

**GINGER LERNER-WREN
COUNTY COURT JUDGE
COUNTY COURT CRIMINAL
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**



**BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
201 S.E. 6TH STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
(954) 831-7240**

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Experience:

Judge Lerner-Wren was elected to the County Court in 1996. Formally with the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc., (the designated Federal Protection and Advocacy System for The State of Florida), Judge Lerner-Wren was asked to oversee the implementation of a Stipulated Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Plaintiffs in a class action affecting treatment conditions and community based treatment of care for discharges re: South Florida State Hospital. Ginger was asked to serve in this highly responsible position due to her expertise in serving persons with disabilities through her Court Service as Public Guardian of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.

Appointed by Chief Circuit Judge Dale Ross in 1997 to serve as The Public Guardian of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Lerner-Wren was responsible for directing and administrating all operations of the Office of Public Guardian. She was legally responsible for the health, safety and welfare of disabled adult clients, all of whom were legally incapacitated and in need of a legal guardian and case management support in the community. Appointed by the Probate Court Ginger routinely was responsible for having to make extraordinary treatment decisions on broad based matters and on issues affecting levels of care. Further, Ginger was responsible for the oversight of treatment plans and worked collaboratively with community based senior, mental health and related social service agencies and a wide array of long term care facilities. Ginger routinely assisted and consulted with Broward County Adult Protective Services re: abuse and neglect matters.

Judge Lerner-Wren was assigned to the County Criminal bench in January of 1997. Judge Wren's regular criminal court responsibilities include the administration of a full regular criminal misdemeanor division, including presiding over all dockets, pretrial motions, probationary matters and jury trials.

Within months of taking the bench, in what has been recognized as a historic Administrative Order (dated June 22, 1997), Judge Lerner-Wren was appointed by Chief Judge Dale Ross to Administrate and Preside over the Nation's first Mental Health Court. Judge Lerner-Wren was deemed a "perfect fit" for this innovative Court, established as a "specialized diversion court" to address the complexities of mentally ill offenders arrested on nonviolent misdemeantant offenses and to improve the administration of justice for those with serious mental and psychiatric disorders.

The Mental Health Court, dedicated to the safe diversion and treatment of the mentally ill has been featured on Good Morning America, National Public Radio, CNN and covered by countless

news media reports and articles nationally and internationally. The Broward County Mental Health Court was recommended as a preventative court strategy by Human Rights Watch, Special Report, “Ill Equipped”, 2003.

Judge Lerner-Wren and the Mental Health Court have received numerous honors and recognition related to the innovation of the Court, the application of Therapeutic Jurisprudence and for the humanitarian treatment of persons with serious mental illness.

The Mental Health Court through its application of Therapeutic Jurisprudence has been hailed as “Best Practice” and was showcased at The White House Conference on Mental Health, 1999, and was the model for Federal Legislation passed by Congress in 2000 to pilot Mental Health Courts in the United States. (See, America’s Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project).

As a result of her innovative work in criminal justice, Judge Lerner-Wren was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in (2002). Chair, Criminal Justice Sub-Committee.

Memberships/Boards:

The Florida Bar

Broward County Bar Association, present

Member-Broward County Women’s Hall of Fame 2000

SAMHSA, National Advisory Council, 2003-2007

Florida NAMI, Board of Directors, 2004-2006

President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health 2001-2003

Broward County NAMI 1997-present

Mental Health Association of Southeast Florida, Honorary ‘Bellringer’, 2008

Board of Directors, Florida Initiative Suicide Prevention, 2009-present

University of Miami, School of Law, TJ Institute, Judges Advisory Board, 2010

Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, 2012

United Way of Broward County, Commission on Substance Abuse, Board of Governors, Present Subcommittee, Mental Health Promotion, Co-Chair

Family Alliance for Veterans of America (FAVA) Advisory Committee Battle Buddy (Service Dogs) 2015

National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, Executive Committee Member, 2016

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute (NRI) Mental Health Criminal Justice Advisory Council, 2018

Board of Trustees, International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence, 2018

Education and Academic Affiliations:

Judge Lerner-Wren graduated from University of Miami, Undergraduate (1980) BA, Politics and Public Affairs, Nova Southeastern University School of Law, J.D. 1983

Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Center for Psychological Studies, Board of Advisors, 1998-2006

Adjunct Professor, Forensic Psychology Master's Program, NSU, Collage of Psychology and Neuroscience, and PhD Criminal Justice Institute, 2006-present.

