2016
IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

“Liberty, Justice and Human Rights For All”
Lowes Philadelphia Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 7 – 11
Supports & Salutes

The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies

on its 2016 Annual Conference
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<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>73</td>
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August 7, 2016

Dear Conference Attendees:

We are pleased and honored to welcome you to the 2016 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRRA) Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the stunning Loews Hotel.

This year’s theme “Liberty, Justice and Human Rights for All” invokes U.S. history, the decades-long fight for equal rights and equal justice under law, and now a quest to define who is included in “justice for all.” We have planned a conference program with compelling speakers and plenary sessions on LGBTQ issues and civil rights, fair housing, state and local implementation of international human rights standards and strategies, racial equity, dangerous speech, and police/community relations. We want to thank the speakers and facilitators who will share their expertise with you. We want to acknowledge our sponsors too, and thank them for their ongoing support.

We are excited to offer a tour of Philadelphia sites of significance to the LGBTQ and Civil Rights movements. Philadelphia is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first gay rights demonstrations in the nation. We also have planned an evening of community dialogue at the historic Mother Bethel AME Church, “Pressing the Issue: LGBTQ and the Question of Religion, Community and Equal Rights.” We will engage with young people in Philadelphia, and will spend some time (and money) at the Reading Terminal Market, described as one of the most diverse places on Earth!

In the next few days we will learn about history, but let’s also make history! On behalf of the IAOHRRA Board, we thank you for joining us at this momentous time in our nation and in the world. We hope you will participate actively in the conference plenary and breakout sessions, engaging and challenging our expert presenters, and sharing your own experience and expertise. It is only through the crucial work that our individual member agencies do, in enforcing anti-discrimination laws, building strong and diverse communities, and promoting collaborative intergroup relations, that we collectively can leave an imprint in history.

Sincerely yours,

Jean M. Kelleher
Jean M. Kelleher, President
Alexandria, Virginia

James L. Stowe
James L. Stowe, Chair
2016 Conference Committee
Montgomery County, Maryland
# IAOHRA Officers & Board of Directors Listing

## 2016 IAOHRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President
Jean M. Kelleher, Director  
Alexandria Office of Human Rights

### 1st Vice President
Robin S. Toma  
Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

### 2nd Vice President
Dr. Alisa Warren  
Executive Director  
Missouri Commission on Human Rights

### Treasurer
Merrill Smith, Jr.  
Chairman  
Prince Georges County Maryland Human Relations Commission

### Immediate Past President
Shawn Martel Moore  
Former Executive Director  
Tompkins County Human Relations Commission

### Secretary
Position Vacant

## BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A      | Executive Director  
Arkansas Fair Housing Commission                                               |
| Yolanda Francisco-Nez          | Director  
City of Salt Lake City, Utah  
Mayor's Office of Diversity & Human Rights                                       |
| Rue Landau, Esquire           | Executive Director  
Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations                                      |
| Vacant                         | Member-at-Large                                                              |

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James L. Stowe, Atlantic Region</td>
<td>Montgomery County Maryland Office of Human Rights</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Bobbie Wanzo, Midwest Region   | Deputy Director  
Illinois Department of Human Rights                                            |
| Beverly Watts, Southern Region | Executive Director  
Tennessee Human Rights Commission                                               |
| Sharon Ortiz, Western Region   | Executive Director  
Washington State Human Rights Commission                                        |
| David Arnot, Canadian Representative | Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada                  |
2016 OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

Jean M. Kelleher
President

Robin S. Toma
First Vice-President

Alisa Warren, Ph.D.,
Second Vice-President

Merrill Smith Jr.
Treasurer

Rue Landau, Esq.,
Member-at-Large
(Atlantic Region)

Carol Johnson,
J.D., M.A.
Member-at-Large
(Southern Region)

Yolanda Francisco-Nez
Member-at-Large

James L. Stowe
Atlantic Regional
Representative

Beverly Watts
Southern Regional
Representative

Bobbie Wanzo
Midwest Regional
Representative

Sharon Ortiz
Western Regional
Representative

David M. Arnot
Canadian Representative
August 8, 2016

Dear Friends,

As the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, I am proud to welcome you to the 2016 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAHORA) conference. I am thrilled that you have chosen Philadelphia as your host city.

It is fitting that this year’s IAHORA conference is being held in Philadelphia, a city with a long history of protecting the human rights of all of its citizens. Furthermore, enjoy the sessions and speakers that are planned for the conference, be emboldened by the spirit and experience of your presenters and the enthusiasm of conference colleagues. It is my hope that you will leave feeling encouraged and enriched as you return to the places you call home.

We hope that you enjoy your stay in Philadelphia and we encourage you to explore all that the city has to offer. As the nation’s only currently designated World Heritage City, you will find that Philadelphia is a city with unique diversity, excellent restaurants, world class museums, and much more.

Again, welcome to Philadelphia and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

James F. Kenney
Mayor
August 4, 2016

Dear IAOHRA Colleagues:

On behalf of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and the City of Philadelphia, welcome to Philadelphia! We are proud and honored to be the site of the 2016 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) conference.

Philadelphia is the perfect location for this year’s conference. Guided by the theme, “Liberty, Justice and Human Rights for All,” we will be focusing on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, as well as diving deeper into our ongoing issues of community-police relations, fair housing, and racial equity. Throughout history, Philadelphia has always led the way for equality, particularly when it comes to guaranteeing civil rights for LGBT people. As the birthplace of American democracy, it is fitting that we hold these essential conversations here.

While the country has made significant progress in the past 50+ years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act, recent events throughout our country demonstrate that much more work needs to be done to realize our dream of equality and justice for all. Over the past few months, headlines have been filled with reports of racism, xenophobia, sexism and homophobia. Stories of hate and discrimination proliferate. These critical issues are now being debated in the national arena, leaving us with the enormous challenge and opportunity to help heal our communities. IAOHRA has long been at the forefront of promoting human and civil rights. Each year, our conference spurs deep discussions and analysis of pressing issues amongst our members. This year will be no different. We are confident that this gathering of civil rights leaders will start creating solutions to these national problems.

As the leaders of the oldest municipal human relations commission in the country, we share your dedication to protecting individual’s civil rights and civil liberties. We are deeply and wholly committed to promoting equality, justice and understanding among our diverse populations.

Please enjoy the wonderful amenities of our great City - from our history and arts, to our restaurants and parks, there is something for everyone. We are glad you are here!

Sincerely,

Rue Landau
Executive Director

Thomas H. Earle
Chair

PHILADELPHIA’S OFFICIAL AGENCY TO PROMOTE EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE
The United States was created at Independence Hall in Philadelphia 240 years ago and the list of American firsts happened in Philadelphia as well.

