

**Advancing the Field of Forensic Pathology: Lessons Learned from Death in Custody Investigations**

**Speaker Bios**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**SESSION 1**

**J. Keith Pinckard**, M.D., Ph.D., FCAP, is the current President of the National Association of Medical Examiners. He received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Washington University School of Medicine, completed a residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and completed a fellowship in Forensic Pathology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and Office of the Medical Examiner for the City of Saint Louis. He is board certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology. Pinckard has practiced forensic pathology for over two decades, having served as a Medical Examiner at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas, Texas and as the Deputy Chief Medical Investigator at the Office of the Medical Investigator in New Mexico, and he has served as the Chief Medical Examiner for Travis County, Texas (Austin) for over nine years. As the NAME President, he sits on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. He also chairs the NAME Standards Committee and serves on several other committees, including Strategic Planning. Pinckard serves on the Advisory Council of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, with whom he is also board certified. Pinckard has been active in the standards community for approximately 13 years. He served on the Scientific Working Group for Medicolegal Death Investigation for three years and then joined the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) at its inception in 2014; he now serves as the Vice Chair of its Medicine Scientific Area Committee. He is also a board member of the Academy Standards Board (a standards development organization) of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

**Reade A. Quinton** is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is also a board-certified forensic pathologist and a medical examiner for the Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office. Prior to 2019, he was the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner and Director of the Forensic Pathology fellowship training program for the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas, Texas. Quinton has published and lectured extensively in the field of forensic pathology, with a focus on child fatality and forensic pathology education. He is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and Chair of the NAME Educational Activities Committee.

**SESSION 2**

**Theodore (Ted) Brown** began his role as Director for the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory (ASCL) on October 23, 2023. He also serves the ASCL as Chief Medical Examiner, a role that he's had since September 2021, where he spearheaded a partnership with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to offer a forensic pathology fellowship program. Brown completed his undergraduate degree

at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana, medical school at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana, his anatomic and clinical pathology residency at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and his forensic pathology fellowship at the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department in Miami, Florida. After his training, Brown served as faculty at the University of Michigan followed by the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, where he founded a forensic pathology fellowship program.

Brown has over 25 peer-reviewed publications and 45 scientific presentations. He serves multiple national organizations in leadership roles, including the National Association of Medical Examiners and the American Society for Clinical Pathologists, as well as local committees, including the Arkansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review Team.

**Erin Linde** is a forensic pathologist at Physicians Laboratory in Omaha, NE and provides forensic autopsy services for counties throughout Nebraska and in western Iowa. Linde attended Creighton University School of Medicine and completed a combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency at University of Nebraska Medical Center. Following residency, Linde underwent subspecialty training in forensic pathology at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond, VA in association with Virginia Commonwealth University. She enjoys teaching and is appointed as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and as an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Pathology at Creighton University School of Medicine. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, and gardening.

**Deland Weyrauch** completed residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Yale–New Haven Hospital before training in forensic pathology at the Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. He is currently a deputy medical examiner for the Montana State Medical Examiner's Office in Billings, MT. He has authored educational materials for the College of American Pathologists, written a textbook chapter for *Essentials of Autopsy Practice*, serves on multiple committees for the National Association of Medical Examiners, and has presented on the topic of the public health value of the forensic autopsy for the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education in conjunction with the National Network of Public Health Institutes and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### SESSION 3

**Jan M. Gorniak** is certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and forensic pathology. She performed over 3,000 autopsies and has been certified as a forensic expert witness in numerous trials and depositions. Gorniak is also a registered medicolegal death investigator through the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. She is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners, in which she serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and she is the Chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action (IDEA) Committee, the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the National Medical Association. In November of 2008, Gorniak was elected to the position of Franklin County Coroner for Columbus, Ohio. She was re-elected in November 2012, and she served in that position until resigning in October of 2014. She went on to work as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for the District of Columbia (DC) Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. In the Fall of 2016, she was appointed to be the Fulton County Chief Medical Examiner in Atlanta, Georgia. In June of 2020, Gorniak joined the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner in Las Vegas, where she worked as a forensic pathologist/medical examiner until the Summer of 2023. She is the owner of World Peace Forensic Consulting, LLC, working as a

contracted forensic pathologist and consultant. Gorniak graduated from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA. She earned a Master's degree in Health Services Administration and a Master's degree in Medical Education.

**Michelle Jorden**, M.D., has been employed in Santa Clara County as a Medical Examiner and Neuropathologist since 2008 and is currently the Chief Medical Examiner. She obtained her medical degree from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. She performed 6 additional years of postgraduate training to include residency and fellowships in Anatomic Pathology, Surgical Pathology and Neuropathology at Stanford University Medical Center in California and a fellowship in Forensic Pathology at the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office in Chicago, Illinois. Jorden has been a Medical Examiner since 2005 and is board certified through the American Board of Pathology in anatomic pathology, neuropathology and forensic pathology. She maintains her board certification, and she participates in maintenance of certification (MOC) and most recently, Continuing Certification (CC), through the American Board of Pathology. Jorden also is Chair of the Child Death Review Team, board certified through the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI), a member of the Child Abuse Prevention Council for Santa Clara County and a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team.