Adjunct Professor, New York Law School, Center for Disability and Human Rights, Distance Learning, 2007-2009

Presentations:

Judge Lerner-Wren speaks nationally and internationally on The Mental Health Court, Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Recovery, The Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System, Trauma Informed Problem Solving Justice and Creating Cultural Change.

Presentations include: Policy Research/Gains Center, policy forum: 1998, University of Chicago, Mental Health Forum, 1999, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Forum, 1999, Criminal Justice Advisory Council, Jaansen Pharmaceuticals, California, Keynote, 2000, The White House Conference on The Mentally Ill, 1999, Congressional Briefing, Washington DC, (2000); Association of Defense Trial Lawyers, (2000) NSU, Hooding (December Graduation) Speaker, 2000, Cleveland Central NAMI, 2000, Capital Law School, Columbus, Ohio 2003, Fordham Law School (2003), George Mason Law School, 2000, University of Kansas, Criminal Justice Forum, 2003, Department of Justice, 3rd Annual Advisory Board Meeting, Dallas, Texas, National Conferences and Public Policy Forums including but not limited to Department Of Justice Conference re: Best Practice the Mentally Ill and the Criminal Justice System, specifically innovative strategies, Washington DC, The GAINS Center, Department of Justice, and related U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Health Human Services Conferences, NAMI Annual Conferences 1997 - present – International Assoc. Mental Health/Criminal Justice, NYU, 2000, National Association of Drug Courts, National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems and International Conferences on Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Winchester, England (1998) and International Society on Mental Illness, Sienna, Italy (2001). Office of New York State Mental Health, 2000, 2003, National Public Radio, Association of Public Health Journalists, Washington D.C., 2003, Birmingham NAMI Criminal Justice Mental Health Forum, Keynote, 2004, Florida Southern College, Keynote, Lakeland Florida, 2004, Mental Health Association of New Orleans, 2004, Macon, Georgia, NAMI Criminal Justice Mental Health Forum, Keynote, 2004, NAMI Central New York, Criminal Justice Forum, Keynote 2004 Criminal Justice Advisory, Ely Lilly, Indiana 2004, Nevada Judicial Leadership Conference, Keynote, 2003, Mental Association of Sarasota, Annual Dinner, Keynote (2004) Nevada, APA Conference, 2003 Keynote, Mental Health Conference of Florida Supreme Court and Appellate Judges, Conference of Florida Circuit Court Judges and Florida Conference of County Court Judges. National Judicial College, Problem Solving Courts, Reno Nevada 2005, Mental Health Association of Manhattan, Annual Dinner, Co-Chair, 2007, National Association Defense Trial Attorneys, (Testimony-Problem Solving Courts) Miami, 2007. The Advocate Conference, Innovations in Pre-trial Release, Probation (Application of TJ) Miami, 2008, Florida Council on Behavioral Health, 2008, Hernando Beach, NAMI Mental Health Coalition, Keynote, 2007, Community Coalitions, Criminal Justice and Mental Health, Dublin, National Disability Authority of Ireland, Keynote, 2009, NSU School of Public Health, Distinguished Speaker Program, Davie, Fl. 2009, Video Testimony: Cuttingedgelaw.com, Fort Lauderdale, 2009, Northern Illinois Law School, Symposium Mental Health Courts, Keynote, 2009, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, (Webcast), Boston University, 2009, Special Offenders Conference, Ontario, Canada, 2010. Suicide Survivor Conference, Keynote Speaker Saskatchewan School of Behavioral health and Justice, Canada, Speaker, Saskatchewan Provincial Judicial Conference,