Philadelphia is the first U.S. capital, and home of the first U.S. Congress.... U.S. Mint...stock exchange....hospital... art museum...AME Church...university... medical school...theater... turnpike...zoo...taxi service...building to be air-conditioned ...and the site of the very first Thanksgiving Day parade.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Board Lunch (Lescaze Room, 33rd Floor)</td>
<td>IAOHRA Office (Franklin Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM - 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Conference Planning Meeting (Lescaze Room, 33rd Floor)</td>
<td>IAOHRA Office (Franklin Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 PM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Conference Registration (Washington Room Foyer, 3rd Floor)</td>
<td>IAOHRA Office (Franklin Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
<td>IAOHRA Board Meeting (Lescaze Room, 33rd Floor)</td>
<td>IAOHRA Office (Franklin Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Opening Reception (Howe Room, 33rd Floor)</td>
<td>IAOHRA Office (Franklin Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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Jean Kelleher, Presiding, President of IAOHRA, Director, Alexandria Office of Human Rights

Welcome

Call to Action: Paul Monteiro, Director, U. S. Department of Justice Community Relations Services

Hosted by the Loews Philadelphia Hotel

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM - 11:00 PM</td>
<td>Hospitality Suite (Presidential Suite, Room 3207)</td>
<td>IAOHRA Office (Franklin Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>Conference Registration (Washington Room Foyer, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<td><strong>8:00 AM- 9:00 AM</strong></td>
<td>Continental Breakfast/Coffee (Washington Room Foyer, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:30 – 9:00 AM</strong></td>
<td>Opening Ceremony (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<td>Greetings:</td>
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<td>IAOHRA President- Jean Kelleher, Presiding, Director, Alexandria Office of Human Rights</td>
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<td>CASHRA President- The Honorable David M. Arnot, Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>City of Philadelphia Mayor- Jim Kenney</td>
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<td>IAOHRA Conference Host- Rue Landau, Executive Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations</td>
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<td>Tribute to the City of Orlando Florida, Gwendolyn Wiggins, the Human Relations Supervisor/Human Relations Official for City of Orlando’s Human Relations Office</td>
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<td>Conference Chair- Jim Stowe, Conference Chair, Atlantic Region Representative, Director, Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, Conference Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:00 AM – 9:50 AM</strong></td>
<td>Opening Plenary:</td>
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<td>Rue Landau, Moderator, Executive Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations</td>
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<td>Dr. Rachel L. Levine, Physician General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“LGBTQ 101:”</td>
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<td>Kel Kroehle, Director, The Bryson Institute of The Attic Youth Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:50 AM – 10:05 AM</strong></td>
<td>Break/Coffee (Washington Room Foyer/3rd Floor)</td>
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<td>10:05 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session: (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
<td>“From Selma to Stonewall: The LGBTQ Community and the Question of Equal Justice under the Law”</td>
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<td>Fred Davie, Moderator, Executive Vice President, Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, New York:</td>
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<td>A Panel Discussion &amp; Video Presentation</td>
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<td>Mark Segal, Publisher Philadelphia Gay News</td>
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<td>David Acosta, Writer, Artist, Activist</td>
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<td>Kathy Padilla, Director, Office of Business Diversity, Philadelphia International Airport</td>
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<td>Sandra Thompson, Chair, Philadelphia LGBT Elder Initiative</td>
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<td>12:00 PM - 1:45 PM</td>
<td>IAOHRA Advocacy Luncheon: (Congress Room, 4th Floor)</td>
<td>Beverly Watts, Moderator, Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>Greetings:</td>
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<td>Spencer H. Lewis, Jr., District Director, Philadelphia District, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission</td>
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<td>Amy V. Peters, Director, Patricia Roberts Harris National Fair Housing Training Academy</td>
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<td>IAOHRA/National Fair Housing Academy</td>
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<td>Keynote Speaker:</td>
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<td>David J. Johns, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Philadelphia Tour of LGBTQ and Civil Rights Sites</td>
<td>William Way LGBT Community Center</td>
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<td>Chris Bartlett, Executive Director, William Way LGBT Community Center</td>
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<td>Bob Skiba, Curator, John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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| 5:00 PM-6:30 PM | Bus arrives for reception and program: Reception: Reading Terminal Market  
Rue Landau, Convener, Executive Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations  
Anju Gupta, Co-Convener, General Manager, Reading Terminal Market  
“The New Immigrant Experience in Philadelphia” Hosted by the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and the Reading Terminal Market  
(A short walk across the street to return to the Loews Hotel) |
| 9:00 PM-11:00 PM | Hospitality Suite (Presidential Suite, Room 3207)                                                                                                    |
| Tuesday, August 9, 2016 |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7:30 AM- 8:35 AM | Continental Breakfast or Coffee (Washington Room Foyer, 3rd Floor)  
IAOHRA Regional Meetings  
Atlantic – in Tubman Room  
Midwest – in Anthony Room  
Southern – in Jefferson Room  
Western – in Adams Room |
| 8:45 AM -10:40 AM | Plenary Session  
“The Value of International Human Rights Perspective for IAOHRA: Treaties, Gender Equity, Housing and Homelessness and Gun Violence” (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)  
JoAnn Kamuf Ward, Moderator, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute [international bodies recs to the U.S. on human rights]  
Robin Toma, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations [Background on IAOHRA’s work on International Human Rights and Intro of lead speaker Margaret Huang]  
Margaret Huang, Deputy Executive Director, Amnesty International USA, on “the Value of Human Rights for Advancing Justice in the U.S.” |
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Keynote (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<td><strong>Robin Toma, Moderator</strong>, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Gail Christopher</strong>, Vice President for Policy and Senior Advisor, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 PM-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Civil Rights Luncheon/ Plenary Session</td>
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<td><strong>Jim Stowe, Moderator</strong>, Director, Montgomery County Office of Human Rights</td>
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<td>Remarks:</td>
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<td><strong>Martin Castro</strong>, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Speaker:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sharon J. Lettman-Hicks</strong>, Executive Director and CEO, National Black Justice Coalition</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM- 2: 15 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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| 2:15 PM – 4:15 PM | **IAOHRRA Annual Corporate Meeting** (Washington Room, 3rd Floor) (Jean Kelleher)  
**Jean Kelleher, Presiding**, President of IAOHRA, Director, Alexandria Office of Human Rights |
| 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM | **Panel Discussion/A LGBTQ Youth Perspective “Real Talk”** (Howe Room, 33rd Floor)  
**Nellie Fitzpatrick**, Director of LGBT Affairs, Office of Mayor Jim Kenney  
**Film Presentation: The Pursuit: 50 Years in the Fight for the LGBT Rights**  
**Kahlib J. Barton, Moderator**, Vice Chair-Elect, Young Black Gay Men’s Leadership Initiative (YBGLI)  
**D’Angelo Morrison**, Southern Regional Coordinator, Young Black Gay Leadership Initiative (YBGLI)  
**Attic Youth Interns:**  
**Hazel Edwards**, Intern, Philadelphia  
**Giana Graves**, Intern, Philadelphia |
| Free Night/Explore Historic Philadelphia |                                                     |
| 9:00 PM-11:00 PM | Hospitality Suite (Presidential Suite, Room 3207)  
**Wednesday, August 10, 2016** |
| 7:30 AM- 8:30 AM | **Continental Breakfast** (Washington Room Foyer, 3rd Floor) |
| 8:45 AM- 9:15 AM | **Plenary: Fair Housing** (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)  
**Carol Johnson – Moderator**, Executive Director, Arkansas Fair Housing Commission  
**Greetings and Remarks**  
**Fred Underwood**, Director of Diversity and Community Outreach Programs at the National Association of Realtors® |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:20-10:40 AM</td>
<td>WORKSHOPS – Session 1 (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Workshop I: Fair Housing</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Carol Johnson – Moderator</strong>, Executive Director, Arkansas Fair Housing Commission</td>
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<td><strong>Jeffrey May</strong>, Principal of International Development and Planning, LLC (IDP), “Overview of Responsibilities of local, county and state agencies under AFFH Rule” (Technical Assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM-10:45 AM</td>
<td>Break/Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM-12:00 PM</td>
<td>WORKSHOPS – Session 2 (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Workshop III</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Carol Johnson – Moderator</strong>, Executive Director, Arkansas Fair Housing Commission</td>
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<td><strong>Timothy Moran</strong>, Deputy Chief, Housing and Civil Enforcement Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, “Justice Department Enforcement Initiatives-Making Fair Housing a Reality”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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“HUD’s Proactive Strategy for Fairness in Housing: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing”

