

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Gary L. “Gar” Blume received his B.S. (1974) and J.D. (1978) degrees from the University of Alabama. Gar practices with the firm of *Blume & Blume* in Northport, AL, with his wife Nettie Cohen Blume and daughter Rachel Cohen Blume. His practice primarily focuses on trials and appeals of criminal defense, juvenile court, and Social Security Disability matters. In June 2015, Gar was presented with the Roderick Beddow Award for Lifetime Achievement in the field of Criminal Defense, by the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Association. He was a 2012 and 2014 recipient of the ACDLA’s Award for Outstanding Representation in a Criminal Case. He is on the Board of Directors of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center. In that capacity, Gar is the moderator of the Alabama Juvenile Practice Listserv. He chairs the Alabama State Bar Task Force on Juvenile Law, Child and Adolescent Rights. Gar is the lone juvenile defense lawyer member of the Alabama Task Force on At-Risk Children, created by Act 156 of the 2016 legislature. He chairs the Tuscaloosa County Juvenile Bar Committee, which is in its 11th year presenting quarterly juvenile specific CLE programs, the only source of regular juvenile-specific CLE programming in the State of Alabama.

Professor Julie E. McConnell is Director of the University of Richmond School of Law's Children's Defense Clinic. Prior to joining the Law School in 2011, Professor McConnell served as the Supervising Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in the City of Richmond's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court where she prosecuted cases involving juvenile delinquency, child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, and homicide. She has also served as an Assistant Public Defender in the Richmond Public Defender's Office and is the author of an article in *Virginia Lawyer Magazine* on the collateral consequences of juvenile adjudications. In 2011, Professor McConnell received the Oliver Hill Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court's “Unsung Hero” Award. She was also awarded the 2017 Outstanding Woman Award for Education by the YWCA Richmond.

Brenda Locke is a retired public defender who spent nearly 15 years in Jackson County representing minors charged with delinquent acts in youth court and adults charged with felony crimes in circuit court. She is currently employed as Juvenile Resource Attorney in the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender. Brenda serves on the Advisory Committee of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and on the Advisory Committee for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Task Force. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Paralegal Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Brenda is a longtime member of MPDA and previously served on the board of directors. Brenda is also a Certified JTIP Trainer.

Jake Howard splits his time between the Law Office of McDuff & Byrd, where he has been an associate since 2012, and the MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Mississippi, where he has been Of Counsel since January of 2015. Jake has litigated civil rights and criminal cases at the trial, appellate, and post-conviction stages in state and federal court. Since 2012, he has been the co-coordinator of an effort to ensure that all juvenile offenders serving life sentences in Mississippi’s prisons receive an opportunity for release on parole pursuant to the United States Supreme Court’s decisions in *Graham v. Florida* and *Miller v. Alabama*. Prior to moving to Mississippi, Jake was an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow in the Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center and a law clerk for the Honorable Myron H. Thompson at the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Jake graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School and received a masters of laws degree in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center. He also received a master’s in teaching from the University of Washington and a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan.

Mollie McMillin is an attorney in the Indigent Appeals Division of the Office of State Public Defender. Prior to joining the Office of State Public Defender in 2010, Mollie clerked for the Honorable Judge Virginia Carlton of the Mississippi Court of Appeals. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi in 2002 and a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2007. Mollie lives in Raymond, Mississippi with her husband and their two children.