2011, FISP, Fort Lauderdale, 2011, Luncheon Keynote, American Corrections Association Conference, Behavioral Health Luncheon, Orlando 2011, Keynote, 9th Anniversary, Miami Rescue Mission, Broward Outreach Homeless Center, 2011, Broward Legislative Delegation, Emergency Hearing, Broward County Managing Entity Process, 2011, Keynote Speaker FISP Suicide Prevention Conference, November, 2011, Broward College, Psychology Club, November, 2011, Wounds of War Symposium, Moderator, Problem Solving Courts, NSU, Davie, FL, February, 2012, “Our Broken Family Court” Conference, Speaker, The Cummings Foundation for Behavioral Health, Phoenix, AZ, March, 2012, NSU “Broken Family Court” Conference, Speaker, Davie, FL, October, 2012, NSU Public Health Law Summit, Co-Organizer, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, September, 2013, Florida Psychiatric Society, Fall CME Meeting, Speaker, St. Pete Beach, FL, September, 2013, NAMI Kick-off Luncheon, September, 2013, Bench Bar Conference, Problem Solving Court Panel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, October, 2013, Mental Health Conference, Building Bridges, Speaker, Broward County Crime Commission, November, 2013, Innovating Justice Awards, The Hague, The Netherlands, Presentation as Nominee, December, 2013, NSU Forensic Psychology Workshop, Panel Discussion, Jacksonville, Florida, February, 2014, “Ask the Doctor”, National Teleconference, NAMI, Medical Director, Dr. Ken Duckworth, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April, 2014, The Recovery Place, Spiritual Network Luncheon, Keynote Speaker, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April, 2014, The Circle of Care Consultants Luncheon, Keynote Speaker, Fort Lauderdale, FL, June, 2014, Forensic Psychology Day, Speaker, Orlando, FL, October, 2014, Principals of Social Justice, Inaugural Week, Guest Speaker and Panelist, Broward College, Pembroke Pines, FL, January, 2015, NSU, Center for Psychological Studies, Forensic Psychology Forum, Mental Health Courts-Therapeutic Justice, Davie, FL, April, 2015, Guardian Behavioral Health Foundation, Breakfast, Presenter, The Criminalization of Mental Illness and Problem Solving Courts, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May, 2015, Broward Chamber of Non Profit Organizations, United Way, Presenter, State of Mental Health and Criminal Justice: A National and Local View, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May, 2015, Homeless Continuum of Care Discharge Planning Committee, Presenter, Homelessness in the Criminal Justice System from Problem Solving Perspective, Fort Lauderdale, FL, June, 2015, United Way of Broward County, State of Substance Abuse Prevention and Mental Health in Broward County, Panelist, Fort Lauderdale, FL, June 2015; 34th International Congress on Law and Mental Health, International Academy of Law and Mental Health, Guest Speaker, The Integration of Therapeutic Jurisprudence in a Unified Family Court, Vienna, Austria, July 2015, NSU Professionalism Day, Shepard Broad College of Law, Panelist, August, 2015, Destination Dignity, March for Dignity and Change in Mental Health, Washington, D.C., August, 2015, Arkansas State University, Guest Speaker, Every Child is Ours, September, 2015, National Council for Behavioral Health, Hill Day, 2015, Washington, D.C., October, 2015, National Dialogues on Behavioral Health Conference 2015, Speaker and Presenter, New Orleans, LA, November, 2015, , Radio Interview, tbs eFM This Morning, Seoul, South Korea, December, 2015; Invited Discussant, Carter Center, Journalism Fellowship, Center on Media, Crime and Justice's year-long ["An Imprisoned Mind: The Mentally Ill and the Criminal Justice System."](#) January, 2016; Broward College Psychology Club, Speaker, “The Decriminalization of People With Mental Illness and Therapeutic Jurisprudence”, Pembroke Pines, FL, January, 2016; The Helping Professionals Network Luncheon, Guest Speaker – “Olmstead State of Mind”, Fort Lauderdale, FL, January, 2016; NSU Kendall Campus, College of Psychology, Forensic Psychology Day, Presenter, March, 2016; Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law, Mental Health Law Class, Guest Speaker, Fort Lauderdale, FL, March, 2016; Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Mental Health Court Panel, Panelist, Hollywood, FL, March, 2016; The Rabbi Jenny Show, I Heart Radio WWNN1470 AM, Guest, Boca Raton, FL, March, 2016; Neurodiversity Video Interview, Dr. Harold “Hackie” Reitman, Fort Lauderdale, FL, March, 2016; AXSChat, Debra Ruh, Ruh Global Communication, Global Video Interview, April, 2016;