**Gustavo Velasquez**, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM-1:30 PM</td>
<td>Workshop IV: A Powerful and Growing Government Alliance for Racial Equity is Taking Root in the U.S. (Adams Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<td>Sharon Ortiz, Moderator, Executive Director, Washington State Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>12:00 PM-1:30 PM</td>
<td>IAOHRA Awards Luncheon (Congress Room, 4th Floor)</td>
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<td>Dr. Alisa Warren, Moderator, Executive Director, Missouri Commission on Human Rights</td>
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<td>Keynote Speaker:</td>
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<td>Rev. Starsky Wilson, President &amp; CEO of Deaconess Foundation, Pastor of Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) and former Co-Chair of the Ferguson Commission.</td>
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<td>“Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Part I: Key Issues in the Struggle for Justice and Equity in Policing Since Ferguson (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alvin Gillard, Moderator, Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights</td>
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<td>Harpreet Sigh Mokha, Director, Philadelphia Region, U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Services</td>
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<td>Charles Ramsey, former Police Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia, Chair of the White House Task Force on 21st Century Policing</td>
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<td>Kelvyn Anderson, Executive Director, Police Advisory Commission, City of Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM-3:45 PM</td>
<td>Break/Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 PM-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Part II: Best Practices in Securing the Peace (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)</td>
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<td>Bobbie Wanzo, Moderator, Deputy Director, Illinois Department of Human Rights</td>
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<td>Kelvyn Anderson, Executive Director, Police Advisory Commission, City of Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM- 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Tour Historic Mother Bethel AME Church</td>
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<td>6:00 PM until 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Bus will depart and shuttle to the Mother Bethel AME Church</td>
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<td><em>(Hotel 12th Street Entrance)</em></td>
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<td>7:00 PM- 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Dialogue with Community: “Pressing the Issue LBGTQ and the Question of Religion, Community and Equal Rights” <em>(Mother Bethel AME Church)</em></td>
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<td>Dr. Jennifer S. Leath, Moderator, Asst. Professor of Religion and Social Justice, ILIFF School of Theology, Denver, Colorado</td>
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<td>Reverend Mark Tyler, Pastor, Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Fred Davie, Executive Vice President, Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<td>Reverend Jeffrey Jordan, Pastor, Whosoever Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Minister Naomi Christine Leapheart, POWER Metro Community Organizer, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Rabbi Ari Lev Forlani, Kol Tzedek, Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 PM-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Hospitality Suite (Presidential Suite, Room 3207)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>7:30 AM-8:30 AM</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast (Washington Room Foyer)</td>
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| 8:30 AM-10:00 AM   | “Where Do We Go From Here” A Critical Discussion of the Board and Membership Toward Advancing the Field of Human and Civil Rights. (Washington Room, 3rd Floor)  
Jean Kelleher, Presiding, President of IAOHRA, Director, Alexandria Office of Human Rights  
Robin Toma, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations  
Dr. Alisa Warren, Executive Director, Missouri Commission on Human Rights  
Rue Landau, Convener, Executive Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations  
-All IAOHRA members and attendees are strongly encouraged to attend this important session. |
| 10:00 AM           | Announcement of 2017 Conference Host Site  
Conference Adjournment |
Supports & Salutes

The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies

on its 2016 Annual Conference
IAOHRA AWARDS

ARTHUR L. GREEN CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Presented to an IAOHRA member for their lifelong advocacy of civil and human rights and for the advancement of racial/social justice.

BILL HALE AWARD

Presented to an organization or individual who promoted civil and human rights in their official capacity and has provided leadership in the development of programs to safeguard the human and civil rights of all people in their corporation and beyond.

HUMAN RIGHTS HERO AWARD (INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT)

Presented to an individual or an IOAHRA member for their continuing commitment to equal opportunity and civil rights demonstrated through efforts to create and implement high caliber programs for civil rights enforcement professionals and their communities.

RACIAL EQUITY AWARD (INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT)

Presented to an individual or an IAOHRA member for their continuing commitment to racial equity within their community.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Presented to an individual or an organization for outstanding work in civil and human rights internationally.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

This award shall be selected by the current IAOHRA President and presented to an individual for outstanding service in advancing the civil and human rights agenda.
Human Rights Hero

Risa E. Kaufman is the executive director of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School and a Lecturer-in-Law. Ms. Kaufman develops and advances international human rights norms and strategies in the United States through research, advocacy, network building, and training. Her advocacy and research focus on subnational implementation of human rights; access to justice; and economic, social, and cultural rights. The co-author of Human Rights Advocacy in the United States (West 2014) (with Martha F. Davis and Johanna Kalb), she also teaches a seminar on domestic human rights advocacy and supervises students in the Human Rights Clinic. In addition, Ms. Kaufman provides overall management and supervision for the Institute's activities and operations.

Ms. Kaufman has extensive experience in public interest litigation, advocacy and legal education with a special focus on poverty law, access to justice, and women’s rights. Prior to joining the Human Rights Institute, she engaged in impact litigation and policy initiatives as associate counsel at the Community Service Society of New York, as a Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest and Constitutional Law at the law firm of Gibbons, P.C., and as a Skadden Fellow at NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now Legal Momentum). Immediately prior to joining the Human Rights Institute at Columbia, she was an acting assistant professor of lawyering at New York University School of Law, and previously taught as an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School and Seton Hall Law School. She is a co-founder and board member of A Better Balance: The Work and Family Legal Center.


Ms. Kaufman holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Snow scholar. She clerked for Judge Ira DeMent in the U.S. District Court in Montgomery, Alabama, and holds a B.A. from Tulane University.
JoAnn Kamuf Ward is Associate Director for the Human Rights in the U.S. Project, at the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, where she is a lecturer-in-law and a supervisor in the Human Rights Clinic.

Ms. Ward focuses on promoting the use of human rights standards and strategies to address inequality and social injustice within US borders. Her work aims to strengthen awareness of human rights and to build domestic mechanisms to monitor, promote, and implement human rights. This includes research and writing, as well as international and domestic advocacy to improve access to basic rights at the federal, state and local level, working in coalition with a broad range of stakeholders.

JoAnn engages in strategic litigation in domestic courts as well as advocacy at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to address systemic discrimination and inequality. She also leads the Institute's efforts to create resources on state and local human rights implementation, and raise awareness of the value added of human rights in local governance.


Prior to joining the Human Rights Institute, JoAnn worked in the general litigation group at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, as well as an attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc. Ms. Ward received her J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from Fordham University School of Law in 2006. From 2008-2009, she served as a fellow at Fordham Law School’s Leitner Center for International Law and Justice. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband and two children.
Julie Nelson is the Senior Vice-President at the Center for Social Inclusion and Director of the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE). She is also a Senior Fellow at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California, Berkeley.

GARE is a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Nelson is the former Director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights where she provided vision and hands-on leadership for Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. She has 25 years of experience working for local, regional and federal government, including with Seattle’s Human Services Department, Administrative Services and the utilities; Housing and Urban Development; and Pima County Community Services in Tucson, Arizona.

She has a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Washington, and has served on the boards of many non-profits and is involved with groups working for racial equity.
Rocco Claps is deeply committed to public service and issues of fairness and equality. Claps, as the Director of the Illinois Department of Human Rights since 2003, is proud to serve in the cabinet of Governor Pat Quinn as the first openly gay cabinet official in the history of the State.

In this position, Claps oversees the Department’s primary objective—to prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military service or unfavorable military discharge in connection with employment opportunities, housing and real estate transactions, along with access to financial credit and to public accommodations. In addition, the Department oversees charges of sexual harassment.

The Department of Human Rights, under Claps’ leadership, was instrumental in passing legislation to include sexual orientation to the state’s Human Rights Act in 2005, making Illinois the 15th state to offer such protections. Prior to his appointment, he served as Deputy Assessor with the Cook County Assessor’s Office in Chicago, Illinois.

Claps held several prominent positions in the Administration of President Bill Clinton between 1993 and 1999, highlighted by his tenure as Chief of Staff of the 1996 Democratic National Convention held in Chicago. He is credited with helping to create one of the Party’s most successful conventions in history while significantly expanding minority contracting opportunities.

Claps also held a key post within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as Director of Scheduling and Advance for then-Secretary Donna E. Shalala.

