



## 2012 ACLU of California Conference & Lobby Day Speakers, Moderators & Presenters

**Brooks Allen** is the ACLU of Southern California's Director of Education Advocacy. He has served as the ACLU's statewide implementation attorney for the student plaintiffs in *Williams v. California* since 2004 and is actively involved in the ACLU's education equity docket, including *Reed v. State of California* and *Doe v. State of California*. Brooks previously worked as a Skadden Fellow and staff attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, where he focused on improving access to education for low-income students. He also served as a Deputy City Attorney for one year in his hometown of Santa Cruz, California. Before attending law school, Brooks was an Upward Bound program coordinator, an admissions officer with Stanford University, and a policy analyst with the U.S. Department of Education. He has a B.A. in Political Science with distinction from Stanford University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

**Lenore Anderson** is the Campaign Director for a new multi-year California Criminal Justice Reform Campaign to reduce California's costly overreliance on incarceration. The campaign seeks to advance proven approaches to public safety that are smarter investments of public dollars and reduce the number of people incarcerated in California prisons and jails. Before joining the campaign, Lenore previously served as Chief of the Alternative Programs Division at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office where she spearheaded several initiatives to expand alternatives to incarceration. Prior to that, she served as the Public Safety Director for the City of Oakland and as the Director of the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Lenore also previously led the successful Books Not Bars Campaign at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights to reduce juvenile incarceration. Lenore holds a JD from NYU School of Law and a BA from UC Berkeley.

**Zahra Billoo**, as the Executive Director for the CAIR San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) chapter, strives to promote justice and understanding at local and national levels. In 2009, Zahra joined CAIR-SFBA and immediately embraced her roles as community organizer and civil rights advocate. She frequently provides trainings at local mosques and universities as part of CAIR's efforts to empower the community, while building bridges with allies on key civil rights issues.

Zahra also represents victims of discrimination and advocates for positive policy changes that uphold civil rights for all. In March 2011, at her direction, CAIR-SFBA filed a lawsuit against the Department of Justice challenging their warrantless use of GPS tracking devices to target American Muslims. Her work with CAIR-SFBA has been highlighted in local and national media outlets including KTVU, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, the Christian Science Monitor, and NPR. Most notably, she made waves when she appeared on FOX News' O'Reilly Factor in Fall 2010 to discuss invasive TSA practices.

A 2010 recipient of the San Francisco Minority Bar Coalition's Unity Award and a 2011 recipient of the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California's Public Interest Attorney of the Year Award, Zahra has been a devoted labor rights advocate for several years. While in college, she worked with the California Faculty Association on issues including faculty salaries and the defunding of public higher education. While in law school, Zahra was awarded the Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship to work with the National Employment Law Project. Zahra graduated Cum Laude from California State University, Long Beach with degrees in Human Resources Management and Political Science. She earned her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and was admitted to the California Bar in 2009.

**Rev. Gerald W. Brown** is a pastoral staff member at Christ Church of San Diego, under Bishop Ikenna A. Kokayi. He is also, the Executive Director of the United African American Ministerial Action Council (UAAMAC). UAAMAC's mission is to "Build the Beloved Community" as envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A Beloved Community of justice and equality of access to opportunities in the pursuit of happiness, education, health, peace and prosperity for all people. He previously served as the Transitional Case Manager, and an on call Chaplain for the San Diego Rescue Mission Men's Center. Additionally, he serves as a Community Volunteer Mediator for the National Conflict Resolution Center. Reverend Brown is a founding member of the San Diego County District Attorney's Interfaith Ministerial Advisory Board. He is a

member of Interfaith Leaders United for A Hate Free San Diego, the Interfaith Committee for Work Justice (ICWJ) and the Center for Policy Initiative (CPI). Additionally he serves as a board member for the Center for Social Advocacy of San Diego County. He was elected to serve as Chair of the Community Investors Fund "Guide Team, this team is committed to education of community members regarding investment and reinvestment options.

**Cynthia Buiza** has worked on international refugee, migration and human rights issues for the past 18 years. Prior to joining us, she was Policy and Advocacy Director for CHIRLA in Los Angeles. She worked in the Philippines with families affected by political armed-conflict and with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Jesuit Refugee Service among other internationally significant organizations. She has a Masters in international relations from Tufts, a B.A. in social work from the Philippines, and a Certificate in refugee studies from Oxford. Buiza co-authored a book on armed conflict and internal displacement in the Indonesian Province of Aceh, *Anywhere But War*, and also is a published author of poems and essays, the most recent of which is an anthology on expatriates and Filipino cuisine called *A Taste of Home*.