AXSChat, Debra Ruh, Ruh Global Communications, Global Twitter Chat, April, 2016; New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation (NYAPRS) 12th Annual Executive Seminar, Presenter, Albany, NY, April, 2016; Horizon Club of Deerfield Beach, Board of Directors Induction, Guest Speaker, Deerfield Beach, FL.; Mental Health Association of Southeast Florida, TRIAD (Law Enforcement, older adults and community groups), Guest Speaker, Davie, FL, May, 2016; Florida Initiative Suicide Prevention (FISP), Hugs For Hope 5K Run/Walk, Guest Speaker Opening Remarks, Sunrise, FL, May, 2016; United Way of Broward County Behavioral Health Conference, "Building Healthier Communities", Co-Presenter with Debbie Plotnick from Mental Health America, *From ACES to Olmstead*, Davie, FL, May, 2016; 2016 Annual Florida Bar Conference, Presenter and Panelist, *Diminished Capacity and The Court System*, Orlando, FL, June 2016; Every Child Is Ours, Guest Speaker, Dedication of new food bank, Tuckerman, AR, August, 2016; The Carter Center, Destination Dignity Summit, Disability Rights/Mental Health/Criminal Justice, Panelist, Atlanta, GA. August 2016; Destination Dignity, March for Dignity and Change in Mental Health, Washington, D.C., October, 2016; United Way of Broward County, Commission on Substance Abuse, Town Hall Meeting "Let's Talk- The State of Mental Health", Co-Chair/Panelist, October, 2016; The League of Cities, Connecting for Mental Health: The Power of Grass Root Advocacy, Keynote Speaker, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November, 2016; Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Behavioral Health Panel-Perspectives in Healthcare, Panelist, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November, 2016; IPS Steering Committee, Footprints to Success Club, December 2016; Broward College Psychology Club, Speaker, "Mental Issues and the Criminal Justice System in Broward County", Guest Speaker, Pembroke Pines, FL, January, 2017; Mental Health Association, In An Age of Violence: Helping Children & Families Cope, Presenter, West Palm Beach, FL, April, 2017; Saks Institute for Mental Health Law Symposium, University of Southern California, Panelist, "Supported Decision Making", Los Angeles, CA, April, 2017; The Florida Bar, Masters of DUI Seminar, Presenter, Tampa, FL, April, 2017; Nova Southeastern University, Commencement Speaker, 2017, Graduate Schools College of Psychology and Humanities, Davie, FL, June, 2017; Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology, Speaker, Reception on behalf of Dr. Lenore E. Walker, Retirement, June, 2017; CIT International Conference, Speaker, Fort Lauderdale, FL, August, 2017; Broward College Psychology Club, Speaker, "A Conversation with Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren about Mental Health Issues", Guest Speaker, Pembroke Pines, FL, January, 2018;.St. Thomas University School of Law, TJ Workshop, Speaker/Presenter, Miami, FL, February, 2018; Mental Health Association, Northwest Law & Mental Health Conference; Keynote Speaker, Portland, Oregon, March 2018; Hope is Here, Speaker, Suicide Prevention, Beasley Coliseum, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, March 2018; The Commonwealth Club, "Stories From America's First Mental Health Court", Speaker, San Francisco, CA, March 2018; Owensboro Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition, Spring Community Conference, Kentucky Speaker/Presenter, April, 2018; United Way of Broward County, *Court of Refuge* book signing, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May, 2018; Mental Health America 2018 Annual Conference: "Fit For the Future," Speaker/Presenter, Washington, DC, June, 2018; Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology and College of Law (Literary Event) "Women Pioneers in Psychology and Law" with Dr. Lenore Walker, Pioneer of The Battered Woman Syndrome," October 2018, Davie, FL.; Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Luncheon Panel on Perspectives on Behavioral Health, November, 2018, Davie, FL.; Academy of Justice for Architecture, Keynote, November, 2018, New Jersey; American Association of Suicidology, FB Live, Suicide in U.S. Jails and Prisons, January, 2019; SPSM Chat, YouTube Livestream, *Judges as Champions 4 Suicide Prevention*, February, 2019; International Women's Day: A Celebration of Women in the Legal Community "Broward's Women Pioneers", Honoree, March, 2019; Edinburgh Community Justice Forum on

