

MAIN PRESENTERS
AJS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Alicia Bannon, Managing Director, Brennan Center Democracy Program

As Managing Director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, Alicia Bannon leads the Center's projects on fair courts and redistricting, directing research, advocacy and litigation to promote a fair and impartial judicial system. The Brennan Center at NYU School of Law is a nonpartisan law and policy institute which seeks to improve the American democratic and judicial system. An experienced constitutional lawyer and an expert on court reform, judicial selection, and electoral redistricting, Ms. Bannon has authored numerous nationally recognized reports and pieces of legal scholarship published by the Center, including *Rethinking Judicial Selection in State Courts* (June 2016), and *Choosing State Judges: A Plan for Reform* (October 2018). Her work is regularly featured in national media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, MSNBC, and NPR. She has taught as an adjunct professor at the NYU School of Law and Seton Hall Law School. Ms. Bannon received her J.D. from Yale Law School and graduated from Harvard College *summa cum laude* with a degree in Social Studies. She clerked for the Hon. Sonia Sotomayor in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for the Hon. Kimba Wood in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, Berkeley Law School

Erwin Chemerinsky has been the Dean of the Berkeley Law School since 2017 and was previously the founding Dean at the University of California Irvine School of Law. He was the keynote speaker at the 2019 AJS Annual Meeting in Honolulu where he discussed the *Judicial Role in Government*. Dean Chemerinsky has authored 14 books, including leading casebooks and treatises about constitutional law, criminal procedure, and federal court jurisdiction, and most recently, *Presumed Guilty: How the Supreme Court Empowered the Police and Subverted Civil Rights* (2021) and *The Religion Clauses: The Case for Separating Church and State* (2020). He has also written over 200 law review articles, is a contributing writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, and writes regular columns for the *Sacramento Bee*, the *ABA Journal*, and the *Daily Journal*, while also arguing several appellate cases before the United States Supreme Court. Dean Chemerinsky earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Northwestern University and graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

Charles Geyh, Indiana University Mauer School of Law

Previously director of the AJS Center for Judicial Independence, Charles Geyh is a Distinguished Professor and The John F. Kimberling Professor of Law at the Mauer School of Law at Indiana University. His research centers on judicial conduct,

independence and administration—focusing on the operation of the courts in relation to the political branches of government—and he has authored numerous books, including *Who is to Judge: Judicial Elections, Judicial Appointments, and the Perennial Debate Over Judicial Selection in America* (2019), *Courting Peril: The Political Transformation of the American Judiciary* (2016), *What's Law Got To Do With It?: What Judges Do, Why They Do It, and What's At Stake* (2011), and *Judicial Conduct and Ethics* (coauthored with James Alfini, Steven Lubet and Jeffrey Shaman) (2013), and articles, including *The Twilight of Judicial Independence* and *The American Judicature Society and Judicial Independence: Reflections on the Century Mark* (2013). Prof. Geyh received his B.A. in political science and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He previously clerked for the Hon. Thomas Clark in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, worked in private practice for the law firm of Covington & Burling, and served as counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary.

Cynthia Gray, Director, Center for Judicial Ethics

Since October 1990, Cynthia Gray has been the director of the Center for Judicial Ethics, a national clearinghouse for information about judicial ethics and discipline that was previously housed at AJS and is now part of the National Center for State Courts. She summarizes recent cases and advisory opinions, answers requests for information about judicial conduct, writes a weekly blog (at www.ncscjudicialethicsblog.org), writes and edits the *Judicial Conduct Reporter*, and organizes the biennial National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics. She has made numerous presentations at judicial education programs and written several articles and publications concerning judicial ethics topics. Having received her J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law, Ms. Gray clerked for Judge Hubert L. Will of the United States District Court of the Northern District of Illinois and then practiced as a litigation attorney in two private law firms.

The Honorable Goodwin H. Liu, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California

Goodwin H. Liu is an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court. Before joining the state's highest court, Justice Liu was Professor of Law and Associate Dean at the University of California, Berkeley Law School. The son of Taiwanese immigrants, his areas of expertise include constitutional law, education law and policy, and diversity in the legal profession. He coauthored *A Portrait of Asian Americans in the Law* (2017), a report that examined whether Asian Americans are underrepresented in leadership ranks of private law firms, government and academia. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Stanford University and attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, earning a master's degree in philosophy and physiology. Returning to the United States, Justice Liu helped to launch the AmeriCorps national service program and worked as a senior program officer at the Corporation for National Service. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1998, and clerked for Judge David Tatel in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Justice Liu went on to work as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, clerked at the

U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and later worked in the firm of O'Melveny & Myers.

The Honorable M. Margaret McKeown, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Judge McKeown was nominated to the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit by President Bill Clinton and was confirmed by the United States Senate in 1998. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice for more than two decades in Seattle and Washington, D.C., including as the first woman partner with Perkins Coie. She has been involved in various community and professional activities, including AJS. In 2019, the American Bar Association's Judicial Division and the Standing Committee on the American Judicial System presented her the prestigious John Marshall Award, which recognizes individuals who have made a positive impact on the American system of justice. She is the former president of the Federal Judges Association and former chair of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative Board, focusing on judicial reform, and increased transparency and accountability in the judiciary, both in the U.S. and nearly 50 other nations. Judge McKeown has lectured and taught extensively on constitutional law, international law, human rights law, intellectual property, litigation, ethics, and judicial administration in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. She earned her B.A. from the University of Wyoming and her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Dr. Anthony Simones, Director of Civic Education at The Missouri Bar

As Director of Civic Education, Dr. Simones designs, coordinates, and delivers education programming that helps Missourians understand the American Constitutional system, focusing on the separation of powers, judicial review, and individual liberties. Dr. Simones is a board member of the National Association of the State Judicial Educators. Prior to joining The Missouri Bar's civic education initiative, he was the Manager of Judicial Education and Programming at the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA), working extensively with the Supreme Court of Missouri's Civic Education Committee. After earning his Ph.D. in Political Science, American Government and Constitutional Law and his J.D. from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Dr. Simones taught government for several years at Missouri State University and political science at Dalton State College before joining the Missouri OSCA.

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