



Nick Cox

Statewide Prosecutor

Office of the Attorney General of the State of Florida

Nicholas B. “Nick” Cox is the Statewide Prosecutor of Florida. Under his leadership, the Office of Statewide Prosecution will work in partnership with elected state attorneys to protect all Floridians.

Cox’s distinguished legal career includes nine years as an Assistant State Attorney in Hillsborough County and six years as an attorney in the Office of the Attorney General. Cox has tried approximately 150 criminal jury cases, including numerous homicides and capital cases, and has served as a chief of felony and economic crimes units. Cox also has experience as a commercial litigator in private practice and as a faculty member at the Stetson University College of Law. Most recently, Cox has served since 2007 as the Department of Children and Families’ Regional Director for the SunCoast Region, encompassing an area from Pasco County south to Collier County. In that capacity, Cox has supervised more than 1,700 employees and managed operations with a budget of more than \$450 million.

Cox is a graduate of the University of South Florida and of Washburn University School of Law. He has been married for 20 years to Tampa attorney Karen Cox, and they have three children.

Under Florida law, the Attorney General appoints the Statewide Prosecutor from among nominees forwarded by the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission. The Statewide Prosecutor serves for a term of four years that runs concurrently with the term of the Attorney General. The Office of Statewide Prosecution has jurisdiction over serious, multi-circuit crimes enumerated in Florida law.



Senator Victor D. Crist

Chairman, Board of Directors, University Area Community Development Corporation

Senator Victor Crist helped spearhead the founding of the University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC) in one of Florida's most socially and economically vulnerable communities. He currently serves as the volunteer chairman of its board of directors, working closely with local residents, law enforcement, community organizations and leaders to develop a safe and vibrant community for the people of the area.

Crist's role as the chairman of the UACDC is the culmination of his 30 years of tireless efforts to improve the once blighted, high crime neighborhood formerly known as "Suitcase City." When he started a small association as a University of South Florida student in 1980 to improve living conditions for students who resided off-campus, he had no idea it would evolve into three decades of service to the neighborhoods near his alma mater. In 1989, his Off Campus Housing Association merged into the USF Area Community Civic Association, and Crist has served as president of the organization since that time.

Prior to his November 2010 election to the Hillsborough County Commission, Crist served the people of Florida as a Republican member of the Florida Senate since 2000. He represented District 12, which includes portions of Hillsborough and Pasco counties. As State Senator, Crist served as chairman of the Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for crafting Florida's budget for both public safety and the court system. He also served on the Senate Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Criminal Justice, the Committee on Governmental Oversight & Accountability, the Policy & Steering Committee on Ways & Means, and the Senate Rules Committee. Previously he was a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1992 through 2000. As a Representative, he was chairman of the Justice Council, which was responsible for all criminal and civil justice policy. Crist, known as an expert on criminal justice issues, has been an advisor to the U.S. Attorney General on Florida corrections issues and to the Florida Attorney General on justice issues.

Victor D. Crist has been recognized for outstanding service by numerous organizations that are concerned with juvenile justice, intervention, prevention, diversion and treatment, as well as law enforcement groups that include the Florida Sheriff's Association, the Florida Fraternal Order of Police and the Florida Police Benevolent Association. Crist is the recipient of a long list of awards, including the 2010 L. Clayton Nance Award in Appreciation for Devotion to Public Service from the Florida Public Defender Association, the 2009 Senatorial Leadership Award from the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the 2009 Legislative Award for Outstanding Service by the Florida Bar, and the 2010 Conference of County Court Judges Dedicated Service Award for the preservation of Florida's court system, among many others.

Crist is also president of Metropolitan Communications, Inc., a successful advertising and advocacy agency. In more than 28 years leading the company, he has been commended for outstanding ethics and contributions to his industry. Crist graduated with honors from the University of South Florida in 1983, where he was recognized as an outstanding senior leader.



Anna Robinson-Lindsey

Senior Program Manager

University Area Community Development Corporation, Inc.

