



# Missouri Commission *for the* Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**Opeoluwa Sotonwa**

**Executive  
Director**



**Staff since 2014**

Dr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa is the Executive Director of Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He was formerly with the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Dr. Sotonwa has been involved with disability rights issues since becoming a lawyer in Nigeria. He holds an LL.M. Degree (Master of Laws) from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where he graduated Cum Laude. He also holds an LP.D. Degree (Doctoral of Law and Policy) from Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

Dr. Sotonwa is a former Vice President of the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). He also served as the Chair of the NBDA Board of Directors. Dr. Sotonwa is a member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD), as well as several think-tank organizations that focus on disability rights advocacy around the world.

Dr. Sotonwa holds two Missouri gubernatorial appointments as a member of the Missouri 911 Service Board and the Governor's Council on Disability. He is a member of the Relay Missouri Advisory Committee, Missouri Department of Mental Health Deaf Advisory Council, and Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project Advisory Committee. A consummate advocate; Dr. Sotonwa brings a lot of passion and a constituent-centered leadership approach to the Commission. A recipient of numerous awards, he lives in Jefferson City with his sons Bolu and Lekan.



# **Missouri Commission *for the* Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Laurie Lister**

**Office Support  
Specialist**



**Staff since 2014**

Laurie joined the MCDHH staff in November 2014, having spent six years in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as administrative assistant for the Superintendent of Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled. As a former small business owner, she brings a high level of organization and entrepreneurship to her position as Office Support Specialist. A native of Jefferson City, she graduated from Jefferson City High School. She loves to spend her free time with family with emphasis in spoiling her grandchildren.



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## **AJ Housewright Staff Interpreter**



**Staff since 2017**

AJ Housewright is the Staff Interpreter for the MCDHH. A lifetime of experiences in the Deaf community as a CODA led him to attaining a degree in American Sign Language/English Interpreting from William Woods University in 2015. Since graduating, he has worked as a freelance interpreter and as an Instructional Aide for Columbia Public School's Deaf education program. AJ currently holds a BEI Advanced certification and is licensed to interpret in Missouri.



# **Missouri Commission *for the* Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Emily Morrison**

**Information Program  
Specialist**



**Staff since 2015**

Emily (Fry) Morrison is the Information Program Specialist for the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She earned her MA in media communications in 2015 from Webster University, where she also completed her BA in public relations. Emily is a native of Columbia, MO. Her hobbies papercrafting, graphic design, and working her small business with Mary Kay. She likes spending time with her friends and family, including her husband, Adam, and two dogs.