Sarah Reckess is the Director of the Center for Court Innovation’s Syracuse office. Sarah oversees the development and implementation of problem-solving justice initiatives in Syracuse and Upstate New York, and participates in the Center’s Tribal Justice Exchange, which provides training and technical assistance to tribal courts around the United States. In her 9 years at the Center, she has planned and implemented a number of court-based programs in Syracuse, NY that reduce recidivism, empower communities, and support justice system reform, including the Near Westside Peacemaking Project, the Syracuse Mental Health Court, the Assigned Counsel Program’s Defendant Services Program, the Parent Support Program, the Patient Navigator Program, the Drug Court English as a Second Language Program, and the Syracuse City Court Adolescent Diversion Part.

She has presented at a number of national justice reform conferences on topics including designing court-based strategies for increasing child support payment compliance, creating specialized court tracks for methamphetamine addiction, enhancing the role of victims in the court system, and using trauma- informed responses in the justice system. Sarah also provides technical assistance to communities around the United States who are seeking to replicate peacemaking as a restorative justice strategy for misdemeanor crimes.

Sarah is a SAMHSA-certified Trauma-Informed Care Trainer and is also a facilitator for Community-Police Dialogues in the city of Syracuse in collaboration with the Syracuse Police Department. Sarah holds a J.D. with a concentration in Family Law and Social Policy from Syracuse University College of Law, a Master’s degree in Literature and Environment from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a Bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College in American Studies. She lives on an 11-acre farm in Otisco, NY with her husband, two kids, and various dogs, cats and chickens.
BRETT TAYLOR
SENIOR ADVISOR, PROBLEM-SOLVING JUSTICE

Brett Taylor is senior advisor for problem-solving justice for the Center for Court Innovation. His current focus is working as a technical assistance advisor for the Center on the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge as well as other problem-solving justice projects in numerous jurisdictions. He formerly was the Center’s deputy director of national technical assistance and the Center’s director of operations for the tribal justice exchange program. He helped develop and launch the Red Hook Peacemaking Program.

Before joining the Center in 2007, Mr. Taylor served as the senior defense attorney for six years at the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, New York. Prior to that, he was a trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn for over 10 years. Mr. Taylor has worked with numerous tribes on creating justice system strategic plans and needs assessments. He has presented at numerous national conferences on tribal courts, community courts, community prosecution, and other community justice topics. He was the attendance court hearing officer in P.S. 27, a Brooklyn elementary school from 2007-2010.

He has also been a trainer for the Red Hook Youth Court since 1998 and has been organizing and coaching in the Red Hook Youth Baseball League since 2000. Mr. Taylor holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

SESSION ONE
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
10:00AM-5:00PM

&

SESSION TWO
SUNDAY, JULY 16
10:00AM-2:00PM
The Honorable Robert Yazzie is a retired Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation. He was the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation from 1992 through 2003. He practiced law in the Navajo Nation for 16 years, and he was a District Judge for eight years. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College of Ohio and a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is now teaching Navajo Law at the Navajo Technical University. He was the Director of Diné Policy Institute of Diné College (Navajo Nation), developing policy using authentic Navajo thinking.

He is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association. He is the author of articles and book chapters on many subjects, including Navajo Peacemaking, traditional Indian law, and international human rights law. He is a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, an adjunct professor of the Department of Criminal Justice of Northern Arizona University and a visiting member of the faculty of the National Judicial College. He recently taught Navajo law at the Crownpoint Institute of Technology.

Chief Justice Yazzie continues a career devoted to education in formal participation in faculties, lectures and discussions of traditional indigenous law at various venues throughout the world. He has a global audience and he has frequently visited foreign lands to share his wisdom about traditional indigenous justice and governance.

**SESSION FIVE**
**SATURDAY, JULY 13**
**10:00AM-5:00PM**

**SESSION SIX**
**SUNDAY, JULY 14**
**10:00AM-2:00PM**