



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

### COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL (CLE)

TUESDAY, AUG. 14 | 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM  
INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER ROOM 137-139

**Session Description:** People with mental illness are more likely to be jailed than hospitalized. When competency is an issue, long waits for evaluations can mean costly lawsuits for states. Learn how courts and legislatures are crafting solutions to reduce the use of jails and court proceedings as a backstop to address mental illness.

#### **Agenda:**

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| 10:30 – 10:45 | Sarah Desmarais, Policy Research Associates       |
| 10:45 – 11:05 | Chief Justice Loretta Rush, Indiana Supreme Court |
| 11:05 – 11:25 | Judge Nan Waller, Multnomah County Circuit Court  |
| 11:25 – 11:45 | Question and Answer with State Lawmakers          |

#### **Biographies**

##### **Chief Justice Loretta Rush\* Indiana Supreme Court Indiana**

Loretta H. Rush is chief justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, where she has served since her 2012 appointment by Gov. Mitch Daniels. She was retained by voters in 2014, the year she became chief justice, and was reappointed as chief in 2019. Previously, Rush spent 15 years at a Lafayette law firm and was elected three times to serve as Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 judge. She earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and her law degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law, both with honors.

##### **Judge Nan Waller\* Multnomah County Circuit Court Oregon**

Nan Waller was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court in 2001 and currently serves as the mental health court judge. She co-chairs the Chief Justice's Behavioral Health Advisory Council and chairs the mental health subcommittee of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. Waller also served on the National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness. She is a recipient of the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

**Sarah L. Desmarais, Ph.D.**

**Policy Research Associates**

Sarah L. Desmarais, Ph.D. is the president of Policy Research Associates, Inc. Before that, she served as the senior vice president. Dr. Desmarais received her master's and Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology and Law from Simon Fraser University in 2005 and 2008, respectively. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia in 2010. Prior to joining PRA, Dr. Desmarais was a tenured Professor of Psychology and University Faculty Scholar at North Carolina State University. She has also served as an assistant professor at the University of South Florida with joint appointments in the Department of Community and Family Health and the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy. Dr. Desmarais has authored more than 130 peer-reviewed publications in journals including the American Journal of Public Health, Criminal Justice and Behavior, and Law and Human Behavior.

\*Denotes the speaker is an attorney