**Phyllida Burlingame** is the Sex Education Policy Director at the ACLU of Northern California. Her publications include *Sex Education in California Public Schools: Are Students Learning What They Need to Know?*, a survey of sex education programs in 150 school districts across the state, and *Sex, Lies and Politics: Abstinence-Only Curricula in California Public Schools*. She played an instrumental role in the successful effort to pass two model sex education laws in California, and she has worked with state agencies, parents, and community members to ensure the laws' implementation. She was previously a Senior Research Associate at the Applied Research Center and a consultant to the Center for Community Change and the Center for Law and Social Policy.

**Don Carney** has worked in the fields of Juvenile Justice and Social Justice for over thirty-five years. He operated group homes and educational services for adjudicated youth. In 2000 he became the Director of Youth and Family Services for the YMCA. He also supervised Youth Development Services at County Community School, and directed a residential camp for at-risk youth. In 2004 he became the Director of the Marin County Youth Court. Don is a member of the Superior Court's Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, the Marin County Race and Class Education Equity Initiative, the Novato Blue Ribbon Coalition for Youth.

Don is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Marin County Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California.

**James Clark** has been Death Penalty Repeal Organizer for the ACLU of Southern since February 2010. In October 2011, he became the Southern California Coordinator of the SAFE California Campaign, the initiative to replace the death penalty. He coordinates the LA County Coalition for Death Penalty Alternatives and regularly contributes to the Huffington Post, Change.org, California Progress Report, LA Progressive and others. James previously worked as the Coordinator of Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, a nonprofit organization working to end capital punishment in Georgia, where he was a leader in the movement to stop the execution of Troy Davis. He graduated from UCLA with a degree in the Study of Religion before earning a Master's of Divinity at Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

**Lillian Chen** is a Criminal Justice and Drug Policy Fellow at the ACLU of Northern California, where her efforts have been focused on revision of state drug penalties and advocacy related to public safety realignment. She is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

**Novella Coleman** Novella Coleman is a criminal justice and drug policy fellow at the ACLU of Northern California, where she focuses on the implementation of California's Public Safety Realignment Legislation. In her advocacy she encourages counties to utilize evidence-based alternatives to incarceration as they assume responsibility for low-level offenders who were previously under the supervision of the state. Her work is sponsored in part by Harvard Law School's Irving R. Kaufman Fellowship. Novella is admitted to practice law in California.

**Margaret C. Crosby** has been a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California for over 30 years. She has brought many cases involving reproductive privacy. She argued two cases before the California Supreme Court to protect the reproductive rights of poor women and young women: in 1981, the Court ruled that restrictions on Medi-Cal funding of abortion for indigent women violated the California Constitution (*Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights v. Myers*), and in 1997, the Court ruled that a state law requiring teenagers to obtain parental or court consent for abortion violated the California Constitution (*American Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren*). She also worked closely with Senator Sheila Kuehl in authoring California's Reproductive Privacy Act, which protects birth control and abortion choices, and the California Comprehensive Sex Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act, which ensures that sex education in California schools is comprehensive, bias-free and medically accurate.

She has published numerous articles on civil liberties, particularly in the area of state constitutional law. She is the recipient of several awards for her work on behalf of civil liberties, including the California Women Lawyers Fay Stender

award, and "Women Making History" recognition by Senator Barbara Boxer. She was named one of the "Lawyers of the Year" for successfully arguing before the California Supreme Court that the statute restricting minors' access to abortion violated the state Constitution.

Crosby received her J.D. degree from Yale Law School and her A.B. degree magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr College. She served as a law clerk to Robert F. Peckham, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

**Kelli M. Evans** is the Associate Director of the ACLU of Northern California. Ms. Evans has spent her career working to promote civil rights and civil liberties, most recently as a federal court-appointed Monitor of the Oakland Police Department where she oversaw the department's implementation of a court order requiring a host of reforms. The reforms included significant changes to the manner in which the department responds to and investigates police misconduct and use of force incidents, including officer-involved shootings. As a civil rights attorney in private practice, Ms. Evans has litigated a variety of civil rights issues, including employment discrimination, fair housing, and public accommodations. She has testified before both the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding civil rights and civil liberties.

Ms. Evans formerly served as a senior trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she specialized in prison and jail conditions cases and in police misconduct cases involving racial profiling and excessive force, including use of deadly force. Ms. Evans was one of the attorneys who brought DOJ's first racial profiling case, *United States v. State of New Jersey*. This case resulted in a landmark consent decree that has served as a model for civil rights advocates, community groups, and law enforcement agencies across the nation working to combat racial profiling. While at the Department of Justice, Ms. Evans also served as a lead attorney in several cases involving unconstitutional conditions in state and local correctional agencies, resulting in significant reforms in both adult and juvenile correctional facilities.

