

Expanding Pro Bono Legal Services for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Perspectives from the Catawba Indian Nation

AUGUST 26, 2022, 10:30 – 1:30

LOCATION: Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Courthouse
2nd Floor, 901 Richland Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

HOSTED BY:

U.S. District Court of South Carolina
The Catawba Indian Nation
SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)

AGENDA

- 10:00 – 10:30 CHECK IN & REGISTRATION
- 10:30 – 10:45 WELCOME FROM THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT
(Honorable Paige J. Gossett, US Magistrate Judge)
- 10:45 – 11:45 ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Presenters: Jeff Harris, Tribal Attorney, Catawba Nation
Meredith Jolin, Director of Justice Services., Catawba Nation

Session Description: The Catawba Nation will discuss issues related to Native American victims of crime in South Carolina. Speakers from the Nation will detail the unique challenges of working with Native victims across the State, and their efforts to protect an often overlooked population. In this session, they will discuss the victim's services the Nation provides, and data collected from their most recent needs assessment and strategic plan. Additionally, they will talk about issues associated with the misidentification and erasure of Native Americans in South Carolina, and how they plan to combat that by developing their own justice system.

- 11:45 – 12:30 BREAK (lunch provided)

- 12:30 – 1:30 ATTORNEY SELF-CARE WHEN REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE (Mental Health Credit)

Presenters: Jada Charley, Esq., President/CEO, Project R.E.S.T. (formerly SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition)
Patricia Ravenhorst, Esq., General Counsel & Director of Systems Advocacy, SCCADVASA

Session Description: Domestic violence and sexual assault programs across the country have increasingly adopted a trauma-informed approach within their organizations. But when we support survivors in a legal context, specific challenges may arise that make it harder for us to maintain a trauma-informed approach to our work. This session will provide a framework as well as concrete tips for applying a trauma-informed approach to supporting survivors in the context of legal proceedings, which includes strategies for the attorney to also engage in active self-care and safety planning to minimize stress, impact of vicarious trauma and burn out.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jeff Harris. Jeff Harris is a citizen of the Catawba Nation. He earned his J.D. from Duke University School of Law and works as the Tribal Attorney for the Catawba Nation, where he oversees the Legal and Justice Services Departments of the Tribe.

Meredith Jolin. Meredith Jolin is a citizen of the Catawba Nation and serves as the Director of Justice Services. In that capacity she oversees the development of the Nation's courts and victim's services. She previously worked in tribal court litigation in Arizona and graduated from Brigham Young University Law School in 2016.



Jada Charley, Esq. Jada is the President/CEO of Project R.E.S.T. (formerly SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition), an organization serving victims of domestic and sexual violence in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties. Jada has been working in the field of interpersonal violence and victim rights for over 15 years. Jada received a BA in Political Science and Spanish from Emory University and a JD from Georgetown University. Jada has studied American Sign Language and is fluent in Spanish. She has participated in the Riley Center Diversity

Leadership Institute at Furman University and won the Riley Institute's Diversity Leadership Award for Outstanding Individual. Jada is a graduate of the 2022 class of Leadership Spartanburg, and has published professional trade articles and co-authored a book on working with diverse clients and communities.



Patricia S. Ravenhorst, Esq. is the General Counsel and Director of Systems Advocacy for the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) where she provides legal support for the organization; legal technical assistance and education to SCCADVASA's 22 member organizations and other professional partners and management of SCCADVASA's contract and pro bono attorney program. Ms. Ravenhorst has been training attorneys, criminal justice professionals and the community on the unique legal needs of survivors of crime; immigration and human trafficking for over 18 years. Prior to joining SCCADVASA, Tricia served as the Director and Attorney of the SC Victim Assistance Network's (SCVAN) Immigrant Victim Program, where she established the organization's specialized legal and supportive services to immigrant survivors of crime and the SC Immigrant Victim Coalition, which brings together professionals throughout the state working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and

human trafficking. Prior to joining SCVAN, Ms. Ravenhorst practiced employment and immigration law at the Wyche Law Firm in Greenville, South Carolina. Her prior work experience also includes internships with the South African Secretariat for Safety and Security in Pretoria, South Africa. Tricia earned her Juris Doctor and Master of Arts in Political Science/Certification in Latin American Studies from Duke University and her Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from Florida State University. Ms. Ravenhorst is licensed to practice before both federal and state courts in South Carolina and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Association for Victim's Rights Attorneys.