

# Kansas Federal Public Defender

[www.ks.fd.org](http://www.ks.fd.org)

---

Federal Public Defender Melody Brannon  
First Assistant Federal Public Defender Kirk Redmond  
Administrative Officer Erin Thompson



June 5, 2020

Kansas Senators:

On Wednesday you failed to confirm our colleague Carl Folsom to the Kansas Court of Appeals. This was a terrible loss for the people of Kansas. Carl is a brilliant lawyer, a thoughtful citizen, and a compassionate, decent man. Everyone who has ever worked with Carl—either alongside him or across the aisle from him—recognizes that he would, and someday will, make a terrific judge.

But we don't write today because we disagree with the failed confirmation vote. Rather, we write to address some Senators' disparagement of Carl's work as a public defender. This work should have made Carl a prime candidate for the bench. His unique experience as a defender would have diversified the judiciary in a manner crucial to a vibrant legal system. And his broad range of legal skills would have translated readily to judicial tasks.

And yet some Senators would not have him because he proudly stands by the poor and powerless regardless of status or charge. This prejudice against extending basic constitutional rights to all is unacceptable. It is the same prejudice that underlies the police violence that our representatives should—always, but especially today—be working to end.

You, Senators, took an oath to support the state and federal constitutions. So did we. We work hard to fulfill that oath every day. We do it to preserve the rights and dignity of all persons, of all races, of all religions, of every background—just as our constitutions require. And we do it without apology. As Justice Hugo Black wrote 57 years ago, "the right of one charged with crime to counsel may not be deemed fundamental and essential to fair trials in some countries, but it is in ours."

In this historic moment, we reaffirm our oath to seek and preserve fairness and equal justice for all. We ask every member of the Kansas Senate to join us in this commitment. Let us all be public defenders.

---

Kansas City Division  
500 State Ave, Room 201  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
Tel 913.551.6712  
Fax 913.551.6562

Topeka Division  
117 SW 6th Ave, Ste 200  
Topeka, Kansas 66603  
Tel 785.232.9828  
Fax 785.232.9886

Wichita Division  
301 N Main, Ste 850  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
Tel 316.269.6445  
Fax 316.269.6175

Federal Public Defender Office, District of Kansas

Melody Brannon  
Federal Public Defender  
Topeka

Latasha Hubbert  
Assistant Paralegal  
Kansas City

Kirk Redmond  
First Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Topeka

Jami Krause  
Paralegal  
Kansas City

Erin Thompson  
Administrative Officer  
Kansas City

Lydia Krebs  
Research and Writing Specialist  
Topeka

Laura Shaneyfelt  
CJA Resource Counsel  
Topeka

David Magariel  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Kansas City

Debbie Allen  
Computer System Administrator  
Wichita

Dawn McClinton  
Investigator  
Kansas City

Jennifer Amyx  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Wichita

Serena Miller  
Investigator  
Topeka

Tom Bartee  
Branch Chief, Assistant Federal Public  
Defender  
Kansas City

Paige Nichols  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Topeka

Mitch Biebighauser  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Wichita

Michele Oeberst  
Paralegal  
Wichita

Francila Blanco  
Investigator  
Topeka

Chekasha Ramsey  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Kansas City

Tim Burdick  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Kansas City

Laquisha Ross  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Kansas City

Dana Burton  
CJA Panel Administrator  
Topeka

Ann Sagan  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Topeka

Jacqueline Carter  
Chief Paralegal  
Wichita

Lorraine Schroeder  
Paralegal  
Wichita

Ariana Cruz  
Assistant Paralegal  
Topeka

Anthony Scognamillo  
Chief Investigator  
Wichita

Rachel Denlinger  
Appellate Paralegal  
Kansas City

Carly Simons  
Senior Legal Assistant  
Topeka

Jennifer Efird  
Administrative Assistant  
Topeka

Kathryn Stevenson  
Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Topeka

Rich Federico  
Senior Litigator, Federal Public  
Defender  
Topeka

David Stormer  
Computer System Administrator  
Topeka

David Freund  
Branch Chief, Assistant Federal Public  
Defender  
Wichita

Mary Summers  
Administrative Assistant  
Kansas City

Meredith Fry  
Paralegal  
Topeka

Zay Thompson  
Investigator  
Kansas City

Kayla Gassmann  
Research and Writing Specialist  
Kansas City

Jennifer Wilson  
Paralegal  
Kansas City

Daniel T. Hansmeier  
Appellate Chief, Assistant Federal  
Public Defender  
Kansas City

Cecilia Wood  
Investigator  
Wichita

Kansas Criminal Defense Bar

Doug Adams  
Ney, Adams & Miller

Brian Leininger  
Leininger Law Offices

Scott Anderson  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Ashlyn Buck Lewis  
Kansas Capital Habeas Office

Peter Antosh  
Garica & Antosh, LLP

Patrick M. Lewis  
Law Office of Patrick Lewis, LLC

Audra Asher  
Law Office of Donald E. Anderson II,  
LLC

Benjamin E. Long  
Schlagel Long LLC

Kevin Babbit  
Fagan & Emert, L.L.C.

Blair W. Loving  
Hope, Mills, Bolin, Collins & Ramsey

Tom Bailey  
Solomon and Peter

Terry Malone  
Williams-Malone, PA

James Bales  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Christopher Maudlin  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Emily Barclay  
Assistant Public Defender, Johnson  
County

Paul McCausland  
Attorney at Law

Justin Barrett  
Barrett Law Firm PA.