Before joining the Civil Rights Division, Ms. Evans worked as an attorney for the ACLU, where she specialized in criminal justice issues, race discrimination, and LGBT rights. Prior to joining the ACLU, Ms. Evans served as a Ruth Chance Law Fellow at Equal Rights Advocates.

Ms. Evans received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her law degree from the University of California at Davis, where she was the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Public Service. Ms. Evans is a Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellow and has served on a number of non-profit boards and as a Vice Chair of the American Bar Association Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

**Basim Elkarra** is the Executive Director of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SV). Elkarra was elected in 2009 to the California Democratic Party's Executive Board and chairs its Arab American Caucus and Affirmative Action Committee.

During the last six years, Elkarra implemented some of CAIR California's most important projects including the annual Capitol Ramadan Dinner, the annual Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) Conference at the State Capitol. Elkarra appears regularly in the media as a commentator on issues of civil liberties, the Muslim community, and foreign affairs.

Elkarra regularly testifies in hearings at California's State Capitol on issues related to civil liberties, education, and the American Muslim community. He was one of a handful of American Muslim leaders invited by the Obama Presidential Inauguration Committee to attend the swearing-in ceremony and inaugural ball.

Elkarra's hard work and dedication to defending civil rights and building bridges between communities has brought him an array of public recognition. The Sacramento Bee named Elkarra "devout and dynamic" in an in-depth profile of the young executive director. He was honored by former Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante for his "outstanding community service." He has received awards from the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Harry Truman Democratic Club, California State Controller John Chiang, and received California State Legislature Resolution #52064 for his work in California.

Elkarra currently serves as Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson's Liaison to the Muslim and Middle Eastern Community, Los Rios College Bond Oversight Board, American Civil Liberties Union-Sacramento Chapter Board, New Leaders Council (NLC-Sacramento) Advisory Board, Sacramento Police Advisory Committee, Sacramento Public Library Multicultural Council, Sacramento State University Community Council, Natomas Unified School District Multicultural Advisory Committee, and the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association's (APAPA) Outreach Committee.

Elkarra, a San Francisco native holds a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Middle Eastern studies from the University

of California at Berkeley. Elkarra is a graduate of the University of Southern California and Georgetown's American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute (AMCLI). Elkarra is currently a fellow with the American Leadership (ALF) Forum.

**Laila Fahimuddin** has worked in the ACLU of Northern California's Organizing & Community Engagement Department since fall 2010. She specializes in the strategic development of youth engagement programs for college student activists. Her other areas of work include advocacy and community empowerment on national security issues, providing public education trainings, and facilitating accessibility to ACLU programs and resources. Prior to joining the ACLU, Laila was deeply involved in campus activism at UCLA and with the UC Student Association until graduating in Spring 2010.

**Hart Fogel** is an eighth grade student at the Mill Valley Middle School who has been advocating for youth rights as part of the Marin County Youth Court program. Last year he was also appointed to the inaugural Youth Advisory Panel of the California Association of Youth Courts by Judge David Wesley, Chief Administrative Judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court system who heads up the CAYC.

Hart has served as an advocate, peer juror and bailiff in the Marin Youth Court, where he has also been part of a leadership team diligently working to make the program more restorative, inclusive and youth led. Community service has always been a big part of Hart's life both inside and outside of school. Locally, Hart is a two-time recipient of Mill Valley's prestigious Terwilliger student community service award; reportedly one of only a few students to have received it twice. Hart also volunteers as a project leader at Homeward Bound through the Marin County Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership. He was also a youth judge this year for the annual Heart of Marin Awards.

Hart is a member of the Board of Directors of the Marin County Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California.

**Robyn Flores** is the founder and co-director of ACT for Women and Girls, a pro-choice feminist organization in Tulare County that provides leadership opportunities to young women, with the hope that they will become leaders in various capacities in the Central Valley. She has over 20 years of working on adolescent and women's health issues with an emphasis on reproductive health and justice, including program development, organizational leadership and fundraising. She has been very outspoken in the community about the anti-gay climate, lack of comprehensive sex education in the public schools, lack of access to Family PACT services and other areas of social injustice. She holds an MA in psychology and is a fellow of the Women's Foundation of California Leadership Institute.

