

### **G. Alan DuBois**

Alan DuBois is the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina. He graduated from Duke University in 1984 and the University of Virginia School of Law in 1987. In 1989, after two years as a staff law clerk at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, he joined the Federal Public Defender's Office. In 2005, Mr. DuBois spent nine months working in Washington, DC; he spent six months with the United States Sentencing Guideline Commission and three months with the Office of Defender Services. On January 12, 2010, Mr. DuBois appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue on behalf of the respondents in *U.S. v. Comstock*. Mr. DuBois was confirmed and sworn in as Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina on April 9, 2018.

**Larry Dash** has been the Fourth Circuit Case Budgeting Attorney since 2014. He provides training, guidance, and recommendations to federal district court judges and CJA court-appointed attorneys on all aspects of case budgeting for complex cases. He works closely with the Circuit Chief Judge to obtain the required funding and payment approvals for the CJA attorneys. He currently serves as the case budgeting representative to the national eVoucher Working Group and he has been instrumental in the development of the recently deployed Federal Defender-hosted Electronic Budgeting Application. Before joining the Fourth Circuit, Larry was hired in 2001 to be one of the original Assistant Federal Public Defenders in the Norfolk/Newport News, VA office for the Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA). In that role, he litigated a variety of matters from misdemeanor violations to piracy and capital murder offenses. He was also responsible for training more than 150 attorneys seeking to become members of the local CJA panel as well as the recruitment and training of countless interns for the office. Prior to his position with the Federal Public Defenders Office, Larry had a solo law practice and was a CJA panel attorney in the Newport News, VA Division of the EDVA. Larry retired from active duty with the U.S. Air Force in 1997 after serving for more than 22 years in various capacities including as a security policeman, as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and as an attorney with the Judge Advocate Corps. Larry is a graduate of Columbia College and earned his J.D. from Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.

**Fredilyn Sison** Where hasn't Fredi worked? She has been an Assistant Federal Defender in Omaha, Nebraska; Boise, Idaho; Reno, Nevada and Asheville, North Carolina, with side stops in Washington, DC as visiting counsel at the Defender Training Branch and at the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She's in such "high demand" that she recently received a recruiting email asking her if she would like to be a legal assistant in an up and coming workers' comp firm. She wrote back thanking them but she was having too much fun being an advocate for poor people and had to decline their lovely offer. Then she killed her LinkedIn account. She now embarks on her greatest adventure as a lawyer: solo practice. She just hopes her boss gives her lots of time to do training, which she loves as much as representing people in federal court.

An honors grad of Cornell University and New York University School of Law, Fredi has served on the faculty for numerous programs around the country. Her favorite tag line during her teaching sessions is, "You understand this is interactive, right?" To date, no one has successfully slunk down low enough for her to not make eye contact and ask for a volunteer.

Fredi co-authored Trial in Action: The Persuasive Power of Psychodrama and expects to be an answer to a trivia question one day because of it. She's written article/chapters on various topics: child pornography, *voir dire*, cross examination and the effects of incarceration on families. Her two passions are psychodrama (where she's certified as a practitioner, not to be confused with being certified period) and Improv. She will play improv games all day if allowed, and you'll often hear her muttering, "Whoosh, Bang, Pow!"

**Julie Smyth**, LMSW is a mitigation specialist in private practice in Baltimore, MD. She began her career at The Defender Association of Philadelphia, followed by The Bronx Defenders where her work focused on adolescents being charged as adults. Currently, her practice specializes in juvenile lifer re-sentencings and sentence reductions (i.e. IRAA), but also includes capital cases. Additionally, Julie serves as an field placement advisor to social work graduate students at Columbia University.

**Scott Cannon** is the CM/ECF Administrator for the Clerk's Office for the United States District, Eastern District of North Carolina. Scott joined the court in 1992 as a Courtroom Deputy/Case Manager for the Honorable W. Earl Britt. In 2000, he became the Jury Administrator for the court and served in that capacity until taking his current position in 2021. Scott earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Political Science in 1986 from the University of North Carolina at Chape Hill, and his Masters in Public Administration in 2002 from North Carolina State University.