Anna Robinson-Lindsey joined the staff of the University Area Community Development Corporation, Inc. in 2004 and crafted a vision for coordinating and mobilizing community stakeholders, from grassroots leaders to university researchers, with the common goal of improving the conditions of the University Area and ultimately, similar communities across Florida. The Coordinated Community Anti Crime Initiative came to life. Her time with the organization has seen varied roles. As director of grants and programs, Robinson-Lindsey engaged in contract management and program development and coordinated collaborations of public agencies, private providers, and volunteers to meet the specific needs of the more than 40,000 children and adults residing in the socially and economically challenged University Area of Hillsborough County. Her time now is concentrated on expanding the activities of the Coordinated Community Anti Crime Initiative as a model for safe and sustainable communities in Tampa and around the state of Florida. In this capacity, she is also focused on directing the work of a strong collaboration with the University of South Florida and other consulting partners in moving the initiative agenda forward.

Her role with the universities has afforded her the opportunity to serve as policy advisor to the Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights' Scientific Committee at its International Conference on Sustainable Best Practices in Children and Youth Programs and International Summit in 2009 in Montreal. In 2007 she joined the University of South Florida School of Social Work research team in a poster presentation at the International Campbell Collaboration Colloquium in London which conducts systematic reviews and policing of best and evidence-based practices.

She has enjoyed two diverse career paths in broadcasting and social service. She joined the UACDC following 15 years with the local Urban League affiliate as chief management officer. Prior to that, she served as director of news and public affairs, program administrator, and executive producer for local programming for television stations in two top broadcast markets, WPTY in Memphis and WFTS in Tampa.

Robinson-Lindsey's educational background spans two paths, as well. Her love of music launched her scholarship study in voice at Rust College, an historically black institution nationally renowned for its acappella choir. She later completed coursework requirements for the bachelor of arts in organizational management at Warner Southern University in Lake Wales, Florida.

She has served on many boards and auxiliaries. Most recently, she completed a term on the board of the Florida Alliance of Community Development Corporations and is past member of the board of directors of the Florida Consortium for Program Development & Technology Training.



Chris L. Gibson, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law

University of Florida

W.E.B. Du Bois Fellow, the National Institute of Justice

Dr. Chris L. Gibson is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law at the University of Florida, the W.E.B Du Bois Fellow for the National Institute of Justice, and a research affiliate of the Jim Walter Partnership Center at the University of South Florida. He received his doctorate in criminal justice and criminology from the University of Nebraska in 2005.

Dr. Gibson has published more than 40 peer reviewed scholarly articles and book chapters. He also has been the recipient of several research grants to explore correlates of childhood and adolescent behavioral problems as well as quality of life issues among residents in both rural and urban areas. His recent work has appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals in the discipline of criminology such as *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Crime and Delinquency*, and the *Journal of Criminal Justice*. His current research focuses on neighborhood contextual effects on child and adolescent behavioral outcomes, neighborhood conditions and how they affect residents, correlates and consequences of joining criminal gangs, applied quantitative methods, and biosocial/life-course criminology.

As a research affiliate of the Jim Walter Partnership Center, Dr. Gibson has been a collaborator with the University Area Community Development Corporation and its Coordinated Community Anti Crime Initiative since its inception. One of the objectives of the initiative is data driven and designed to identify quality of life issues facing residents in targeted high crime, high poverty neighborhood of Hillsborough County.

Funded by the W.E.B. Du Bois fellowship of the National Institute of Justice, his most recent research is on Hispanic children and violence. He uses data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) to explore the neighborhood and individual mechanisms that may help explain the link between assimilation and crime among Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban youth.



Anne R. Williamson, Ph.D.

**Director, Center for Housing Policy
University of Texas at San Antonio**

Dr. Anne Williamson is director of the Center for Housing Policy and assistant professor of public administration at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is also managing member of Policy & Planning Insights, LLC and the former associate director of the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida. Dr. Williamson has more than 20 years' experience in housing research. She has also led the state of Georgia's affordable rental housing programs and served as senior management in a multifamily development firm. Her expertise covers a wide range of issues, including HOPE VI, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Housing Choice Vouchers, neighborhood revitalization, Fair Housing choice, and other topics associated with housing and community development.