Problem Solving Courts and Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Keynote Speaker, Edinburgh, Scotland, March, 2019; American Psychiatric Nurses Association, *Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses: Mitigating Mental Health Risks and Inequities*, Keynote Speaker, Jacksonville, FL, April, 2019; Mental Health Research Symposium, Guest Speaker, Nova Southeastern University, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Services, May, 2019; Nova Southeastern, Forensic Advocates for Rehabilitation and Reintegration (FARR), Guest Speaker, “*A Talk with Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren*”, May, 2019; United Way of Broward County Behavioral Health Conference, “The Power of Prevention”, Co-Presenter with Garry Smythe, Fifth Street Counseling, *Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health: Reducing Disparities in Care from a Social Determinants of Health and Resiliency Model*, Davie, FL, May, 2019; NAMI Broward Open Forum Panel, *The Climate of Mental Health*, Panelist, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May, 2019; AuthorChats, Internet Radio Show, June, 2019; Twitter Chat on Suicide Prevention, American Association of Suicidology, June, 2019; International Bipolar Webinar, *Lessons From America’s First Mental Health Court, A New Vision for Mental Health Recovery and Social Justice*, Guest Speaker, June, 2019; South Florida Book Festival, Presenter, *Court of Refuge: Stories From America’s First Mental Health Court*, July 20, 2019; International Academy of Law and Mental Health, Panelist, *Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Violence Against Women In the Criminal Justice System*, Rome, Italy, July 23rd and July 25th, 2019; University of Dublin, College of Law School, Guest Speaker, *Court of Refuge: Stories from America’s First Mental Health Court*, July 25, 2019; International Therapeutic Jurisprudence Workshop, Presenter, *Integration of Trauma Treatment and TJ: What About Women and Often Marginalized Communities?*, Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law, September 13-14, 2019, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Florida Association of School of Social Workers, Panelist- Promoting a Systemic Approach to Addressing and Supporting Mental Health Concerns Within the School, Home, and Community, Fort Lauderdale, FL, October 18, 2019; Therapeutic Jurisprudence Conference, Speaker, Mental Health Institute of Legal Professions, Barcelona, Spain, February 4-7, 2020; Japanese Federal Bar Association, Host, February 21, 2020; *Trauma Informed Courts and Problem Solving Justice*, hosted by Jane Ireland, Zoom, April 30, 2020; Podcast, Justice Speaks- Hosted by Sally Spencer Thomas, Speaker, *Mental Health Courts and Human Rights*, June 9, 2020; Broward Outreach Center, Interview, Radio Talk Show, Zoom, Miami, Florida, July 29, 2020; TJ Zoom Talk, *Mental Health Courts in Canada*, Presenter, Zoom, August 18, 2020; MHPAT, United Way of Broward County, *Faded Conversations*, Panelist, Zoom, August 28, 2020; TJ in Courts Webinar, Karnavati University, Mumbai, India, Panelist, August 29, 2020; United Way of Broward County, Webinar, “Coping with the Uncertainties of Covid-19 Pandemic” panelist, September 26, 2020, Guest Lecturer, Barry University, MS Social Work Class, Mental Health Courts and the Role of Social Workers, October 1, 2020, Guest Lecturer, St. Thomas Law School, “Mental Health Courts From a Human Rights Framework, October 13m 2020, Radio Show Podcast “The Empowered Whistleblower” Interview with Dawn Westmoreland, October 15th, 2020, Florida State Guardianship Association, Keynote Speaker, “Humanizing Guardianship Through a Human Rights Framework”, Zoom, October 23, 2020; The Hague Institute for the Innovation of Law (HiiL), Innovating Justice Forum 2021, Guest Speaker, “Making People-Centered Justice Work”, Zoom, February 8-10, 2021;