#### SESSION 4

**Linda Franks** is currently the Board Chair of the Fair Fight Initiative, a 501c3 organization that advocates for equal treatment under the law, confronts systemic injustice, and helps victims challenge abusers of power in court. Through litigation and community advocacy, Fair Fight Initiative exposes mistreatment in the law enforcement system and works to end mass incarceration. She previously served as Executive Director, a position she held from 2018 to 2023.

Ms. Franks founded the Lamar A. Johnson Community Project, a non-profit whose mission is to provide access to the resources needed for healing to those that have been traumatized by this unjust system, through collaboration with trusted agencies, organizations, and individuals that work in areas of law, mental wellness, health, grass roots community advocacy. This Project is named after her son, Lamar Johnson, who died while in the Baton Rouge Parish Prison.

In 2015, Lamar was pulled over for a minor traffic violation and was arrested on an expired warrant, booked into the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison, and died 4 days later in their custody. In their quest for answers, Franks and her family were subjected to disrespect and obstruction. As a result, she joined with other family members and likeminded organizations to form the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition, and she has told Lamar's story at every opportunity to highlight the dehumanizing, treacherous and reprehensible treatment of those detained at this facility and the conditions and mismanagement that continue to persist.

Grounded in a love for mankind and lead by her faith that people committed to fairness, justice, and respect for the dignity of all life can transform any oppressive situation into one thriving with opportunity and peace for all, Franks is striving to leave a legacy of service and authentic real solutions for the future.

Franks graduated from Murphy High School in 1986, received her diploma as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1989, and earned an associate degree in Science for Nursing in 1994 from Bishop State Community College.

**Cheryl Pilate** focuses her practice on vindicating the individual rights and liberties of her clients. Widely known for exoneration of clients in actual innocence cases – cases where criminal justice has critically failed at the trial and appellate phases – Pilate’s practice extends to tackle police brutality, the death penalty, and serious federal and state criminal allegations against her clients. Often her clients also face administrative or civil lawsuits related to the underlying criminal proceedings. Pilate’s versatility as a skilled and experienced litigator in both criminal and civil matters enables her to strategically guide her clients through litigation in any realm.

Naturally inquisitive and with the advantage of an early career in journalism, Pilate helps her clients with what she describes as “fanatical fact-finding.” Her multilayered approach to finding the truth often involves street-level investigation to identify sources of information often missed by law enforcement and to find the flaws in the government’s evidence. She often consults with experts in forensic and social sciences both to confront the government’s case and to tell the client’s story. When government wrongdoing is discovered, Pilate’s holistic approach to righting the wrong has included seeking financial redress, successfully advocating for statutory changes in the law, and developing community networks for change. Her work is highly publicized, and she has been profiled in John Grisham’s book, *The Innocent Man*, and in the Netflix docuseries of the same name.

Pilate’s perspective as a lawyer is shaped by the career experience she had before entering private practice. While working as a journalist, she received her master’s degree in social work, which honed her ability to understand and connect with people of all backgrounds. As a law clerk to the late Honorable John R. Gibson at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Pilate learned the inner-workings of the Court and gained an understanding of how to craft persuasive arguments. She spent 15 years at Wyrsh, Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C., before forming Morgan Pilate LLC with Melanie Morgan in 2007.

## SESSION 5

**John Wetzel** is Founding Director, Keystone Restituere Justice Center, which provides accessible and translatable data-driven solutions in the fields of corrections and criminal justice. Formerly, Wetzel was Secretary of Corrections for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, having been appointed in January of 2011 by then-Governor Tom Corbett and reappointed by Governor Tom Wolf in January of 2015. Wetzel has presided over the first prison population reduction in Pennsylvania in more than four decades, a restructuring of the community corrections and mental health systems, and a re-engineering of internal processes to yield a more efficient program delivery. He has nearly 30 years of experience in the corrections field, including as a corrections officer, treatment counselor, warden, and training academy director. He is a member of the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections, which is focused on reducing prison populations. He is also a member of Harvard’s Executive Session on Community Corrections, which is a joint project of Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and the National Institute of Justice that works to shape the future of community corrections policy in the United States. He is a graduate of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and, in May 2016, was presented with an honorary doctorate degree by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Johnny Wu, M.D., FACP, FACCP, CCHP-P, CCHP-A**, is a top internist who serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer at Centurion, LLC in Vienna, VA. Centurion, LLC provides healthcare services to governmental agencies in a wide variety of patient care settings, including correctional facilities, state hospitals, juvenile facilities, and court systems. Wu additionally serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine in Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL, as well as Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. Prior to his current endeavors, he served, amongst others, as Director of Medical Services of the Correctional Managed Health Care Program at UConn Health Center, and as the Regional Medical Director of the Correctional Health Care Program of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In 2013, he received the My Boss is a Patriot Award from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Wu is a 1998-graduate of St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies. His postgraduate training includes his internal medicine residency served at Trinitas Hospital, an affiliate of the Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Sciences (1998 – 2001). Wu completed his undergraduate education, his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology, at The Johns Hopkins University in 1994. He attained board certification in internal medicine with the American Board of Internal Medicine. Furthermore, he obtained the Certified Correctional Health Professional – Advanced (CCHP-A) certification and the Certified Correctional Health Professional – Physician (CCHP-P) certification through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. He is a member of the American Medical Association, as well as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP) and a Fellow of the American College of Correctional Physicians (FACCP). Wu is a member of the Board of Directors for the American College of Correctional Physicians.

