the Problem II; The Realities of the AIDD Community

- *Susan Hofstetter, Assistant General Counsel for The School Board of Broward County.*
- *Dr. Andrea Horbey, NSU Director of Medical Education, Bethesda Health, Inc.*
- *Susan Kabot, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, Executive Director, the Autism Institute*
- *Felicia Jordan, Attorney at Disability Rights Florida*
- *Rita Castor, Regional Operations Manager, Agency for Persons with Disabilities*
- *Deborah Chin, M.A., The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Transition and Adult Programs (Moderator)*

Closing Remarks *Olga Torres, Staff Attorney, Shepard Broad College of Law*



**The Honorable Mark Speiser,
Judge for the Probate and Guardianship Division, 17th Judicial Circuit**

Judge Speiser, a graduate of The American University in Washington, DC, received his J.D. at the University of North Carolina and an LL.M. (Tax) at Georgetown University. Following law school, Judge Speiser served as a Staff Attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission, a Federal Prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice Organized Crime Strike Force, Senior Staff Counsel with the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations, and Chief Narcotics Prosecutor with the Broward County, Florida State Attorney's Office.

Since elected as a Circuit Court Judge in 1982, Judge Speiser has served in the Juvenile Division, the Criminal Division, (where he served as Administrative Chief for six years) and the Probate Division (currently serving as Administrative Chief). Judge Speiser has been a strong advocate for the creation of problem-solving courts. He implemented in Broward County's 17th Judicial Circuit the Drug Court, the Habitual Offender Court and the nation's first Mental Health Court.

Judge Speiser was appointed by the Chief Justice of The Florida Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court's Families and Children in The Court Subcommittee on Mental Health, the Supreme Court's Task Force On Substance Abuse And Mental Health and The Supreme Court's Expert Witness Ad Hoc Committee.

**The Honorable Yves Laventure,
General Magistrate for the Guardian Division, 17th Judicial Circuit**

Yves Laventure is the General Magistrate in the probate division of Broward County's 17th Circuit. He presides over matters involving guardianship, incapacity hearings, guardian advocacy and adult protective services hearings. In addition he also presides over Marchman Act and Baker Act petitions. Laventure manages the many referrals from Circuit Judges and coordinates hearings to ensure that cases are being heard timely and efficiently. Prior to his appointment as General Magistrate he worked as an assistant state attorney for the Broward State Attorney's Office for almost 13 years in both the juvenile and felony trial units. Laventure earned a BA from Florida International University in Criminal Justice in 2000 and his J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2003.

**The Honorable Claudette Vanni,
General Magistrate for the Guardian Division, 17th Judicial Circuit**

General Magistrate Claudette Vanni has been a General Magistrate in the Probate/Mental Health Division since July 2012. Prior to her service as General Magistrate, she worked in the area of public interest law for more than 10 years and has extensive trial experience. General Magistrate Claudette Vanni worked as a senior trial lawyer at the Office of the Attorney General/Children's Legal Services and as a senior attorney at the Guardian Ad Litem Program.

General Magistrate Vanni received her law degree from Shepard Broad College of Law, where she received the highest grade awards for Constitutional Law I and Constitutional Law II, graded onto the International Law Journal and graduated with honors. Magistrate Vanni received her undergraduate degree from Saint Leo University, where she graduated summa cum laude.

**Edward O'Sheehan,
Partner, Shutts & Bowen and Chair of firm's Pro Bono Committee (Moderator)**

Edward O'Sheehan is a partner in the Fort Lauderdale office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the Business Litigation Practice Group and Chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

Ed has over 19 years of litigation experience in consumer finance litigation, creditors' rights and bankruptcy, condominium and homeowner association litigation, probate and guardianship litigation, insurance matters, and tax appeals. Ed also provides representation for clients in matters involving The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

A former U.S. Marine, Ed is a Lieutenant Colonel and now serves as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Florida Army National Guard. He recently was named by the Office of the Public Guardian as Pro Bono Attorney of the Year for volunteering over 150 hours to represent the best interests of the wards in guardianship, abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and foreclosure cases. O'Sheehan earned his J.D. from University of Miami School of Law, cum laude, in 1995 and his B.A. in Economics from Ohio University in 1992.



**Susan Hofstetter,
Assistant General Counsel for The School Board of Broward County**

Susan J. Hofstetter has represented The School Board of Broward County, Florida since September 2016. She is currently the Assistant General Counsel for ESE, 504, Disabilities, Discrimination, Gifted, School Support and Academics to The School Board of Broward County in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Previous to that, she served as Assistant Regional Counsel for the Office of Criminal Counsel and Civil Regional Conflict in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is a member of the Florida School Board Attorneys Association (FSBAA). She has been a member of the Florida Bar since 2013.

