



Eviction Mitigation Symposium Speaker Bios

Joe Welsh

Lehigh Valley Justice Institute



Joe Welsh is a Founder and the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Justice Institute. He has spent the last 15 years as a civil rights attorney litigating police misconduct and prison condition cases. Mr. Welsh has served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania ACLU for six years.

In 2012 Joe received the prestigious ACLU-PA Torchbearer Award for his work fighting voter suppression efforts. In addition to ACLU, his work has been recognized by U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Welsh has spent decades managing political and social justice campaigns in several states served as a consultant to state and local governments. In July, 2019, he served as an international election observer for the Ukraine Parliamentary elections. He continues to lead the Institute as they continue to work to develop and promote a reimagined criminal justice system that is equitable and fair for all communities.

Mr. Welsh holds a B.A. in Government, Summa cum Laude, from Lehigh University and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

Sarah M. Andrew

North Penn Legal Services



Sarah M. Andrew is a managing attorney at North Penn Legal Services (NPLS) in Bethlehem. At NPLS, Ms. Andrew provides legal advice and representation to low-income residents of Lehigh and Northampton Counties. She primarily focuses on housing and elder law, and she has held community education and outreach sessions on the topics of tenants' rights, fair housing, and future care planning.

Ms. Andrew is a graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania and DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, Illinois. She lives in West Bethlehem with her spouse, two high-school-aged children, and two dogs.

Her community involvement includes participating in the Penn State Master Gardener Trainee program in Lehigh County and as a bike ride leader with the Lehigh Valley Coalition for Appropriate Transportation.

Lori Malloy

North Penn Legal Services



Lori A. Molloy has served as the Executive Director of North Penn Legal Services (NPLS) since 2018.

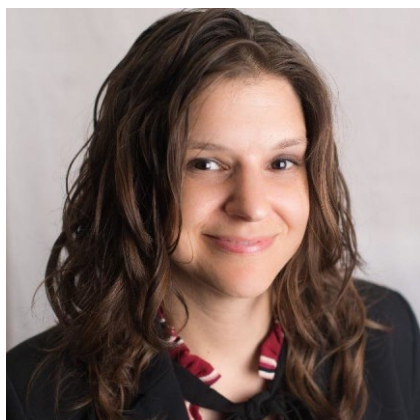
NPLS, the regional civil legal aid provider for 20 counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania, has 90 full-time employees who provide legal representation to those living in poverty and those in vulnerable populations, along with community education and outreach to promote equal access to justice.

Ms. Malloy has been working at NPLS for 28 years, first as a staff attorney and then managing attorney in the Lehigh Valley, and later added responsibility for program-wide grants, staff training, community legal education, and project development. Her areas of legal practice include landlord-tenant law, public and subsidized housing, family law, bankruptcy, and mortgage foreclosure.

Ms. Malloy is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and Temple University School of Law and clerked in the Court of Common Pleas before starting work for legal aid. She lives in Allentown with her two daughters; and volunteers in various community organizations.

Gale Schwartz

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania



Gale Schwartz is the director of programs and outreach for the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. She engages the diverse membership of the Housing Alliance to advocate for programs and resources to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing, solve homelessness, and prevent eviction at local, state, and federal levels. In recent years, Ms. Schwartz's work has focused on promoting promising practices for landlord engagement, eviction prevention and diversion, and emergency rental assistance.

Prior to joining the Housing Alliance in 2013, Ms. Schwartz worked in the behavioral health and early childhood development fields. She has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

State Representative Josh Siegel



State Rep. Josh Siegel was elected to the PA House of Representatives in 2022 to serve the residents of the 22nd Legislative District in Lehigh County. At age 25, Siegel was elected to Allentown City Council, becoming the youngest ever city council member, where he chaired the Budget and Finance Committee for three years. During his time on Council, he passed paid family leave legislation making Allentown only the fifth municipality of Pennsylvania to offer six weeks of paid leave to new parents. He previously served as the Chief of Staff for the Lehigh County Controller and as the Lehigh County Public Information Officer.

Rep. Siegel currently serves on the Appropriations, Transportation, Housing & Community Development, State Government, and Environmental Resources & Energy Committees. As an advocate for smart growth and housing attainability he is the prime sponsor of several pieces of legislation to address the housing crisis facing the commonwealth by making changes to exclusionary zoning laws to allow more missing middle housing and recently his shopping mall redevelopment plan became part of this year's budget. He continues to work on legislation to encourage economic development and to address the housing crisis.

Rep. Siegel resides in the City of Allentown with his wife Sara.

State Representative Ismail “Izzy” Smith-Wade-EI



Ismail “Izzy” Smith-Wade-EI began his political career in 2017 when he became the President of Lancaster City Council. During his four years on Council, Rep. Smith-Wade-EI helped secure the largest investments in affordable housing and lead removal Lancaster’s history. He championed the decriminalization of cannabis; completely revamped use-of-force policy for police officers; and increased police accountability in response to community requests.

Rep. Smith-Wade-EI was elected to serve District 49 in 2022. He is in Harrisburg to partner with likeminded legislators to correct the Commonwealth’s laws that favor giant corporations, lobbyists, and a status quo that hurts working families. Those laws prevent the leveling of the playing field for friends and neighbors.

Rep. Smith-Wade-EI has fought for grass roots change in his community as the vice chair of the Lancaster County Democratic Party and as a community organizer with Kellogg’s workers who went on strike for fair wages and benefits and PA’s educators to demand fair funding for public schools.

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, he returned to returned to Lancaster and began working the local nonprofit sector. As a program specialist at Lancaster County Homeless Coalition, the

Lancaster native coordinated services and support for Lancaster County's housing insecure community. Recently, he launched "Refresh Lancaster," a mobile hygiene unit which delivers showers, social services, and medical attention to the local homeless population.

Rep. Smith-Wade-El draws his values from his family, his Catholic faith, and his community.