Williamson regularly presents at national conferences such as the Urban Affairs Association and the American Society for Public Administration. She has authored articles on housing and community in publications such as *Urban Affairs Review*, *Housing and Society*, *Journal of Poverty*, and *Journal of Community Practice*. In addition, she is author of more than 20 monographs and reports dealing with housing and community issues. She has also provided expert testimony in U. S. Federal Court on Fair Housing issues.

She is an academic who stays close to her roots in professional practice as a means of better serving the public. In addition to her university achievements, she is the former director of the Office of Research and Analysis for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She also served as development manager for the state of Georgia's affordable rental housing programs. Dr. Williamson also has senior management experience with a community-based affordable housing developer in central Georgia.



Kurt B. Young, Ph.D.

Principal and Chief Research Officer

Institute for Research, Evaluation & Policy Analysis

Kurt B. Young holds a doctorate in political science from Clark Atlanta University with concentrations in American government, international politics, and African politics. Scholarly interests include public policy, urban politics, and community and economic development. Dr. Young has taught political science for nearly 15 years, with a focus on international relations, comparative public policy, American government, and research methods.

In addition to academic experience, Dr. Young brings over a decade of research to the Institute for Research, Evaluation & Policy Analysis, an institute founded by Dr. Young and his partner Lena Green who serves as the institute's senior program officer. Young serves as its principal and chief research officer. Specific areas of research expertise include qualitative and quantitative research methods and techniques pertaining to social issues, demographic trends, community economic conditions, housing-related policies, development, and international political economy.

Dr. Young served as the lead evaluator and project manager for the Lakeland Housing Authority's HOPE VI Project which was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. Young's contribution to the project included the development of qualitative and quantitative research instruments, data collection and analysis of resident attitudes, and assessing program compliance and efficiency. Dr. Young also provides leadership training, board and program management, and grant research services for the Lakeland Housing Authority including the development of resident-owned businesses, a resident business incubator, employment training, and the implementation of youth, adult, and senior services.

Noted projects include research for the City of Atlanta Blue Ribbon Commission on the Olympic Park bombing and a study of housing policy, trends and economic development of Atlanta communities, as well as the current Florida Communities Assessment & Economic Development Project.

While Dr. Young has considerable experience in community and economic development, he has a passion for African & Caribbean Political Economy, Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora as a whole.



Manny Rivero

Executive Director

University of South Florida Jim Walter Partnership Center

Manuel Rivero is a nationally recognized specialist in public-private partnerships, economic and housing development. His reputation as a community development specialist and affordable housing developer has assisted various organizations in their efforts to develop cost-effective projects that have received community, foundation, and governmental support.

The Clinton administration appointed him in 1993 as the special assistant to the deputy assistant secretary for hurricane recovery after Hurricane Andrew. He also served for one year in the dual capacity of special assistant to the HUD acting state coordinator for Florida, in charge of all statewide HUD programs. He worked closely with the Federal Departments of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Rivero participated in the South Dade Economic Development Recovery Committee that issued a report outlining a set of recommendations to stimulate business growth, economic development, and tourism for the South Florida region.

Prior to his presidential appointment, Rivero founded the East Little Havana Community Development Corporation in 1984. This non-profit evolved into a nationally recognized community development corporation recognized and supported by LISC, the Ford & Enterprise Foundation. During his tenure, he developed rental/home ownership housing, commercial urban renovations, a foster grandparent program, and a day care center; all financed through public-private partnerships.

In 1999 Rivero joined the University of South Florida to assist non-profit organizations in developing affordable housing and economic development strategies to revitalize inner city neighborhoods. His work garnered the support of the private sector to catalyze the funding of the Jim Walter Endowment at the University of South Florida. As the founding executive director, he opened a community engagement office, launched a Grassroots Leadership Program, created a College LINK program in six high schools, and developed an innovative university partnership with the University of Florida Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing to jointly work on various community-based applied research initiatives.



Peggy Dorvil

Senior Program Planner and Analyst

University of South Florida Jim Walter Partnership Center

Peggy Dorvil is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in English. Following graduation she remained with the university for three years in the Office of International Affairs where she assisted in the documentation and transcript conversion of international student perspectives. She later took a position at Bank of America, assisting with the financial accounts of many local and international customers from the Caribbean, India, and South America. These two professional experiences sparked an interest for her in international affairs.

