



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

WHITE SUPREMACY, DOMESTIC THREATS, & YOUTH EXTREMISM

The Division on Civil Rights is hosting listening sessions to engage with youth, parents, educators & members of the public.

SHARE YOUR STORY
Challenge Traditions, Fight Inequality, Stand Together

June 09, 2021 6:30pm - 8:30pm
July 14, 2021 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Visit njcivilrights.gov to register for these virtual Zoom events.

Let us know if you or students have been impacted by bias, prejudice or discrimination. If you prefer not to share at a listening session, you can read our Youth Bias Taskforce report summary & submit written comments until July 30, 2021, at njcivilrights.gov or by emailing communityrelations@njcivilrights.gov.

#CivilRightsNJ #StopTheHate #NoHateInThisGreatState

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Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
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Speaker Bios



Denalerie Johnson-Faniel PhD, EdM, MA, CBA, CLC, MCBT-C, HSBCP
Director of Outreach & Community Relations
New Jersey Division on Civil Rights

Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, has twenty years of public education, learning and development, DEI, mental health, human resources and community relations experience. A Garden State Global Non-Profit Woman of the Year, Network Business Journal Top 40 Under 40 and a YWCA Woman of the Year honoree, she was the international executive vice president of workforce development at Dress for Success Worldwide. Dr. Johnson-Faniel also served as director of organizational development and change management at Jewish Home and Hospital Life Care; was director of national operations at the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and led as president and CEO of a National Urban League affiliate. As director of a

New Jersey Feeding America food bank, her team revitalized the agency into a health equity modeled countywide nutritional health and wellness impact center. She has managed government, K- 12/higher education, corporate, community and nonprofit anti-bias training and was the national mentoring consultant for the Center for Supportive Schools. Dr. Johnson-Faniel is Lean Six Sigma HR Greenbelt certified, DEI and mediation and arbitration certified and founded 3D Management Consulting, LLC, a national boutique firm. She is also a certified yoga instructor, Reiki master, holistic life coach, autism behavioral analyst, and gender studies, history, contemporary problems, sociology, psychology, and multi-culturalism adjunct professor. The board certified human services professional has held elected and appointed government roles, she sat on the Edison-Metuchen NAACP board of directors; her local human relations commission, served as an advisory committee member of the Anti- Poverty Network of New Jersey; held Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.'s international social action co-director role and chaired their New Jersey advocacy and youth and civil rights partnerships teams. Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel a MPH student at TCNJ, has a PhD in human services public leadership and non-profit management, an Ed.M. in psychological counseling, an MA in organizational psychology and human resources and a BS in psychology and business management and BA in Afro-American studies and political science. She is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University Teachers College and Capella University. Her book, Making HERstory: Womyn Working It Out, explores the lived experiences of African-American career advancement and bias and discrimination. She and her wife live in Trenton, New Jersey; enjoy gardening and are the tea loving parents of a service animal named Prema-Diva.



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2



Yolanda N. Melville, Esquire

Recent Highlights

- Partner, Cooper Levenson, P.A. (Atlantic City, New Jersey) and firm's Diversity Committee Chair
- Chair, National NAACP NextGen Alumni Committee
- 2020 Senior Fellow, Higher Heights Leadership Fund

Biography

Yolanda N. Melville, Esq., is a Partner in Cooper Levenson's Atlantic City, New Jersey office. Yolanda serves as General Counsel to numerous business entities and represents clients throughout every stage of the litigation process in both state and federal courts. Yolanda also serves as the Chair of the firm's Diversity Committee.

Yolanda earned her undergraduate degree from The College of William and Mary, a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University, and her Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law. During her law school tenure, Yolanda was one of six individuals selected nationwide to serve as a 2011 Kellogg's Law Fellow for the NAACP Office of General Counsel.

Among her many professional accomplishments, Yolanda would later work with the Brennan Center for Justice in New York City, assisting in the organization's efforts following *Shelby County v. Holder*, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision addressing the constitutionality of two key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Throughout her civil rights journey, Yolanda has served as both moderator and nationally recognized speaker on various topics, such as voting rights, housing and intergenerational leadership, and worked with today's greatest civil rights leaders throughout the country. Yolanda was recently selected as an inaugural (2020) Senior Leadership Fellow for the Higher Heights Leadership Fund, a national fellowship that highlights and strengthen the expertise of Black women in senior civic leadership. Yolanda also serves as a Legal Committee member to the NAACP National Board of Directors, as well as Legal Redress Chair and Political Action Co-Chair



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2

for the Atlantic City NAACP branch. Following her graduation from the inaugural NAACP Next Generation (“NextGen”) Leadership Program in 2019, Yolanda was elected Chair of the NAACP NextGen Alumni Committee. The NextGen Program is a leadership development training program for young adults between the ages of 21 and 40 to receive comprehensive advocacy training and develop leadership competencies to become effective civil rights leaders within the NAACP and beyond.

