



# MI RESPONSE TO HATE

In Allyship We Rise:  
Together Against Hate

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**2024 CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

# AGENDA

<b>8:00 - 8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration + Continental Breakfast</b> South Lobby
<b>8:45 - 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Big Ten A
<b>9:30 - 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Plenary</b> Big Ten A
<b>10:30 - 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Workshops</b>  <b>Understanding the History of Race and Policing: A Presentation by the Michigan State Police</b> 105 A and B  <b>Radicalization to Violence</b> 104 A and B  <b>Legal Overview of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents</b> Auditorium  <b>Extremism in Gaming</b> 103 A and B
<b>11:30 - 11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>
<b>11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Plenary</b> Big Ten A
<b>1:00 - 1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Net Working Break</b>
<b>1:15 - 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Workshops</b> Same as Morning
<b>2:00 - 2:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Net Working Break</b>
<b>2:15 - 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Plenary</b> Big Ten A

# WELCOME

**8:45 - 9:30 A.M.**

For more than a decade, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights has hosted 'MI Response to Hate', the largest anti-hate crime conference held in the state of Michigan. The MI Response to Hate campaign was created to engage the public on how to prevent and respond to hate crimes and bias incidents in the State of Michigan. Michigan residents and visitors have a right to work, play, learn, and live in a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment that values the diverse attributes of all individuals regardless of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, and all protected bases. Everyone has a responsibility to prevent hate in our state. If we stand together, we can change our communities into places that reflect love and not hate.

**Moderator:**  
***Kimberley Williams***

Coordinator, Michigan Alliance Against Crimes (MAAHC)

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During this conference, participants will explore relevant legislation of the past, present, and future and learn effective tools and strategies for interrupting hatred and bias within our Michigan schools and communities.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS:

**John E. Johnson, Jr.**  
Executive Director, MDCR

**Gloria Lara**  
Chair, Michigan Civil Rights Commission

**Mark A. Totten**  
U.S. Attorney Western District of Michigan

**Dawn N. Ison**  
U.S. Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

**Dana Nessel**  
Michigan Attorney General

# CHAMPIONS IN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE



**JOHN E. JOHNSON, JR.**  
Executive Director

John. E. Johnson, Jr. is the Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR). MDCR fights discrimination by enforcing the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, the Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act, and other civil rights laws. He was appointed by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in June 2021 and oversees an annual budget of more than \$31 million. MDCR has more than 125 employees, with offices in Detroit, Flint, Lansing and Grand Rapids.

Prior to joining MDCR, Johnson served as the Executive Director of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus; Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit; Executive Director, General Counsel and 1st Vice President for the Detroit Branch NAACP; Deputy Executive Director and Chief Counsel for the Legal Aid and Defender Association; Deputy Executive Director for Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services; Managing Attorney for the UAW Legal Services Plans; Chairman of the Wayne County Economic Development Corporation; and President of the Wolverine Bar Association.



**GLORIA LARA**  
MCRC Chair

Michigan Civil Rights Commission Chair Gloria Lara is the former Executive Director of the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, a Holland, MI based non-profit organization which works to build bridges between organizations and individuals across the state, helping to educate and engage all of us in moving forward a vision of racial equity. Lara previously served as the chief executive officer of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore. She also held executive-level positions at Chrysler Corporation and at major automotive suppliers. Lara has served on the Corewell Health System – West Board of Directors, the Spectrum Health System board, and the Spectrum Health Hospital Group Board of Trustees, chairing the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Committee from 2016 to 2017. Lara is an Independent, appointed to the Commission by Governor Whitmer to a term that began in December of 2020 and expires on December 31, 2024.



**MARK A.  
TOTTEN**  
U.S. Attorney  
Western District of  
Michigan

Mark Totten is the United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan. The Western District covers 49 counties, including the western half of Michigan's lower peninsula, as well as the upper peninsula. Mark was born and raised in Kalamazoo. After college he completed his J.D. and a Ph.D. in ethics from Yale University.

