VBA Family Law Day  
June 12, 2015  

SPEAKERS’ BIOS:  

Patricia "Penny" Benelli served on the VBA Board of Managers from 2001- 2008. She has also served as President of the VT Association for Justice (formerly the VT Trial Lawyers’ Association), and is currently Chair of the VBA’s Family Law Section. Penny is a VT Law School graduate and was admitted to the Bar in 1986, after clerking with the Windham trial courts. She has been a partner at the law office of Dakin & Benelli, P.C. in Chester since 1990, where her practice focuses on family law and civil litigation.  

James Caffry received his Law Degree from Albany Law School in 1994 (J.D. cum laude) and his Masters of Environmental Law in 1993 (M.S.E.L. magna cum laude). He received his Bachelor’s Degree from Colgate University in 1988. He has been licensed to practice law in VT and New York since 1995. Prior to opening Caffry Law in 2011, Jim practiced law at Darby Stearns Thorndike Kolter & Ware, LLP from 2000 to 2010. Prior to that, Jim was Assistant General Counsel for the American Skiing Company and a Land Use Attorney for the VT Agency of Natural Resources.  

Jim is an active member of the Special Needs Alliance (SNA). In addition to the SNA, Jim is also a member of the VBA, the ABA, & the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). Jim is also a member of the Autism Society of America. Closer to home, Jim has been involved with numerous groups and boards in VT that deal with issues that impact individuals with disabilities and their families. He was a member of the VT Developmental Disabilities Council from 2009 – 2014. He is a former member of the VT Autism Task Force (2007 – 2010). Jim is also a frequent participant at meetings of several Dept. of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) committees, including the DAIL Advisory Board and the Developmental Disabilities Svc. State Program Standing Committee. Jim is currently a member of the board of directors of Champlain Community Services and a board member of the Mad River Valley Community Fund. He is a former board member of the Mad River Valley Health Center, Inc. and Camp Dudley YMCA, Inc., and a former member of the Waitsfield Zoning Board of Adjustment.  

Anne Damone, Superior Court Clerk, is the Windham Superior Court Clerk and the Acting Superior Court Clerk for Bennington County. She has an AS degree in Criminal Justice and BA in Psychology. She has worked in the legal field for 26 years and has been on several committees within the Judiciary.  

Rebecca Thomforde Hauser is the Associate Director of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management Programs at the Center for Court Innovation in New York, NY. As the Associate Director, Ms. Thomforde Hauser assists jurisdictions nationally and in
New York State to plan and implement Sex Offense, Domestic Violence, Integrated Domestic Violence, and Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Courts. At the Center, Ms. Thomforde Hauser provides training to judges and court stakeholders on a variety of sex offender management and domestic violence issues, facilitates site visits to model courts, and provides on-going technical assistance to courts and stakeholder agencies. Additionally, Ms. Thomforde Hauser is the Batterer Accountability Coordinator for the state of VT, overseeing the certification process of batterer intervention programs, providing training and technical assistance to batterer programs, working with the Department of Corrections in VT to craft policies and procedures that enhance victim safety and offender accountability, and reporting to VT's Council on Domestic Violence. Before coming to the Center, she was a Victim Witness Advocate at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office in Boston, providing crisis intervention, case management, and court advocacy to domestic violence victims as well as other victims of violent crimes. While in Boston, she also worked at Safe Havens: The Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, creating curricula and coordinating a year-long training domestic violence education program for clergy and laity from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations throughout the greater Boston area. She graduated from Earlham College, where she received a Fulbright Scholarship, and Boston University School of Theology. Ms. Thomforde Hauser lives in VT with her husband and their two sons.

**E. Darby Herrington** practices law with the firm of Darby Thorndike Kolter & Nordle, LLP in Waterbury. Her practice includes many areas of general civil practice including family law, commercial and residential real estate, estate planning, estate administration, corporate and business formation, and general civil litigation. Trained in Collaborative Law, Attorney Herrington is an active member of the Central VT Collaborative Law Practice Group. She graduated from the University of VT (B.S. 1995), and the University of Maine School of Law (J.D. 2000), where she served as a member of the Moot Court Board. Ms. Herrington has been in private practice in VT since 2001 and is also admitted to practice law in Maine.

**Lindsey Huddle** is in private practice in Burlington where her primary emphasis is family law. Her practice also includes estate planning and work in probate court. Lindsey brings years of experience and works with a positive approach to assist clients toward a resolution of their legal issues. She handles divorce, parentage, civil union dissolution, post-judgment matters, including matters of custody, support, and basic and complex financial issues, and relief from abuse matters, using Collaborative Law practice, negotiation and litigation as appropriate for each case. She encourages couples to participate in prenuptial agreements as a step toward having an open and honest marriage from the very beginning. Lindsey represents both children and parents in juvenile court matters. In Probate Court, Lindsey handles adoption, guardianship, and probate of wills. Lindsey is especially enthusiastic about representing clients in divorce using Collaborative Law practice. This practice allows the clients and attorneys to be respectful and creative in coming to a resolution which best suits the parties. Both parties must be completely forthcoming with all information relevant to the issues of the case, and this transparency encourages trust, while eliminating much of the time-consuming and negative action which is required in litigation. In addition, the ability to have input from mental health coaches and or financial advisors in appropriate cases adds important skill and knowledge to a final settlement. Lindsey was a member of the
Advisory Committee on Rules for Family Proceedings for over twenty years, is a member of the Family Law and Collaborative Law Sections of the VT Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She has made numerous presentations to other attorneys in continuing education seminars. She is a graduate of VT Law School.