In addition, at the Democratic National Committee, Claps served as Director of the Secretary’s Office and Deputy Director of Constituency Outreach, advising the Chairman of the Party and White House staff on issues important to key constituencies, in particular to the Gay and Lesbian community.

He started his public service career working for Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, as Communications and Special Projects Coordinator, from 1987 to 1992, developing and advising lawmakers on statewide legislation and local constituency issues. Highlighting his work was passage of anti-Hate Crimes legislation that included punishments for anti-gay and lesbian acts of violence.

Claps graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Illinois State University in 1983 with minors in Political Science and Public Relations. Claps is committed to creating a Department of Human Rights which ensures that discrimination is never tolerated in Illinois and that all individuals who approach the agency for assistance will be treated with respect and dignity.
The Reverend Starsky D. Wilson is a pastor, philanthropist and activist pursuing God’s vision of community marked by justice, peace and love. He is president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, pastor of Saint John’s Church (The Beloved Community) and former co-chair of the Ferguson Commission.

Deaconess is a faith-based grant making organization devoted to making child well-being a civic priority in the St. Louis region. From a corpus of approximately $50 million, the foundation has invested more than $75 million to advance its mission in the area. Starsky’s leadership has birthed a dynamic community capacity building model, aligning policy advocacy, organizing and community engagement with grantmaking. Through Saint John's, Wilson has led congregational activism on myriad issues, including youth violence prevention, Medicaid expansion, public school accreditation, voter mobilization, capping payday lending and raising the minimum wage, while more than quadrupling worship attendance and annual giving. There he established The Beloved Community Conference to resource local social justice ministries and Sojourner’s Truth: A Celebration of Preaching Women.

In 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed Rev. Wilson co-chair of the Ferguson Commission, a group of sixteen citizens empowered to study the underlying conditions and make public policy recommendations to help the region progress through issues exposed by the tragic death of Michael Brown, Jr. On September 14, 2015 they released the ground-breaking 'Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity" Report, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility.

Starsky serves national boards for Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund, Chicago Theological Seminary, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy and local ones for the United Way, St. Louis Regional Chamber, Teach for America-St. Louis and the Mayor’s Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Starsky earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, master of divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing the doctor of ministry degree from Duke University’s Divinity School. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Eta Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Starsky is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. They are raising four children in the city of St. Louis.

In recent years, Rev. Wilson’s leadership has been honored with numerous awards.
I am a Development Activist with an aggregate experience of more than thirty years. My professional career portrays a lucid snapshot of the conscientious and arduous hard work towards the combat for human rights retrieval and rescue for the marginalized and deprived people. I have the spirit of devoting the last reserve of my blood for this Holy Purpose. I have a multicultural and multinational school of thought towards the development, rehabilitation, relief and progress ministered through local, regional, provincial, national and international, CSOs, NGOs and NPOs.

Anjum Raza Mattu

Anjum Raza Mattu, is the Project Manager on, Ending Child Labor through Education (ECLE) from July 2016 through June 2017, the target area being the Okara Sahiwal districts. This project specifically focuses on providing non-formal education to the children working at kiln. This education will help liberating the children from the shackles of the brick kiln owners. It will help redress the issue of child labor and bondage of children at brick kilns by providing a healthy and constructive learning environment to the children. These deprived children will have the opportunity to become aware and learn about their rights and will be able to read and write and check their accounts & products. Once out of bondage they will be able to make career choices about their future. The education will help them to be placed in different fields of their choice. Those who go back to work in brick kilns will be equipped with education that will help them to fight for their rights and get out of bondage. More than 150 working children out of 150 families will continue their basic education and 450 children, 300 male & 450 female will indirectly beneficiaries of this proposed project.
SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PRESENTERS
Writer, poet, activist, and cultural worker, David Acosta was the founder and Executive Director of the GALAEI Project (Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative). The GALAEI Project was one of the first programs of its kind in the United States designed specifically to meet the needs of Latino sexual minorities as regards HIV transmission and prevention.

David’s work in movements for social change spans 30 years and includes work in such diverse areas as Native American rights, GLBT rights, and health care reform among others, including work with ACT UP Philadelphia and Queer Action.

Mr. Acosta is the recipient of many local and national awards for his work in HIV AIDS prevention, health care reform, GLBT rights and for his work on issues impacting art and artists.

He is a founding member of the National Campaign For Freedom of Expression, The Latin American Writers Collective, Desde Este Lado, Fuego Latino, The Art Emergency Coalition, Prevention Point Philadelphia, as well as co-founder of the Philadelphia Working Fund For Artists with HIV/AIDS. He has served on many boards and arts commissions and has been a contributing editor to Spanish Poz Magazine which honored him in its 1998/1999 Winter issue as one of 49 Latinos in the nation who’ve made a difference in the area of HIV/AIDS.

In 1999 he helped to organize the GMOC summit for the first Gay Men’s Health Summit in Boulder, and in 2000, he formed part of the six person collective responsible for planning the 2000 National Gay Men’s Health Summit and the 2003 summit. In 2004 he was once again one of the organizers of the National GLBTI Conference in Boston. He is also a founding member and a member of the board of National Coalition for GLBT Health.


In June of 1999 he stepped down as the founder & executive director of the GALAEI Project and is currently the coordinator of HIV/AIDS prevention programs for the city of Philadelphia.
Kelvyn Anderson is the Executive Director of Philadelphia’s Police Advisory Commission. He was appointed in January 2013, and has worked for the agency as an investigator and Deputy Director since 2000, specializing in records management, database development, mapping and other web-based tools for oversight. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Anderson has worked as an investigative reporter covering police, courts and government; a private investigator for attorneys and insurance companies; and as a congressional aide. A member of the board of Directors for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and moderator of the Police Oversight discussion group, he is an avid bike commuter, volunteers with the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, and is a member of Gtown Radio’s Board of Directors. In 2015, Anderson received the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission’s annual Award for Public Safety, in recognition of his work with the Commission. In March 2015, Mayor Michael Nutter appointed Anderson to the Police Community Oversight Board, which is tasked with implementing all recommendations from the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing and the Department of Justice Collaborative Reform Review of shootings by Philadelphia Police.

David Arnot, Commissioner, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission attended the University of Saskatchewan and received his LL.B. Degree in 1975. In 1978, he became a Senior Crown Prosecutor. He was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in 1981. In September of 1994, Judge Arnot was seconded to the Federal Department of Justice as Director General of the Aboriginal Justice. In May 1996, Judge Arnot was promoted to the position of Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada.

On January 1, 1997, he was seconded by the Federal Government to be the Treaty Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan for a 10 year period.

Judge Arnot’s work on the “Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Project” was specifically cited as a model for Canada by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism in his report presented in March 2004.

In October 2005, the Office of the Treaty Commission was selected by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to receive its biennial Award of Excellence for education programs in the public and government sector.

Judge Arnot introduced the phrase “We are all Treaty people” to capture the nature of the Treaty relationship in Canada.
Judge Arnot has produced and directed a number of video education projects. He has been involved in education for the Judiciary through the National Judicial Institute, the Western Judicial Education Centre, the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, and the American Judges Association.

Judge Arnot was honored by the Canadian Bar Association Saskatchewan Branch as a recipient of the “Distinguished Service Award” for 2007.

Judge Arnot was seconded from the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan to be Chief Commissioner for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission on January 15, 2009 for a five year term. On January 15, 2014, Judge Arnot was reappointed as Chief Commissioner for an additional five year term.

Chris Bartlett (born March 29, 1966) is a gay activist, feminist, educator, and researcher who lives in Philadelphia, PA, and is the Executive Director of The William Way Community Center.

The William Way LGBT Community Center serves the LGBT community of Philadelphia and its allies 365 days a year. From social groups, networking events, and counseling and support services to art exhibitions and cultural experiences, the Center consistently strives to provide new and innovative programs for the LGBT communities of Philadelphia.

