



Executive Fellowship

2026–2027 Cohort

COHORT MEMBERS

Anastasia Mallillin

UnCommon Law · California

Benita Gordon

Worksafe · California

Caleb Logan

Elder Law & Advocacy · California

Christian (Chris) Yost

Homeless Action Center · California

Coryelle (Cory) Christie

Lakeshore Legal Aid · Michigan

Cristian Sanchez

Texas Immigration Law Council · Texas

Doug Smith

Inclusive Action · California

Emily Martin

National Women's Law Center · District of Columbia

Gracia Berrios MacInnis

OneJustice · California

Harya Tarekegn

Mississippi Center for Justice · Mississippi

Hillary Ronen

La Raza Centro Legal · California

Jacqueline (Jacque) Patton

Eviction Defense Collaborative · California

Kate Chatfield

California Public Defenders Association · California

Kimberly Merchant

Mississippi Center for Justice · Mississippi

Kimberly (Kim) Harbin

Immigrant Defenders Law Center · California

Florberta (Leann) Ferry

California Indian Legal Services · California

Lela Wendell

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center · New Mexico

Lena Silver

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County · California

Mona Shah

California

Peyman Malaz

Pars Equality Center · California

Rebecca Cohn

Community Economic Defense Project · Colorado

Ronnette Ramos

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL) · California

Stephanie (Steph) Carroll

Public Counsel · California

Stephanie (Steph) Barclay

San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation · California

Stephen Goldberg

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations · California

Suzan (Sabyl) Landrum

Law Foundation of Silicon Valley · California

Tamiko Chatman

Acadiana Legal Service Corporation · Louisiana

Tina Pinedo

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund · California

Veronica Garcia

Inland Counties Legal Services · California



Anastasia Mallillin (she/her/hers)

Deputy Director · UnCommon Law · California

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Anastasia Mallillin (she/her) is the Deputy Director at UnCommon Law, where she helps lead organizational strategy, strengthen internal systems, and support the people and leadership structures that sustain the organization's work. Before joining UnCommon Law, she served as Deputy Director at CROP Organization, where she helped build the infrastructure and systems needed to launch a holistic reentry program. She has also served as an interim executive and advisor to various nonprofit organizations, with a focus on strategic planning, talent development, organizational capacity, and sustainable growth. Throughout her career, Anastasia has worked across reentry, anti-trafficking, foster care, and education. Her early work centered on policy advocacy, direct service delivery, and program development, and over time evolved into a broader focus on organizational leadership and development. Today, much of her work centers on building the teams, systems, and infrastructure needed to turn ambitious ideas into sustainable impact, with a particular interest in creating strong, accountable, and people-centered organizations. Anastasia holds a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington and is certified in Somatic Experiencing and Nervous System Regulation Strategies.



Benita Gordon (she/her/hers)

Director of Operations and Development · Worksafe · California

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Benita Gordon serves as the Director of Operations and Development at Worksafe, where she leads organizational planning and develops and implements annual fundraising strategies that support the organization's mission and long-term sustainability. With more than 20 years of experience in business administration, Benita has built a strong foundation in organizational operations, business process improvement, workflow optimization, strategic planning, and fostering sustainable organizational growth. She is passionate about creating efficient systems, strengthening operational excellence, and building meaningful partnerships that help organizations maximize their impact. Throughout her career, Benita has been driven by a commitment to continuous improvement and servant leadership. She enjoys identifying opportunities to streamline processes, empower teams, and implement solutions that create lasting value for both employees and the communities they serve. As a participant in the Executive Fellowship Program, Benita is excited to collaborate with fellow leaders, broaden her perspective, and gain innovative strategies that will strengthen her leadership and enhance the work of her organization. She looks forward to sharing her experiences while learning from the diverse insights of her cohort. Outside of her professional role, Benita enjoys junk journaling, embracing spontaneous adventures, taking road trips, and spending quality time with friends and family.