**Althea (Thea) Lloyd, Esq.** joined the VT judiciary in 2010 as a family court case manager and guardian ad litem supervisor serving on the Family Division and GAL Oversight Committees. In January 2014 Thea was hired as program coordinator to oversee the development and implementation of Windham County’s Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (IDVD).

Thea was a partner in Hertz & Lloyd (2001-2010), an associate with Michael Hertz from 1994-2001, in Brattleboro, and an associate at Sargent & White, in Morrisville, from 1989 – 1994. Thea’s primary area of practice has been in family law and mediation, including serving as an acting magistrate for many years. During her 20+ years in private practice she also was a parent coordinator and guardian ad litem working with high conflict families.

Thea obtained a B.A from Boston University before attending Northeastern Law School. She lives in the Brattleboro area with her husband.

**Marcy Milton, MMH, LCMHC** has worked in the mental health field for more than 30 years since earning her Masters in Mental Health degree from Johns Hopkins University. She has been in private practice at Networks, Inc. in Burlington since 1991. She has provided psychotherapy, consultation, and clinical supervision in a variety of settings, including mental health agencies, elementary schools, a pediatrics practice, among other facilities.

Marcy sees adults, adolescents and children presenting with a range of clinical, behavioral and relationship issues. She specializes in treating depression and anxiety disorders, and major life transitions such as divorce or significant loss. By blending her training in psychodynamic theory, solution focused therapy and hypnotherapy, she helps individuals, couples and families better understand the sources of their difficulties and develop effective skills to manage them. She also runs a group for parents who are separated or divorced.

During her years of working with families going through divorce, Marcy has seen how detrimental the process of litigation in court and its aftermath can be, especially to children. She believes that Collaborative Law, with its emphasis on shared decision making, open communication and respectful interactions, leaves a more positive, lasting impact on the divorcing parents, and therefore on their children. Marcy is a Divorce Coach participating on the Collaborative team, as well as a child specialist.

**James Valente** practices at Costello, Valente & Gentry, P.C., in Brattleboro, VT, where he read for the law. He was admitted in 2011 and specializes in litigation in the Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions. He began voluntarily assisting RFA Defendants (along with a number of other family practitioners from the county bar) at the beginning of the Windham IDVD program, and continues to appear there regularly, providing representation of private clients and as assigned counsel.
Wynona I. Ward, Esq., is an attorney and the founder of “Have Justice--Will Travel, Inc.” (HJWT), a non-profit organization that brings legal and social services into the rural communities of VT. HJWT provides in-home consultations, transportation, and free legal representation for low-income family members; including women, children, and men who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. Legal services include representation for relief from abuse, divorce, parentage, custody, visitation, and child support hearings. Other components of this unique and innovative model include a life skills and mentoring support group for women and the use of supervised visitation programs for children.

Wynona, who grew up in a home where family violence was an accepted way of life, serves as an inspirational speaker for local and national conferences and events. Recent speaking engagements include: Institute on Child Custody and Domestic Violence, Baltimore, MD, Senator Patrick Leahy’s Annual Women’s Economic Opportunity Conference, VT Law School, Georgetown University, Dartmouth College, Colby-Sawyer College, University of Minnesota at Mankato, Bryn Mawr School for Girls, Boston Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program, Rural Routes to Women’s Safety Conference, Duluth, MN., New England DV Forum, and VT Northwest State Correctional Facility, Sex Offender Treatment Program.

Recent awards include the Purpose Prize Fellowship, Washington, D.C. Caring Institute Award, VT Law School Distinguished Alumni Award, Girl Scouts of VT & NH Community Champion, CNN Hero of the Week Award, Meritorious Recognition by the American Bar Association for Outstanding Dedication to Advancement of Innovations in the Delivery of Legal Services, Foundation for the Improvement for Justice Award, Central VT American Red Cross Hometown Heroes Community Impact Award, VT Bar Association Annual President’s Award, Lifetime Television’s Champion Achievement Award, and Woman’s Day Second Annual Award for Women Who Inspire Us.

Wynona received a B.A. in psychology from VT College of Norwich University and a J.D. from VT Law School. Before entering law school, Wynona operated a trucking business with her husband, Harold, and traveled throughout the United States and Canada.

Mark Young, MA, LADC, is a supervising case manager and team member with the Integrated Domestic Violence Docket from Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS). Mark works in the Windsor County criminal division as the HCRS coordinator of the Sparrow Project and the supervising case manager and developing team member with the DUI Treatment Docket.

Mark joined HCRS in the Adult Outpatient Program in the Hartford office as a substance abuse and mental health clinician in 2007, and since then has coordinated the HCRS Challenges for Change Program (2011-2012) and the Community Outreach Programs (2012-present).

Mark received his MA in Counseling Psychology with a concentration in addictions from Antioch New England University in 2007 during which time he interned at Keene State College counseling center (2006-2007) and at HCRS in AOP/WRAP (Adult Outpatient/Substance Abuse) program (2005-2006).