The William Way LGBT Community Center was incorporated as the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Philadelphia in 1974. The State of Pennsylvania and the IRS recognized the Center as a not-for-profit organization in 1976, and the Center quickly leased its first home at 326 Kater Street. The original Community Center offered a library, archives, classes, support groups, and a small performance space.

In 2010, the Center hired Chris Bartlett as its fourth Executive Director. Bartlett has over twenty years of experience organizing in the LGBT Community in Philadelphia, and had formerly served as Director of the SafeGuards LGBT Health Project, the Director of the LGBT Assessment of Philadelphia and the LGBT Leadership Initiative, and the Interim Director of the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund. In his first year on the job, Bartlett focused on ramping up fundraising, expanding access to the Center and making use of new technologies to broaden awareness of the Center in the region and nationally.

In 2012, the Center continued to grow. It received a grant from the David Bohnett Foundation to expand the Cyber Center, and opened a new room for this purpose. New lighting brightened the exterior of the building, and new furniture was installed in the lobby. Arts and Culture are a growing part of the Center’s programs, including a star-studded concert featuring composer Jennifer Higdon, pianist Ching-Yun Hu, and violist Judy Geist in January 2013.

In 2013, the Center received a $200,000 grant to create the nation’s first LGBT jazz festival, which took place in September, 2014. The Center also has taken the lead on creating a series of programs, Reminder2015, which took place in spring 2015 and featured LGBT history throughout the City of Philadelphia. The Center also partnered with the John C. Anderson Apartments and the Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld Fund to create programming for the seniors who will live in this LGBT-friendly community just down the street from the William Way LGBT Community Center.
In 2014, the Center receive a three year grant from the William Penn Foundation to renovate and expand the John J. Wilcox Jr. Archives, and to hire staff to support the growth of the archives. The Center also appointed Candice Thompson to the new position of Chief Operating Officer, supervising all internal operations of the Center.

In 2015, the Center celebrated its 40th Year of Service to the LGBT communities of the region with a 40th Anniversary Indigo Ball at the National Constitution Center.

Susan Benes is Faculty Associate of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. She founded and directs the Dangerous Speech Project, to study speech that appears to increase the risk of intergroup violence - and to find ways to prevent this without infringing on freedom of expression. As part of this effort, she conducts empirical research on methods to diminish hateful and harmful speech online. Trained as an international lawyer at Yale and Georgetown Universities, Benes also teaches human rights at American University's School of International Service.

Jamira Burley, Manager, Gun Violence, Criminal Justice and Human Rights at Amnesty International USA. "Recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change, Jamira Burley is the essence of perseverance. As a nationally recognized speaker, youth and social justice advocate, as well as international trainer for adult and youth leaders. Jamira leads with marked expertise on youth engagement, education reform, global citizenship, corporate social responsibility, gun violence prevention and criminal justice reform. Presently, Jamira works as the Manager for Amnesty International USA— overseeing the organization’s work on gun violence, state violence and criminal justice reform.

Coming from a family, where both of her parents and twelve of her thirteen brothers have been incarcerated, Jamira’s advocacy is very personal. As the first of 16 children to graduate from high school and pursue higher education, Jamira is a Temple University graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and Legal Studies. Always looking to serve the communities she lives and works in, Jamira was appointed by United Nations Secretary General, Ban Kim-moon, to United Nations Global Education First Initiative, Youth Advocacy Group. For the last three years, she has traveled to over 15 countries advocating for the rights of every child to have access to quality education. With the belief that “Youth are the experts of their own experience” Jamira co-founded GenYNot; online platform that using the youth experience as a way to spark solution-driven dialogue and curate youth centric content."
**Martin R. Castro is the President and CEO of Castro Synergies, LLC, which provides strategic consulting services** to corporations, entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations seeking to have a positive social impact on diverse communities.

In January 2011, President Barack Obama appointed Marty to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (“USCCR”) and was elevated to Chairperson the following March. He is the agency’s eighth Chair and the first Latino Chairperson in the history of the USCCR. The USCCR is an independent, bipartisan, fact-finding commission, which informs the development of national civil rights policy and enhances enforcement of federal civil rights laws.


Marty, who was selected by Hispanic Business magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S. in October 2011, was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Roosevelt University in December 2011 for his work in the area of social justice.

Marty is also a former corporate board member of Bankmont Financial, Inc., where he served on the Audit Committee and Harris Bankcorp, Inc., where he served on the Community Reinvestment Act Committee. Marty was also a co-founder of New Futuro, LLC. New Futuro was a purpose-driven company that provided Latino families with the knowledge, guidance and the professional social network to get Latino youth into college and beyond.

The son and grandson of Mexican immigrants, Marty was the first in his family to graduate from high school and the first to obtain a higher education. He received his B.A. in political science in 1985 from DePaul University and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1988.

Marty practiced law and was a partner at several prestigious law firms, including Baker & McKenzie, then the world’s largest international law firm. Marty was also the Vice President of External affairs for Aetna, Inc., where he had profit and loss responsibility for Aetna’s diverse markets strategy in the Chicago Regional Market. Marty was also responsible for Aetna’s Chicago Regional Market philanthropy, with a special emphasis on helping to overcome health care inequalities in under-served communities.

The constant thread running throughout Marty’s career has been his personal commitment to community service. Marty has been an active leader in community, civic and philanthropic organizations, and blue ribbon and governmental committees. Additionally, in 2007, his extended family was honored for their many contributions to Hispanic life in Chicago in an impressive exhibit called “Colonia to Community” at the Chicago History Museum.

Marty currently is a trustee and past chair of the board of the National Museum of Mexican Art, the only accredited Latino Museum in the United States. He also serves on the board of directors of the Chicago
Community Trust (the “Trust”), and is one of the founders of Nuestro Futuro, a Latino philanthropy initiative at the Trust. He also is chair of the Trust’s Fellowship Selection Committee, helping to select non-profit leaders to perform community-focused fellowships. Marty is also on the National Board of Directors of Communities in Schools.

For his leadership and accomplishments, Marty has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the Cultural Champion Award from the Chicago Cultural Alliance, the Award of Excellence from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund; the Chicago Bar Association’s Vanguard Award; the National Medical Fellowships Humanitarian Award; selection as one of Chicago United’s Outstanding Business Leaders of Color; the Leadership in Philanthropy Award from the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement; selection as one of Crain’s Chicago Business’ "40 Under 40" rising stars; the Latino Professional of the Year Award from the Chicago Latino Network; the El Humanitario Award from the Office of the Cook County State’s Attorney; the Community Civic Achievement Award from the Mexican Civic Society of Illinois; and along with his wife, the Latino Philanthropic Couple of the Year Award from Chicago Latinos in Philanthropy/Latinos in Development. Marty also was the inaugural recipient of the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Cesar Chavez Humanitarian Award; the Edwin A. Rothschild Civil Liberties Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, that group’s highest honor, and the Inaugural Bob Edgar Champion of Democracy Award from Common Cause Illinois for his commitment to good government and political reform.

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**Dr. Gail Christopher is vice president for policy and senior advisor at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.** In this role, she serves on the president’s cabinet that provides overall direction and leadership for the foundation. Since joining the foundation in 2007, Gail has served as vice president for program strategy with responsibility for multiple areas of programming, including Racial Equity; Food, Health & Well-Being; Community Engagement and Leadership; as well as place-based programming in New Orleans and New Mexico.

