

**MIDWEST PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE AGENDA**  
**June 8-10, 2016**  
**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**  
**Manistee Michigan**

Here is the link to registration: <http://littlerivermpc.wix.com/peacemaking>

**DAY ONE: Wednesday June 8, 2016 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

8:00 - 9:00     **Registration and breakfast**

9:10 - 10:10   **Opening Ceremony**   Wanda Joseph, Judge Tim Connors and Pat Wilson

10:15 - 11:45   **“Listening and Talking: The Core of Conflict Resolution”**   Shawn Watts  
(Columbia Law School) Mr. Watts will lead an exercise giving the participants the opportunity to resolve a conflict using two different methods. The group will then discuss the process and outcomes of their exercise. The group will also participate in a second exercise designed to help recognize and build core listening skills critical to resolving conflicts.

11:45 - 1:00    **Lunch** (On your own)

1:00 - 2:30     **“Putting Peacemaking in Context – Building the Foundation for Court Systems to Engage the Peacemaking Process”**   Rob Wyman (University of Washington Law School). Why is Peacemaking a valuable new skill to add to your child welfare court system? In this session we will discuss the role of the Court in the “transformational” process we are directed to facilitate for families where abuse and neglect was found. What is the role of trauma in families’ lives, and how does it affect our own ability to help? What does it mean to be *responsive* to trauma, instead of just “trauma informed”? We will use the study of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a context for our work, and the science of building Resilience as our aspiration. This session will be less about Peacemaking itself than about the foundation of knowledge and practice that enables our systems to engage the Peacemaking process.

2:30 - 2:45     **Break**

2:45 - 4:30     **“Advancing Restorative Communities”**   Kristen Staley and Jason Smith (Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency). MCCD’s Advancing Restorative Communities project is dedicated to promoting and establishing holistic community-led approaches to youth justice in every area of Michigan, founded on principles of youth well-being, diversion and restorative justice. The MCCD team will lead a discussion on this project’s progression and preliminary findings, including the status of youth justice diversion initiatives in Michigan, and recommendations to increase restorative solutions in state and local justice systems.

**DAY TWO: Thursday June 9, 2016 (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.)**

8:00 - 9:00 **Breakfast**

9:10 – 10:10 **Events of the Day Announcements** Wanda Joseph, Judge Tim Connors, Pat Wilson

10:15 - 12:00 **“Native Worldview and Its Significance for the Development of Native Justice Tools and Systems that Reflect Who We Are as Native People”** Chief Judge Michael Petoskey (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) Judge Petoskey will share judicial experiences, lessons, and teachings along his thirty-year career journey that are at the foundation of development and implementation of native justice systems that reflect who we are as Native People. Native worldview and values are different than that of dominant society and ought to be at the foundation of the development and implementation of native justice tools and systems. “It should mean something to be Indian.”

12:00 - 1:15 **Lunch** (on your own)

1:15 - 2:15 **“A Better Way: Empowering Our Youth to Build Character and School Community”** Key Note Speaker: Joan Vestrand (Associate Dean of Cooley Law School) The value of restorative practices in school communities is demonstrated by the WMU Cooley/Avondale High School Peacemaking Court, which utilizes high school students as peacemakers for resolution of conduct issues that would otherwise warrant school punishment.

2:15 - 2:30 **Break**

2:30 - 4:00 **“Institutionalizing Peacemaking in State Courts”** Judge Tim Connors and Susan Butterwick (Washtenaw County Trial Court) Two models will be discussed that incorporate peacemaking into a state court docket. The first will be a reunification docket in child welfare / dependency cases; the second will be a domestic relations docket involving children with divorcing parents.

4:00 - 4:30 **Evening Announcements** (Wanda Joseph and Judge Tim Connors)  
**....And a Story** (Pat Wilson)

5:30 **Buffet Dinner**

6:00 - 7:30 **Entertainment: “Ladies of Native Comedy”**

**DAY THREE: Friday June 10, 2016 (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)**

8:00 - 9:00     **Breakfast**

9:00 - 9:30     **Events of the Day Announcements**   Wanda Joseph, Judge Tim Connors, Pat Wilson

9:30 - 10:45    **“Peacemaking in Public Schools”** Belinda Dulin, Amy McLoughlin and Skyline H.S. students (Washtenaw County Dispute Resolution Center and Skyline High School) Traditional school disciplinary models to a great extent mirror that of the juvenile justice system. Since the implementation of zero-tolerance policies in schools, many childhood behaviors that were previously considered to be due to developmental immaturity have become punishable offenses leading to suspension and expulsion. Also, the relationships and trust between students and staff have diminished creating new challenges of chronic absenteeism, poor academic performance and high dropout rates. Belinda, along with student-based “Skysquad Peacemakers” and Counselor Amy McLoughlin, will provide an overview of how a restorative practice model using students is developed and implemented for student-to-student and student-teacher conflicts. The participants will hear from the students, their counselor and trainer on how to identify, train, develop and implement this conflict resolution service in a school.

