WATSA 2020 Conference Presenters

Michael F. Caldwell, Psy.D.

Dr. Caldwell. is a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a Senior Staff Psychologist at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center. He is Past President of the Wisconsin Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. Since 1978 Dr. Caldwell has provided clinical treatment and risk assessment services for violent adolescent offenders including adolescent sexual offenders, and he has conducted research into risk assessment methods and the effectiveness of treatment interventions with adolescent offenders with callous/unemotional traits. He is currently a Co-Principle Investigator on NIMH grants investigating the neuroscience of aggression and changes in the adolescent brain associated with effective treatment. He is also a consultant to the Urban Institute and the MIND Research Network at the University of New Mexico. He has served as a consultant to the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Juvenile Justice, the National Academy of Sciences Sackler International Scientific Forum on Neuroscience and the Law, Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, and the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas, among many others. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters related to risk assessment and treatment of violent adolescent delinquents and adolescent sexual offenders.

Kevin Creeden, MA, LMHC

Mr. Creeden is the Director of Assessment and Research at the Whitney Academy in East Freetown, MA. He has over 35 years of clinical experience treating children, adolescents, adults and families working extensively with sexually and physically aggressive youth. Over the past 25 years, his primary focus has been on issues of trauma and attachment difficulties, especially with regard to the neurological impact of trauma on behavior and he has authored several articles and book chapters on the neurodevelopmental impact of trauma on sexual behavior problems. In the past, Mr. Creeden has served as the president of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), a Teaching Fellow at Boston College, an Instructor in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and a guest faculty at the Boston University School of Social Work. Presently, Mr. Creeden is the Board Chair of MASOC (The Massachusetts Society for a World Free of Sexual Harm by Youth) and a guest faculty at the Simmons School of Social Work Advanced Training Program in Trauma-Focused Treatment. Mr. Creeden trains and consults both nationally and internationally to schools, youth service, community, forensic services and mental health service agencies

Jacob Bezanson, MSW

Jacob Bezanson has worked for the Department of Corrections since 2006.  He is currently the chair of the End of Sentence Review Committee and Law Enforcement Notification Program Manager, where he helps review more than 900 individuals convicted of a registerable sex offense.  Jacob is a certified Static 99R trainer.  Prior to his current role in the department, he worked as a regional housing specialist, risk assessment specialist, and community corrections officer in various locations throughout the state, including King, Snohomish, Spokane, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties.  Before joining the department, he worked in juvenile probation and at a therapeutic group home for youth designated as sexually aggressive.  Jacob has a masters of social work degree from Eastern Washington University and studied political science and philosophy at Western Washington University.

Jedd Pelander

Jedd Pelander has worked for the Department of Social and Health Services and Department of Children, Youth, and Families since 2003 and is currently the Juvenile Rehabilitation Program Administrator for Youth who Sexually Offend. He oversees the Sex Offender Treatment and Aftercare Programs, represents Juvenile Rehabilitation on End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) and ESRC Sexually Violent Predator Subcommittee.  He chairs the ESRC Juvenile Subcommittee for juvenile risk level classification and is a member of Washington’s Sex Offender Policy Board.  In addition, Jedd is the Washington Interstate Compact for Juveniles Commissioner.

Amy Muth

Amy Muth is a Seattle criminal defense attorney who focuses her practice on representing those accused of sex offenses.  An experienced trial lawyer and negotiator, Amy has extensive sex offense policy experience as well; she has testified and/or reviewed numerous sex offense legislative bills, taught several CLEs, and written several amicus briefs on sex offense issues for WACDL, WDA, and ACLU.  She is a past WACDL president, a past recipient of the WDA President’s Award, and currently serves on the ACLU Legal Committee.  Amy is a 2001 graduate of Ohio State University College of Law.

Det.Bob Shilling (retired)

Bob is a 36.5 year veteran of the Seattle Police Department where he led the Sex and Kidnapping Offender Detail for 21 years. He served on the Board of Directors of The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) for 5 years, and he is an ATSA Fellow. Bob spent the last three years of his career as the Head of Crimes against Children for INTERPOL in Lyon, France. Under Bob's leadership, his team and network of investigators physically rescued 5,420 victims of sexual abuse through victim identification techniques on child abuse images circulated on the Internet and Darknet. That was more victims rescued in three years than the previous nine years combined. Bob is a 2017 recipient of the ATSA Significant Contribution Award. He is now retired.

Robert Beattey, JD, MA, PhD

Robert A. Beattey is an attorney and clinical and forensic psychologist, who practices, studies, researches, and teaches across the disciplines of law, clinical and forensic psychology, and public policy. He has testified as an expert in the United States District Court (SDNY), the Arizona Superior Court, and the Washington Superior Court. Dr. Beattey is a licensed clinical psychologist in Arizona and Washington and is admitted to practice law in Ohio and Washington.