**Daniel Galindo** joined the Organizing & Community Engagement Department of the ACLU of Northern California in the fall of 2009. His work focuses on direct advocacy, public education, and political mobilization around immigrants' rights, education equality, and the rights of LGBTQ youth. Additionally, Daniel facilitates the organization's work with community-based organizations throughout Northern California under the ACLU-NC Community Network. Related to immigrant rights, Daniel collaborates with the immigrant rights staff attorney to pressure law enforcement to change department policies to prevent local enforcement of immigration laws and the collateral damage cause by it. Daniel recently spent ten days organizing at the grassroots level in Alabama in the aftermath of the state's anti-immigrant law, HB 56, alongside organizers from various states with the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

**James Gilliam** is the Deputy Executive Director of the ACLU of Southern California, where he also directs the affiliate's LGBT Project and its anti-bullying project. He frequently trains students, teachers, and administrators about the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students. Prior to joining the staff of the ACLU, he was a member of its Board of Directors for several years. Gilliam graduated from Loyola Law School in 2003. He has been recognized with numerous awards for his work to advance the rights of the LGBTQ community, including the National LGBT Bar Association's Best LGBT Attorneys Under 40 Award and the Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles' Co-President's Award. In 2011, he was included among the inaugural class of recipients of KCET's "Local Hero" award for LGBT Pride Month.

**Antonio Gonzalez** is President of the William C. Velásquez Institute, a national Latino public policy and research organization. Gonzalez is the paramount expert on Latino voter mobilization. Through Gonzalez leadership, WCVI has become the industry leader in Latino voting tendencies and characteristics through its national phone and exit-polling program. Among many other achievements, Gonzalez initiated the National Latino Congreso, a gathering together with partners representing a cross-section of Latino organizations and leadership, that has begun a process of renovation, revitalization, and unification of Latino leadership at all levels, whose fruits will be greater success in achieving public policy change.

**Belinda Escobosa Helzer** joined the ACLU of Southern California in 2005. She is currently the Director of the Orange County office as well as a Senior Attorney. Belinda has served as counsel in civil rights cases involving free speech, religious freedom, due process and law enforcement abuse.

Recently, she successfully litigated *Vasquez v. Rackauckas* against the Orange County District Attorney's Office and the Orange Police Department. The case fought for the right of Orange County residents to have their day in court before being subject to a gang injunction which prohibits them from engaging in day-to-day lawful activities.

In *Asociación de Jornaleros de Lake Forest v. City of Lake Forest*, she represented day laborers in free speech cases against the cities of Glendale, Redondo Beach, and Lake Forest, that sought to bar day laborers from expressing their desire for work on public sidewalks.

In *Vietnamese Buddhism Study Temple of America v. City of Garden Grove*, she sued Garden Grove officials to protect the rights of a Vietnamese Buddhist congregation to build a temple in that city. The lawsuit led to a settlement that allowed the congregation to build its temple and freely worship together.

Before joining the ACLU, Belinda served as the Immigrant Rights and Day Laborer Project staff attorney at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). While at MALDEF, she successfully challenged anti-solicitation ordinances in Glendale in *the Comite de Jornaleros de Glendale v. City of Glendale*. Ms. Escobosa Helzer graduated from Southwestern University School of Law. She began her professional career as a law clerk for The Honorable Joseph F. Baca, Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

**Ignacio Hernandez** operates Hernandez Strategy Group, a public interest lobbying and consulting firm in Sacramento which represents a variety of progressive causes. For the past 7 years he has led the advocacy program for the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ) a statewide association of criminal defense attorneys. Ignacio recently launched the Criminal Justice Information Network to provide public policy assistance to grassroots reform oriented organizations in California. Ignacio has served in various capacities in the legislature including Chief of Staff in both the State Senate and Assembly, as well as a consultant to the Assembly Committee on Public Safety. He is a former criminal defense attorney and also taught in the Political Science and Mexican American Studies departments at San Jose State University.

**Joey Hernández** has been the LGBTQ Student Rights Advocate at the ACLU/SC since August 2011. Joey is the full time staff member dedicated exclusively on the Seth Walsh Student Rights Project, which focuses on stopping the unlawful bullying and harassment in California schools and to create school communities that promote safety and respect for all students. He regularly works with schools and school districts to provide resources and guidance on how to handle instances of bullying and how to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Before joining ACLU of Southern California, Joey worked at several LGBTQ non-profits, including the Gay Straight Alliance Network, Point Foundation, UCLA LGBT Campus Resource Center and currently sits on the board of directors for the Delphi Foundation.

**Ivan Herman** is a pastor at Carmichael Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Carmichael, CA. His experience with multifaith and faith-based coalitions began ten years ago in San Antonio, TX with IAF affiliates COPS/Metro Alliance in living wage campaigns. In Washington, DC he worked with the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office on Public Witness and joined in advocacy coalitions working on foreign policy issues with Colombia, Cuba, and US-Mexico immigration. In Memphis, TN he served on the board of directors for the Workers Interfaith Network, an affiliate of Interfaith Worker Justice that worked education and action campaigns for living wage, wage theft, the right to organize, and workers' safety. Reverend Herman holds a B.A. in Spanish from Wake Forest University, a M.A. International Peace & Conflict Resolution from American University and a M.Div., M.T.S., from Wesley Theological Seminary.