10:45-11:00    **Break**

11:00 -12:30   **“The Native American Rights Fund Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative”** Brett Shelton (Native American Rights Fund) Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative: Indigenous Peacemaking is nothing new. Our nations had ways of dealing with disputes since time immemorial. What is new is that, as western-model court systems have not been able to handle all the disputes in our communities, Tribal Nations are reviving their own traditional ways of dealing with disputes. Since these models almost always involve healing relationships rather than just punishing wrongdoing, the result is that we are also healing our communities by reviving our peacemaking traditions.

12:30 -1:30     **Lunch** (On your own)

1:30 – 2:00     **Closing ceremony, Closing Speeches, Drum, Traveling Song** Wanda Joseph, Judge Tim Connors and Pat Wilson

Contact:  
Patrick D. Wilson  
Peacemaking/ Probation Department  
3031 Domres Road Manistee, Mi. 49660  
Phone: (231)398-2239 Fax: (231)398-3404  
Cell Ph. (231)236-2369

***“To prevail in peacemaking one will need to find the love that dwells in those whom you have a need to continue a relationship with.” Patrick D. Wilson***



## Midwest Peacemaking Conference 2016

### About the Presenters

#### Susan Butterwick



**Susan Butterwick** is an attorney, mediator, and peacemaker. She is a State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) approved mediation trainer and has taught mediation courses at Pepperdine University School of Law, Cooley Law School, University of Detroit Mercy Law School, and Wayne State University's Law School and Department of Communications. She has also provided conflict resolution trainings and workshops for SCAO and other Michigan and national organizations, including the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, the American Bar Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and the Association for Conflict Resolution.

In addition to practicing law, Susan has been a private practitioner in mediation and a volunteer mediator at community dispute resolution centers. She has directed several ADR programs, including an adult guardianship mediation program, a child protection mediation program, and restorative practice school programs for the Dispute Resolution Center in Washtenaw County and the Wayne Mediation Center and has authored and co-authored several articles on mediation, restorative justice, and peacemaking.

In 2013, Susan began working with Judge Timothy Connors as director of the Peacemaking Court Program at the Washtenaw County Trial Court – the first state court in the nation to adopt tribal court peacemaking practices. In December 2014, Susan accepted the position of Referee of the Juvenile Division at the Washtenaw County Trial Court for the abuse and neglect reunification docket in order to expand the peacemaking court to the child welfare cases.

Susan served on the Michigan State Bar ADR Council for six years. She is the recipient of the State Bar of Michigan's ADR Section Distinguished Service Award, as well as the "Pioneer of Peace" award by the Dispute Resolution Center, and the Father Bernard J. O'Connor Award for "commitment to the practice of just humane resolution of social conflict."

#### Timothy Connors



**Judge Tim Connors** has been a State Court Judge since 1991. For eleven of those years he served as a Chief Judge. He has served by appointment as Judge Pro Tem for

the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Judge Connors is the Presiding Judge of the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court. He also presides over cases in the Civil and Domestic Divisions of the Washtenaw County Trial Court and handles the Neglect and Abuse docket for the Juvenile Court.

Judge Connors is the author of *Our Children are Sacred, Why the Indian Child Welfare Act Matters*; American Bar Association Judges Journal, Spring 2011 and *Crow Dogs vs. Spotted Tail: Case Closed?*; Michigan Bar Journal, July 2010. He co-authored, *TRIBAL COURT PEACEMAKING A Model for the Michigan State Court System?* Michigan Bar Journal, June 2015.