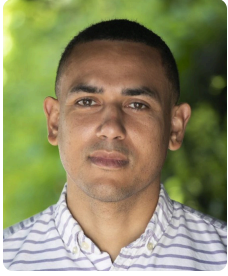


Caleb Logan (he/him/his)

Staff Attorney & Technology Manager · Elder Law & Advocacy · California

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Caleb Logan is a Staff Attorney and the Technology Manager at Elder Law & Advocacy, the only nonprofit legal services firm in San Diego and Imperial Counties focused exclusively on serving older adults. Caleb interned with Elder Law & Advocacy in 2019 and eventually joined the team as an attorney in January 2022. Since then, his work has focused primarily on elder abuse, from restraining orders to nursing home neglect to financial exploitation and scams. Caleb has also focused on consumer law more generally, which often overlaps with elder financial abuse. Caleb supplements his case work by contributing to the California Low Income Consumer Coalition (CLICC) and other legislative initiatives. These initiatives have ranged from increasing the accountability of corporate actors that enable scams to updating restraining order laws to bolster victims' access to justice. Finally, Caleb will soon transition into a new role at Elder Law & Advocacy, taking over as the director of the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program. This program offers free, unbiased counseling about Medicare and long-term care insurance to Medicare beneficiaries.



Christian (Chris) Yost (he/him/his)

Senior Managing Attorney · Homeless Action Center · California
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Christian Phillip Yost is a Senior Managing Attorney at the Homeless Action Center (HAC) in Oakland, California, where he has practiced for over a decade. HAC represents homeless and mentally ill individuals in Alameda County in Social Security disability cases, helping clients secure Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). In this role, Mr. Yost helps oversee the organization's legal advocacy, guiding clients through the complex Social Security disability claims process. His work combines rigorous legal advocacy with a client centered approach focused on reducing harm and meeting some of the community's most vulnerable members where they are. Mr. Yost earned his law school degree from Harvard Law School and his Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. His decade of service at HAC reflects a sustained commitment to using disability law as a tool for economic security and dignity for people experiencing homelessness and mental illness.



Coryelle (Cory) Christie (she/her/hers)

Director of Compliance · Lakeshore Legal Aid · Michigan
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Coryelle Christie is the Director of Compliance at Lakeshore Legal Aid, where she leads organization-wide compliance, grant reporting, data strategy, and staff training initiatives. With more than a decade of experience in public service, she has served in a variety of legal roles, including supervising attorney, judicial law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals, attorney referee, and practicing legal aid attorney. Throughout her career, Coryelle has been passionate about improving systems that expand access to justice while supporting the people who deliver those services. She enjoys translating complex legal and regulatory requirements into practical tools, training, and processes that help organizations thrive. Her current interests include organizational leadership, change management, data-informed decision-making, and the thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence into nonprofit legal services. Coryelle earned her J.D., magna cum laude, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and is honored to participate in the Executive Fellowship as an opportunity to continue growing as a leader and to help shape the future of legal aid.



Cristian Sanchez (he/him/his)

Economic Justice Director · Texas Immigration Law Council · Texas

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Cristian Sanchez is the founding Director of the Economic Justice Initiative (EJI), a statewide program of the Texas Immigration Law Council dedicated to closing the access-to-justice gap. Under his leadership, EJI has pioneered a community-based legal services model centered on paraprofessional legal workers, trusted advocates who deliver civil legal assistance directly to underserved communities. Cristian designed EJI's core service model and fellowship program, which now supports more than 20 fellows across nine host organizations serving communities throughout Texas. Cristian also serves as Board Chair of the Pride Center San Antonio. Before joining the Texas Immigration Law Council, he was a supervising immigration attorney at RAICES, where he led a deportation defense team and directed a legal access initiative for transgender women detained at the South Texas Detention Complex. His work has also included emergency humanitarian response at the U.S.-Mexico border, where he helped establish an emergency shelter in Tijuana for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and a temporary shelter in San Antonio for released transgender women. Cristian earned his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law, where he led a pro bono project assisting transgender individuals with legal name and gender marker changes.



Doug Smith (he/him/his)

Vice President, Policy and Legal Strategy · Inclusive Action · California

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Doug Smith is the Vice President of Policy and Legal Strategy at Inclusive Action for the City, where he manages a comprehensive set of legal, policy, and organizing initiatives. Before joining Inclusive Action, Doug was the Director of Policy and Coalition Building at Public Counsel, managing the firm's policy advocacy portfolio and leading a team of movement lawyers supporting grassroots campaigns for housing and economic justice. In these roles, Doug has worked with coalitions to craft legal and policy strategies to legalize street vending across California, expand tenant protections, promote equitable land use planning, increase protections for community-serving small businesses, and create thousands of new affordable homes. Doug has previously held Visiting Assistant Professor positions at UCLA School of Law and Occidental College, where he taught courses exploring the role of law and lawyers in social justice movements. Doug has also served on the California Department of Insurance Curriculum Board and the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission. Doug holds an M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA School of Public Affairs and a J.D. from UCLA School of Law.