Yolanda has published editorials in The Crisis Magazine, New Jersey Apartment Association Magazine, and the Press of Atlantic City. Yolanda’s insight is featured in the January 2019 Boston Magazine article titled, “The New Insiders of Boston Politics.” Yolanda served as the keynote speaker for the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program sponsored by the Atlantic City NAACP and the City of Atlantic City, where she discussed “A Woman’s Role in the Civil Rights Movement.” The Atlantic City Weekly and Atlantic City Jaycees named Yolanda as a 2018 “Top 40 Under 40” honoree for her contributions to our local community. She also was an honoree during the 2017 Black Girls Rock (Jersey Style) Awards Ceremony presented by In My C.A.R.E. Mentoring Inc., which recognizes unsung female heroines serving the Atlantic City community. Yolanda proudly served on the leadership team for the 2019 Atlantic City Women’s March and is a member of the Atlantic City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. In 2020, Yolanda was honored as the inaugural “Social Justice” awardee from the Alpha Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. In 2021, Yolanda also was a Top 40 Under 40 Honoree for the National Black Lawyers.

In addition, Yolanda was selected to represent the best of volunteerism and public service as an Honoree at the 2019 New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards. Yolanda was an Honoree in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Champion for Justice” category, which recognizes those who continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through their work to promote Dr. King’s message of civil rights, justice for all, peace and non-violence in our communities and our state. The Jefferson Awards are the nation’s oldest and most prestigious recognition program for volunteer/public service and are the official recognition program of the United States Senate. The New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards administers the recognition program for New Jersey and are also the official recognition of the New Jersey State Governor’s Council on Volunteerism. Overall, Yolanda uses her platform to seek justice for all people and mentor the next generation.



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2



Deidre Belinfanti (“D”), is a proud Asburian and serves as a Project Manager and Trainers. D has demonstrated her commitment in being an advocate for change through their involvement with the Coalition of Activist Students Celebrating and Accepting Diversity and Equality (C.A.S.C.A.D.E) LGBTQ+ organization, serving as public relations chair and vice-president during their undergrad matriculation at Howard University, where they received their Bachelor of Science in Psychology, minoring in Photography. During their time as Vice President, they were able to launch the Lavender Fund, a LGBTQ+ scholarship. D continued her path for social justice, receiving their Master in Social Work degree, concentrating in Children, Youth, and Families, from the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the

University of Southern California. During their matriculation, D and fellow students revitalized the Black Social Workers Caucus on campus, where they focused on highlighting Black social workers, community engagement, activism, and career acceleration. Upon graduation, D and fellow alumni banded together to organize a solidarity march in honor of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Arbery, and all people who have been murdered due to police brutality. D’s commitment to fighting social injustice continues with their grassroots organization, Social Workers in Solidarity, that highlights and destigmatizes the perception of Social Workers. They also are partnering with the National Association of Black Social Workers-Greater Los Angeles in creating a holistic family center for black and brown families of Southern California, helping families heal from generational trauma. Utilizing their minor in Photography, D founded Elegant D Photography, that caters to black small-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them enhance their business visually and economically.



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2



Shannon Foley Martinez, a former violent white supremacist, has two decades of experience in developing community resource platforms aimed at inoculating individuals against violence-based lifestyles and ideologies. Foley Martinez has worked in at-risk communities teaching and developing dynamic resiliency skills. She has worked for school systems, nonprofits, and community organizations. She has participated in programs with such organizations as the UN Office of Counter Terrorism, the National Counterterrorism Center, Hedayah, and The Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, UN Women, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Her story has been featured globally, including: The TODAY Show, NBC's "Left Field," the Atlanta Journal Constitution, the Associated Press, the Washington Post, Marie Claire magazine, Quartz, Al Jazeera America, and Georgia Public Broadcasting's "On Second Thought" program. She has been a commentator on such news outlets as HLN, CNN, Canada One and BBC radio. Foley Martinez has also assisted in training law enforcement officers, building programs for educators, and collaborating with tech companies like Google and Twitter. As the mother of seven children, she feels passionately about building empowered families and communities. She believes that we all have the power to enact profound and fundamental change in our lives.



