

HOST



Janet Hays, Director – Healing Minds NOLA

Janet Hays is founder and director of Healing Minds NOLA, a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable & educational organization dedicated to identifying and creating alternatives to incarceration, homelessness, unnecessary *repeated hospitalization, and death for people living with severe mental illness. Janet advocates for a full continuum of coordinated psychiatric treatment and care regardless of where one enters the stream.

Janet has partnered with like-minded individuals and organizations across the state and nation to demand change in Louisiana and across the nation. She advocates for policies and matching funding priorities that focus on evidence-based treatment and care programs. Most recently, Ms. Hays has lead an effort to robustly implement Louisiana's under-utilized assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) law. AOT is tailored to the small group of people with serious mental illnesses who cannot or will not adhere to treatment in the community without supervision.

MODERATOR & SPONSORS



Dr. Norman J. Ornstein

Norman J. Ornstein is an emeritus scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he has been studying politics, elections, and the US Congress for more than four decades. Along with Thomas Mann and Michael Malbin, he created “Vital Statistics on Congress” in 1980, a go-to-reference guide that provides impartial data for congressional watchers, and is updated every two years. He is also a longtime participant of AEI’s Election Watch series and an adviser to the Continuity of Government Commission.

Dr. Ornstein previously served as codirector of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project. He has been involved in political reform for decades, particularly campaign finance, election reform, and House and Senate reform. He has also played a part in creating the Congressional Office of Compliance and the House Office of Congressional Ethics. He was elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004. He often appears on C-SPAN, CBS, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, NPR, and “PBS NewsHour,” among other outlets. He served as an election analyst for CBS News for thirty years, and also was an on-air election analyst for BBC News. Through his family foundation named in honor of his late son Matthew, he helped spearhead the documentary “The Definition of Insanity,” about criminal justice and mental illness, which premiered at the Miami Film Festival in March 2020 and aired nationally on PBS on April 14, 2020.

Dr. Ornstein’s articles and opinion pieces have been published widely, including in Foreign Affairs, the Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, Politico, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and USA Today. He is also a contributing editor and columnist for The Atlantic.

Dr. Ornstein’s books include the New York Times and Washington Post bestsellers “One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Deported” (St. Martin’s Press, 2017) with E. J. Dionne and Thomas E. Mann and “It’s Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism” (Basic Books, 2012) with Thomas E. Mann.

His other books include, “The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track” (Oxford University Press, 2006) with Thomas E. Mann; and “The Permanent Campaign and Its Future” (AEI Press, 2000) edited with Thomas E. Mann.

Dr. Ornstein has a PhD and a master’s in political science from the University of Michigan and a BA from the University of Minnesota.



Judy Harris

After more than 45 years of practicing law in both the public and private sectors, Judy recently retired to serve full time as President of The Matthew Harris Ornstein Memorial Foundation (MHOMF), in order to further the Foundation’s mission to eliminate stigma, minimize suffering, and improve the treatment and the lives of those held captive by serious mental illness. Judy, her husband Norman Ornstein, and their surviving son Daniel established MHOMF following the death of Judy and Norman’s older son and Daniel’s brother, Matthew, at the age of 34.

Matthew had been a brilliant, kind, funny, popular young man, who had excelled at Princeton, studied in South Africa and had found early success in Hollywood, before he was robbed of his promise, and eventually his life, by the onset of an undiagnosed, untreated mental illness. During the painful ten-year journey which followed, Matthew and his family encountered virtually every facet of the country’s badly broken system of care for those with serious mental illnesses. At MHOMF, Judy works for changes in those aspects of the country’s current approach to mental illness that, based on her family’s personal experience, are most in need of repair.

Her legal background, coupled with Judy and her husband’s devastating efforts to get Matthew treatment through the judicial system, helped them to recognize the genius of Judge Steven Leifman’s efforts to decriminalize mental illness that are portrayed in the Foundation produced documentary, *Definition of Insanity*. Judy’s understanding of the current state of the law regarding mental illness and the nature of the legislative process was also behind the partnership that MHOMF forged with the LEAP Foundation for Research to Practice to educate stakeholders in the science relating to anosognosia, or lack of insight and, through jointly sponsored seminars, to provide tools that can be used right now to build constructive relationships with those suffering from anosognosia.

Concurrently, Judy serves on several task forces examining, and seeking to update to reflect the latest science, laws related to civil court early intervention in the treatment of those with serious mental illnesses, particularly those whose lack of insight deters them from voluntarily seeking help.

Matthew was a national champion debater in high school and credited debate with much of his subsequent success. In order to honor the person Matthew was before he got sick and perpetuate his love of debate, MHOMF has also established and runs, in partnership with the Washington Urban Debate League, a Summer Debate Institute for 6th through 12th graders, primarily at Title I schools in the DC area. Using her own professional experience and communication skills, Judy is able to use the Institute in her and MHOMF's fight against stigma by re-enforcing the message that mental illness can strike anyone, at any time, and often afflicts even the most successful among us. Before her retirement, and after a clerkship with the DC Superior Court, Judy spent much of her career at the global law firm of Reed Smith, specializing in litigation, antitrust and consumer protection and later, communications and privacy law. She served for several years as Managing Partner of Reed Smith's DC office, one of only a few women at the time to serve in that capacity at a major firm.

