



Jennifer Nichols, Special Assistant Attorney General

Jennifer Nichols earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Mississippi before receiving her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

She began her legal career with the Mississippi Department of Human Services (DHS) and YoungWilliams, where she spent 12 years serving as an attorney and later as Managing Attorney in the Child Support Enforcement Division.

In 2023, Jennifer joined the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. She initially served as counsel to the Mississippi State Board of Education for two years before assuming her current role as Deputy Director of the Health and Well-being Group within the State Agencies Division. In this capacity, she oversees legal services for several state agencies, including the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Mississippi Industries for the Blind.

Jennifer lives in the Jackson Metro area with her husband, their two young sons, and their two dogs.



**C. LaToya Mason, MD, FASA
Professor of Anesthesiology**

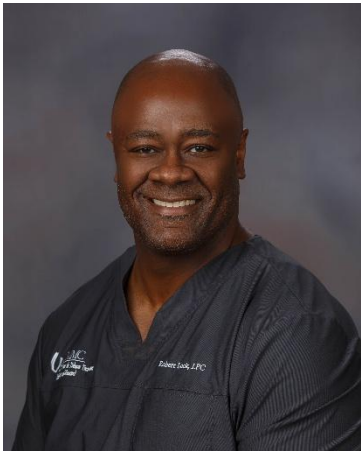
C. LaToya Mason, MD, FASA - Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center - is a Board-certified anesthesiologist and one of the obstetric anesthesiology fellowship-trained anesthesiologists practicing in the state of Mississippi. She is Director of Obstetric Anesthesia Education, Course Director for the M4 Anesthesiology clerkship, and Society of Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) liaison to the Mississippi Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

A Jackson native and former valedictorian of Forest Hill High School, Dr. Mason completed medical school and Anesthesiology residency at Tulane University. She completed an Obstetric Anesthesia fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. She has attained Fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (FASA) designation, ASA's highest

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acknowledgment recognizing years of dedication to exceptional education and leadership. She is a two-time recipient of a UMMC Trailblazer Award and finalist for SOAP Teacher of the Year,

Dr. Mason has authored abstracts, book chapters, and publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Dr. Mason is Associate Editor of Shnider and Levinson's Anesthesia for Obstetrics Textbook, 5th Edition. She has been an invited speaker and workshop instructor at numerous local, state, and national meetings. In addition to her passions for obstetric anesthesia, improving maternal outcomes, and resident education, Dr. Mason has a keen interest in music; she is a classically trained pianist and violinist.



Robert Lock, TTS

Robert Lock is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Tobacco Treatment Specialist with 25 years of experience specializing in addiction treatment and recovery.



Robert "Bob" K. Collins, MD

Semi-retired Family Physician



Gena Vail, CFNP

Gena A Vail is a Nurse Practitioner Specialist in New Albany, Mississippi. She graduated in her field of study with honors. She has more than 23 years of diverse experience as a Nurse Practitioner.



Matthew Wesson, MD

Dr. Wesson is a Native of Tupelo, MS. He is a graduate of Millsaps College and University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). After graduating from medical school, Dr. Wesson interned in Denver, Colorado. After interning in Denver, Colorado, Dr. Wesson returned to Mississippi where he completed his Ophthalmology training at UMMC. Dr. Wesson practiced in Tupelo from 1977 – 2021. Dr. Wesson also spent 2 years in the United States Army.



Mary Shaw, PhD, MEd, MCHES
Department Chair and Professor
Behavioral and Environmental Health
Jackson State University

Mary Shaw, PhD, MEd, MCHES is a Professor and Department Chair for the Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health at JSU College of Health Sciences (A CEPH Accredited School of Public Health). She has more than 25 years of academic-community experience focused on addressing education and health disparities in underserved communities across the country. She has focused research on women's health and well-being with an additional focus on educating and training first generation college students for advanced degrees in health-related fields. She is an author, public speaker, educator, researcher, and mentor. Cancer prevention and control focused on the family has been a long-time interest. Dr. Shaw is married and has one daughter and one granddaughter. She is also the President and owner of a small consulting group, Shaw & Associates, LLC that provides education and health consultation services, primarily focused on program planning and evaluation services.



Caroline Petty, LCSW
Social Services Manager

Caroline Petty is a Licensed Certified Social Worker with over 10 years of experience working with diverse populations in child protection services, public health, and mental health services. Caroline graduated with her master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California in 2016 with a concentration in Medical social work. She is an alumnus of Mississippi State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in social work in 2009. Caroline began her social work career at Mississippi State Department of Child Protective Services (formerly, MDHS) in July 2009 where she served children in foster care until 2015. She currently works at Mississippi State Department of Health as the Social Services Manager serving 28 counties in the Central and Southern Public Health region. Caroline is motivated by a deep commitment to providing compassionate support and advocating for those in need.



Dr. Felix Twum
University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Felix Twum is an epidemiologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi whose research focuses on chronic disease epidemiology, cardiovascular and kidney health, diabetes, and health disparities. He conducts population-based research to inform disease prevention and health promotion efforts and is dedicated to improving health outcomes among underserved populations through research, education, and community engagement. As a member of the Mississippi Tobacco Control Advisory Council, he contributes expertise in public health research and chronic disease prevention to support tobacco control initiatives throughout Mississippi.



Representative Sam J. Creekmore, IV
House of Representatives

Sam J. Creekmore, IV is the president and principal landscape architect of Creekmore Landscape LTD. After moving to New Albany, Mississippi in 1992, he and his wife, Warner, founded Creekmore Landscape. Twenty-six years later, Creekmore Landscape is a leader in the landscape design, build and management industry in North Mississippi.

Creekmore Landscape was inspired by Sam and Warner's education at Mississippi State University, where they each earned a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture. Sam is a licensed landscape architect and holds a commercial contractor's license issued by the State of Mississippi. By merging landscape and contracting, Sam can fully handle creative developments and see the projects from conception to the final coat of paint.

Sam has always found ways to serve his community. He currently chairman of the New Albany Sustainable Advisory, a committee that is responsible for many of the successful spaces in New Albany. Sam recently served as a member of the New Albany City School board. A school system that is consistently rated tops in the state. In 2019 Sam was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, he represents District 14. He is currently serving his fourth year in the legislature, where he has chaired subcommittees on mental health and drug issues in the State of Mississippi.

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Additional Council Members:

Louis King, Mississippi Department of Education

Dr. Washington Cole, Mississippi Chapter American Heart Association

Dr. Richard Friedman, American Cancer Society

Senator Nicole Boyd, State Senate