

Brett Peterson is the Director of the Utah Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services. He is responsible for the operation and management of the continuum of care including early intervention, shelter, detention, long-term secure settings and parole. As Director, Brett is committed to reducing the need for out-of-home placements, correlating the services provided with the leading research related to adolescent brain development and ongoing implementation of significant juvenile justice reforms.

Brett has guided Utah as they have reduced the use of detention by over 50% since 2018. In addition, Brett has led Utah's effort to establish a robust statewide early intervention model, JJYS Youth Services. Through the Youth Services model, early intervention has seen an increase of over 50% from 2018, providing voluntary services to thousands of youth statewide.

Brett is considered a national expert on the policy frameworks and practices that drive youth justice and is a frequent speaker and panelist, and has also presented to Congress on juvenile justice. Brett is the immediate past President of the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators.

Julie E. McConnell is a Professor of Law, Legal Practice and Director of the Jeanette Lipman Children's Defense Clinic. In addition, she teaches Advanced Clinical Practice and has taught Youth Delinquency Law and Procedure and the Science of False Confessions. She has worked in youth justice for more than 25 years. She is a frequent speaker, writer, and trainer on best practices in holistic representation, trauma-informed, client-centered practice, the impact of child abuse on children, child mental health, and clinical education. She and her students primarily represent disadvantaged youth pro bono, handling motions, trials, sentencings, custody proceedings, school-based proceedings, and post-conviction hearings.

McConnell has also served as a youth justice system expert in several cases, including a Virginia capital murder case that was ultimately dismissed, a case in which her testimony helped convince a juvenile court judge to keep a homicide case involving a 15-year-old defendant in juvenile court.

She is Chair of the Annual Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Youth Law and Education Conference and the Virginia Bar Association's Commission on the Needs of Children. McConnell is also co-editor of the Virginia CLE Manual Juvenile Law and Practice in Virginia, published every three years.

She earned her law degree with honors from the University of Richmond School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Agnes Scott Women's College. She has received several awards, including the 2024 Supreme Court of Virginia Access to Legal Services Pro Bono Service Champion for the 2022-2023 Bar Year; the 2023 Attorney of the Year—Monique Yesenia Re-Entry Awards.

Full bio available at: <https://law.richmond.edu/faculty/jm6hd/>