He began his legal career in Washington, D.C. as an attorney on the Civil Appellate Staff at the United States Department of Justice and then as a clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Mark returned home to Michigan in 2008 where he was a professor at Michigan State University College of Law for nearly a decade. During that time, he also served a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney handling criminal appeals in the office he now leads. From 2019 through early 2022, Mark served as Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor of Michigan.



**DAWN N.  
ISON**  
U.S. Attorney  
Eastern District  
of Michigan

Dawn N. Ison is a nationally recognized career federal prosecutor with experience as a criminal defense attorney handling complex, multi-defendant criminal prosecutions. Ison is a daughter of Detroit, a product of Detroit Public Schools, and a proud graduate of Spelman College and Wayne State University Law School.

Early in her career, Ison spent 12 years as a criminal defense attorney. For 19 years before her presidential appointment as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Public Corruption Unit. Previously, Ison was Chief of the Drug Task Force Unit.

Under her prior leadership as Co-Chair of the Federal Bar Association's (FBA) Diversity Committee, Ison played a key role in the first- ever FBA implicit bias seminar. She has received two U. S. Department of Justice National and Organized Crime and Drug Task Force Awards, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Award for Excellence, two U.S. Attorney's Awards for Outstanding Service, and one U.S. Attorney's Award for Superior Performance by a Litigation Team.



**DANA  
NESSEL**  
Attorney General

A former prosecutor and civil rights attorney, Dana Nessel was sworn in as Michigan's 54th Attorney General on January 1, 2019. Her core initiatives reflect her promise to Michigan's residents — to give the Department of Attorney General back to the people it serves. Attorney General Nessel's consumer protection divisions have taken a lead role in fighting against companies that take advantage of Michigan consumers. She launched the department's Auto Insurance Fraud Unit to investigate and prosecute individuals and businesses that exploit the system designed to protect driver safety. And she established the office's first Payroll Fraud Enforcement Unit to crackdown on those who try to cheat Michigan's workers.

Nessel's environmental protection division is fighting to ensure that our most valuable assets are preserved for generations to come. She has also joined the battle to combat prescription drug addiction, and to stem the tide of Michigan's biggest environmental crisis in decades - PFAS contamination.

Attorney General Nessel launched Michigan's Elder Abuse Task Force, in partnership with the Michigan Supreme Court, to stop the rise of crimes against one of the state's most vulnerable populations. She has continued criminal investigations into the Flint water crisis and sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. And, she has created a Conviction Integrity Unit to investigate claims of innocence.



# MORNING PLENARY

9:30 - 10:30 A.M.

## TOWARDS ORGANIZATIONAL ALLYSHIP: RACIAL EQUITY CENTERED RBA

What does it take for teams and organizations to embody racial equity and take real action in service of allyship with the most impacted communities? This plenary will explore the 7 principles of racial equity impact and how those principles can live in our allied practices as organizations so that we can be trusted and effective in our work.

### FEATURED PRESENTERS:

#### **Erika Bernabei**

Co-Lead,  
Member and Antiracist  
Impact Facilitator, Equity  
and Results

#### **Ashley Lee**

Co-Lead,  
Member and Antiracist  
Impact Facilitator, Equity  
and Results

# CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Understanding the History of Race and Policing: A Presentation by the Michigan State Police:**

Join us for an in-depth understanding of the historical context of race and policing in America. A crucial workshop presented by the Michigan State Police, Krebs and Richardson will explore the complex and often troubling history of discrimination by U.S. government policies, with a particular focus on how these laws affect policing today. This session is designed for anyone interested in understanding the deep-seated issues that have shaped the relationship between law enforcement and minority communities.

### **FEATURED PRESENTERS:**

**Antonio Richardson**  
Detective Sgt., Cyber  
Section, Michigan State  
Police

**Inspector Sarah Krebs**  
Chief Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion Officer, Michigan  
State Police

## **Radicalization to Violence:**

A discussion on the pathway to violence and behaviors associated with individuals who become radicalized and could mobilize to commit violent acts.