## SESSION 6

**Nicole Martin** serves as an attorney and the Legal Program Director for the Know Your Rights Camp Autopsy Initiative. As the Autopsy Initiative's first employee, Nicole collaborated with Know Your Rights Camp leadership to develop and establish the Autopsy Initiative, which provides free second autopsies to families who have lost loved ones in cases of in-custody deaths. In her role as Legal Program Director, Nicole leverages her diverse background and unwavering dedication to supporting marginalized communities by providing critical assistance to families in need of autopsy services. She has a strong commitment to social justice and public service. Nicole earned her Juris Doctor from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property from American University Washington College of Law.

**Alfredo E. Walker** is a registered Forensic Pathologist (category A) of the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service (OFPS) who is based within its Eastern Ontario Regional Forensic Pathology Unit (EORFPU) in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PALM) at the University of Ottawa's Ottawa Hospital General Campus in Ottawa, Canada. He is the Chair of the OFPS Complex Case Expert Committee (CCEC) which conducts peer-reviews of all cases of death that involve restraint by law enforcement or others. He is also a member of the OFPS Child Injury Interpretation Committee (CIIC) that performs peer reviews of all pediatric deaths that include injuries of a non-accidental nature.

Walker is an Assistant Professor in the Department of PALM and is the Programme Director of its PGY6 Residency (Fellowship) in Forensic Pathology programme, the lead trainer in forensic pathology for the Residents in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology, and the inaugural Vice Chair (Director of Education).

Walker received two University of Ottawa recognition awards which constitute the “*Award for Innovation in Postgraduate Medical Education*” for his conceptualisation and implementation of an Annual Courtroom Testimony Training Exercise for Residents and the “*Dr. M Orizaga Best Teacher Award*.”

Walker is a medical graduate of the University of the West Indies’ School of Medicine at the St. Augustine campus in Trinidad and Tobago (M.B.B.S degree). Prior to his current position, he was a Consultant Forensic Pathologist in the Department of Forensic Pathology and Legal Medicine of the internationally renowned, UK government-owned Forensic Science Service Ltd, at the Medicolegal Centre in Sheffield, England, whilst being a registered Consultant Forensic Pathologist to the British Home Office (aka Consultant Home Office Pathologist). He was on the Home Secretary’s Register of Forensic Pathologists in England and Wales for 4.5 years between 2006 and 2011 and earned the distinction of being the first and only Black person to attain this status to date since the establishment of the Home Secretary’s Register.

He pursued postgraduate training in Anatomical Pathology and subspecialty training in Forensic Pathology in the United Kingdom, attaining Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of the United Kingdom (FRCPath) and the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence (DMJ Path) by examination. He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the US-based Physicians for Human Rights and the Medicolegal Death Investigation International Community of Practice (MLDI ICOP). He holds professional memberships including Memberships of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (MFFLM) and the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (MCSFS) of the United Kingdom, and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). He was the Founding President of the Caribbean Association of Forensic Sciences (CAFS), the first regional professional organization for forensic science practitioners in the region, and latterly, the Caribbean Medicolegal Society (CMLS), in which he functions as its Executive Director. Walker is a Visiting Lecturer in forensic pathology on the postgraduate Master’s in Forensic Sciences programme of the University of the West Indies Mona campus in Kingston, Jamaica.

## SESSION 7

**Lachelle D. Weeks** is a physician-scientist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in the Department of Medical Oncology, as well as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She earned her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Weeks subsequently completed her medical training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital through the Internal Medicine Residency and at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship. Weeks is the director of the CHIP Clinic in the Dana-Farber Centers for Early Detection and Interception where she counsels patients who have clonal hematopoiesis, a precursor of blood cancers such as myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Weeks’s lab focuses on identifying risk factors for developing clonal hematopoiesis, understanding clinical and molecular features that predict risk of progression to overt malignancy, and designing therapeutic strategies to prevent adverse medical outcomes. In addition to her research efforts, Weeks is a champion of health equity in hematology. She was former chair of the American Society of Hematology’s anti-racism task force and has recently established a hematology referral pathway from community health centers to Dana-Farber. She is the 2024-2027 Timmerman Traverse Clinical Investigator for the Damon Runyon Foundation for Cancer Research and a 2020 Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program recipient. Her work is also supported by funding from the Edward P. Evans Foundation for MDS, NHLBI, and Breakthrough Cancer.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**SESSION 8**

Chief **James “Jay” Gerace** is a 25-year veteran of the Colonie Police Department and an FBI National Academy graduate. A certified police trainer and speaker, he specializes in crisis intervention and using learning science to improve training outcomes. He currently serves on the National Alliance on Mental Illness NYS Criminal Justice Committee and is a sought-after presenter on mental health topics.