Emily Martin (she/her/hers)

Chief Program Officer · National Women's Law Center · District of Columbia

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Emily Martin is Chief Program Officer for NWLC, leading the development and execution of an integrated policy and legal strategy across NWLC's gender justice priorities, with a particular focus on women and girls of color and LGBTQI+ people. She was previously NWLC's Vice President for Education & Workplace Justice, where she oversaw NWLC's advocacy, policy, and litigation efforts to enable women and girls to succeed at work and at school. This included supervising the work of the TIME'S UP Legal Defense Fund, which connects those who have experienced workplace sex harassment with attorneys and provides financial support for litigation and storytelling in workplace sex harassment matters. She also served for many years as NWLC's General Counsel. Prior to joining NWLC's senior leadership, she served as Deputy Director of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union. She also worked as a law clerk for Senior Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Judge T.S. Ellis, III, of the Eastern District of Virginia. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School.



Gracia Berrios MacInnis (she/her/hers)

Senior Program Manager · OneJustice · California

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Gracia Berríos-MacInnis (she/her/ella) is a Program Manager and Equity and Inclusion Lead at OneJustice, where her passion lies in fostering and sustaining communities. At OneJustice, Gracia works alongside legal aid organizations, law firms, and community partners throughout California, striving to address the legal needs of low-income communities and uplift the legal aid system. She has volunteered for local political campaigns because she believes in the power of grassroots efforts that can create positive change. Originally from Lima, Perú, Gracia was raised in Sonoma County, California. She is a lover of all dogs. In her free time, Gracia attempts recreating her mom's delicious homemade Peruvian dishes, though she humbly realizes that matching that level of deliciousness is no easy feat.



Harya Tarekegn (she/her/hers)

Director of Policy and Advocacy · Mississippi Center for Justice · Mississippi
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Harya Tarekegn is a civil rights attorney and public policy strategist who has spent her career at the center of the country's most urgent fights for racial and economic justice. Born in Ethiopia and shaped by a life lived across continents, she believes real change is built when lawyers, organizers, and communities move together. She currently serves as Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Mississippi Center for Justice, where she leads the programmatic work of the organization encompassing Health Justice, Housing Law, Economic Justice, Education Equity, Voting Rights, Heirs Property, and Impact Litigation programs. In this role, she helps set the legislative agenda and policy goals, grows new policy leaders, and leads targeted statewide advocacy campaigns. Her work is grounded in a community-centered approach to dismantling racist policies across Mississippi. Before joining MCJ, she was a leader in New York City government and served in senior leadership roles at the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the nation's largest civilian police oversight agency. As Senior Counsel to the Executive Director she advised Board leadership on strategic initiatives, led the Policy and Advocacy Unit, oversaw the Communications Department, and drafted and championed legislative and policy reforms to address policing and police misconduct. She managed the roll out of the Right to Know Act, the public release of police misconduct records, and the first ever youth advisory council, convening, and report on interactions between the NYPD and young people. Earlier in her career, she served as Executive Director of Moreno Ocampo LLC, a hybrid legal and consulting firm focused on mass atrocity accountability, international conflict resolution, and global business integrity—including work on Yazidi justice advocacy. She also practiced complex civil litigation at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, where she handled securities litigation, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) investigations, False Claims Act matters, and mass tort litigation, while maintaining an active pro bono practice in immigration and criminal defense. She received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a research assistant to Professor Meg Satterthwaite and a Development Chair for IRAP, and her B.A. in International Relations with a focus on Human Rights from Stanford University, including a year of study in Paris. She is admitted to practice in New York and Mississippi and is proficient in Amharic and French, with working knowledge of Spanish.



Hillary Ronen (she/her/hers)

Executive Director · La Raza Centro Legal · California

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Hillary Ronen began her career at La Raza Centro Legal straight out of law school, ultimately serving as Co-Director of the Workers' Rights Unit, where she provided direct legal representation, education, outreach, and policy advocacy to advance the employment rights of low-wage immigrant workers. She then spent fifteen years representing the Mission District, Bernal Heights, and the Portola neighborhoods in local government, serving two terms on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 2017 to 2024. As District 9 Supervisor, she authored and passed hundreds of pieces of legislation, including landmark ordinances expanding sanctuary city protections for immigrants, protecting residents from eviction, ensure that new artificial intelligence technology is thoughtfully procured and transparent, reforming the city's mental health services system, recovering unpaid wages for workers, and ensuring community benefits from major infrastructure projects. She helped usher in the creation and preservation of over 3,000 units of deedrestricted affordable housing and helped create nearly 400 shelter beds across the district. Hillary returned to La Raza Centro Legal in 2026 as Executive Director.