### **FEATURED PRESENTERS:**

**Brett Mason**  
FBI Special Agent



# CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## Legal Overview of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents:

A panel of prosecutors from the Michigan Attorney General's Office and United States Attorneys' Offices present on current state and federal laws utilized to address hate crimes and hate incidents.

## FEATURED PRESENTERS:

### **Sunita Doddamani**

Assistant United States Attorney,  
Civil Rights Unit, U.S. Attorney's  
Office, Eastern District of Michigan

### **Nils Kessler**

Assistant United States Attorney,  
U.S. Attorney's Office, Western  
District of Michigan

### **La Donna Logan**

Assistant Attorney General, Head  
of Hate Crimes and Domestic  
Terrorism Unit, Michigan  
Department of Attorney General

## Extremism in Gaming:

This workshop will explore the growing trend of extremism within the gaming community. Popp will delve into the importance of identifying and standing against hate and emphasize the need to learn effective strategies for combating hate within the gaming world.

## FEATURED PRESENTERS:

### **Ben Popp**

Researcher,  
Center on Extremism,  
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

# LUNCH PLENARY

11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

## ALLYSHIP DISPLAYED: MICHIGAN'S HISTORIC BATTLE FOR HOUSING INTEGRATION

A panel of allies share the story of integrating Warren, Michigan in the 60's. Attendees will hear a first-hand account of this heartfelt story of those involved in battling racism and housing discrimination right here in Michigan.

### Moderator:

***Anthony Lewis***

Director of Community,  
Engagement and Education,  
Michigan Department of Civil Rights

### FEATURED PRESENTERS:

**Peter Hammer**

Director of the Damon J.  
Keith Center for Civil Rights  
Wayne State University

**Jocelyn Howard**

Executive Director  
Citadel of Perpetual Learning,  
LLC

**Carl and Marion Muma**

**Zack Stanton**

Deputy Editor  
POLITICO

# CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## SAME AS MORNING SESSIONS

**1:15 - 2:00 P.M.**

*Understanding the History of Race and Policing: A presentation by the Michigan State Police*

*Radicalization to Violence*

*Legal Overview of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents*

*Extremism in Gaming*

# CLOSING PLENARY

## CALL TO ACTION

**2:15 - 3:00 P.M.**

**Moderator:**

***Danita Wimbush***

Director of Education, MDCR

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**ERIKA BERNABEI**

Erika Bernabei's (she/they, white) work connects intentions and impact, in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and communities of Color and our collective humanity. Through Equity & Results, Erika leads the strategic design and implementation of whole organization and collaborative work, using results-driven, racial equity principles to build capacity for impact and achieve racially equitable results. Equity & Results uses antiracist principles to transform how systems work and strategically disrupt common practices and replace them with actions that address the root causes of the problem. Erika is an expert in Antiracist Results-Based Accountability (AR RBA) and has worked with groups locally and nationally to successfully use this tool. Prior to E&R, Erika worked at PolicyLink, co-leading the development of the Promise Neighborhoods Institute, and as an Assistant Commissioner in the New York City Department of Homeless Services. She has a MA in Education Policy from Teachers College, Columbia University and a PhD in Educational Leadership from New York University.



**SUNITA  
DODDAMANI**

Sunita Doddamani is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. Previously, she served as the head of the Hate Crimes and Domestic Terrorism Unit at the Michigan Department of Attorney General where she handled cases involving threats to public officials and bias-motivated crimes. Prior to serving in that role, Sunita served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Wayne and Macomb Counties where she tried over 150 cases involving violent felonies including murder, shootings, hate crimes and armed robberies.

Sunita was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and is a first-generation American. She has spent her entire 20-year career in public service. Sunita is a Mercy High School graduate, received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan her Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in her hometown of Detroit.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**PETER J.  
HAMMER**

Peter J. Hammer was named the A. Alfred Taubman Endowed Chair at Wayne State University Law School in fall 2018. Hammer has taught at Wayne Law since 2003 and is the director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. Hammer was instrumental in editing and compiling Judge Damon J. Keith's biography, *Crusader for Justice: Federal Judge Damon J. Keith* (2013).

