



Maine Elder Abuse Summit Speaker Biographies

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Dr. Mark J. Yaffe

Dr. Mark Yaffe is a full professor in the McGill University Department of Family Medicine in Montreal where he conducts an active family practice.

His Administrative activities have included being Chief of the Department of Family Medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, Director of its large teaching Family Medicine Center, and Post-Graduate Program Director for McGill Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Yaffe teaches at the undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate and continuing professional development levels. He is an inductee into the McGill Faculty of Medicine Honor Roll for Teaching Excellence, and a recipient of the Quebec College of Family Physicians' Award of Excellence for contribution to teaching of family medicine.

Dr. Yaffe has published over 70 journal articles and a number of book chapters. Research topics include identification and treatment of anxiety and depression, and developmental tasks of middle age. His work on family caregiving across the lifespan and on elder abuse are particularly acknowledged internationally. He led an interdisciplinary team that developed and validated the Elder Abuse Suspicion Index (EASI), a tool to assist family physicians in detecting elder abuse. The EASI has been translated into eight languages, was found by a World Health Organization team to have face validity in a variety of countries, and groups world-wide are exploring its potential in different settings.

Dr. Yaffe is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for Research in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. As well, he was the inaugural recipient of the Award of Distinction for Health Care of the Elderly by a Family Physician from the Canadian Geriatrics Society and the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL SPEAKERS

Denis Culley

Denis Culley works as a Staff Attorney for Legal Services for the Elderly in the Augusta office. He represents Maine residents sixty and older before courts and in administrative hearings before state agencies along with providing other civil legal services to Maine's elderly. Two growing components of his practice are dealing with the aftermath of financial exploitation and advocacy regarding denial or reduction of public benefits to the elderly. He recently secured return of \$300,000.00 of real estate to an elder who had been exploited by his granddaughter.

Mr. Culley began his work with Legal Services for the Elderly in the fall of 2004 after graduating cum laude from the University of Maine School of Law and spending one year as a law clerk in Kennebec Superior Court. Since that time he has represented hundreds of elders in state and federal administrative appeals, District and Superior Court actions and in two proceedings in the State Supreme Court. He is the 2014 recipient of the Thomas Downing Award for outstanding legal work on behalf of low income clients.

He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman, the Maine Board of Environmental Protection, Maine's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and on the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse.

A native of the Bronx, New York, Mr. Culley moved to Maine in 1981 shortly after college and has lived in the Town of Mercer since. Previous to his life in the law Mr. Culley worked as an orchardist, horse logger, farrier and town official.

Dr. Eileen Fingerman

Eileen Fingerman is a family physician and geriatrician on the faculty at the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency program in Augusta where she teaches medical students, residents and fellows about the care of elders. She is a clinical assistant professor of family medicine at the University of New England and clinical assistant professor of community and family medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. She is also board certified in integrative and holistic medicine and has a particular interest in herbal medicine and the role of diet in health and disease. Eileen has been teaching and seeing patients at the residency for over ten years, where she imparts her love of the elderly and her passion for vegetables. She has recently realized a long-time dream of teaching cooking classes on plant based diets at the new teaching kitchen at the Alford Center for Health in Augusta.

Eileen lives in Sidney on a 40-acre organic farm with her husband Tom and daughter Kira, where they grow the majority of their own food and do their best to live simply in a stone house her husband built.

Brenda Gallant

Brenda Gallant is the Executive Director of the Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Ombudsman Program is the mandated advocate for consumers in all long-term care settings. The program serves residents in 355 long-term care facilities across the state as well as recipients of home care services. Under Brenda's leadership, the program was established as a non-profit agency. This structure gives the program greater independence and freedom to advocate on behalf of consumers. Most ombudsman program in other states are housed within state government. Brenda was successful in getting passed legislation that resulted in better staffing ratios in Maine nursing homes. As a result, Maine nursing home residents receive the highest number of hours of direct care in the country. Additionally, she worked to get passed legislation requiring employment bans for CNAs based on criminal convictions as well as other bills that improved access and quality of care. She is the co-chair of the Maine Dementia Partnership, a statewide coalition focused on reducing the use of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes. Maine nursing homes have consistently remained among the most improved states in this effort.

Ricker Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton is Deputy Commissioner of Programs for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. He oversees programs and services in the Offices of Aging and Disability Services, Child and Family Services, Multicultural Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Violence Prevention (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services); and Maine's two psychiatric hospitals, Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and Riverview Psychiatric Center. He has over three decades of experience in social work specializing in adult protective services and services for adults, older persons and person with disabilities.