Melinda McElheny  
Murphy's Law LLC

Tom Bath  
Bath & Edmonds

David Miller  
Ney, Adams & Miller

Branden Bell  
Morgan Pilate LLC

Dan Monnat  
Monnat and Spurrier, Chtd.

Alexandria Belveal  
Attorney at Law

Robert Moody  
Martin Pringle

Jason W. Belveal  
Attorney at Law

Melanie Morgan  
Morgan Pilate LLC

Tobi Bitner  
Bitner Legal, LLC

Jeff Morris  
Berkowitz Oliver LLP

Whitney Bolden  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Shazzie Naseem  
Berkowitz Oliver LLP

Thomas Bradshaw  
Attorney at Law

Samuel Natale  
Bath & Edmonds

Hyemin Byun  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Heather Nelson  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Robert Calbi  
Attorney at Law

Jay Norton  
Norton Hare LLC

James Campbell  
Coffman & Campbell

Eli O'Brien  
Monnat and Spurrier, Chtd.

Hatem B. Chahine  
Chahine Legal LLC.

Keith O'Connor  
Keith O'Connor LLC

Adam Chingren  
Rokusek and Stein Law, LLC

Mark Orr  
Chief Public Defender Sedgwick County  
Public Defender's Office

Geoff Clark  
Mason & Clark, LLC

Cooper Overstreet  
Attorney at Law

Michael Clarke  
Clarke Law Office

Richard Paugh  
Attorney at Law

Matthew Cohen  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Joshua Peter  
Solomon and Peter

Peter Conley  
Kansas Death Penalty Defense Unit

Cheryl Pilate  
Morgan Pilate LLC

Bonnie Corrado  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Jeremy Platt  
Clark & Platt, Chtd.

Alice Craig  
Attorney at Law

James Pratt  
Attorney at Law

Hayley Cumberland  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

David M. Rapp  
Hinkle Law Firm

Nika A.J. Cummings  
Cummings & Cummings, LLC

John E. Rapp  
Hinkle Law Firm

William F. Cummings  
Cummings & Cummings, LLC

Trevor Riddle  
Monnat & Spurrier, Chtd.

Nick David  
The David Law Office LLC

Vincent Rivera  
Rivera Law LLC

Jeffrey Dazey  
Kansas Death Penalty Defense Unit

Katrina Y. Robertson  
Attorney at Law

Jorge M. DeHoyos  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Christopher Rohr  
Law Office of Christopher A. Rohr, P.A.

Lucille R. Douglas  
Calihan Law Firm, P.A.

Jennifer Roth  
Attorney at Law

John Duma  
Duma Law Offices, LLC

Lindsay Runnells  
Morgan Pilate LLC

Michael C. Duma  
Duma Law Offices, LLC

Lance Sandage  
Sandage Law LLC

Victoria Eck  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Dionne Scherff  
Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC

Robb Edmonds  
Bath & Edmonds

Kari Schmidt  
Conlee Schmidt & Emerson

Joseph A. Falls  
Falls Law Office

Craig Schultz  
Schultz Law Office

Robin Fowler  
Bath & Edmonds

J. Steven Schweiker  
Attorney at Law

Sheena Foye  
Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian P.C.

S.A. Scimeca  
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Jane Francis  
Law Office of Jane Francis, LLC

Mark Severt  
Attorney at Law

Robert C. Gigstad  
Gigstad Law Office LLC

Cindy Sewell  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Cyd Gilman  
Attorney at Law

Spencer Short  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Jessica Glendenning  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Michael Shultz  
Shultz Law Office, P.A.

David Guastello  
The Guastello Law Firm

Branden Smith  
Smith Legal Services, LLC

Adam Hall  
Thompson-Hall, P.A.

Jessica Sokoloff  
The Sokoloff Law Firm

Elaine Halley  
Law Office of E. Elaine Halley LLC

Bradley T. Steen  
Law Office of B. Truman Steen, LLC

Thomas D. Haney  
Of counsel, Stevens & Brand

Garrett Solomon  
Solomon and Peter

Megan Harrington  
Attorney at Law

Tom Telthorst  
524 Legal

Mark Hartman  
Chief Public Defender, Garden City

Mark Thomason  
Law Office of Mark Thomason

Mike Hepperly  
Michael Hepperly Law Office

Scott Toth  
Garretson & Toth

Judd Herbster  
Herbster Law Firm, L.L.C.

Jerry Wallantine  
Law Firm of Martin & Wallentine LLC

Sarah Hess  
Sandage Law LLC

Douglas E. Wells  
Attorney at Law

Sal Intagliata  
Monnat and Spurrier, Chtd

Angie Williams  
Attorney at Law

John Jenab  
Jenab Law Firm, PA

Maban Wright  
Third Judicial District Public  
Defender's Office

Thomas Johnson  
Petefish, Immel, Hird, Johnson, Liebold  
& Sloan LLP

Kate Zigtama  
Zigtama Law Office

Christopher Joseph  
Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC

Angela Keck  
Angela Keck Law Offices, LLC

Sally Kelsey  
Attorney at Law

John Kerns  
Mack & Associates

Kurt Kerns  
Kerns Law Group

Bruce Kips  
Attorney at Law

Jesse Landes  
Sedgwick County Public Defender's  
Office

Daniel E. Lawrence  
Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson, & Kitch LLC

J. Matt Leavitt  
Hulnick, Stang, Gering & Leavitt, PA