



TURNING POINT

Transforming Lives, Strengthening Communities

Presiding Judge Joy Malek Oldfield

Turning Point Times

February 2025



February Plenary Session at The Coffee House with special guest, Marc Lee Shannon

Marc Lee Shannon

Marc Lee Shannon is a musician, author, certified peer recovery supporter, and County of Summit ADM board member. He works as a weekly volunteer at detox wards and is an Advisory Board member for the Turning Point Program. Marc honored us at our February Plenary session by presenting his unique recovery journey through music. Beyond music, Shannon released *Sober Chronicles™: My Journey of Discovery on the Road to Recovery* in November 2022.

What is the best advice you've received on your journey of recovery?

There are so many things that I think of when this question is asked and I always come back to the same saying, "Just Stay Standing". This means when you are unsure of the outcome, when there are doubters and naysayers, when even your closest of friends lose faith. I just had to keep going and get back up every single time I fell. Get up, plant your feet again and just stay standing. Fall down seven times? Get up eight.

What would you say to someone struggling/ready to give up on their recovery journey? I say often, that we used substances for years and it takes time to relearn and repair ourselves. That, and pick up the phone, get to a meeting, check in with a sober friendly friend and tell on yourself. Say, "I'm not doing so well, please help me. Talk to me!" The gift of connection makes all the difference in times of doubt and weakness.



*The Path to
Recovery
Through Music*

Let's Connect on Socials



@SummitcountyTPP



@Summit County Turning Point Program



Turning Point Trends

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



ATTORNEY L. MIALON MORRIS

Attorney Morris was born and raised in Akron, Ohio and is a 2001 graduate of Garfield High School. Post graduation, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia with two suitcases, \$100.00 and no intention of going to college however, while she was there, she completed her undergraduate degree at Mercer University. Also while in the south, Attorney Morris worked as a paralegal with a few black attorneys who inspired her to go to law school. Due to her childhood, she was unsure if law school was right for her but as a risk taker, she took a risk. She was accepted and graduated law school at Florida Coastal School of law in 2017. Choosing law as a profession meant Attorney Morris could make a difference in the black community. Her success is the product of resilience and following directions-nothing more, and nothing less.

What helps to inspire you to fight for your clients?

I put myself in their shoes and remember that I would want someone to fight for me.

What is the hardest part about being a lawyer?

Being a lawyerer-lol

What advice would you give to someone wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Think twice-this job is not for the weak or weary-you pretty much have to secretly be a psychopath to do this work. It is not for the sane. Secure a therapist before your first day of law school-pick a therapist you can spend the remainder of your life with- you will always need them. Trust me!



TURNING POINT CELEBRATES



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Joe Reid Cognitive Skills Specialist-

How did you get into the criminal justice system?

I encountered clients from Oriana House while working for College Now of Greater Cleveland. I then became an assistant professor at Stark State Community College. I thought I'd be helping people get employed who had some previous trouble with the law but were now in transition back into the community as law abiding citizens. In many ways, I was naïve about what some people in our community were experiencing and struggling with. I had no idea of the heroic efforts of so many who genuinely cared as much as I do. The wealth of experiences I have gained by being a member of the Oriana House community is humbling and insightful. To work with such dedicated teammates towards ending recidivism has been one of the richest blessings so far I have had.



Carmen Bivins Senior Case Worker-

What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of the job is providing hope to those who have lost their way, being a part of the journey and seeing the end result at their graduation. I make sure all my clients know they are not bad people; they just made some poor choices. And being blessed to work with a team of people who truly care is another bonus!!

Melvyn Alexander Client Services Monitor-

What motivates you?

What motivates me to do my best work is my belief in people and their ability to be the best versions of themselves. I've been counted out before and I understand how hopeless that can feel. Finding your way out of a dark time requires the help of a friendly face and a strong hand. I hope I've provided that to our clients.



Kynthia Anderson Case Worker-

What motivates you to do your best?

What motivates me to do my best work... is my purpose. It comes naturally for me and I have always enjoyed helping others be the best version of themselves.

Daily Dose of Joy

A local law firm, Kisling, Nestico & Redick, recently celebrated their 20 years in our community by launching a special initiative to shine a spotlight on community members who make a difference. On February 18, 2025, Judge Joy Malek Oldfield was recognized and celebrated as one of those local heroes who makes a difference. Acknowledged for her generosity, compassion, and dedication to the criminal justice field and local community, Judge Oldfield appeared on WKYC on Lakeside Today and mentioned our Turning Point Program. We thank Judge Oldfield for her leadership, continued acts of generosity and positive impact.