In 2016, Judge Connors was the recipient of the Reverend Thomas H. Smith Humanitarian Service Award from the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 2015, Judge Connors received the Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Award from the Michigan Judges Association. The award “honors judges who serve their profession and their communities with integrity, skill, and courage every day.” Judge Connors is a three-time recipient of the Justice Blair Moody Award for Significant Contributions to Judicial Excellence. In 2014, Judge Connors was awarded the Child Welfare Jurist of the Year Award by the Foster Care Review Board. He also received the Peace Builder Award on behalf of the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court from the Dispute Resolution Center. This award was given “in recognition of outstanding commitment to the practice of just and humane resolution of social conflict.” Further in 2014, *dbusiness*, Detroit’s Premier Business Journal recognized Judge Connors as one of the “top circuit court judges” in Southeast Michigan. This recognition was based on integrity, knowledge of the law, efficiency and judicial temperament. Judge Connors was awarded the Tecumseh Peacekeeping Award for Dedicated Service to Protecting the Rights of American Indians from the Michigan State Bar Indian Law Section. Judge Connors was presented with the Patriot Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench, the Bar, and the Community from the Washtenaw County Bar Association in 2009.

In 2014, Judge Connors was elected Chairman of the Board of Eversight, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the restoration of sight. Judge Connors is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Tribal Leadership Forum.

Judge Connors is incorporating Peacemaking principles, philosophies and procedures shared by Tribal communities into State Court justice systems. This effort is supported by the Michigan Supreme Court. Cases identified as potential beneficiaries of Peacemaking are those where the litigants have ongoing relationships after the court’s adjudication is complete. In addition, cases where litigants need a more complete understanding of and closure to the conflict that brought them into court are also potential beneficiaries of Peacemaking. To date, successful outcomes of Peacemaking efforts have been witnessed in wrongful death suits, elder guardianship disputes, estate distribution issues, domestic relations battles and neglect and abuse proceedings.

## Belinda Dulin



**Belinda Dulin** began her employment with The Dispute Resolution Center 2003 as the Mediation Services Coordinator and assisted in launching the Small Claims Mediation Program and the Domestic Relations Motion Day Program. In 2006, she became the director of mediation services and was responsible for the development and administration of various civil and family mediation programs as well as facilitating workshops to community organizations.

In the summer of 2007, Belinda accepted the position of Executive Director and continues to expand the DRC's services. Under her administration, she has expanded the small claims mediation program, where mediation is the first step for problem solving in the 14A, 14B and 15th District Courts; and, developed and implemented school based conflict programs serving students, families and school staff in identifying and resolving barriers and issues that affect students. Specific services include attendance mediation to identify the barriers consistent school attendance and create solutions that break the pattern of poor attendance, support the family structure and, academic improvement. Also, the DRC implemented the restorative practices services to address student-student and student-teacher conflict in a non-punitive, supportive manner that allows relationships to be restored, problems to be resolved and support services to be identified to support positive behavior and academic improvement. In 2013, the DRC partnered with the Peacemaking Court, providing restorative justice model to families in the child protection and delinquency systems The Dispute Resolution Center serves Washtenaw and Livingston Counties.

Belinda has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master of Arts degree in Dispute Resolution, both from Wayne State University. Prior to becoming involved in community mediation, she worked in the corporate setting assisting with employment disputes -- preserving the working relationships between co-workers and employees and management.

### Michael Petoskey



**Michael Petoskey** has been the Pokagon Band's Chief Judge since his appointment in February 2002. He is a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians tribal member and Viet Nam veteran, having served as an infantry medic. Judge Petoskey has been a judge for various Michigan Indian tribes since 1986. He has served on the bench in each of the seven (7) federally-recognized Tribes in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Judge Petoskey began his judicial career with the planning, implementation and development of the courts for his own Tribe from just a dream, while he was a staff attorney for Michigan Indian Legal Services. He was the Chief Judge at the Grand Traverse Band for over sixteen (16) years until his retirement from the position. During the course of his career, Judge Petoskey has worked with four other Michigan Indian tribes to plan, implement and develop their courts, serving as the founding Chief Judge. He continues to serve two of those tribes in that capacity. Additionally, he has served as an appellate court judge for the remaining two Lower Peninsula of Michigan Indian tribes.

Chief Judge Petoskey is a 1975 graduate of Michigan State University with a B.A. in Economics and a 1983 graduate of the University of New Mexico, School of Law.

