

**Randall C. Berg, Jr.**

Randall C. Berg, Jr. is the founding Executive Director of the Florida Justice Institute, a public interest law firm in Miami. Since 1978 Randy has been involved in numerous individual and major statewide class action lawsuits for injunctive relief and damages aimed at improving Florida's prisons and jails, as well as other large impact cases for the poor in the areas of housing discrimination, disabilities, civil rights and civil liberties. Randy worked to develop our nation's first interest on lawyers' trust account (IOLTA) program in Florida, and then assisted nationwide in establishing IOLTA programs and defending its constitutionality as the Executive Director of the National IOLTA Clearinghouse and as Legal Counsel for the National Association of IOLTA Programs. IOLTA has created over \$5 billion nationwide to primarily fund legal services for the poor. Randy is past President of the ACLU of Florida, and an Adjunct Clinical Law Professor at the University of Miami. Randy served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the George Mason University School of Law. Randall is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits, and all U.S. District Courts in Florida.

## **Paul Prestia**

Mr. Prestia focuses his practice on criminal defense and civil rights abuses. Mr. Prestia received his Juris Doctorate from St. John's University School of Law and began his legal career as a prosecutor in the Kings County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Prestia has become one of the leading civil rights and criminal justice reform advocates in New York City and has provided legal commentary to various media outlets. Mr. Prestia has lectured on criminal justice reform and the ordeal of his client Kalief Browder at UCLA School of Law, St. John's University School of Law and New York Law School and most recently at the American Justice Summit at John Jay College in NY.

### **Professor Margo Schlangner**

Margo Schlangner is the Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, where she teaches torts, constitutional law, and classes relating to civil rights, prisons, and policing. She also founded and runs the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse (<http://clearinghouse.net>). Professor Schlangner is the court-appointed monitor for a statewide settlement dealing with deaf prisoners in Kentucky, and serves on the Department of Homeland Security's Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers. In 2010 and 2011, she was the presidentially appointed Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In the past she served on the Vera Institute's blue ribbon Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons; worked as an advisor on national standards implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act, and was the reporter for the American Bar Association's Standards on the Treatment of Prisoners. Before entering law teaching, Schlangner earned her J.D. from Yale in 1993, clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and worked as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division to remedy civil rights abuses by prison and police departments.

### **Professor Brenda Smith**

Professor Brenda V. Smith is tenured at American University, Washington College of Law where she co-directs the Community Economic Development Law Clinic and teaches a seminar, *Women, Crime and the Law*. She is Director of The Project on Addressing Prison Rape. In 2003, Professor Smith was appointed to the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission by United States House of Representatives Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi. In 2013, she was appointed to the Advisory Committee on Women's Services for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Professor Smith is widely consulted and published on issues at the intersection of gender, crime, class and sexuality. Recent articles include Meant to be Said [Read]out Loud: Stories of Race, Gender, and Class, 51 WASH. UNIV. J. L. & POL'Y (2016); Boys, Rape and Masculinity: Reclaiming Boys' Narratives of Sexual Violence in Custody, 93 N.C.L.REV. 1559 (2015); and Uncomfortable Places, Close Spaces: Theorizing Female Correctional Officers' Sexual Interactions with Men and Boys in Custody, 59 U.C.L.A. L. REV. 1690 (2012) and After Dothard: Female Correctional Workers and the Challenge to Employment Law, 8 FIU L. REV. 469 (2013). Before teaching, Prof. Smith was Senior Counsel for Economic Security at The National Women's Law Center and Director of the Center's Women in Prison Project. Professor Smith was awarded the Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship in 1003 and inducted into the D.C. Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

## **Paul Wright**

Paul Wright is the founder and Executive Director of the Human Rights Defense Center. He is also editor of Prison Legal News (PLN), the longest-running independent prisoner rights publication in U.S. history. He has co-authored three PLN anthologies: *The Ceiling of America: An Inside Look at the U.S. Prison Industry* (Common Courage, 1998); *Prison Nation: The Warehousing of America's Poor* (Routledge, 2003); and *Prison Profiteers: Who Makes Money from Mass Imprisonment* (New Press, 2008). His articles have appeared in over 80 publications, ranging from *Counterpunch* to *USA Today*. A former prisoner, Paul was imprisoned for 17 years in Washington state until his release in 2003. During and since his incarceration he has successfully litigated a wide variety of censorship and public records cases against prison systems around the country, both as a pro se plaintiff and on behalf of PLN. Paul is a former military policeman, a graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in Soviet History, and the former National Lawyers Guild Jailhouse Lawyer co-vice president (1995-2008). He is a 2005 Petra Fellow, the Freedom Fighter of the Month for *High Times* magazine in July 2006, a 2007 recipient of the James Madison Award from the Washington Coalition for Open Government, the 2008 inaugural recipient of the National Lawyers Guild's Arthur Kinoy award, and a 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Public Interest Service Award from the City of New York Law School.