

Meet OJD's Juvenile Court Program Staff

Nanci Thaemert is the Director of Juvenile and Family Court Programs Division which is charged with developing, implementing, and evaluating court programs for statewide application in the Oregon courts. She has spent her entire career serving government and nonprofit entities to ensure families and children in the system are safe and free of abuse. Before moving to Oregon, Nanci spent a decade at the Idaho Supreme Court managing programs and services in the areas of family law, juvenile dependency and delinquency, domestic violence, and guardianships and conservatorships. She is an expert on guardianship reform efforts and has trained and presented on this topic across the country. Nanci holds a juris doctorate from the Willamette University School of Law and is a licensed attorney.

Heidi Olsen Strauch earned her BA in Political Science from Drake University and her JD from Lewis & Clark Law School. For seven years Heidi was a partner in general practice in a small-town law firm in Columbia County, encompassing both a civil practice and serving as city attorney for criminal matters, prosecuting misdemeanors in municipal court. After spending time as a full-time mother to her three children, Heidi provided litigation support in Multnomah County in complex civil cases. Heidi began work as a hearings referee and circuit court judge pro tem in 2014, mostly handling juvenile dependency cases. She also created and led the Marion County LGBTQ Foster Youth Work Group, working with community partners to improve outcomes for LGBTQ youth in foster care, served on the Marion County Visitation Practices Workgroup and was recognized as the Oregon Chief Justice's Juvenile Court Champion in 2018. Heidi now serves as the Juvenile Court Programs Manager for the Oregon Judicial Department.

Yousef Allouzi is a JCIP data analyst and author who currently resides in McMinnville, OR. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Oregon State University. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the same institution. He previously worked 10 years for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, was a volunteer mediator, and loves to travel.

Jayne Cooper is a Senior ICWA and JCIP Analyst with the Juvenile and Family Court Programs division. Her work centers on supporting the Juvenile Court Improvement Program (JCIP), which administers the federal Court Improvement Program grant to promote the continuous quality improvement of dependency court hearings, quality legal representation, and collaboration between the courts, ODHS, and the tribes. Jayne grew up in California's Central Valley, where her lifelong commitment to supporting children and families took root early supporting families impacted by domestic violence. After earning her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City, she spent 12 years representing children and youth in the dependency and delinquency systems through direct representation, policy and legislative reform, and impact litigation. Jayne is passionate about supporting Oregon's child welfare system to improve practices and outcomes for families.

Nella Hogberg began her role as a Delinquency Analyst at JFCPD in October 2021. She earned her JD from Suffolk University Law School (SULS) earlier that year and moved cross country to Portland, Oregon where she was admitted to the Oregon State Bar. She has been in the juvenile and family advocacy space in various roles since 2018 including work at a Boston area juvenile court, a local public counsel organization, and as a student attorney in the Family Advocacy Clinic at SULS. Since beginning at JFCPD last October, she has been working to spearhead the new Juvenile Delinquency Improvement Program (JDIP) through providing support for resource development, training, and stakeholder collaboration efforts. She looks forward to continuing to work toward better outcomes for youth and their communities.

Christina Jagernauth is the Assistant Director of the Citizen Review Board (CRB), Oregon's citizen foster care review program. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Eastern Oregon University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Portland State University. Early in her career, Christina worked as a direct care provider in group homes for adults with developmental disabilities and a skills trainer in a residential facility for adults with mental health disorders. She started working for the Oregon Judicial Department in 2004 as an analyst facilitating workgroups of court staff in charting case workflows and developing data entry best practices. She was promoted to a juvenile and criminal court programs analyst position in 2006 and started working for CRB in 2009. Christina's interest in citizen input in government programs started in 2002 during a college internship evaluating a citizen engagement project at the Portland Police Bureau. That interest became a life passion at CRB.

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Mia Ruston is a Family Treatment Court (FTC) Analyst with the Juvenile and Family Court Programs division. She coordinates Oregon's Family Treatment Court Improvement Program, a three-year project funded under a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. She is overseeing the implementation of the grant statewide, working with FTC teams locally and coordinating the work of the program's Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee. Mia grew up in California and has a BA in Sociology and a Master's degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy. She earned her J.D. at the University of San Diego where she focused on juvenile and family law and was awarded the James A. D'Angelo Outstanding Child Advocate Award. Her passion for Family Treatment Courts stems from her work as a juvenile dependency attorney, observing the profound growth, sustained recovery, and enhanced family well-being that the FTC model helped so many of her clients achieve.