

Trauma-Informed Legal Practice

April 14, 2022, 11:30am-1:00pm

Beus Center for Law and Society, ASU

Faculty Biographies

DR. CARLIAN DAWSON is the Director of Education for the AZ Center for African American Children (AZCAAC), a non-profit organization. Dr. Dawson is a trained and certified Nurturing Parenting, Triple P, PAX, Protective Factors and Flourishing Families facilitator. She is a co-developer of Master Trainer of Trainers for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for the Arizona ACES Consortium and co-developer and Master Trainer of Trainers for Neurosequential Model for Caregivers for the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers.

Dr. Dawson has more than 30 years combined education experience including approximately 20 years as a teacher and principal, and approximately 10 years in the academia when she served as university administrator and associate professor. Dr. Dawson also served as the Director of a non-profit. In her spare time, she volunteers on community boards including the Vice President of the Arizona Friends of Foster Children's Foundation, member of First Thing First Southwest Maricopa County Regional Partnership Council, member of the AZ Center for African American Resources and several other leadership roles.

For 36 years she has been married to Roy Dawson and together they have 7 children, 9 grandchildren. Dr. Dawson graduated from Grand Canyon University, two master's degrees from Arizona State University and her doctorate in Education Leadership from Illinois State University.

PEARLETTE J. RAMOS, Ph.D., J.D. is a lawyer, social justice advocate, transformational leader and coach with more than 20 years' experience in advocacy, operations, compliance, and strategic and project management. Dr. Ramos serves as the Corporate Compliance Officer and Deputy Assistant Director with the Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division of Developmental Disabilities where she is responsible for regulatory and contractual compliance for the \$3 billion managed care organization that serves 47,000 Arizonans.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio and raised in the housing projects, Pearlette's childhood home was riddled with alcoholism, mental illness, and domestic violence. Due to the trauma, she fled her parents' home when she was 15 years old. Within twelve months she was pregnant, married and a high school dropout. During her 20s, she was a single mom who worked three jobs at a time just to make ends meet. These challenges prompted her to attend college-then law school school—where she dreamt of changing the laws and systems that disproportionately impacted women and their children.

Dr. Ramos graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law (1995) and practiced law as a civil litigator prior to returning to Saybrook University (2012) where she earned a doctorate degree in psychology. Her dissertation, *Well-Being: A Study of Attorney Beliefs, Attitudes, and Perceptions* (2012), takes a critical look at the factors that influence well-being among Arizona lawyers.

Dr. Ramos is producing her first feature film documentary, *Three (Extra)Ordinary Women*, which tells the story of three middle-age women of color who experienced childhood trauma, yet recovered after making meaning and growing as a result of their experiences. In addition, Dr. Ramos serves on the board

of directors for OneAZ Credit Union and Phoenix Rotary 100 and co-founded Sisters Talk About Race, an Arizona nonprofit committed to connecting, educating, and activating women to end systemic racism and ensure justice.

COMMISSIONER SARAH E. SELZER is a Commissioner for the Superior Court in Maricopa County. She presides over civil mental health proceedings in the Valleywise PhoenixAnnex hospital and at the Arizona State Hospital.

After graduating from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law, Sarah began her legal career by clerking for Judge Patricia K. Norris on the Arizona Court of Appeals. She subsequently worked in the non-profit, government, and private sectors: she practiced commercial litigation at Lewis and Roca, represented licensing agencies at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, worked as a career law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judges David K. Duncan and Deborah M. Fine, and was Associate General Counsel for Chicanos Por La Causa.

Sarah is a first-generation American who volunteers with asylum seekers through the International Rescue Committee. As a practicing lawyer, Sarah worked on several pro bono matters including transgender rights advocacy. Sarah has been on the boards of Trees Matter and the Maricopa Chapter of the Arizona Women Lawyers Association as well as on various committees for the Osborn and Creighton school districts. Before law school, Sarah served in two AmeriCorps programs (City Year and Jumpstart), worked as a lead teacher in a Head Start classroom and a research assistant at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, and backpacked through a dozen countries on three continents.

Sarah studied environmental science at Wellesley College—including a semester at Biosphere2 in Oracle—and she recently completed a master's degree in educational policy from Arizona State University.

C. BRADY WILSON, PH.D. is a clinical, consulting, and forensic psychologist who has practiced in Arizona since 1980. As a clinician, the majority of his clinical work is in the area of trauma. Often, the trauma-affected individuals with whom he consults have experienced trauma in the workplace. He has established himself as one of the leading experts in the country in charges of sexual harassment and assault, and the impact of employment misconduct upon employees. Dr. Wilson's expertise and his testimony regarding emotional and psychological damages in employment cases has been established in Federal, State and County Courts. Dr. Wilson just completed working with the U.S. EEOC in Washington D.C. where he collaborated with EEOC investigators in developing training materials on how to conduct sexual harassment examinations for all EEOC investigators.

Dr. Wilson earned his Ph.D. from Boston University Graduate School. He has served as President of the Arizona Psychological Association. He was honored with the Karl Heiser Award by the American Psychological Association for whom he serves as national media resource relative to employment issues.