**Julian Joseph** is a senior at Novato High School who, for the past two years, has been very involved in promoting a more pragmatic and compassionate approach to youth justice in Marin County. He is a leader in the Marin County Youth Court and has been instrumental in engaging his peers in developing innovative restorative programs for young people in the County. Julian is also spearheading the implementation of a suspension diversion program at his high school, where he and a dedicated group of students have created an effective alternative to the traditional punitive suspension process. This in-school peer court provides support and guidance to kids with discipline problems who would otherwise be sent home. He believes that peer involvement in fostering more respectful and empathic relationships in the school community is serving to create a better learning environment.

Julian is a member of the Board of Directors of the Marin County Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California and will be attending S. F. State University in the Fall, where he will be studying philosophy.

**Simran Kaur** is the Advocacy Manager for The Sikh Coalition, leads outreach and advocacy efforts in California. Prior to joining The Sikh Coalition, Simran managed a health program for Children's Hospital Central California. Simran travels regularly for global health projects and has worked to improve access to health for immigrant and refugee communities. She is an active member of the Sikh community in California, volunteering with Jakara Movement and co-founding The Langar Hall - a progressive Sikh blog. Simran is also a Core Member of the Sikh Feminist Research Institute, is

Community Liaison for Saffron Press (an independent publishing house focused on multicultural literature with a special interest in books for and about Sikh children) and acts as the Affirmative Action Officer on the Board of Directors for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California. Simran obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of California, San Diego and her Masters in Public Health and Masters in Medical Sciences degree from Boston University School of Public Health.

**Senator Christine Kehoe** was elected to the State Senate on November 2, 2004 to represent the 39<sup>th</sup> Senate District. She previously served two terms in the State Assembly and served as Speaker Pro Tempore. From 1993 to 2000 she was on the San Diego City Council. Christine also served on the California Coastal Commission from 1997 to 2000. She is the first member of the gay and lesbian community in San Diego to be elected to public office.

Senator Kehoe has authored legislation related to water, energy conservation, domestic violence, transportation planning, and environmental protection. While the nation moves to limit women's access to reproductive health services, Senator Kehoe has authored SB1338 to write a different story for California by removing barriers to abortion care. This bill would ensure that women receive safe and early access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

Senator Kehoe chairs the Senate's Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water; Transportation & Housing; Energy, Utilities and Communications; Governance & Finance; and Banking & Financial Institutions.

**Kevin Keenan** has been executive director of the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties since 2005. Keenan previously served as interim director of the ACLU affiliates in Nevada and New Jersey. He helped human rights reform efforts in Belfast, Northern Ireland following the Good Friday Peace Agreement and monitored elections in the former Yugoslavia. He served as an attorney for children in Virginia's juvenile prisons and succeeded in pressing new laws to improve reentry services for children with mental health and educational difficulties. He is author of *Invasion of Privacy: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO 2005) and, with Samuel Walker, *An Impediment to Accountability? An Analysis of Law Enforcement Officers' Bills of Rights* (Boston University Journal of Public Interest Law 2005). In 2010, Keenan was admitted as a five-year term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Keenan graduated from Yale Law School and Swarthmore College.

**Linda Lye** joined the ACLU-NC as a staff attorney in 2010 after serving on its Board of Directors and Legal Committee for several years. At the ACLU, she primarily works on free speech issues. She is currently suing the City of Oakland and UC Davis for their crackdown on Occupy protesters. She was formerly a partner at Altshuler Berzon, where she represented labor unions. She received her law degree from Boalt Hall, at the University of California at Berkeley and her undergraduate degree from Yale.

**Julia Mendoza** is the Racial Justice Project Legal Fellow at the ACLU of Northern California where she uses a combination of legal and legislative advocacy, public education, and organizing strategies to combat racism in all its forms with a particular emphasis on eliminating racial bias in the criminal justice system and achieving educational equity. Her current work focuses on issues relevant to school bias and pushout, discriminatory discipline within schools, affirmative action, and felony disenfranchisement.

**Ashley Morris** is the Senior Organizer at the ACLU of Northern California, where she has worked since she graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Political Science in 2007. She is also currently serving as the Northern California Regional Coordinator for the SAFE California Campaign. Ashley supports the local organizing work of the ACLU-NC's volunteer chapters and provides them with resources to engage in broader regional campaigns. Her policy work is currently focused primarily on reproductive justice and the death penalty, and she coordinates in-district legislative advocacy throughout Northern and Central California. In 2008, Ashley also served as a regional director for the Get Up and Vote Down Propositions 4 and 8 college campus campaign, where she mobilized students and fostered student leadership to educate campus communities about the two initiatives. Ashley is board co-chair of the Good Ol' Girls, an organization that connects progressive women on the rise with social and professional opportunities and performs with Gamelan Sari Raras.