Jacqueline (Jacque) Patton

Supervising Litigation Attorney · Eviction Defense Collaborative · California

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Jacqueline ("Jacque") Patton is a supervising attorney at the Eviction Defense Collaborative ("EDC"), where they have worked for nearly ten years. The EDC represents tenants facing eviction and provides rental assistance to low-income tenants in eviction. EDC is the principal nonprofit providing these services, and was tasked with carrying out the implementation of the "Right to Counsel" ballot measure in 2018, which guarantees tenants facing eviction with an attorney. Jacque works within the litigation department, supervising a team of 3- 4 attorneys, and overseeing EDC's post-bar fellowship program. Prior to working at the EDC, Jacque interned with Planned Parenthood in Kansas City and interned with Dennis "Boog" Highberger in the Kansas Legislature. Jacque earned their JD and BA in Spanish and Religious Studies, with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies, from the University of Kansas. Jacque is originally from Wichita, Kansas. In their spare time, along with some community organizing, Jacque plays the trumpet with the Brass Liberation Orchestra, and keyboard with Orkestar Seyir.



Kate Chatfield (she/her/hers)

Executive Director · California Public Defenders Association · California

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Kate Chatfield is the Executive Director of the California Public Defenders Association. She previously served as Chief of Staff for California State Senator Nancy Skinner and as Chief of Staff for San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin. Prior to that, Kate worked as a legislative advocate for criminal legal reform. She was the lead drafter and organizer for the passage of Senate Bill 1437 (Skinner, 2018), which amended California's felony murder rule and related common law doctrines on accomplice liability for homicide and resulted in the resentencing and release from prison for thousands of incarcerated people. For 13 years, Kate worked as a criminal defense attorney representing indigent defendants at trial, on appeal, in habeas proceedings, and in parole hearings.



Kimberly Merchant (she/her/hers)

President & CEO · Mississippi Center for Justice · Mississippi

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Kimberly Jones Merchant is a legal strategist, nonprofit leader, and advocate with nearly three decades of impactful work advancing racial and economic justice nationally and across the State of Mississippi. She currently serves as President and CEO of the Mississippi Center for Justice, where she leads a group of attorneys and professionals who provide legal representation and policy advocacy to Mississippi communities. Prior to this role, Kimberly managed her own firm, Kimberly Jones Merchant, P.A., providing legal services and counsel to governmental entities serving as the first Black and female City Attorney for Indianola and Greenville, Mississippi, and Board Counsel for the Hollandale School District. In addition, Kimberly led KEA Collaborative, a consulting practice offering specialized training and consulting services to legal aid and public interest organizations, with a focus on race equity in both internal operations and external advocacy. She is the former Senior Director of Advocate Resources and Training and the first-ever Director of the Racial Justice Institute (RJI) and Network at the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, where she provided strategic oversight for the growth and expansion of the annual Racial Justice Institute and its alumni advocacy network. Prior to joining the Shriver Center, Kimberly led the Educational Opportunities Campaign and served as Managing Attorney for the Delta Office of the Mississippi Center for Justice. Kimberly has been a featured speaker on race equity and justice at numerous national conferences and events and has provided consulting and training services to legal aid and public interest organizations across the country. With over two decades of legal and advocacy experience, Kimberly is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a B.S. in English, and the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she earned her J.D.



Kimberly (Kim) Harbin (she/her/hers)

Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel · Immigrant Defenders Law Center · California
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Kimberly Harbin is ImmDef's Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, based in the Los Angeles office. She supervises the Operations, IT and HR teams, handles organizational legal matters, and engages in strategic planning for the organization. She is a graduate of Tufts University and Harvard Law School. Prior to this position, she served as an attorney with ImmDef's Children's Representation Project. Her initiation to immigration law was through an EJW fellowship placing immigration attorneys in upstate New York. Prior to practicing immigration law, she was a corporate lawyer and served as in-house counsel for two non-profits. She loves learning languages, running and live theater.