Hammer has become a leading voice on the economic and social issues impacting the city of Detroit. His most recent book, *Change and Continuity at the World Bank: Reforming Paradoxes of Economic Development* (2013), takes on questions of international economic growth and development.

Prior to entering academia, he was an associate at the Los Angeles office of O'Melveny & Myers. Before entering private practice, he clerked for the Hon. Alfred T. Goodwin, former chief judge of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Hammer spent eight years on the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School where he was the first openly gay professor to be considered for tenure and the first male in the living memory to be denied tenure. Hammer tells the story of his attempt to grieve the denial in, *In the Shadow of Gratz and Grutter: Grieving Diversity at the University of Michigan*.



**NILS KESSLER**

Nils Kessler is an Assistant United States Attorney in the National Security Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan, and is the District's Criminal Civil Rights Coordinator. He has been an AUSA since 2001, and has served in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Marquette), the Eastern District of Louisiana (New Orleans), and the Grand Rapids office. He has prosecuted firearms and gang crimes, narcotics trafficking and computer crimes, and currently focuses on financial fraud and domestic terrorism offenses. From 2012 to 2018, Nils served as chief of the criminal division in the Western District of Michigan.

Nils received his B.A. from the University of Virginia (1992) and J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law (1995). After law school, he served in the U.S. Air Force as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate from 1995-2000.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**JOCELYN  
HOWARD**

Jocelyn Howard is the Executive Director of the Citadel of Perpetual Learning, LLC, which provides turn-around strategies and education services for youth and adults. The Citadel also offers executive training and RD for the educational and automotive industries.

At the Citadel, Jocelyn manages a staff of 20+ consultants and oversees curriculum development, budget creation and contract negotiations. She manages daily operations and builds strategic alliances with companies that serve industry and academia. Jocelyn interfaces with philanthropic agencies to distribute services to clients.

Howard has over twenty years of training and management, providing leadership and direction for day-to-day operations, creating strategic alliances with companies that provide complementary services, attracting quality professionals, and providing technical assistance.

Her experience includes an extensive background with the United Auto Workers (UAW), the Detroit Board of Education, social services agencies, and Tier One automotive suppliers. She has served as training director, marketing director, project director, procurement director, and recruitment manager.

Jocelyn is a native of Detroit and served as the Chairman of the Warren Planning Commission for over 7 years. She is the first African-American woman appointed to any board or commission in Warren and the first African-American to chair any board or commission in Warren.



**La DONNA  
LOGAN**

Born and raised in the city of Detroit, La Donna Logan graduated from the University of Michigan (2003) and Wayne State University Law School (2006). La Donna came to the Department of the Attorney General after 17 years with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. While at the Prosecutor's Office, La Donna prosecuted homicides and special assignment cases. As a member of the AG Hate Crimes/ Domestic Terrorism Unit, La Donna prosecutes threats against public officials, law enforcement, and private citizens; provides assistance, consultation and training to local agencies; and advises on legislative proposals and amendments.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**SARAH KREBS**

Sarah Krebs has always attempted to speak out for the lost, the missing, and the forgotten. As a young trooper, she spoke before the Michigan State Police (MSP) Executive Council, pointing out the shortcomings of the state's unidentified remains investigations. Krebs established "ID the Missing," an event that assists medical examiners document and test unidentified remains. She also started a non-profit called "Missing in Michigan" to unite the families of missing persons with law enforcement and the media, enabling officers to collect family reference DNA samples. Krebs also played a significant role in developing the MSP Missing Persons Coordination Unit (MPCU). To date, MPCU has identified over 100 unidentified human remains. Krebs has also independently identified more than 200 previously unidentified remains.

In 2017, Krebs was named an International Association of Chiefs of Police "40 Under 40" awardee. She currently co-chairs the "Women Leading Change" MSP employee resource group where she mentors female recruits.

Krebs holds a BS in Anthropology from Michigan State University, an MBA in Leadership from Cleary University, an executive certificate in Public Leadership from Harvard and a DEI certificate from Brown University. She holds the position of the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the Michigan State Police.