Gail is a nationally recognized leader in health policy, with particular expertise and experience in the issues related to social determinants of health, health inequities and public policy issues of concern to our nation’s future. Her distinguished career and contributions to public service were honored in 1996 when she was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 2011 she was awarded the “Change Agent Award” by the Schott Foundation for Public Education; in 2012 she was the recipient of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) John C. MacQueen Lecture Award for her innovation and leadership in the field of maternal and child health. Most recently in 2015 she was the recipient of the Terrance Keenan award for Grant makers in Health. She is president of the board of the Trust for America’s Health.
Amanda Daflos serves as the Director of the Innovation Team in the Mayor’s Office of Budget and Innovation in the City of Los Angeles. Her team, funded by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Innovation Teams grant, works on key mayoral priorities and collaborates across City agencies and organizations to define pathways to improvement. She also supports the Mayor’s goals of moving the City toward gender parity and implementing CEDAW.

Amanda previously worked as a Senior Manager at Deloitte Consulting, and has spent the last decade working on federal, state and local government projects in the US and abroad. Her work focused on business process and organizational innovation and redesign, cost savings, change management and IT transformation and resulted in agencies winning awards such as the 2009 Social Innovation Spotlight Award from Governor Schwarzenegger and the 2014 National Association of Counties Recognition Award. She served on the 2014 National Management Advisory Council to Deloitte Consulting CEO and held leadership positions focused on community involvement and leadership for women in government.

Prior to joining Deloitte, Daflos was the Director of Programs for an international non-profit organization where she was responsible for programming and operations in the US, Tanzania, Peru and Nepal. Additionally, she co- founded and lead an annual trekking trip to Nepal which benefited organizations in Nepal. She also directed fundraising for and managed the building of a school she founded in Nepal, which was completed in 2013.

Daflos presently serves as a Deputy to the Los Angeles Honorary Consulate General to Nepal, a role she accepted in the wake of the 2015 earthquake. Daflos holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Colorado and a BA from Hamilton College. She is a 2014 graduate of the Leadership Tomorrow program in Seattle and lives in Los Angeles.

Frederick Davie joined Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York on August 15, 2011 as Executive Vice President. In this capacity, Mr. Davie is the institution’s chief administrative officer and serves as an advisor to the President for the structure and administration of the executive office, strategic planning, institutional advancement, and vision implementation. He also serves as the administrative center for all the work of the President, coordinating the efforts of executive office staff and senior staff in relation to the President.

He came to Union from the Arcus Foundation, where he served as Interim Executive Director and Senior Director of the Social Justice and LGBT Programs. In this capacity Mr. Davie managed the Foundation’s $20 million grant making budget and supervised the implementation of the Foundation’s funding strategy for social justice and LGBT programs.

Mr. Davie served on President Barack Obama’s transition team, performing agency reviews for faith-based and community initiatives, and accepted an appointment by President Obama to the White House Council on Faith- based and Neighborhood Partnerships. As a member of the White House Council, Mr. Davie provided counsel on strategies for more effective partnerships between federal agencies and community and faith organizations.
Mr. Davie provided leadership for the inclusion of non-traditional families and marginalized populations in policy formation.

Mr. Davie is a member of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Clergy Advisory Council. He is co-convenor of the CAC’s public safety committee, with a focus on community safety and improving police-community relations.

Mr. Davie has extensive experience in senior-level roles in philanthropic and social and economic justice organizations, including Public/Private Ventures and the Ford Foundation. At Public/Private Ventures, Mr. Davie served as President and CEO, promoted from Senior Vice President. As SVP, Mr. Davie developed a model national program for the successful re-entry of former offenders, and delivered a White House keynote address on the same in 2007. As a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, Mr. Davie developed a national program to support local faith-based and community juvenile justice programs to reduce rates of incarceration and recidivism.

Mr. Davie has also served in a number of leadership roles in public administration for the City of New York, including Deputy Borough President of Manhattan (1994-1997), and Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Community and Public Affairs (1993-1994).

Mr. Davie’s community and civic engagement work includes executive-level positions with New York City Mission Society, Brooklyn Ecumenical Cooperatives and the Presbytery of New York City.

A Presbyterian minister in the Presbytery of New York City, Mr. Davie has served the national church, presbytery and local congregations in various volunteer capacities.

Mr. Davie serves on the Boards of Directors of the Interfaith Youth Core and Community Connections for Youth. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Interfaith Assembly for Homelessness and Housing.

Mr. Davie holds a B.A. in Political Science from Greensboro College ’78, Dean’s List and the Harold H. Hutson Award; and an M.Div. from Yale University’s Divinity School ’82, Benjamin E. Mays Fellow of The Fund for Theological Education and President of Yale Black Seminarians. He is also a recipient of Yale Divinity School’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Hazel Edwards is an artist, LGBTQ activist, and a founding member of the Justice League at the Attic Youth Center. She uses social media platforms and art as resistance against the murders of transwomen of color. She and her co-workers created and wrote curriculum on gender oppression and anti-black racism. She enjoys this type of work because she is strongly connected to her community. She plans to be an art therapist in the future along with activism. There are many things she wants to do in the near future to help the trans community specifically. She is very passionate about social justice and educates folks based on her struggles being a biracial pansexual transgender woman in Philadelphia.
Ari Lev Fornari is the Rabbi at Kol Tzedek, a Reconstructionist synagogue in West Philadelphia. Ari Lev was ordained by the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in 2014 and has been working as an educator and prison chaplain in the Greater Boston Area. Ari Lev is deeply committed to the creation and embodiment of Torat Hayyim, a living tradition. This requires that our lives are informed by ancient wisdom and practices, and that Jewish traditions learn and grow from our insights and lived experiences. He is most inspired at the intersections of community, activism, and healing.

Alvin Gillard, Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. Mr. Gillard spent over 30 years with Baltimore City Government, primarily with the Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement (formerly the Community Relations Commission). He has served as an Intergroup Relations Representative, Mediation Coordinator, and Conflict Resolution Specialist. He served as an Assistant Director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services where his responsibilities included public relations and project management. In June, 2014 he was appointed Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

He is the recipient of numerous professional and community awards. Alvin maintains membership in many professional and civic organizations which include the Alpha-Phi-Alpha Fraternity. He also currently serves as President of the Maryland Association Human Rights Agencies (MAHRA), a professional organization consisting of civil rights enforcement agencies in Maryland.

Mr. Gillard hosted the public affairs show “XCHANGE” on local cable television for seven years, being honored as the best new local show of the year in 2004 by the National Cable Operators Group. He has been an active lecturer and presenter on issues related to race & intergroup relations, diversity, civil and human rights.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Gillard has championed for the rights of the disenfranchised, vulnerable and others from which he has emerged humble and committed.
Anuj Gupta is currently the General Manager of the historic Reading Terminal Market. In this role, he oversees all aspects of the nearly 80 merchant market’s day-to-day operations including leasing, marketing, special events, as well as guiding the non-profit corporation’s strategic direction. Prior to this role, Anuj served as Executive Director of Mt. Airy, USA. Under his direction, Mt. Airy USA undertook the redevelopment of one of the largest Transit Oriented Development sites in Philadelphia which in 2014 became a second campus for the acclaimed K-8 Wissahickon Charter School, invested over $1 million in redeveloping blighted sections of Germantown Avenue, launched a new business association and destination website for Mt. Airy and expanded the organization’s housing counseling capacity to serve nearly 600 people annually. Prior to this position, he served for three years (2008-2010) in Mayor Michael A. Nutter’s administration in a number of roles including Chief of Staff and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Licenses & Inspections, and Deputy to the Managing Director. Prior to joining Mayor Nutter’s administration, Anuj was an attorney at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP where he practiced in the firm’s real estate/affordable housing group from 2004-2007. In 2013, Anuj also opened his own restaurant – Jyoti Indian Bistro – a fast-casual south Asian restaurant in Mt. Airy.

Anuj is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D., 2003), the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government (M.G.A., 2003) and Carnegie Mellon University (B.S., 1996). He currently is a board member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians (Vice-Chair) and a member of the Board of Trustees of Chestnut Hill Hospital. In 2010, he was selected as one of the Philadelphia Business Journal’s “40 under 40”.