Florberta (Leann) Ferry (she/her/hers)

Director of HR & Administration · California Indian Legal Services · California
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Leann Ferry, MPA, PCC, SHRM-PC, serves as Director of HR & Administration at California Indian Legal Services (CILS), where she provides strategic leadership for human resources, administration, and information technology. As a member of the executive leadership team, she partners across the organization to strengthen culture, develop talent, improve operations, and support long-term organizational sustainability. Her areas of expertise include organizational development, leadership development, workforce strategy, employee engagement, compliance, and change management. In addition to her work at CILS, Leann is an executive, leadership, and communication coach who has partnered with leaders across government, nonprofit, healthcare, technology, legal services, education, banking, telecommunications, energy, and biotechnology sectors since 2013. Through a strengths-based coaching approach, she helps leaders strengthen self-awareness, communication, resilience, and leadership effectiveness.



Lela Wendell (she/her/hers)

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Lela Wendell has dedicated two decades to improving systems and expanding opportunities for children, families, and communities through public service and nonprofit leadership. Lela currently serves as Deputy Director of Operations for the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, where she oversees finance, HR, grants and contracts, IT, and data analysis. In partnership with executive leadership, she helps steward the organization's growth and sustainability while supporting NMILC's mission of advancing equity and justice for immigrant communities. As the daughter of an immigrant mother, NMILC's mission is deeply personal and reflects her commitment to ensuring that all individuals and families have the opportunity to thrive and fully participate in their communities. Previously, Lela served as Division Director for Policy, Research, and Quality Initiatives at New Mexico's Early Childhood Education and Care Department, where she led a team responsible for advancing statewide quality initiatives. Before returning to her home state of New Mexico, Lela spent more than 17 years in Arizona state government, serving in leadership roles with the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Child Safety. Lela earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics, a Bachelor of Arts in Italian, and a Certificate in International Business from Arizona State University.



Lena Silver (she/her/hers)

Director of Policy and Administrative Advocacy · Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County · California
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Lena Silver is dedicated to combating poverty by elevating the voices of diverse, low-income communities through both direct services and systemic advocacy shaped by the lived experiences of her clients. Lena is currently the Director of Policy and Administrative Advocacy at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA), where she has worked since 2015. She focuses her practice on access to the social safety net and supports policy advocacy throughout the program. Before joining NLSLA, Lena completed a fellowship at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law in Chicago and clerked for a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. She earned her B.A. from UC Berkeley in 2008 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2013.



Mona Shah (she/her/hers)

California

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Mona Shah is a litigation attorney, mediator, educator, and nonprofit executive whose career spans private practice, academia, and national legal leadership. She most recently served as Executive Director of the South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA North America), where she partnered with leaders across the United States and Canada to strengthen the organization, expand its impact, and advance the South Asian legal community. Mona is an adjunct professor at USC Gould School of Law, where she teaches legal ethics, mediation, and dispute resolution. She is also the co-author of *Legal Ethics: A Guide for Future Practitioners*, a practical textbook that prepares future lawyers to navigate ethical challenges with integrity and professionalism. In her legal practice, Mona represents clients in complex civil litigation, employment, real estate, and business disputes, while also serving as a mediator committed to helping parties reach thoughtful and lasting resolutions. Her work is guided by a deep commitment to ethical leadership, collaboration, and meaningful access to justice. Mona is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a Chief Member, and a frequent speaker on legal ethics, leadership, and alternative dispute resolution.



Peyman Malaz (he/him/his)

Chief Operating Officer · Pars Equality Center · California

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Peyman Malaz is the Chief Operating Officer of PARS Equality Center, where he oversees programs and operations across the organization's Los Angeles, San Jose, and Fremont offices. With more than a decade of nonprofit leadership experience, he has led initiatives in immigrant and refugee integration, housing stability, workforce development, adult education, immigration legal services, mental health, public benefits, and community engagement. Peyman brings both professional expertise and lived experience to his work. He holds a Ph.D. from UCLA in International Relations and Near Eastern Studies and previously taught at Occidental College. He serves on California's State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and the California Secretary of State's Language Accessibility Advisory Committee. He is also Vice Chair and a threetime former Chair of the Los Angeles County Refugee and Immigrant Forum. His work focuses on strengthening culturally and linguistically responsive systems that help immigrants and refugees achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and full participation in their communities.