In 1992 the **Michigan Bar Journal** recognized Judge Petoskey as a "*Citizen Lawyer*" for his contributions in law to Michigan tribal communities. In 1997 he was named, along with eleven other attorneys, "*Lawyer of the Year*" **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**, a legal newspaper. In 1999 the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court was one of sixteen tribal programs nation-wide honored as an outstanding example of tribal governance, **in large part for its implementation of peacemaking initiatives**, by *The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development*, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. In 2000 the American Indian Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan honored Judge Petoskey and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael Cavanagh with the Section's annual "**Tecumseh Peacekeeping Award**" for their leadership in moving State of Michigan courts and tribal courts away from conflict and toward cooperation. In 2010 Judge Petoskey was featured as a "*Master Lawyer*" by the State Bar of Michigan to debut a new section of the State Bar. In 2013 the National American Indian Court Judges

Association presented Judge Petoskey its *Lifetime Achievement Award* in its inaugural year of making awards, **in part for his lifetime career involvement in promoting Native peacemaking justice systems.** In 2014 Judge Petoskey was profiled in *“Our Cause Will Ultimately Triumph –Profiles in American Indian Sovereignty”*, a book edited by Tim Alan Garrison, for raising the stature of tribal courts and promoting tribal sovereignty by building strong relationships between Michigan’s state and tribal courts. In 2014 Judge Petoskey was invited and embraced an opportunity to become a member of the Native American Rights Fund’s **“Indigenous Justice Initiative”** Advisory Group. He continues to serve in that capacity. On November 20, 2014 Judge Petoskey was presented the **“Nelson Mandela Peacemaking Award”** by the Washtenaw County Bar Association “for outstanding leadership in building healthy communities through positive relationships, individual and collective responsibility and respect dialogue in resolving human conflict”.

## Brett Shelton



**Brett Lee Shelton** is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and a Staff Attorney at the Native American Rights Fund. His work at NARF focusses on the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative, Boarding School Healing work, and Sacred Places protection.

Brett has extensive experience representing and advising tribal governments, agencies, and enterprises in general governmental, health and human services, employment, natural resources, construction, and economic and business development matters, as well as contributing legal advice and litigation support for various private individuals, businesses, and development initiatives. He has also worked as a policy analyst for the National Indian Health Board, as a grassroots organizer for international indigenous peoples in biotechnology evaluation, and assisting domestic violence victims in civil court for a nonprofit based on his home Reservation, the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and Nebraska,

He received his law degree from Stanford University, and a Master of Arts from the University of Kansas. While at Stanford Law School, he was honored by the Foundation of the State Bar of California with an Exceptional Merit Award for Public Service Leadership, and he received the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Award and Scholarship, the John Milton Oskison award for best graduate student paper, and was named Indian Graduate Student of the Year. He is currently licensed to practice law in various courts including California, Colorado, South Dakota, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, as well as several United States courts.

The Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative (IPI) was created to support tribal implementation and revitalization of peacemaking and other forms of traditional dispute resolution in the interest of preserving native existence, augmenting and enhancing the sovereignty of Native nations and peoples, and augmenting the administration of justice throughout Indian Country.

The IPI focusses on four broad areas of service: (1) providing a databank of tribal materials on peacemaking and other related matters, (2) providing technical assistance to Tribes seeking assistance in implementing traditional dispute resolution processes, (3) providing training to support the growth of traditional dispute resolution processes, and (4) providing advocacy to support peacemaking and traditional dispute resolution processes, at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. The project is advised by a group of some of the most highly esteemed peacemakers and others working in the field.

## Jason Smith



**Jason Smith**, Youth Justice Policy Associate at the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD), began his career in the field of juvenile justice as an intern with the Ingham County Circuit Court's Family Division. After graduating from Michigan State University, Jason was a direct care worker at a transitional home for adjudicated girls, then a juvenile case manager within Wayne County's CMO system. While working on his Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan, Jason interned with the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative and MCCD. While a social worker for the Village of Skokie, IL, Jason was also a Youth Justice Leadership Institute Fellow with the National Juvenile Justice Network.

## Kristin Staley



**Kristin Staley** is Deputy Director of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD). She is responsible for advancing MCCD's efforts to improve Michigan's youth and adult justice systems. Prior to her work in Michigan, Kristen practiced family law in the Louisville, KY area, was an appellate clerk in the Juvenile Post-Disposition Branch of the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, is an experienced facilitator of youth restorative justice panels, and assisted in the formation of the National Juvenile Justice Network's Youth Justice Leadership Institute. Kristen holds a B.A. from American University and a J.D. from the University of Louisville

## Joan Vestrand



**Joan Vestrand** is an Associate Dean of Western Michigan University-Cooley Law School where she also teaches Personal and Professional Responsibility. As the immediate past chair of the law school's Department of Professional Responsibility, she assisted in the development of numerous professionalism initiatives and programs for which the school has received the ABA's prestigious E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award.