**BRETT MASON**

Brett Mason is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Detroit Field Office. He is currently assigned to the Detroit Joint Terrorism Task Force and has previously investigated public corruption matters and civil rights crimes. Prior to joining the FBI, he worked with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as a Supervisory Immigration Services Officer. He received his Bachelor of Science from Grand Valley State University and Juris Doctorate from the Michigan State University College of Law.



# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**ASHLEY LEE**

Ashley Lee's passion for cultivating representative leadership stems from a deep love of the Milwaukee community and a belief that people can powerfully drive change within their own communities. She has over ten years of nonprofit leadership experience working to achieve racial and educational equity. Ashley has been facilitating Antiracist Results Based Accountability with Equity and Results for nearly two years and has facilitated interpersonal and institutional racial equity conversations for over ten years. Her approach is centered on relationship building and creating the conditions necessary to have honest discussions that result in meaningful change. Ashley serves as the Chief Programs Officer for Public Allies Inc. where she shapes strategic direction and ensures its national network effectively implements programs that empower emerging leaders, foster inclusive communities, and drive social change. Prior to her tenure at Public Allies, Ashley served as Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, where she designed and launched the Department of Black and Latino Male Achievement, addressing critical equity issues within the education system.



**MARION AND  
CARL MUMA**

Marion and Carl Muma grew up in northwest Detroit and married in 1953. In 1961, they moved to Madison Heights with their three young children, and in 1966 they met Ruby and Carado Bailey and started the long process of becoming straw buyers for them. The Bailey's moved into their home in Warren in June 1967. During that process the two couples became friends.

In late 1967, Carl and Marion moved to Highland Park for a year, and then to Chicago for two years. They moved back to Detroit in 1970. Carl, a CPA, was employed in finance management until his retirement in 2000. In 1975, Marion received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayne State University and worked as a labor relations examiner at the National Labor Relations Board until her retirement in 1998. Marion then became active with the American Association of University Women, in volunteering at the DIA and Crossroads of Michigan, and with the Adult Learning Institute at OCC in Farmington Hills.

Marion and Carl now live in Novi where Marion is active in diversity and inclusion and political awareness programs. Carl, who has lived with mild cognitive impairment for 15 years, now has mild Alzheimer's. They have nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with a fourth on the way.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**BEN POPP**

Ben Popp is a researcher for the Center on Extremism, Anti-Defamation League (ADL), specializing in far-right extremism and white supremacy. He graduated from the M.A. Program in the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, where his thesis examined the intersection between extremism, conspiracy theories, and political violence.



**ANTONIO  
RICHARDSON**

As a transformative leader who seeks to challenge the status quo by encouraging a culture that is inquisitive, courageous, diverse, equitable, inclusive, and innovative, Antonio Richardson is dedicated to organizational and societal change. Currently, Richardson is a Detective Sergeant with the Cyber Section of the Michigan State Police, where he has been a member since 2016. During his tenure, Richardson has held several roles promoting and advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion including serving as law enforcement co-chair of the Southeast Michigan Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust coalition (ALPACT); founder and former Chair of the African American Employee Resource Group of the Michigan State Police; owner of The Cohesion Forum, a business that specializes in providing DEI-based facilitation and workshops; and instructor of the history of race and police course for the Michigan State Police. Richardson has conducted trainings on cognitive diversity, bias, race and emotional intelligence for the Detroit Federal Executive Board, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, U.S. Army, and other agencies. Richardson holds DEI professional certification from the National Diversity Council.



**ZACK STANTON**

Zack Stanton is deputy editor of POLITICO Playbook. He joined POLITICO in 2016 and served as digital editor of Politico Magazine for five years. A native of Macomb County, Stanton learned a love of storytelling at an early age from his father, the editor of a small town weekly newspaper, and mother, a children's librarian. After graduating from Michigan State University, Stanton worked in politics for several years before entering the world of journalism. Prior to joining POLITICO, he was editor of the Wilson Quarterly. He currently resides in Washington, D.C.

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