**David A. Moss** is an Expert Witness for the ACLU of Northern California. He is currently on tour with "Instruments of Change", an innovative performance piece about the need for alternatives to incarceration. After attending The School of Performing Arts in San Diego on a scholarship, David worked as a stand-up comic for several years, appearing on Showtime, HBO and opening for such luminaries as Aretha Franklin and Smokey Robinson. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "He has that marvelous ability to instantaneously assume a complete character that makes Richard Pryor and Lily Tomlin so electric in performance." David received a Critics Choice award for his role in the independent film Street Music. Vincent Canby of the New York Times wrote "his performance as the hotel desk clerk is both outstanding and

memorable." David has played the title role in Othello. He is the recipient of a grant for Outstanding Solo Performance from the Marin Arts Council and has appeared in a short film, SHADOWS, which he wrote and directed. David's solo play Cracked Clown was commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Theshia Naidoo** is staff attorney with the Drug Policy Alliance. She works on litigation, legislative drafting and public education efforts concerning drug policy reform, including California's Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000. She provides legal advice, counsel and training on drug policy, including securing access to medical marijuana and promoting drug treatment instead of incarceration. Naidoo received her B.A. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and she received her J.D. from the University of California Los Angeles School of Law.

**Valerie Small Navarro** is the Senior Legislative Advocate for the ACLU California Affiliates. She has testified and lobbied the California legislature on behalf of the ACLU on a gamut of civil liberties and civil rights issues ranging from DNA testing to prove innocence, to the Reproductive Privacy Act, and Driving While Black or Brown. Prior to working with the ACLU, she worked with other civil rights organizations including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and California Rural Legal Assistance, Foundation. Valerie received her BA from UC Berkeley and her J.D. from UC Hastings.

**Linnea Nelson** is a Criminal Justice & Drug Policy Fellow at the ACLU of Northern California. Linnea received her J.D. in 2011 from the New York University School of Law, where she received a Root-Tilden-Kern public interest scholarship. She graduated from Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1993. Between college and law school, Linnea's professional experience was focused primarily on the labor movement. In the mid-1990s, she worked as an organizer at the Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Employees (UNITE) to educate garment workers in New York City about their labor rights and to support direct action in back-wage and unionization campaigns. Linnea entered the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in 1998 as a rank-and-file first-year apprentice, graduating to journey-level carpenter four years later and certified shop steward in 2004. She was a founding member of the New York City District Council of Carpenters' Women's Committee, which is dedicated to empowering women carpenters in New York City through involvement in their union. Linnea grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and lived in Brooklyn, New York for many years before moving to Oakland in 2011.

**Caitlin O'Neill** currently serves as Criminal Justice and Drug Policy Associate at the ACLU of Northern California, where she advocates to reduce over-incarceration and over-reliance upon the criminal justice system as a mechanism for addressing social issues. Before coming to the ACLU, Caitlin worked for Seneca Center, a nonprofit that provides community-based services for children and families receiving mental health treatment. Caitlin graduated from California State University, Chico, in 2009 with a BA in Political Science and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

**Jennie Pasquarella** joined the ACLU of Southern California in September 2008. She focuses on immigrants' rights and national security litigation and advocacy, and works on issues ranging from the rights of immigrant workers to the rights of Muslim communities to be free from discrimination and unlawful FBI surveillance.

Prior to joining the ACLU/SC office in she was a legal fellow in the International Legal Program of the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York, where she sought to ensure the rights of refugees and migrants, adolescents, and people affected by HIV/AIDS to basic reproductive health care through international litigation and advocacy. Jennie was a Kroll Fellow and staff attorney with the ACLU Women's Rights Project, where she focused on the rights of immigrant women workers to be free from modern forms of slavery and sexual harassment and abuse. Previously, Jennie worked for a range of human rights organizations in Latin America and the United States, and clerked for an appeals chamber judge at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

She graduated from Barnard College and earned her J.D. with a Certificate in Refugee and Humanitarian Emergencies from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was also a Public Interest Law Scholar.