Weldon A. Powell graduated from the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration. Chief Powell joined the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Justice, in August 1998. Prior to assuming the role of Chief, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Specialized Crimes Bureau. As Deputy Chief, he managed six criminal investigative units which included; Environmental Crimes, Bias Crimes, Labor Fraud, Casino Prosecution, Motor Vehicle Crimes and the Atlantic City Violent Crime Task Force.

Chief Powell presently manages 200 detectives within six investigative bureaus. These investigative bureaus are listed as follows:

- **Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor**



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2

- Financial & Cyber Crimes
- Specialized Crimes
- Gangs & Organized Crimes
- Prosecutors Supervision & Training
- Office of Public Integrity & Accountability

Chief Powell has twenty-six (26) years of service with the State of New Jersey and twenty-two (22) years as a law enforcement professional. During his service, Chief Powell has served on the Attorney General's Shooting Response Team and the High Risk Entry Team. Chief Powell maintains supervision of 200 detectives who conduct investigations into criminal activity within the twenty-one (21) counties of the State of New Jersey. Chief Powell is responsible for the oversight of officer involved shootings and death in custody investigations.

In addition to these duties, Chief Powell is responsible for ensuring that law enforcement agencies comply with Attorney General Directives and Guidelines ranging from police professional standards to bias incident investigative standards. Chief Powell actively participates in community events that provide education to the public about bias incident reporting and police community relations.



April Santana (she/her) is a rising sophomore at Syracuse University studying journalism and political science. She has grown up in Bergen County and attended Bergen County Technical High School in Teterboro, New Jersey where she was in the Law and Justice Major. April hopes to share her experiences with white supremacy with the hopes of allowing others to resonate with her story.



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2



Siddharth Satish is a rising senior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North who is engaged in interdisciplinary study and advocacy: focusing on the confluence of politics/international relations, economics, and health inequity. Siddharth is the co-founder and vice-president of their NAACP youth council. In addition to this role, Siddharth is the president of HOSA, state programs director of NJ High School Democrats, and state captain of NJ's world schools debate team. They also are a youth delegate to the UN from Ariel Foundation International, the only under 18 member of the World Humanitarian Forum youth council, and the chair of the International Association of Political Science Students for USA and

Canada. Siddharth also has founded two successful non-profits: Rememoirs and PEP magazine, and has been featured in 165+ news outlets including Fox, CNBC, MarketWatch, and ABC for their work with these entities. Siddharth served as the NJ delegate to the United States Senate Youth program, and has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize as well as Forbes 30 under 30 in social entrepreneurship.



Patricia D. Williamson is a Community Relations Specialist in the new unit under the Division on Civil Rights, in the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety. Prior to this position, Patricia was the New Jersey Counts Project Director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where she led the work to ensure a complete and accurate count of New Jersey's urban communities in the 2020 Census. Patricia worked for over 20 years in the telecommunications arena as a systems engineer in the optical networking area. She is also an adjunct professor at Bloomfield College.

Patricia earned a BA in Mathematics from Hampton University, an MS in Computer Science from Howard University, and an MA in Education and Human Development in the Educational Technology Leadership Program at The George Washington University.



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2

Facilitator and Mental Health Professionals



Natasha L. Hemmings, MPA, is the Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey and is the first African-American woman in the council's history to lead the organization. A long-time advocate of girl empowerment and leadership, as she is a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts of the USA and served Girl Scouts of Central & Southern New Jersey as their Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for 18 years. As CEO, Natasha holds a senior leadership role with significant strategic and supervisory responsibilities for the second largest Girl Scout Council in the state, with an annual budget of well over \$6.5M. Natasha has a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Non-Profit Leadership from Rutgers University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications & Theater from the College of New Jersey, formerly Trenton State College. She also holds an Executive Non-Profit Leadership

Certificate from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Natasha is a Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration MBA Board Member. She has been selected to serve on Girl Scouts of the USA's National Convention Action Team for the last 4 National Council Sessions with increasing roles and responsibilities over a 12-year span. She plays a critical role in sharing the inspirational stories of Girl Scouts in the state, inspiring girls of every age and families of every culture to join.