Judy earned a JD from The Yale Law School in 1973, where she won the John Currier Gallagher Prize, and a BA, with highest distinction, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Michigan in 1970.

SPEAKERS

Miami-Dade County Fla.



Judge Steven Leifman

Judge Steve Leifman is the Associate Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court – Criminal Division. From 2007 – 2010, Judge Leifman served as Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court of Florida. He currently chairs the Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts for the Supreme Court of Florida and the Mental Health Committee for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Judge Leifman is the co-chair of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Mental Health Committee and co-chair of the Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative. He is also a Gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse and a member of The National Institute on Drug Addiction's (NIDA) Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network. Judge Leifman is a lifetime member of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP), a Lecturer in Psychiatry at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and a Voluntary Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami School of Medicine and on the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Supportive Housing. More recently, Judge Leifman was appointed to serve on the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness and the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) established by the 21st Century Cures Act.

In 2015, Judge Leifman received the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. One of the nation's highest judicial honors presented by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the Rehnquist Award is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Judge Leifman is also the first recipient to receive the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence (2015). He was named by New Times as one of Miami-Dade's most interesting people of 2017 and a 2016 Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year. More recently, Judge Leifman was awarded the 2020 Dade County Bar Association (DCBA) David W. Dyer Professionalism Award, the most prestigious honor bestowed by the DCBA, the 2018 Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health, the 2019

Yale-NAMI Mental Health Advocacy Award and a 2019 Presidential Commendation by the American Psychiatric Association.

Judge Leifman has been featured in many national and local television programs, radio programs, and articles regarding mental health and the criminal justice system. He has appeared as a guest on many Podcasts and has authored and published numerous articles and book chapters on mental illnesses and the criminal justice system. Judge Leifman is the subject of the Documentary, **The Definition of Insanity** which aired nationally on PBS on April 14, 2020.



Cindy A. Schwartz

Cindy A. Schwartz currently serves as the Project Director of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida Criminal Mental Health Project- Jail Diversion Programs. Her career goals have been focused on promoting system transformation, community integration and recovery for individuals who experience serious mental illnesses. Cindy has a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master's degree in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

She is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, an Advanced WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator, Instructor of How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses, Certified Court Manager, Consultant for the SAMHSA SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (SOAR TA) Center and consultant for the SAMHSA GAINS Center. Cindy is also actively involved in her community and serves on a variety of professional organizations, boards and committees.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH, La.



Nick Richard

Nick Richard is the Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) St. Tammany, a position he has served in since December 2008.

During his tenure, he has built strong community relationships between law enforcement, mental health care providers, and community leaders. He has served as a mentor during both the formation of 22nd JDC Behavioral Health Court and the creation of the crisis intervention team (CIT) for the Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office. He is currently the co-chair for his community on the CIT Steering Committee and is a Certified CIT Coordinator.

Mr. Richard is an active member of the community and involved in initiatives that work to improve services and resources for families and persons with mental illness. Currently, he is a member of the 22nd Judicial District Behavioral Health Court Team, a member of the St. Tammany Parish Safe Haven Task Force, Safe Haven Advisory Board and serves on the Safe Haven Foundation. In addition, he is the current Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Northshore Court Foundation. He has also served as past chair of the regional Mental Health Advisory Council, as well as, eight years as the Regional Representative for the Louisiana Behavioral Health Planning Council, chairing their Advocacy Committee.

Most recently, Mr. Richard received the 2020 Crisis Intervention Team Advocate of the Year through CIT International. He was also recognized by his fellow NAMI Executive Directors and awarded the Vicki Cottrell Leadership Award at the 2019 NAMI National Convention. He has also received the 22nd Judicial District Attorney Award for work on behalf of mentally ill in the criminal justice system and was a past recipient of the City Business Health Care Hero Award.



Judge Alan Zaunbrecher

Alan Zaunbrecher serves as Judge in the 22nd Judicial District Court, State of Louisiana. He also currently presides over both Behavior Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Court for the 22nd Judicial District.

Judge Zaunbrecher is a native of Rayne, Louisiana. He completed his undergraduate matriculation at Tulane University and received his Juris Doctorate and Master of Law degrees from Tulane University Law School. Judge Zaunbrecher founded Zaunbrecher Treadaway, LLC, and practiced for 38 years in the field of general litigation.

In his personal life, Judge Zaunbrecher has held numerous positions in the legal field, and in his community. He has been a member of the Louisiana Bar Association for over 37 years and a Fellow for the last 25 years. He is also a member of the 22nd JDC Bar Association, Slidell Bar Association, and Washington Parish Bar Association. Judge Zaunbrecher has been a member of the Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District (Superdome Commission), Super Bowl XXXI Host Executive Committee, the Executive Board of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, National Association of Sports Officials. He is also a member of the President's Council of the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Covington, Louisiana, Northshore Republican Men's Club, West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce and the Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers & Collectors Guild as its Executive Legal Counsel.

He is married to Susan L. Zaunbrecher and they have three children.