**Norma Chavez-Peterson** has been an integral part of San Diego's progressive organizing community. Since the age of fifteen, she worked as an active community leader and change agent, beginning with creating a M.E.Ch.A. chapter at her junior high school. Chavez-Peterson organized for affordable housing, for Native American and Chicano youth coalitions, and most recently was the co-founder and executive director of Justice Overcoming Boundaries, a network of faith, community, education, business and labor partners working together to advance social justice in San Diego. She has a Bachelor's degree from SDSU in political science and Chicano/a studies

**George Pegelow** graduated from Stanford University and taught martial arts, eastern thought, sports psychology and optimal human performance at the University for 24 years. He founded Wu-Wei Associates in 1971, a human relations

consulting firm which utilizes concepts from eastern philosophies to resolve conflict. He has worked with students in middle and high schools in Marin County for the past 11 years to address bullying and relationship abuse, and has recently begun a campaign to bring restorative practices to schools throughout the County. He recently received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Marin County Human Rights Commission. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Marin County Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California.

**Christian Ramirez** is the Director of the Southern Border Communities Coalition, which is comprised of over 60 organizations based on the US-Mexico Border, and he is currently serving as an immigration and border analyst for the American Friends Service Committee. He joined AFSC in 200, and served as Director of its US-Mexico Border Program until 2006.

Since 1994 Christian has been active on issues relating to US immigration policy and its impact on Southern Border communities. He has coordinated several grass roots organizations in the Southern California region in order to bring attention to human rights violations in the borderlands.

He also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and he is a member of the board of the Interfaith Committee for Workers Justice of San Diego.

**Sean Riordan** is a staff attorney at the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties, where he works on a range of issues primarily related to immigrants' rights and national security. Prior to attending law school at UCLA, Sean lived extensively in Arab countries, where he studied history and advocated for the human rights of refugees. He began working at the ACLU as a Skadden Fellow in 2008.

**Jon Rodney** is the Communications Project Coordinator in CIPC's Oakland office. Jon uses his passion for language to lift up the voices of immigrant communities in the media. Before joining CIPC in September 2010, he was Communications Manager at the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy where he developed messaging and generated ongoing media coverage of many immigrant related issues in the region. Jon has previously worked as a labor organizer. Jon is a graduate of UC Berkeley in Spanish and Literature, and speaks both Spanish and Arabic.

**Margaret Dooley-Sammuli** is Senior Policy Advocate for Criminal Justice and Drug Policy with the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties. She is co-author of the ACLU's *Public Safety Realignment: California at a Crossroads*, the most in-depth look yet at California's historic shift of responsibility for low-level felony offenses from state to county authority. Prior to joining the ACLU, she served for several years as deputy state director with the Drug Policy Alliance, where she led the organization's criminal justice advocacy in California.

**Saskia Levy-Sheon** graduated from Oakland Technical High School in the summer of 2011. She grew up on an urban farm in Oakland, CA and her passions include dance, languages, oral history, and educating students about their rights. Saskia has been leading workshops on LBTQ issues since she joined the Speaker's Bureau at the Pacific Center for Human Growth at the age of thirteen. Saskia has been active with the ACLU for three years, formerly as a member of the Friedman Education Project and currently as an Organizing Intern at the ACLU of Northern California.

**Abdi Soltani** has served as the Executive Director of the ACLU of Northern California since April 2009. A card-carrying member of the ACLU for many years, Abdi has served as executive director at Californians for Justice, the Campaign for College Opportunity and, most recently, at PARSAs Community Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Public Advocates, a legal advocacy organization. Abdi has a long history of working with young people, and believes deeply in the importance of investing in youth and cultivating their strengths and skills. Abdi has extensive experience working on statewide policy and ballot initiatives. As a leader in the No on 54 Campaign in 2003, he helped defeat a proposition aimed at significantly weakening racial equality by barring state and local government agencies from collecting vital data on Californians' race, ethnicity, color, or national origin. Abdi is a graduate of Stanford University. He was awarded the John Gardner Public Service Fellowship in 1995 and the Gerbode Foundation Fellowship in 2002.

**Caroline Ridout Stewart, L.C.S.W.** is the current president of the board of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing). She is also a Clinical Supervisor and Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD. Caroline sits on The California Public Protection and Physician Health, Inc. board, an organization dedicated to developing and overseeing a coordinated statewide system of confidential treatment for physicians suffering from either, mental, behavioral or substance abuse issues. She taught anthropology at Carlton University in Ottawa, Canada, before becoming a licensed psychotherapist. Caroline is the mother of two adopted sons, one of whom suffers from heroin addiction.



**Lindsay Waggener** is a pre-med post-bacc student at San Francisco State University and an organizer for the ACLU of Northern California. Hailing from Vallejo, CA, Lindsay has worked union organizing campaigns across the country and has organized with community-based organizations including Copwatch, and currently the Berkeley Free Clinic.

