Exploring Victims’ Rights Through Marsy’s Law (CLE)
Tuesday, July 31, 2018 | 2:45 – 4 p.m.

**Session Description:** States are showing increased interest in victims’ rights, with many policymakers looking to Marsy’s Law—the California Victims’ Bill of Rights Act of 2008—as a model policy. This strategy would amend state constitutions to provide meaningful, enforceable rights to crime victims on par with those afforded to defendants. Is Marsy’s Law good policy, or will it increase costs, delay cases, and result in more litigation? Is there a middle ground? Explore approaches to victims’ rights legislation and effective implementation strategies.

**Moderator:** Senator Gerald Malloy, South Carolina

**Biographies**

**Patrick Guinan**  
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Patrick Guinan has worked at Nevada’s Legislative Counsel Bureau since 2002 and is currently a senior principal policy analyst with the Research Division. In the past he has served as primary staff to several committees including Government Affairs, Transportation, Elections, and High-Level Radioactive Waste. For the last several years he has staffed the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Guinan currently serves as a staff vice chair on NCSL’s Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. A second generation Nevadan Mr. Guinan holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a master’s degree in the same field from San Francisco State University.

**Elizabeth Ortiz**  
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Elizabeth Ortiz has a bachelor’s degree in economics, a master’s degree in political science, and a law degree. After graduating from law school, she clerked at the Arizona Court of Appeals. She then joined the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, in Phoenix, Ariz., where she prosecuted cases for 16 years. During that time, she served as a bureau chief in Juvenile, Pretrial, Charging, and Appeals. In 2009, Ortiz joined the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council (APAAC) as the senior staff attorney, and was subsequently named executive director. In addition to her APAAC duties, she is a sworn special prosecutor in several Arizona counties, and continues to carry a criminal caseload. She is a board member of the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, the National District Attorney’s Association, the Arizona Forensic Science Academy, the Arizona Supreme Court’s Commission of Victims in Court, and the Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. She also serves in leadership positions with her state and local bar associations. She teaches extensively throughout Arizona, the United States, and in Mexico on a wide variety of legal topics, and is a facilitator for the Lessons From the Holocaust: What You Do Matters course.

**Senator Whitney Westerfield**  
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Senator Whitney Westerfield (R-Hopkinsville) represents the 3rd District including Christian, Logan, and Todd counties.
He is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Senator Westerfield also serves as a member on the Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee; the Agriculture Committee; the Capital Planning Advisory Board; the Natural Resources and Energy Committee; the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee; the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee; the Program Review and Investigations Committee; the Senate Bill 192 Oversight Committee; the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary; and serves as co-chair of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council.

Senator Westerfield is a lifelong resident of Christian County, Ky., and presently is in private practice in Hopkinsville after serving over five years as an assistant commonwealth’s attorney. He also operates a commercial drone photography/videography company serving clients across the Commonwealth and Tennessee.

He has long been an active member of his community, having served on the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, as a member of the Kiwanis Club and former member of the Kiwanis Board of Directors. He has served on the Hopkinsville American Red Cross Advisory Committee, the Board for the United Way of the Pennyrile, and as United Way Board Chair in 2012, and on the Board for Alpha Alternative, the crisis pregnancy care center in Hopkinsville. Senator Westerfield currently serves on the board for the Kentucky Association of Children’s Advocacy Centers, which provides statewide technical assistance to the Commonwealth’s 15 CACs as they serve Kentucky’s most vulnerable who have been victims of sexual assault.

He received his bachelor’s degree in communication at the University of Kentucky in 2003, and his law degree in the spring of 2006 from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He has been an active member of the Kentucky Bar since October 2006 and the Tennessee Bar since 2012. He owns a small row crop farm in Western Kentucky with his five brothers. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children and live near Hopkinsville.