Mr. Hamilton was founder of the Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team. He has served on various Boards including the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, the Attorney General's Elder Fraud Task Force and the Maine Medical Center Clinical Ethics Committee. Mr. Hamilton is an Instructor at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. He has served as an Advisory Board member for the Community Counseling Center, Elder Advisory Council; the American Bar Association's Elder Abuse Project; curriculum advisor and trainer for the FBI and is a guest lecturer for the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women; National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life; National Institute on the Prosecution of Elder Abuse; and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Mr. Hamilton has a B.A. degree from St. Anselm College, M.S.W. degree from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work and Certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a Reserve Law Enforcement Officer.

William Kirkpatrick

Bill Kirkpatrick, LICSW, received his Master's of Social Work degree from Boston College in 1978, and a Certificate in Bioethics and Health Policy from the Neiswanger Institute of Bioethics at Loyola University in 2010. He has over thirty years of experience in health and mental health, with particular strengths, accomplishments and demonstrated expertise in medical social work, end-of-life care, bioethics, education and training of students at the graduate level of social work and first and second year medical students at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University. He is the Program Director for the Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter and lives in Brunswick, Maine.

Doreen McDaniel

Doreen McDaniel, LSW, is the Program Manager for Adult Protective Services at the Office of Aging and Disability Services within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Prior positions at DHHS include MaineCare Program Manager (eligibility), Long Term Care Program Manager and Community Programs Specialist. Ms. McDaniel's prior work history includes directing the volunteer Ombudsman services at the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program; managing personal care assistant services, care coordination for long term care programs and outreach services for a combined eleven years at two area agencies on aging; and directing social services at a 60-bed long term care facility.

Marty McIntyre

Marty McIntyre is the Executive Director of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services. Ms. McIntyre currently serves as Chair of the Maine Justice Assistance Council and is the first public member to serve as Chair of the Licensing Board for Osteopathic Physicians in Maine. In 1998, Ms. McIntyre received the Violence Against Women Courage Award from the Maine Women's Lobby and in 2005 received the Award for Outstanding Advocacy and Community Work in Ending Sexual Violence from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Leanne Robbin

Leanne Robbin is a white collar criminal prosecutor with the Criminal Division of the Office of Attorney General. She received her undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in 1980 and her law degree from Cornell Law School in 1983. She has been an assistant attorney general since 1983, having served in the General Government, Consumer, Natural Resource, Litigation and Criminal Divisions. Ms. Robbin has been involved in investigations and prosecutions of elder financial exploitation since about 1998.

Judith Shaw

Judith Shaw serves as the Securities Administrator for the State of Maine Office of Securities having been appointed in 2008. From 2001 to 2008, she served as Deputy Superintendent of the Maine Bureau of Insurance.

Ms. Shaw began her career as Associate Legal Director and later Chief of Investigations for the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. In 1992 she returned to Maine and joined the Maine Office of the Attorney General specializing in administrative and insurance law.

An active member of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), Ms. Shaw is the President-Elect for the 2014-2015 term. She also serves as Chair of NASAA's Strategic Planning Committee and is a member of NASAA's Senior Issues and Diminished Capacity Committee. Ms. Shaw previously served as Chair of NASAA's Enforcement Section Committee.

Ms. Shaw is co-chair of the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention, a coalition of public and private partners dedicated to reducing elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Jane Skelton

Jane has practiced law in Bangor since 1988, and she opened The Maine Elder Law Firm in 2001. She is the current Chair of the Elder Law Section of the Maine State Bar Association, and she is a member of the Special Needs Alliance (SNA), ElderCounsel, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). She is currently on both the Probate and Trust Law Advisory Committee and the Probate Rules Advisory Committee which report to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Jane Skelton is a 7th generation Mainer and a 4th generation attorney. Her great grandfather, grandfather and father all practiced with the Auburn law firm of Skelton, Taintor & Abbot. Jane graduated from the University of Maine with highest honors in 1981. Before enrolling at the University of Maine School of Law in 1985, she worked as a paralegal in Portland and as a high school teacher in Pittsfield.

Jane lives in Bangor with her husband, Ed, and they have three children: Joe, Meg and Tom. Jane enjoys cross country skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. She also enjoys travel, photography and reading.

Sarah Taylor

Sarah Taylor is the Assistant Director, Medical Facilities for the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. She oversees licensing and certification for hospitals, long term care facilities, assisted housing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical centers, home health agencies, hospices, and other related medical providers. She also oversees the Sentinel Events program. Ms. Taylor has over thirty years' experience in healthcare administration and consulting. Ms. Taylor received her graduate and undergraduate degrees in business administration from the University of Maine. She is a fellow of the American College of Medical Practice Executives.