**Hector Villagra** has been Executive Director of the ACLU of Southern California since February 2011. He launched the Orange County Office of the ACLU of Southern California in September 2005 and served as its Director until October 2009 when he became Legal Director for the ACLU of Southern California.

Before joining the ACLU, Mr. Villagra served as Regional Counsel for the Los Angeles Regional Office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) from 2001 to 2005 and as a staff attorney at MALDEF from 1999 to 2001. Mr. Villagra has served as counsel in civil rights cases involving such issues as educational equity, religious discrimination, immigrants' rights, and voting rights.

He began his professional career as a law clerk for the Honorable Robert N. Wilentz, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt, circuit judge on the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Villagra graduated from Columbia University and Columbia University School of Law.

**Daisy Vieyra** joined the ACLU as a consultant for the *Estamos Unidos Campaign*, a national public education and organizing campaign that seeks to engage with Spanish speaking communities around the issue of immigrant rights. Her role in the campaign is to create the campaign's Spanish language content for the MiACLU website and coordinate logistics for the campaign's cross-country tour, working with ACLU affiliates from all over the country. Daisy received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010.

**Tracy Weitz**, PhD, MPA, is the Director of the Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) program and Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, both at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Weitz has a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in health care from Southwest Missouri State University and a doctoral degree in medical sociology from the UCSF. Dr. Weitz's current research focuses on innovative strategies to expand abortion provision in the U.S.

Included in her research portfolio is a demonstration project of the use of advanced practice clinicians as providers of abortion care in California, a study of women's experiences with abortion regulation, and a national strategic plan to expand access to abortion care in the second trimester. She also collaborates with the National Health Law Program (NHELP) on a project examining the effect of health care refusals on the standards of care for women's health. In 2006, Dr. Weitz was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Women's Health Council, an advisory body to the California Departments of Public Health and Health Care Services. Dr. Weitz previously served on the board of the National Women's History Project and the California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (CARAL, now NARAL Pro-Choice California).

**Michelle Welsh** is an attorney in private practice in the firm of Stoner, Welsh & Schmidt in Pacific Grove. Her law practice concentrates on employment, education and civil rights law. She also represents teachers through the California Teachers Association. She is an adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law and Employment Law at Monterey College of Law.

Mickey has been active in the Monterey County chapter for over 30 years, and chairs the chapter's volunteer legal committee. She had been chair of the ACLU of Northern California's Field Activists Committee for many years ending in 2005. She was a co-founder and past chair of the Monterey County Women Lawyers Association, and she has served on the boards of directors for numerous organizations including Monterey College of Law, the Monterey County Bar Association, Camerata Singers, St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Monterey Peninsula YWCA. She has volunteered for the AIDS Legal Referral Panel since 1987.

In 2005 she was the recipient of the ACLU-NC Lola Hansel Courageous Advocacy Award. Her other awards include the Chief Justice Phil Gibson Award for Community Service from the Monterey County Bar Association, the Outstanding Woman Award from the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, the Baha'i Human Rights Award from the United Nations Association, the Friend of Education Award from the Monterey Bay Teachers Association, the HIV Community Action Award from the Monterey County AIDS Project and the Francis Heisler Award from the ACLU Monterey County Chapter. She became chairperson of the board of ACLU of Northern California in 2011.

**Clarissa Woo** is currently the Director of Policy Advocacy at the ACLU of Southern California. She helps identify policy change opportunities and develops strategic campaigns at the local, state and national level.

She has advocated for various legislative campaigns, including continuous efforts to make comprehensive quality health care affordable and accessible for all, bills to ensure compassionate end-of-life choices for California's terminally ill, legislation to reform California's criminal justice system, and efforts to oppose budget cuts to safety net programs for seniors, immigrants, the disabled and the poor.

Clarissa has also worked on ballot initiative campaigns, including the campaign to fix California's Three Strikes Law, the campaign to preserve marriage equality in California, and most recently to successfully defeat three dangerous parental notification initiatives (Prop. 73, Prop. 85 and Prop. 4).

She has been involved with increasing outreach and education to expand the ACLU/SC's economic justice work through coalition building, mobilizing activists and affected community members and building relationships with public officials. Clarissa is a graduate of the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development.

**Homayra Yusufi** is trained as a policy analyst dedicated to creating change through advocating for policy reforms. Yusufi served as a consultant for the City of Emeryville and Emery Unified School District analyzing the impacts of housing policies on educational outcomes and also spent three years working for CAIR San Diego where she addressed civil rights issues confronting the Muslim community. Yusufi holds a degree in Political Science from San Diego State University and a Masters in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

*With special thanks to....*

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*The 2012 ACLU of California Conference & Lobby Day is brought to you by the **Planning Team**:*

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