Judge Lerner-Wren continues to educate, speak and consult on the Mental Health Court, Problem Solving Justice and Therapeutic Jurisprudence to a diverse audience including; judges, legal and forensic clinical practitioners and community mental health case managers, corrections, journalists, and audiences across the United States and the globe nationally and internationally.

Book, Articles, Blog Posts and Journal Publications include:

Lerner-Wren, Ginger, with Eckland, Rebecca, *A Court of Refuge: Stories from the Bench of America's First Mental Health Court*. Beacon Press, March 2018.

Psychiatric Annals, “A Court for the Nonviolent Defendant with a Mental Disability”, Lerner-Wren & Appel, Vol 31, No. 7, July 2001 published by SLACK, Inc. 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086, 856-848-1000.

Court Review, The Journal of American Judges Association, “The Broward Mental Health Court: A Preliminary Report”, Volume 37 Issue 4, Winter 2001, published by The National Center for State Courts, see <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/courtrv/review.html>, 757-259-1841.

Contributing Editor CRI Publications, Community Mental Health Report.

Study Site, National Center for Courts “Court Responses to Individuals in Need of Services” Promising Components of a Service coordination Strategy for Courts, 2001.

Model Court Site: Monograph “Emerging Judicial Strategies for the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Caseload: Mental Health Courts”, U.S. Department of Justice. (1999).
Opinion and Editorial, Sun Sentinel, “Face to Face a Conversation With Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren” 2005

Winick, B, Lerner-Wren, G. “Do Juveniles Facing Civil Commitment Have a Right to Counsel: A Therapeutic Jurisprudence Brief”, 17 U.Cinn L. Rev. 115-126 (2002).

Lerner-Wren, Dinerstein, Winick, Bliss” Bridging the Gap: America and Other Perspectives”, New York Law School Journal of International and Comparative Law, Vol. 21/ 3 (2002)

Contributor - Chapter:5 Mental Health Courts.

Slate, Risdon, Johnson, Wesley”The Criminalization of Mental Illness: Crisis and Opportunity for the Justice System” Carolina Academic Press (2008)

Guest Column: International Institute Therapeutic Jurisprudence, “Therapeutic Jurisprudence in Courts of General Jurisdiction”, 2009

Mental Health Courts: Serving Justice and Promoting Recovery, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, *Annals of Health Law*, Vol. 19/3 Spring (2010)

Lerner-Wren, White Paper, NSU Public Health Law Summit: “Problem Solving Justice Strategies, Public Safety and Reducing Recidivism, The Power of Community” 2013.

Lerner-Wren, “Don’t Miss The Chance to Vote for Justice” Huffington Post, October 16, 2013