Natasha has a deep passion for issues pertaining to women, girls, diversity, equity and inclusivity, and has focused her community service in these areas. She is the immediate past Vice President of the Barbados-American Charitable Organization of NJ and a proud lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. which is a public service organization that strives to confront the problems of African-Americans and, hence, all Americans. In this capacity, Natasha has served as past President of the Iota Beta Chapter, Co-Chair for the Arts & Letters Committee, and member of the Fundraising and Mental & Physical Health Committees. She served as a Girl Scout Co-Leader for over ten years in the urban community of Plainfield, serving a multi-level, multi-cultural troop of 32 girls. She led troop meetings, conducted Journey and badge activities, planned programs and special events, and chaperones trips with girls ranging in age from five to fourteen.

Active in multiple charitable organizations and committees, Natasha is also a member of GSUSA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Racial Justice Steering Committee, and a proud Lead NJ Alum. Lead NJ is dedicated to developing well-informed leaders who are prepared to cross boundaries between sectors, work effectively with people of all backgrounds, find common ground with those who may think differently about issues, and



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2

work in a spirit of shared commitment to our state's success. Most recently, Natasha was selected as one of the top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs in New Jersey and made the ROI-NJ 2020 Influencers: People of Color list. In 2018 she was also recognized as one of South Jersey Biz's Women to Watch and was recognized by Citrin Cooperman at their Women at the Wheel event with a Leadership Excellence Award. She has been a guest lecturer for several graduate courses at Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration in Newark and is co-chair for a local high schools' Parent Athletic Club. Natasha is an entrepreneur herself and owns 3KeyEvents, a wedding and special events planning company. She attributes her success to the unwavering support of her parents, husband Okello, two daughters Naomi and Chelsea and bonus son, Xavier.



Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers is a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Hackensack. She is also a certified clinical supervisor who supervises both permit holders seeking to become licensed psychologist or a licensed professional counselor. Since moving from New York over 30 years ago, she has worked with adolescents and young adults, in her capacity as an educator and a clinician. She started her career as the director of the EOF program at Bergen community College. Subsequently, she held the position as the first African American to chair the department of Psychology and Counseling at Fairleigh Dickinson University at the Florham/Madison campus while building her private practice as a psychologist. She has done research on and made recommendations to stem bullying among female students at Hackensack high School.

Her interest in mental health has led her to become a member of the Community Mental Health Board and the Family Support Organization. She served as chair of the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women. Her clinical work includes working for the Department of Child Protection and Permanency as a clinical consultant and psychological evaluator. Her community activity includes membership in the Bergen County Alumnae chapter Delta Sigma Theta and the Rotary of Hackensack.

Dr. Hawkins-Rodgers has developed many training workshops and presented papers at national conferences regarding educational and clinical issues that have included multicultural issues in the workplace and developmental issues across the lifespan. She recently published her first therapeutic coloring book for grownups. Her most recent effort in promoting mental health has been to found the Consortium of Mental



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session Part 2

Health and Educational Professionals of Color whose aim is to provide a comprehensive directory of resources and services for an underserved population in Northern New Jersey.

Megan Sullivan is the Deputy Director of the Disaster & Terrorism Branch of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She is a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor, trained in the FEMA and Red Cross models and is currently a part of the Division of Mental Health and Addictions' Disaster and Terrorism Branch which develops contingency planning for the public's mental health needs surrounding various types of emergencies. She serves on the Operations Board of the Disaster Response Crisis Counselor Certification and is one of the trainers for the DRCC curriculum. She has deployed to Louisiana for hurricane relief and to the United States Virgin Islands with the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services taskforce after Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She has been on the faculty at the Rutgers Summer School of Addiction Studies since 2009. She currently has a private practice in Metuchen, NJ.

Sullivan is a graduate of Villanova University and holds a Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor. She has also trained in marital and family counseling at The Center for Family, Community and Social Justice in Princeton, NJ.



Dwana M. Young, MPA For over 16 years, Dwana M. Young has been a remarkable leader in child advocacy, policy, and community engagement. Driven by her innate passion for equity and justice, she takes pride in servicing our New Jersey residents with knowledge and excellence. As the Community Navigator for the Office of Resilience, Dwana leads the team with the development and implementation of Core Strategy 3 and manages the Virtual Learning Community. In addition to her primary functions, Dwana has been recognized by private and public organizations for her extraordinary commitment in the advocacy of New Jersey's Native American Indigenous Community.