Rebecca Cohn (she/her/hers)

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Rebecca Cohn is the Chief Legal Services Officer at CED Law, the legal arm of the Community Economic Defense Project, where she oversees twenty-five attorneys and legal professionals in the provision of free representation to low-income renters and homeowners facing housing instability throughout Colorado. Prior to her time at CED Law, Rebecca worked as a Housing Attorney at Bay Area Legal Services in Tampa, FL and as an Assistant Public Defender in Palm Beach County, FL. Rebecca graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2013 and The College of William & Mary in 2008. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the great outdoors hiking, trail running, and skiing and is learning the ropes as a new mom.



Ronnette Ramos (she/her/hers)

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Ronnette V. Ramos is the Vice President of Programs at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL), where she leads the organization's direct legal services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, community engagement, and demographic research. A proud daughter of Filipino immigrants, she brings nearly three decades of experience advancing justice for immigrant, low-income, and historically underserved communities. Ronnette's career has been defined by a series of firsts. At the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, she managed Los Angeles County's first Right to Counsel pilot and developed Southern California's first Medical-Legal Partnership serving Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. She also helped launch the nation's first Medical-Legal Partnership within a Planned Parenthood health center through Planned Parenthood Los Angeles' Black Health Initiative, integrating legal advocacy into health care to confront systemic barriers that shape health outcomes. Before joining AJSOCAL, Ronnette served as Deputy Director of Los Angeles County's Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department, the first county department of its kind in the nation. Throughout her career, Ronnette has built innovative programs, strengthened cross-sector partnerships, and expanded access to justice. Her leadership is grounded in equity, cultural humility, meeting people where they are, and creating lasting systems change.



Stephanie (Steph) Carroll (she/her/hers)

Directing Attorney · Public Counsel · California

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Steph Carroll is the Directing Attorney of Public Counsel's Consumer Rights & Economic Justice team. Steph has litigated individual and class consumer matters in state and federal court in California since 2011. Her civil litigation practice has encompassed predatory lending, wrongful foreclosure, quiet title, elder abuse, procedural due process, anti-trust cases and civil rights cases. Steph oversees the provision of direct consumer and bankruptcy legal services to hundreds of clients each year and has become a leading advocate on related policy issues both in California and nationally. Steph is a founding member of the California Low Income Consumer Coalition and has worked extensively on legislative campaigns to rein in mortgage servicing abuses, debt buyer bad practices, and regulate predatory lending. Steph also served a term as a member of the Consumer Advisory Board for the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Prior to moving to the United States in 2008, Steph was a barrister in London. Before that, Steph had a career in international development for many years and worked in various countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Kosovo, Slovakia and Pakistan. She also has a Masters in Public Policy from The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.



Stephanie (Steph) Barclay (she/her/hers)

Executive Director · San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation · California

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Stephanie Barclay is the Executive Director of San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation (SLOLAF), where she leads the organization's strategic vision, operations, fundraising, and community partnerships to advance access to justice for low-income residents throughout San Luis Obispo County. With nearly three decades of legal experience, Stephanie has dedicated half of her career to public interest law. Since joining SLOLAF, she has helped transform the organization from a small legal services program with a \$50,000 budget into a thriving nonprofit that provides free legal assistance to thousands of individuals and families each year. Under her leadership, SLOLAF has expanded its services, secured significant grant funding, strengthened community partnerships, and increased its impact in addressing critical legal needs, including housing stability, elder abuse, domestic violence, conservatorships and guardianships. Prior to becoming Executive Director, Stephanie served in several legal roles, including as SLOLAF's Legal Director and Project Director. Earlier in her career, she practiced civil litigation, served as a Deputy Attorney General for the California Attorney General's Office, and worked in private practice in business, real estate, estate planning, and elder law. She brings a unique combination of legal expertise, strategic leadership, and collaborative problem-solving to her work.



Stephen Goldberg (he/him/his)

Executive Director · Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations · California
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Stephen Goldberg is Executive Director of the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, which provides training, advice and litigation services to legal services field programs throughout California. Prior to that, Stephen was Regional Counsel for Public Benefits for Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) where he supervised LSNC's public benefits practice. Stephen is a 1994 graduate of McGeorge School of Law. He worked at the Human Rights Fair Housing Commission from October 1994 to December 1995. He returned to LSNC in 2001 as a staff attorney in the Woodland office and moved to the Sacramento office in 2007. Stephen became Senior Attorney in 2013. Stephen has also worked for Northern California Lawyers for Civil Justice, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and the Legal Center for the Elderly and Disabled. In addition, Stephen has taught administrative law and landlord/tenant law in the paralegal program at American River College since 1998. He also has taught legal writing at University of California Davis King Hall School of Law.