Lerner-Wren, “The Criminalization of the Mentally Ill in America—Have We Reached a Flashpoint?” Huffington Post, July 22, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Want Inspiration to End the Criminalization of the Mentally Ill? Find a Muse”, Huffington Post, July 30, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “The Hidden Power of Courts That Heal” Huffington Post, August 6, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “The Criminalization of Persons with Mental Illness: Time for a New Welcoming” Huffington Post, August 18, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “We Need Everyone to Connect 4 Mental Health and Just Fix It” Huffington Post, August 25, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “A Chance to Fulfill JFK’s Vision of Community Behavioral Health Care in America: Connect 4 Mental Health” Huffington Post, August 28, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Battling Against the Criminalization of Persons with Mental Illness: A Matter of Social Justice” Huffington Post, September 3, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Reducing the Stigma of Mental Illness: Looking for Heartfelt Leaders” Huffington Post, September 10, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “The Time Has Come to End Stigma and Fund Mental Health Care in America” Huffington Post, September 17, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “The Urgent Need to Stand Against the Criminalization of Persons with Mental Illness” Huffington Post, September 23, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Trauma and Women Behind Bars in America” Huffington Post, October 7, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Investing in Florida’s Mental Health System Takes More than Money: It Takes Pride” Huffington Post, October 13, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “California’s Public Safety Realignment Act: Will It Serve as a Model for Community Mental Health?” Huffington Post, November 3, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “The Criminalization of Persons with Mental Illness: When Will Policy Leaders Say Enough?” Huffington Post, November 13, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “My Favorite Things: Strengthening the Rule of Law and Victims’ Rights in America” Huffington Post, December 1, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Staring into the Abyss of the Criminalization of Persons with Mental Illness” Huffington Post, December 15, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “Make Your New Year’s Resolution to Connect 4 Mental Health” Huffington Post, December 30, 2014

Lerner-Wren, “As Mental Health Court Grow, So Does Chance to Humanize Justice” Huffington Post, January 21, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “A New Era in Mental Health and Addiction Begins in America” Huffington Post, February 7, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The State of Mental Illness in America: Crying for a Cure” Huffington Post, February 23, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The Need for Health Activism in the Criminal Justice System” Huffington Post, March 30, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Standing Up for Pine Ridge: Because Every Child is Ours” Huffington Post, April 27, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Finding Solutions to Mass Incarceration in America Must Be Recovery-Focused” Huffington Post, May 4, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The Criminalization of Persons with Mental Illness in America: A Matter of Human Rights” Huffington Post, May 26, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Smart Justice-- Begins with Health Equity” Huffington Post, June 15, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Untreated Mental Illness: A Matter of Life and Death” Huffington Post, July 6, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The Criminalization of Mental Illness: Be a Voice for Justice” Huffington Post, August 3, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The Top Five Lessons from the Mental Health Court” Huffington Post, August 24, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The Feeling of Justice: The 2015 Dignity March for Mental Health” Huffington Post, August 26, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Standing Up to Poverty in Our Schools: Because Every Child Is Ours” Huffington Post, September 21, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Gender Injustice in America: A Therapeutic Wake-Up Call” Huffington Post, October 12, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Connect 4 Mental Health Leads System Change from the Bottom-Up” Huffington Post, October 25, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “An Unlikely Savior to End the Criminalization of Mental Illness” Huffington Post, November 2, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Mental Health Reform from a Therapeutic Jurisprudence Perspective” Huffington Post, November 20, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “The Criminalization of People with Mental Illness in America: The Need for Collective Vision” Huffington Post, November 30, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Americans Deserve Excellence in Mental Health Care Reform” Huffington Post, December 14, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “In Case of Mental Health Emergency: Call a Mobile Crisis Team” Huffington Post, December 30, 2015

Lerner-Wren, “Americans with Disabilities Deserve an Olmstead State of Mind” Huffington Post, January 17, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “Take the Olmstead Pledge: A Time to Seize Justice” Huffington Post, February 8, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “It’s Time for Courts to Advance Zero Suicide” Huffington Post, February 29, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “Broward’s Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Turns 19” Huffington Post, March 28, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “Jail Diversion Takes a Human Rights Focus” Huffington Post, April 11, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “Mental Health Month 2016: Give Your Community the Gift of *Olmstead v. L.C.*” Huffington Post, May 2, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “Crossing the Criminal Justice Chasm to the Community: A Homecoming” Huffington Post, May 27, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “We Can Still Achieve the Promise of Recovery: The President’s New Freedom Commission On Mental Health” Huffington Post, June 27, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “The ADA: The Journey to Liberty & Justice for All”, Huffington Post, July 23, 2016.

Lerner-Wren, “Therapeutic Jurisprudence: The Hidden Power of Humanizing Justice, On Medium, July 8, 2018.

