

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

Non-Capital Section 2254 Habeas Training

October 27, 2016 Pasadena, California

Panelist Bios

Honorable Kim Wardlaw, Circuit Judge received her commission to the Ninth Circuit on August 3, 1998. Before her appointment to the Circuit, Judge Wardlaw served as a District Court Judge for the Central District of California for three years, after 15 years in private practice. Judge Wardlaw received both her undergraduate and J.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Honorable Richard Paez, Circuit Judge received his commission as a Ninth Circuit Judge on March 14, 2000, after serving as a District Court Judge for the Central District of California for six years. Judge Paez received his B.A. from Brigham Young University and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. Before his appointment to the District Court, Judge Paez was a Judge on the Los Angeles Municipal Court for 13 years, after 9 years of working with and leading non-profit legal foundations.

Bill Bilderback is a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Appeals, Writs & Trials Section, where he has worked since 1992. As the Capital Case Coordinator in Los Angeles, Bill oversees post-conviction litigation for 250+ death row inmates. Bill has also been the principal attorney on hundreds of felony appeals and habeas corpus cases. Representing the State of California on appeal, Bill has argued before the California Court of Appeal dozens of times and has argued multiple capital and non-capital cases before the California Supreme Court. In his federal habeas practice, Bill has conducted numerous federal evidentiary hearings, and argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals over a dozen times. Bill has twice prepared amicus curiae briefing on federal habeas matters in the Supreme Court of the United States, and argued the landmark Supreme Court capital habeas case *Cullen v. Pinholster*. During the Supreme Court's 2010 term, Bill served as a Supreme Court Fellow with the National Association of Attorneys General. Bill received his undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a cum laude graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Karen M. Burton has worked for the Ninth Circuit for 15 years. She first joined the court in 1997 as a staff attorney in the criminal unit, then clerked for Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder during the 2000-2001 term. Before returning to the court in 2005, Karen practiced as a civil litigator and taught legal writing and moot court at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. For the past decade, she has been the lead staff attorney for the Ninth

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Circuit's Certificate of Appealability Unit, which prepares recommendations for two-judge panels in habeas appeals challenging state and federal convictions.

Xiomara Costello is a Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice, Criminal Law Division Appeals, Writs & Trials Section, where she has worked since 2001. She graduated from Boston University School of Law and obtained her BA from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Xiomara has been working almost exclusively on federal habeas matters in the Central District and Ninth Circuit since late 2001. During her time at the Attorney General's Office, she has served as an Assistant Team Leader and also supervised a team of deputies and paralegals. Her experience includes capital and noncapital cases in the California Supreme Court and federal courts. She has argued two cases in the California Supreme Court and about a dozen cases in this Court. She has also briefed over 20 Ninth Circuit cases and currently serves as one of the evidentiary hearing coordinators who supervises hearings in the District Court. Last year, Xiomara received the Attorney General's Award for Excellence.

K. Elizabeth Dahlstrom is a supervising attorney at the Office of the Federal Public Defender (FPD) for the Central District of California. Ms. Dahlstrom attended U.C. Berkeley School of Law, where she was an editor of the Berkeley Journal of International Law, and a member of the Moot Court Board and the International Human Rights Clinic. Ms. Dahlstrom was a fellow at the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho before joining the FPD in Los Angeles. Since 2005, she has practiced in the Capital Habeas Unit where she represents death-sentenced and non-capital habeas petitioners in federal court.

Molly C. Dwyer is the Clerk of Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She was sworn into office on March 26, 2008. Ms. Dwyer serves as chief administrative officer for the largest and busiest federal appellate court in the nation with 44 judges and 12,061 filings in fiscal year 2014. She manages a staff of more than 200 working in the court's headquarters in San Francisco and divisional offices in Pasadena, Portland and Seattle. Ms. Dwyer was hired by the court in September 1988 and worked in the Office of Staff Attorneys in the Civil Research and Motions units before being promoted to supervising staff

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attorney in the Motions Unit. Promoted to chief deputy clerk in 1994, she also directed the Office of Staff Attorneys until her appointment as Clerk.

Gail Ivens is the Chief of the Noncapital Habeas Unit for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the Central District of California. Ms. Ivens graduated from the University of California School of Law (Boalt Hall) in 1984, Order of the Coif, and clerked for the Honorable Laughlin E. Waters of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. She served as a Deputy Federal Public Defender in the Central District of California from 1986-1988, leaving to become an associate at Gronemeier, Barker & Huerta in Pasadena, California. Ms. Ivens was in private practice representing criminal defendants and habeas petitioners by appointment in the California state courts, the Central District of California, and the Ninth Circuit from 1990 to 2005. She returned to the Office in 2006 and has handled a variety of cases and administrative responsibilities, including capital and non-capital habeas matters and appeals. She served as an Appellate Lawyer Representative for the Ninth Circuit, one year as Chair. She currently serves on the Ninth Circuit Rules Committee.

Sara Morimoto Swain has been a staff attorney at the Ninth Circuit for seven years, and has been a reviewing attorney in the criminal/habeas unit since 2012. After graduating from Boalt Hall in 1997, she clerked for Presiding Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter in the Southern District of California, then worked as a litigation associate at Gray, Cary, Ware & Freidenrich before returning to the Southern District to clerk for District Judge M. James Lorenz for seven years.

Steve Seferian has been with the Ninth Circuit for 21 years. He began in the Public Information Unit then moved to the Records Unit, where he eventually supervised the department. Steve is the main contact for gathering information between the District Courts, State Courts, and U.S. Supreme Court.