**Dr. Andrea Horbey,
NSU Director of Medical Education, Bethesda Health, Inc.**

Andrea Horbey is a pediatrician and an assistant professor at Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. She attended New York University where she received her BFA in theatre from the Tisch School of the Arts and went on to receive a Magistere in French Literature from the Universite de la Sorbonne in Paris. She completed her premedical studies at Columbia University in New York. She attended medical school at Nova Southeastern University and finished a pediatric residency at Broward Health Medical Center. Her particular areas of passion in medicine are in developmental and behavioral pediatrics, hospital medicine, and children with chronic or complex medical conditions. She enjoys seeing patients on a daily basis at the outpatient pediatric office in the Ziff Clinic at NSU and also works part time as a pediatric hospitalist at Palms West Hospital in Loxahatchee.

**Susan Kabot, Ed.D., CCC-SLP,
Executive Director, the Autism Institute**

Susan Kabot is the Executive Director of the Autism Institute at the Mailman Segal Center for Human Development at Nova Southeastern University, where she has developed and administered programs for children and young adults for over 33 years. She has a master's degrees in Special Education and Speech-Language Pathology and a doctoral degree in Child and Youth Studies. Susan is the current Chair of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, completing her ninth year, advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities, supporting projects that research information needed to support public policy, creating model programs for dissemination throughout the state, and developing self-advocates and family members to be effective voices for systems change. She also serves on the Panel of Professional Advisors for the Autism Society.

**Z. Felicia Jordan,
Attorney at Disability Rights Florida**

Ms. Felicia Jordan currently serves as a director with Disability Rights Florida. Ms. Jordan earned her law degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2001. She is a member of the Florida Bar and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts, U.S. District Court for the Northern District and the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

She has served on the Florida Board of Governors, Young Lawyers Division for two consecutive terms as well as various boards and committees of the Florida Bar and local bar associations.

Her public interest and disability law experience includes several years working for Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc. and many years representing individuals with disabilities before the Social Security Administration in both public interest and the private bar. Ms. Jordan currently works on the Social Security Representative Payee team for Disability Rights Florida.



**Rita Castor,
Regional Operations Manager, Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

Rita Castor, MA, BCBA, is the Regional Operations Manager (ROM) for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) in the Southeast Region, which includes Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River counties. Ms. Castor has spent over 30 years working with, and advocating for, individuals with Developmental Disabilities. She has served in both the public and private sectors, across a variety of settings, in administrative positions as well as in direct service as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). In 1996, Ms. Castor established Castor Behavioral Consulting, Inc., and provided services to families and individuals in their homes. She also contracted with both the Palm Beach and Broward County school districts to provide behavior analysis services in classrooms and training for teachers. Prior to being appointed to the position of ROM for the SE Region in April 2018, Ms. Castor served as Deputy Regional Operations Manager since 2013, and Senior Behavior Analyst since 2002.

**Deborah Chin, M.A.,
The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Transition and Adult Programs (Moderator)**

Deborah Chin, MA, ACC is manager of The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Transition and Adult Programs at University of Miami-Nova South Eastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD). Over the past 12 years she has worked with teens, adults, and their families to provide information, resources, and guidance as they plan for life after high school. In recent years her efforts have prioritized capacity building with local professionals, organizations, and businesses to ensure adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have the opportunity to be fully included in employment and all others aspects of community life. Training and consulting with local organizations has given her the opportunity to support others who want to improve employment, life skills, medical, social, and educational opportunities for people with ASD. She has a B.A. in Psychology from The Florida State University and an M.A. in Liberal Studies from University of Miami. Ms. Chin is also an ICF Certified Professional Coach who is passionate about personal development and sharing the knowledge that magic is real.

**Jon M. Garon, Dean and Professor of Law,
NSU Shepard Broad College of Law**

Jon M. Garon is dean of Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law. Dean Garon serves as chief academic officer for the law school, providing strategic leadership on programming, curriculum, enrollment management, marketing, and finance. He is a nationally recognized authority on technology law and intellectual property, particularly copyright law, entertainment and information privacy. A Minnesota native, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1985 and his juris doctor degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1988.

**Timothy Arcaro, Director AIDD Law Clinic, Director Law Launchpad Program
& Professor of Law, NSU Shepard Broad College of Law**

A graduate of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Professor Arcaro is a tenured faculty member at the NSU Shepard Broad College of Law; he has been a member of the College of Law faculty since 1994. He is the Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Clinic Program Director and also directs the NSU Law Launchpad Program. Professor Arcaro currently serves on the Florida Legal Aid Corporation's Executive Board of Directors and is a former recipient of the Law Faculty Award of Professionalism from the Florida Supreme Court Standing Commission on Professionalism.

**Olga Torres, AIDD Clinical Fellow,
NSU Shepard Broad College of Law**

Olga M. Torres, J.D., is the Clinical Fellow for the Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Clinic at Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law. She also assists with the supervision of the post-graduate Launchpad attorneys. She primarily focuses on the areas of Guardianship and Guardian Advocacy. Olga graduated magna cum laude from the Shepard Broad College of Law.