**Lisa W. Lee** has served in the Clerk's Office for the United States District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, for 30 years. After attending Mount Olive College, she was hired in the Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee's Office by then trustee, Malcolm J. Howard. Lisa then joined the court in 1994 when the New Bern Clerk's Office was relocated to Greenville. She has served as a magistrate, civil, and criminal case manager for both the Honorable Malcolm J. Howard and the Honorable Louise W. Flanagan. In 2016, Lisa was promoted to Criminal Case Management Supervisor for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

**Alyssa Hockaday** is the Attorney Advisor to the Clerk of Court for the United States District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with highest distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2000. Alyssa graduated in 2003 from the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she was a founding member and Publication Editor of the *First Amendment Law Review* and inducted into the Order of the Coif. Following graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable James C. Fox, Senior United States District Judge, Eastern District of North Carolina, until taking her current position in the clerk's office in 2015. Alyssa has taught legal writing as an adjunct instructor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and Meredith College.

**Eric Brignac** received his JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. Immediately after law school he worked as an associate at Covington & Burling in Washington D.C., focusing on transportation law and employee benefits law. Mr. Brignac also clerked for Judge James L. Dennis on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Judge Allyson K. Duncan on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Mr. Brignac is currently employed as the Chief Appellate Attorney with the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina, where he has worked since 2006. He also teaches a seminar on Sex Offenders and the Law and on Advanced Appellate Advocacy as an adjunct law professor at UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Jaclyn Tarlton** is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of North Carolina. She earned her B.A. 2005, University of Virginia; J.D. 2011, Georgetown University Law Center. She was a Law Clerk, Hon. Terrence W. Boyle, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, 2011-2012; Law Clerk, Hon. Julia Smith Gibbons, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 2012-2013; Associate, Supreme Court and Appellate Practice, Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, DC, 2013-2015; Senior Associate, Supreme Court and Appellate Practice, Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, DC, 2016; Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2016- present

**Eric D. Placke** was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but spent most of his childhood in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was a National Merit Scholar at the University of Arkansas, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and earned his B.A. in political science in 1983. Eric remained at the University of Arkansas for law school, where he was a Leflar Scholar and Managing Editor of the Arkansas Law Review. He earned his J.D., with high honors, in 1986. An Air Force ROTC Distinguished Graduate, Eric was commissioned in 1983, was an active-duty judge advocate from 1986 until 1993, and then served in the Air Force Reserve until his retirement in 2010. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College. His military assignments included Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Carswell AFB, Texas; Circuit Trial Counsel at Travis AFB, California; Instructor at the Air Force Judge Advocate General School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama; Appellate Government Counsel at Bolling AFB, District of Columbia, Air Staff Counsel at the Pentagon, and Appellate Military Judge on the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. Eric has been an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of North Carolina since 1993 and was named First Assistant in 2014. He was a supervising attorney for the Litigation Clinic at Wake Forest University School of Law for 25 years, and an adjunct professor in trial practice at Elon University School of Law for five years. Eric has lectured at federal defender programs in North and South Carolina, and at programs sponsored by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the North Carolina Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the National Defense Investigator Association and Wake Forest Law School. He is admitted to practice in Arkansas, North Carolina, the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Eric and his wife Dawn, a nurse with Cone Health, have two sons. Seth, his wife Michelle and their

children, Hampton and Chesed, live in Massachusetts, where Seth is an engineer at Draper Laboratory. Sam and his wife Jennifer live in Missouri, where Sam is an engineer with Cisco.

**NICOLE LYBRAND** is a Supervisory AFPD and Trial Unit Chief in Charlotte, North Carolina. She has been with the Federal Defender office for the Western District of North Carolina since 2020. Prior to relocating, Ms. Lybrand practiced in the Eastern District of Arkansas for ten years, her first two spent as the Research & Writing Specialist. During her federal defender tenure, she has tried sixteen cases with two resulting in hung juries, one conviction on only a lesser included misdemeanor, and two acquittals. She was recognized by the National Trial Lawyers in the Top 40 Under 40 in the area of criminal defense 2018–2020. She previously served as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at the University of Arkansas, William H. Bowen School of Law. She has taught on the topics of federal bureau of prisons programs, navigating BOP for your transgender clients, the First Step Act, sentencing advocacy, and impeachment tactics. A native of Florida, she holds a Bachelors in Business Management from the University of Central Florida and is a high honors graduate of the University of Arkansas, William H. Bowen School of Law.