Sharon J. Lettman-Hicks, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer & CEO, National Black Justice Coalition. Throughout her career, Sharon J. Lettman-Hicks has brought vision, innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, political savvy, and strategic thinking to every endeavor she has attempted. She has the ability to bring talented people together to form cohesive leadership teams within organizations and build collaborative advocacy coalitions among very diverse stakeholders. A nationally recognized leader, Sharon thrives on challenges and seeks to develop and foster leadership in others. In January 2014, President Barack Obama named her to the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

In October 2009, Mrs. Lettman-Hicks became the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), a civil rights organization dedicated to empowering Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. Founded in 2003, NBJC has provided leadership at the intersection of national civil rights groups and LGBT organizations, advocating for the unique challenges and needs of the African-American LGBT community that are often relegated to the sidelines. NBJC envisions a world where all people are fully-empowered to participate safely, openly and honestly in family, faith and community, regardless of race, gender identity or sexual orientation. In concert with NBJC’s mission to eradicate racism and homophobia, her personal goals are to make the Black family the focal point of NBJC; to tell compelling stories about the Black
LGBT community; and to see Black LGBT people understood, embraced and respected for their valuable contributions to society.

Sharon comes to NBJC after eight years at the People For the American Way (PFAW) Foundation, where her responsibilities included leading the “Homophobia in the Black Church” program through their African American Religious Affairs division. As an Executive Vice President at the PFAW Foundation, Sharon’s responsibilities included overseeing the institution’s dynamic leadership programs and the organization’s engagement with supporters and investors, key constituency groups, and coalition allies. She was one of the chief architects of the leadership programs, and provided invaluable vision and innovative implementation models that led to the programs’ tremendous growth. Sharon has been successful in orchestrating strategic partnerships, ranging from building grassroots activism to catalyzing the engagement and investment of key influencers and funders.

Sharon is renowned for her political acumen and an ability to bring together unlikely allies as stakeholders in joint collaborations that strengthen the progressive movement and give power to new ideas and policies. Her efforts to bridge divides across race, religion and sexual orientation were featured in the Gill Foundation’s 2007 annual report, which identified her as a key ally for the LGBT equality movement. Sharon has been a powerful spokesperson for religious liberty, and the separation of church and state; her leadership in this arena has gained the confidence of individual and foundation investors. The Rockwood Leadership Institute selected Sharon as one of 24 progressive executive management leaders for the 2008-09 Leading from the Inside OutFellowship Program, designed to strengthen senior leadership in the non-profit sector.

She has appeared on broadcast and in print media nationally, including CNN, MSNBC, the Washington Post, Black Enterprise magazine, the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" and The Root.com. She currently serves as a member of the National Business Inclusion Consortium for the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC); Project Advisory Committee Member of the LGBT Safe Schools Initiative for the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN); the Advisory Council of Creative Coalition’s Be A STAR: Show Tolerance And Respect, a national anti-bullying initiative; and the Executive Committee of the National Black Leadership Forum. In addition, Sharon has served on the Board of Directors for the National Stonewall Democrats and the Advisory Council of Progressive Majority’s Racial Justice Campaign; and she has been a national trainer for Wellstone Action, Democracia USA and the Front Line Leaders Academy. Sharon believes activism includes the need to financially support your interests—she is a Justice Society member of NBJC, and a fully-paid life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., FAMU National Alumni Association, and the NAACP. Mrs. Lettman-Hicks is the proud wife of a retired Iraqi War veteran who served in the United State Air Force, and they reside in Southern Maryland, near Washington, DC.
Margaret Huang, Deputy Executive Director of Campaigns and Programs, Amnesty USA. Ms. Huang joined the global human rights organization on January 6, 2014 as Deputy Executive Director of Campaigns and Programs. Huang will be based in Washington, D.C.

A visionary leader, speaker, and writer, Huang has close to 20 years of experience in human rights advocacy and policy, overseeing national campaigns that have led to advancements in human rights legislation. As the executive director of Rights Working Group, she leads a membership coalition of more than 350 civil liberties, immigrant rights, and human rights organizations that was founded in the aftermath of 9/11 to restore human rights protections eroded by national security policies.

Her diverse experience and commitment to human rights advocacy embodies Amnesty’s mission and vision,” said Steven W. Hawkins, executive director, Amnesty International USA. "Margaret Huang knows how to build impactful campaigns that will resonate with people from all walks of life and inspire more people to take action in solidarity with those on the front lines of human rights struggles around the world."

During her tenure as executive director of Rights Working Group (RWG), Huang has led successful campaigns against racial profiling and harsh immigration enforcement. She helped build RWG’s nationally renowned campaign, Racial Profiling: Face the Truth, which seeks to prohibit racial and religious profiling by law enforcement agencies. She also established RWG as a national leader in immigration reform, challenging unfair immigration and border enforcement policies.


David J. Johns is the executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. The Initiative works across federal agencies and with partners and communities nationwide to produce a more effective continuum of education programs for African American students. Prior to joining the Department, Johns was a senior education policy advisor to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) under the leadership of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. Before working for the Senate HELP committee under Chairman Harkin, Johns served under the leadership of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. Johns also was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow in the office of Congressman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. Johns has worked on issues affecting low-income and minority students, neglected youth and early childhood education and with Historically Black Colleges and
Universities (HBCUs). His research as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow served as a catalyst to identify, disrupt and supplant negative perceptions of black males within academia and society. Johns is committed to volunteer services and maintains an active commitment to improve literacy among adolescent minority males. Johns obtained a master’s degree in sociology and education policy at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he graduated summa cum laude while simultaneously teaching elementary school in New York City. He graduated with honors from Columbia University in 2004 with a triple major in English, creative writing and African American studies. Johns was named to the Root100 in both 2014 and 2013, selected as a member of the Ebony Power 100 in 2015 and received an early career award from Columbia University, Teachers College in 2016.

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Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A., is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission (AFHC), the only state agency specifically charged with protecting the civil rights of Arkansans. The Commission is a quasi-judicial, regulatory, enforcement agency which with receives, investigates and otherwise resolves fair housing/fair lending complaints within the State of Arkansas.

Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas; a Master of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

Her career includes work in public relations and media, including time as a reporter for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record and work in the Public Relations/External Relations Departments of Texas Christian University and Bowen Law School, respectively.

A licensed attorney, Ms. Johnson has worked in various areas of administrative, civil and criminal law, and held a clerkship with the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office. Ms. Johnson previously worked with the Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission performing de novo reviews of Administrative Law Judge decisions and with the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services litigating child dependency-neglect cases and participating in administrative hearings regarding adult protective services. Additionally, Ms. Johnson is a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Garland County, Arkansas.
Jean M. Kelleher, IAOHRA President. Ms. Keller has been Director of the City of Alexandria’s Office of Human Rights since May 2000. Before that, she was a Managing Attorney at Legal Services of Northern Virginia, the region’s legal aid program. Ms. Kelleher graduated from Connecticut College, did post-graduate work at Georgetown, and received her law degree from the Washington College of Law at American University. She has been a litigator and an administrator of pro bono, lawyer referral and children’s law programs.

In 2007 she became a Certified Public Manager through the George Washington University/COG (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments) Institute for Excellence in Public Leadership. She serves on the City Manager’s Management Team and on the City Council’s Legislative Committee.

