

THE CHICAGO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

ENGAGE & ELEVATE

Leveraging and Maximizing Talent

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

9:45 AM - 12:15 PM

VIA ZOOMGOV - LINK WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION

Strengthening Employee Engagement Through Coaching

Federal Coaching Program: Coaching is Not Mentoring

Pamela Smith, Administrative Director

Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Chicago Region
Certified Federal Coach

Improving Communications and Building Relationships Through Coaching

Arika Clark, President, International Coach Federation, Chicago Charter Chapter

The Free Federal Coaching Program

Meg Gorecki, Regional Director, Community Relations Service,
Certified Federal Coach

LGBTQ+ Workplace Equality and Inclusion

Vincent M. Rizzo, Esq., Executive Committee Secretary

Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC)

Jill Rose Quinn, Esq., Member, Board of Directors, LAGBAC

Inclusive Virtual Workflows and Partnerships

**Tonia A. Dousay, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Accreditation and Inclusion and
Associate Professor, Learning Sciences - College of Education, Health and Human
Services, University of Idaho**

This event is open to federal employees only.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Email CHICAGOFEB@GSA.GOV with any questions.

SPEAKER BIOS



Pamela Smith is currently the Administrative Director, for the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Pamela has over 25 years of experience in both the private and public sector, primarily in the field of human resources. Pamela holds a BA in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and an MBA with a concentration in Human Resources Management. She is certified as a Senior Professional Human Resources (SPHR, SHRM-SCP), Gallup Strengths Coach and Federal Internal Coach. As a coach, Pamela partners with individuals to help them identify their talents and strengths, guides them in developing a clear road map for success, and encourages them as they work to achieve their desired personal and professional goals. She believes that when we discover our true gifts and talents, we will discover our greatest opportunities to succeed. Pamela is passionate about empowering others to live their lives, on purpose!



Arika Clark Alejo is the President of the International Coach Federation, Chicago Charter Chapter. In Arika's words: "I'm Arika Clark Alejo and I go by many names: Founder of Thrive Epic, Experience Curator, Chief Happiness Officer, and sometimes simply Coach. No matter what you call me, though, I'm on a mission to help people be leaders in their own lives and be happy doing it. I know how difficult it can be to put your best foot forward when it seems like every time you do – you step in gum. I've experienced this firsthand. I was CEO of a sign language interpreter company called ASL Communication Services, Inc. I was overwhelmed and just trying to make it through every day. So, I hired my first coach to help me with time management and getting unstuck. In the process, I gained so much more and discovered the full power of coaching. I had such a profound experience that I decided to go through formal training to become a coach. My areas of expertise include communication, team dynamics, emotional intelligence, and strategy and execution. In addition to my role as a coach, I hold national credentials as an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, a Master's degree in Adult Education, and serve as an

adjunct instructor at a local community college. As a coach, speaker, and facilitator, I found my passion to help professionals curate their own businesses and put on their own epic experiences. Now I get to help people see their full potential in every aspect of their lives."



Meg Gorecki is the Midwest Regional Director and the Acting New England Regional Director of the United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Service (CRS). As both the Midwest Regional Director and the Acting New England Director of the Community Relations Service, Meg handles mediations and conflict driven casework involving police shootings, school bullying suicides, hate crimes, disparate treatment of services, and harassment incidents in communities throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio (Region V) and Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island (Region I). Meg has over 28 years of experience in helping individuals and teams become high performers. She began the formal process of coaching over 5 years ago. Regional Director Gorecki is a graduate of the Federal Internal Coaching Program and is a member of the Federal Internal Coach Network. She has coached clients in both the public and private sector and her areas of expertise include: Professional Development, Leadership Coaching, Strengthening Communication, Conflict Resolution, and Collaborative Facilitation.

SPEAKER BIOS CONTINUED



Vincent M. Rizzo is currently an attorney at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, focusing his practice in the areas of labor and employment, constitutional violations, and government litigation. He advises employers and employees on all aspects of the employment relationship. Before joining Hinshaw, Vincent was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law in its civil rights litigation group. Vincent serves as co-president of the Cook County Bar Association's LGBTQ section, co-chair of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues Network of the ABA Section of International Law, a member of the leadership council for Lambda Legal, and secretary of the executive board of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago. He also is a pro-bono volunteer for the Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, representing low-income plaintiffs in employment matters and volunteers for the name change project, providing free legal name change services to transgender people. Vince received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Michigan State University College of Law, and his B.A., *magna cum laude*, in Business Management and Administration, from Bradley University.



Jill Rose Quinn has an extensive legal background, having worked in both the public and private sectors, and a lifelong dedication to community service. After completing her law degree at John Marshall in 1983, she went on to work for the Village Attorney of Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Jill later became an Arbitrator in DuPage County in 1990 and Cook County in 1993. Jill's private practice experience includes working at general legal practices, where she handled a wide variety of case types. Throughout her career, she has handled over 4,000 cases and performed appellate work. Jill formed her own practice in 1997 on the Northwest side and focused on helping neighborhood residents with financial challenges, family law matters, small business operations, criminal law, probate and estate planning. Jill is also one of the few transgender legal professionals in Chicago. While she is proud of the progress our society has made, Jill knows there remains a long way to go. Being transgender has taught Jill firsthand what it is like to be marginalized and the vital importance of treating all people with fairness, decency and compassion. In March of 2020, Jill won the Democratic primary for the Cook County Circuit Court and became the first openly transgender judicial candidate in the State of Illinois. As there is no **Republican opposition in**

November, she will be the first openly transgender elected official in the State of Illinois. She is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) and the Chicago LGBT Chamber of Commerce. She has given seminars on transgender rights in Chicago and Philadelphia.



Dr. Tonia Dousay is a K-20 educator and researcher, encompassing K-12, higher education, and continuing education. As a Google Certified Innovator with 20 years of instructional design and distance learning design and project management experience, she designs and studies a variety of learning environments and activities with emergent and established technologies. Tonia earned her PhD in Learning, Design, and Technology at the University of Georgia, and is an Associate Dean for Accreditation and Inclusion for the College of Education, Health & Human Sciences at the University of Idaho.