Lerner-Wren, “The Raging Voice of Dignity (Problem Solving Courts and Therapeutic Jurisprudence), On Medium, July 15, 2018.

Lerner-Wren, ‘Judges as Champions for Suicide Prevention’, On Medium, August 5, 2018.

Lerner-Wren, “From Crisis to Community- Crossing the Criminal Justice Chasm”, On Medium, August 19, 2018.

Lerner-Wren, “This New Year- Lets Raise the Bar for Social Determinants of Health”, On Medium, December 26, 2018.

Lerner-Wren, “Lawyer Wellbeing and Therapeutic Jurisprudence”, On Medium, May 26, 2019

Lerner-Wren, “Pain in the Nation: A New Report Drives Court Strategy”, On Medium, September 8, 2019.

Lerner-Wren, “The Gifts of Community Collaboration and Social Justice”, On Medium, December 15, 2019.

Lerner-Wren, “Can There be Justice Without Dignity? On Medium, May 31, 2020,

Lerner-Wren, “Have We Reached a Tipping Point for Mental Health in America”, On Medium, August 30, 2020.

Honors and Awards:

2019 Broward County Bar Association – International Women’s Day, “A Celebration of Women in the Legal Community: Broward’s Women Pioneers.”

2015 National Council for Behavioral Health’s Award “Excellence in Advocacy Award, Elected Official Service”

2015 Community Service Award, Monarch Care, Transforming Lives

2014 National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter, Elected Official of the Year

2013 Finalist Successful Innovation, Innovating Justice Awards, The Hiil Foundation, The Hague, The Netherlands

2013 Justice Leadership Award, Broward County Crime Commission, 34th Annual Awards Dinner

2011 Core Values Award, Broward Outreach Homeless Center

Annual Co-Chair and presenter: Broward County NAMI Times Awards present

Host, National Association of County Commissioners, 2007, Jail Diversion NSU, Center for Psychological Services (CPS), Special Recognition in Celebration of Ten Year Anniversary, Broward County Mental Health Court, 2007

Sapphire Award, Health South, “The Cottages in the Pines”, Innovative Public Health Program State of Florida, (Henderson Mental Health/Broward Mental Health Court, Honorable Mention 2006)

Top 500 Judges in America: Law Dragon Awards, 2006

Office of Surgeon General: Mental Health and Gender Specific Workshop for Women, Denver Colorado (2005)

Public Policy Award, Marion County Public Policy, 2004 Study on Mental Health Care

The Carter Center, Rosalyn Carter Symposium on Mental Health (2004-present)

Legislative Presentation, Article 5 Conference Committee, 2004

University of Baltimore, Public Health Institute, (2003)

NAMI Florida, Distinguished Service Award, 2002

Most Innovative Local Government Project Award, Broward County Commission, 2001

Above and Beyond Award, Thomas B. Buchanan Society, Henderson Mental Health Center, 2001

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Mother of the Year, 2001

Humanitarian of the Year Award, Nova Southeastern University School of Psychology, 2000

Broward County Women's Hall of Fame, (Inducted) 2000

Children's Advocate of the Year Award, Advocates for Children and Justice, 2000

Nova Southeastern University School (NSU) Center for Psychological Services for the pioneering efforts of the Mental Health Court and Therapeutic Jurisprudence, 1999

EPIC Award, Broward Mental Health Association, 1999

Most Innovative Court Project, Florida Circuit Court Conference Award, 1999

NAMI (National) Award for the First Mental Health Court and Therapeutic Jurisprudence in the Criminal Justice System, 1998

Henderson Mental Health, Advocate of the Year Award, 1997

Broward County NAMI, TIMES AWARD, 1997

Giraffe Award, Women's Minority/Majority, 1991

Personal:

Judge Lerner-Wren was born in Brooklyn, New York. Judge Wren Lerner-Wren is married to Dr. Bent Nielsen. Their family includes two adult children in U.S. and immediate family in Denmark and Australia.

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