Before joining the law school, Dean Vestrand was a state ethics prosecutor investigating and prosecuting ethics violations against Michigan lawyers and judges and later, a partner and shareholder in a law firm that specialized in lawyer disciplinary defense and legal ethics. Dean Vestrand is past chair of the State Bar's Special Committee on Grievances and its Law Practice Management section. She is also a long-time member of its Standing Committee on Character & Fitness and she serves as a hearing panel chairperson for the Michigan Attorney Discipline Board, presiding over lawyer disciplinary matters.

Over the years, Dean Vestrand has designed and implemented several programs in benefit of disadvantaged youth and gives of her time regularly to these initiatives. In 2012, she launched a student court at a high school for restorative disposition of matters that would otherwise result in student discipline. After learning about Native American Peacemaking, she converted the court into a peacemaking program. This initiative has received the Eastern Leaders Group 2013 Leadership Award and was featured as a premier youth character program at the 2014 Carnegie Project on Social Justice at the National Institute for Character Education.

Dean Vestrand is a frequent lecturer on legal ethics and the importance of ethical behavior at both the state and national level. In addition to educating attorneys and business executives, she regularly gives of her time helping youth and college students identify the connection between ethics and success. Her



speaking engagements have included six annual appearances as a featured speaker at the United States Coast Guard Academy's Ethics Symposium, the West Point Military Academy's Leadership Conference, and engagements at The Citadel Military Academy of South Carolina, including at their Annual Leadership Symposium. For her work with youth and contributions in the field of ethics, Dean Vestrand has received the State Bar's Champion of Justice Award and has been named a Leader in the Law.

## Shawn Watts



**Shawn Watts** is a Citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and is the Associate Director of the Mediation Clinic at Columbia Law School. He has conducted conflict resolution and negotiation trainings for diplomats at the United Nations as well as training world ambassadors to Japan. He has mediated dozens of federal sector Equal Employment Opportunity Commission employment discrimination suits and mediated in the New York City Civil Courts, Harlem Small Claims Court, and the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and he has also supervised student mediations in court-related programs in New York City.

Mr. Watts developed and teaches a course in Native American Peacemaking, which is a traditional indigenous form of dispute resolution. Multiple Native American tribes have used his peacemaking work to refine their conflict resolution and court systems.

Prior to serving as the Associate Director of the Edson Queiroz Foundation Mediation Program at Columbia Law School, Mr. Watts was an associate in the Finance and Bankruptcy practice group at the New York office of Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP where, in addition to representing both creditors and debtors in multimillion-dollar bankruptcies, he specialized in Federal Indian Law and tribal finance.

Mr. Watts earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2000. He served as the President of the National Native American Law Students Association and was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar while at Columbia Law School. In addition, he was a Managing Editor of Columbia Law School's *Journal of Law and Social Problems*. Mr. Watts won the Jane Marks Murphy Prize for clinical advocacy and was a Strine Fellow while he was a student at Columbia Law School. Mr. Watts graduated from Columbia Law School in 2012 and is currently licensed to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

## Rob Wyman



**Rob Wyman** is the Co-Director of the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) at The University of Washington School of Law where he works with Judges, Commissioners, court staff, attorneys, social workers, CASA and other stakeholders in child welfare. CITA uses data to inform strategic planning and facilitates the process of innovation and change in child welfare systems, and delivers training to judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders. Rob is also an attorney consultant with the Judicial Engagement Team of Casey Family Programs, currently working in Maricopa County Juvenile Court in Arizona and Denver County Juvenile Court in Colorado to further the goal of Safely Reducing the number of children and youth in the foster care system.

Rob spent five years after college working in the juvenile corrections systems in Washington and Oregon States in many capacities. He then went to the University of

Denver to attain an MSW and JD, specializing in the representation of children and youth in the foster care system. After graduation, Rob worked at The Defender Association in Seattle for 12 years, and supervised attorneys representing parents and youth in the dependency division there for eight years.