Suzan (Sabyl) Landrum (she/her/hers)

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Sabyl Landrum is the Housing Supervising Attorney at Law Foundation of Silicon Valley where she manages a team of five staff attorneys and an interpreter and administrative assistant. Sabyl brings over a decade of experience representing low-income individuals in direct services, policy advocacy and impact litigation. While her experience is primarily in eviction defense and in representing the interests of unhoused individuals, Sabyl also has experience in public benefits, consumer law and family law. She has additionally held lecturer status at UC Berkeley School of Law and taught a course that focused on identifying creative, non-litigation solutions in direct legal services. Her leadership emphasizes leading with empathy, uplifting clients through the provision of high-quality legal advocacy, seeking systemic change and creative solutions through collaborative advocacy, and a commitment to housing and economic justice for low-income and unhoused community members.



Tamiko Chatman (she/her/hers)

Deputy Director · Acadiana Legal Service Corporation · Louisiana

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Tamiko K. Chatman is a seasoned legal services leader, attorney, and advocate with more than 28 years of legal experience and over 22 years of executive and management leadership. As Deputy Director of Acadiana Legal Service Corporation in Louisiana, she partners with the Executive Director to advance strategic priorities, strengthen organizational capacity, develop high-performing teams, and expand access to justice for vulnerable communities across Louisiana. Throughout her career, Tamiko has dedicated herself to public interest law, serving children in foster care, individuals living with mental illness, low-income families, and underserved populations. Her experience spans legal advocacy, nonprofit management, program development, organizational leadership, and employee coaching. She has also served as a law instructor and academic counselor, helping develop the next generation of legal professionals. Tamiko holds a Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center, an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and a Bachelor of Science from Xavier University of Louisiana. A certified mediator and wellness/career coach, she is passionate about cultivating inclusive leadership, strengthening nonprofit organizations, and fostering environments where individuals and communities can thrive. Her commitment to service, collaboration, and innovation continues to drive her work in advancing equitable access to justice and meaningful community impact.



Tina Pinedo (she/her/hers)

Communications & Operations Director · Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund · California
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Tina Pinedo is the Communications Director at the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF), where she leads strategic communications that advance disability rights through legal advocacy, public policy, education, and storytelling. Since joining DREDF in 2023, she has worked to strengthen the organization's public voice and translate complex legal and policy issues into accessible, action-oriented communications. Before DREDF, Tina served as Communications Director at Disability Rights Oregon and held communications roles with the National Disability Rights Network and Disability Rights Washington. Throughout her career, she has developed communications strategies that elevate the voices of people with disabilities, expand public engagement, and support systemic advocacy through digital media, video, and public affairs. Her experience within the Protection and Advocacy network, including monitoring jails, prisons, state psychiatric hospitals, foster care facilities, and other institutions, deepened her commitment to deinstitutionalization, community integration, and disability justice. At a time when disability rights and broader civil rights protections face unprecedented legal, political, and cultural challenges, Tina believes communications is an essential advocacy tool. She is committed to helping organizations tell compelling stories, build public understanding, and mobilize support to protect and advance the rights of disabled people.



Veronica Garcia (she/her/hers)

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Veronica J. Garcia is the Housing Practice Group Director at Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS), where she leads a team of 36 staff, including 12 attorneys, serving low-income clients across San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Under her leadership, the team closes nearly 5,000 cases annually, representing half of ICLS's total caseload. She has expanded the group's affirmative litigation capacity in habitability, rent-gouging, mobilehome residency, and foreclosure-related unlawful detainer matters, while building training infrastructure for calendaring, motion practice, and trial preparation. Before stepping into this role, Veronica served ICLS as Pro Bono Coordinator, launching the Pro Bono Guardianship Project and the inaugural College Academy for first-generation college students, and as a Housing Staff Attorney representing tenants facing eviction. She previously served as Staff Attorney for the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, leading the organization's transition to remote operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Veronica is admitted to the State Bar of California and the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California. She currently serves as President of the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire and Vice-President of the Pride Bar Association of the Inland Empire, which she co-founded. She holds a J.D. from the University of La Verne College of Law.