Dorvil returned to the University of South Florida four years ago joining the staff of the Jim Walter Partnership Center. Her newly found interest in international affairs made her the perfect candidate to work on the center's first international training program – the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarship (CASS). Since its inception, CASS has served representatives from youth-serving agencies in Haiti, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. As a program assistant for this project, she helped participants develop skills in capacity building that can be replicated in their respective countries.

Today, Dorvil is senior program planner and analyst for the Jim Walter Partnership Center and oversees the center's premiere program – the Grassroots Leadership Development Program which has graduated more than 300 community leaders. She also coordinates the Youth Mentorship and Civic Engagement Program, and is the co-coordinator of the center's newest initiative, the Kingian Nonviolence Training Program, in which she has been certified.

Through these opportunities, Dorvil has learned how to become resourceful and work with local and international partners' best practices, seeking the most viable program initiatives for the university, the surrounding area, and the community of Tampa Bay.



Linda Andrews, Ph.D.

Retired Professor

College of Business

University of South Florida

Linda Andrews, Ph.D., works with both the private and public sectors to help individuals, teams, and organizations communicate effectively to accomplish their goals. Her interactive style comes from owning a business, facilitating organizational change, and doing extensive research in organizational communication.

Dr. Andrews recently retired from the University of South Florida College of Business where her professorial responsibilities focused on managerial communication, organizational behavior, and human resource management. She also taught in the USF College of Public Health. Her publications, conference papers, and public speaking engagements demonstrate an interest in collaboration. She has been a featured speaker at the Florida Health Service Providers Convention, the National Booksellers Convention, USF Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida, and the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference. She is an active member of the American Management Association, the Society for Human Resource Management, and the American Society for Training and Development.

Her consulting expertise includes training, facilitation, and long-term organizational development. As a trainer, Andrews specializes in effective communication, organizational change, and strategic planning. Clients have included Xerox Capital Services, DuPont, AstraZeneca, Agere Systems Orlando, Pinellas and Polk Counties, Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in every country in Western Europe. She has provided facilitation to community organizations such as the Pinellas Homeless Coalition, Tampa Audubon Society, the Tampa City Council, and the Centre for Women.



B. Terry Johnson, Ph.D., AICP

Associate in Research

Florida Center for Community Design and Research

School of Architecture and Community Design, University of South Florida

B. Terry Johnson, Ph.D. has worked for over 30 years in the urban planning arena at the local, regional and statewide level. His educational background includes the doctorate in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida in Tampa, a masters in Urban / Regional Planning from the University of Arizona with a specialization in environmental planning, and a B.A. in Social Sciences from Ohio University.

During his career, Dr. Johnson has worked as a planner and supervisor for the Tampa Bureau of City Planning, Special Services Manager for the Tampa Parks Department, Director of Planning for Design Consortium, Ltd. (a private design firm), Planning Manager for the Southwest Florida Water Management District and as a research faculty member in the Florida Center at the University of South Florida.

In his current role as a Faculty member at the Florida Center for Community Design and Research, Dr. Johnson's work focuses on the urban environment, including the use of information technology and other innovative approaches to assist citizens and local governments in making informed decisions related to planning and growth management. His areas of specialization include water conservation and management, local comprehensive planning, strategic planning, public and stakeholder involvement, environmental and neighborhood planning, performance measurement and community indicators. Since coming to the Florida Center, Dr. Johnson has been Program Coordinator for the Community Atlas initiative. The Community Atlas is a dynamic new tool that makes it easy for citizens to find and use data and information specific to their community.



Robin L. Ersing, MSW, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

School of Social Work

University of South Florida

Robin L. Ersing, MSW, Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of South Florida. She received her MSW and doctoral degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Ersing teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in macro social work practice, social policy, and research. Her publishing and scholarship focuses on neighborhood and community development, community asset mapping, and community capacity building.

Recently, Dr. Ersing and colleagues successfully secured over a quarter of a million dollars in competitive funding from the National Science Foundation to launch an innovative research experience for undergraduate students to study the social impacts of hurricanes on families and communities.

Dr. Ersing maintains a strong commitment to community engagement. While on the faculty at the University of Kentucky, she served as a co-principal investigator on a \$400,000 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant. The grant was designed as a university-community collaboration harnessing the resources of 24 community-based organizations, urban-county government, and the expertise of local residents to address issues of vulnerability, poverty and spatial disadvantage.



Julian Garcia, Jr.

Executive Director

University Area Community Development Corporation, Inc.

Julian Garcia, Jr. has more than 35 years experience in the housing and community development sectors working with federal, state, and local governments as well as community agencies and not-for-profit organizations. During his career, Garcia has held positions with Hillsborough County, Tampa Housing Authority, the Resolution Trust Corporation, and directed the Division of Housing and Community Development for the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs.

Currently, Garcia is the executive director of the University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC). This agency's core mission and charge is to spur the comprehensive redevelopment of the socially and economically vulnerable University Area Community of Tampa. Under his leadership, the UACDC operates a 55,000 square-foot community facility on a 28-acre park site, and has co-located on its campus an elementary school, a career-centered high school, the Jr. Achievement Enterprise Village, and the Hillsborough County Health & Social Services Center.

The UACDC's partnerships in economic development are transforming the face of this at-risk community, and its programming ranges from education and social service to recreation and cultural arts. From its inception, Garcia has supported and championed the vision of the Coordinated Community Anti Crime Initiative as a crucial part of sustaining economic development and confirming a sense of community ownership among residents.

In eight years, under Garcia's leadership, the UACDC has grown exponentially from an agency with an annual budget of several hundred thousand dollars offering programming at one community site, to a multi-million dollar agency replicating its successful social intervention programming in counties throughout west central Florida.



William R. Blount, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

University of South Florida

William R. Blount, Ph.D., is president and chief executive officer of W.R. Blount and Associates, Inc., an independent program evaluation and consulting firm with a specialty in justice and court-related programs. Dr. Blount is also Professor Emeritus and Chairperson Emeritus of the Department of Criminology at the University of South Florida, where his teaching responsibilities centered on research methods, statistics, and program evaluation. He continues to teach in these areas both at USF and other Universities.

He has conducted numerous evaluations of intervention programs including programs in the public schools, the courts, law enforcement, and corrections agencies, and both public and private treatment programs. Dr. Blount has more than 40 professional publications to his credit and has authored more than 200 other professional papers, workshops, and technical reports.

As a research affiliate of the Jim Walter Partnership, Dr. Blount has been collaborating with colleagues at the University Area Community Development Corporation on the Coordinated Community Anti Crime Initiative to indentify quality of life issues facing residents in a high crime, high poverty neighborhood of Hillsborough County. In his role of administering the Quality of Life Survey for this effort, he trained and supervised the individuals who conducted the face-to-face interviews with more than 500 residents in several languages.



Shawn M. Landry

Interim Director and Associate in Research

Florida Center for Community Design and Research

School of Architecture and Community Design, University of South Florida

Shawn Landry is an Associate in Research Faculty and Interim Director of the Florida Center for Community Design and Research in the School of Architecture and Community Design at the University of South Florida. Landry studies the intersections between the social, built and natural urban environment using information technology to promote informed decisions about community development and resource management.

Landry is a founder and investigator for the WaterAtlas.org, CommunityAtlas.org and PlantAtlas.org planning informatics applications. Designed to support sustainable development, these websites provide public access to scientific and educational information, including: water resource data; social, physical and environmental conditions of neighborhoods; and the spatial distribution and ecological characteristics of plants. Landry and his colleagues maintain and license these technologies for use by organizations worldwide.

Landry has a background in plant ecology, spatial sciences (i.e. GIS, GPS, and remote sensing), rapid field mapping techniques, and e-government technologies. He and his team of research staff and students assist communities with modeling and mapping of the urban environment through a combination of technology transfer and research. His latest effort focuses on a spatial and ecological analysis of Tampa's tree canopy and the development of a strategy for urban forest sustainability.

Landry earned a Master of Science in Botany and a Master of Science in Management Information Systems at USF. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Environmental Science and Geography at USF. His dissertation will focus on the social and environmental factors influencing spatial and temporal heterogeneity of the urban forest.