She is a past President of the Alexandria Bar Association, served on the board of directors of the Bar Foundation, and has represented Alexandria on the Virginia State Bar Council and Executive Committee. Ms. Kelleher is passionate about children (and has 5!); she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, and served on the Virginia Bar Association Commission on the Legal Needs of Children. She was selected to serve on the Professionalism faculty of the Virginia State Bar, served as an instructor/mentor in the City of Alexandria’s Leadership and Management Institute (LMI), and teaches at COG (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments). Ms. Kelleher severs as the President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

Rue Landau, Esquire is the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) and the Fair Housing Commission (FHC). Prior to her appointment, Rue was a senior attorney in the Housing Unit at Community Legal Services (CLS) in Philadelphia. At CLS she specialized in landlord-tenant law with a focus on public and subsidized housing. In 2002, she authored a chapter entitled, “Criminal Records and Subsidized Housing: Families Losing the Opportunity for Decent Shelter,” for Every Door Closed, a publication addressing the barriers facing parents with criminal records. In September 2006, she was named a Pennsylvania Lawyer on the Fast Track by American Lawyer Media. During her tenure at CLS, Rue was an active member of the Philadelphia Bar Association where she served as co-chair of the Municipal Court Committee and as a member of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Rue has served on the boards of Bread and Roses Community Fund, the Women’s Medical Fund and Liberty City Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Democratic Club and the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC). She currently serves on the board of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA).
Naomi Christine Leapheart, a daughter of Detroit, is a minister, educator, organizer, and organizational consultant. She earned the Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2016. At Lancaster, Naomi was a Presidential Scholar and received awards for preaching and worship. She was also honored to receive the United Church of Christ’s Joseph H. Evans Scholarship for her justice advocacy and proven leadership abilities in the church and world.

Naomi is the suburban community organizer for POWER, a multi-faith, multi-racial network of congregations working to shift power, change public policy, and do justice for the most vulnerable in Metro Philadelphia. As an anti-oppression consultant, Naomi delights in facilitating difficult and transformative conversations about race, gender, sexuality, and faith.

Before joining POWER, Naomi served as Co-Pastor and Minister of Music at the Wisdom's Table at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. She is proudly affiliated with the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, an ecumenical African-American Christian leaders and laity invested in a theology of radical inclusivity. Her work is included in the volume, "From Generation to Generation: A Commemorative Collection of African American Millennial Sermons from the Festival of Preachers 2010-2015," a rare and unique compilation of what the nation’s most promising young African-American ministers are thinking and proclaiming about the Christian faith (Chalice Press, 2015).

Naomi shares her life with her partner in love and ministry, Kentina Washington, who is a chaplain and religious educator. Together, they are raising a curious, energetic, future Oscar-winning tween-ager, Sophia.

Dr. Rachel Levine, M.D., is currently the Physician General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine. Dr. Levine graduated from Harvard College and the Tulane University School of Medicine. She completed her training in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

She joined the staff at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in 1993 where she started the Penn State Hershey Eating Disorders Program. This program offers multidisciplinary treatment for children, adolescents and adults with eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.
Jennifer S. Leath joined the Iliff faculty in 2015 as assistant professor of religion and social justice. Leath’s research concentrates on the intersection of sexualities and religions in sacred communities and spaces of African Diaspora. Her scholarship also engages the intersection of Afro-Diasporic women’s spiritualities and social activism. Bridging concerns of religious ethics and African American studies, much of her current writing and teaching focuses on the sexual ethics and economies of historically Black churches and Afro-Diasporic religion in the United States.

Committed to interdisciplinary scholarship, Leath is preparing her first monograph, “Childcare Activists: Reframing Afro-Diasporic Faith from the Home to the Streets,” which actively engages the intersection of the spiritualities, activism, and secular childcare work of Afro-Diasporic women in the United States. She has also begun work on a second monograph, titled “From Black to Quare (and then) to Where: Ethical Trajectories of Black Sexualities.”

Professor Leath’s other research and teaching interests include the metaphysics of womanism, African and Afro-Diasporic approaches to sexualities in political economies, ecumenisms of the “global south,” the intersections of Buddhist and womanist thought, and interdisciplinary approaches to interreligious dialogue. Prior to joining Iliff’s faculty, Dr. Leath was a 2014-15 research associate and visiting lecturer at Harvard Divinity School’s Women’s Studies in Religion Program. She also helped to establish the Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics & Social Justice at Columbia University, working as the assistant director of research after completing her doctoral work. In addition to her research, she is an active member of various academic communities, including the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the American Academy of the Religion, and the Society for Christian Ethics.

Dr. Leath is also an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church where she has served as pastor in White Plains, New York and in Media, Pennsylvania, and she has served as an associate pastor at churches in Philadelphia, New York, and New England.

Anthony Lewis is the Community Relations Specialist for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. He previously served as an Investigator with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in Detroit for 5 years. Anthony is the department’s liaison to the civil rights/human relations organizations located across the State of Michigan. Anthony is currently building coalitions throughout the State of Michigan between Law Enforcement and Community Leaders via Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT). Anthony also leads the Department’s Youth Initiatives, working with school districts on programming and policy development and was instrumental in developing the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Leadership Academy. In addition, Anthony has developed numerous presentations on cultural diversity and civil rights law. Anthony began his career in corporate America with FedEx Corp, serving as a Ramp Operations Manager (airport) in Newark, NJ and Station Operations Manager in multiple locations throughout Michigan and Ohio. Anthony is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Economics/Labor Relations.
In 1973, Spencer H. Lewis, Jr., joined the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a Law Clerk with the Philadelphia Litigation Center. He subsequently served as a Trial Attorney (1973-1977), Supervisory Trial Attorney (1977-1979), and Regional Attorney with the Philadelphia District Office (1979-1988). During the 15 years, Mr. Lewis was responsible for trial, supervision and management of major litigation under Title VII, the Equal Pay Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Rehabilitation Act. He also managed the Complaint Adjudication Unit which resolves charges of discrimination in the federal sector.

In January 1988, he was appointed District Director of the Detroit District and in June 1989, he became District Director of the New York District. As District Director, he was responsible for the enforcement of federal employment discrimination laws in New York, the New England states, as well as northern New Jersey. In October 2010, he became the District Director of the Philadelphia District. He is responsible for enforcing federal employment discriminations laws in Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, West Virginia, Eastern Ohio, Maryland, and Delaware. He serves on numerous agency-wide committees and task forces which review the agency’s goals, mission and structure.

Mr. Lewis received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He received a Master of Arts degree in Labor and Industrial Relations (Labor Economics) from the University of Illinois in 1969 as well as a JD degree from its Law School in 1973.

Mr. Lewis is a former New York City Combined Federal Campaign Chair, and former New York City Federal Executive Board Chair. He has been admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania Bar since 1973. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Labor and Employment Law Section and the Federal Bar Association. Mr. Lewis is a member of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, and Board Member from 2005-2012. He is also a Member of the Board of the Painted Bride.

Before joining the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (1964-1968) he was employed as a Personnel Interviewer with the Personnel and Labor Relations Division, the Budd Company, Philadelphia, which was a supplier of parts to the auto industry. He was responsible for recruitment, hiring and selection of hourly as well as white collar staff. He also handled labor relations and employee benefit problems.
Darby-Madison is a driven servant leader with over fifteen years of experience developing education reform strategies that improve K-16 systems. A specific expertise resides in the public workforce system, promoting services that connect policies to practice and generating resources for under-served youth and communities.

Currently, Maryum works for the City of Philadelphia as Director, of Youth Workforce and Development (YWD) for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR). As Director, Maryum works with the Managing Director's Office to advocate policies that prevent barriers to employment, leverage funding and develop programming for the next generation of public sector employees entering City government. The YWD division also includes funding for prioritized contracts on behalf of the City that support summer jobs, opportunity youth and returning citizens.

In her prior role as Special Assistant to the Deputy Mayor of Environmental and Community Resources, Maryum supported a "cradle to career" policy agenda within the Parks & Recreation and Free Library of Philadelphia systems. This work resulted in a comprehensive youth agenda that positioned the department as a leading partner; supporting coordinated services for youth and young adults.

In an effort to improve workforce equity, diversity and inclusion, Maryum will collaborate with a team of dedicated colleagues working to ensure equitable employment opportunities within City Government and throughout Philadelphia's thriving workforce.

Jeffrey May, Principal of International Development and Planning, LLC (IDP). Mr. May is a national expert on fair housing planning and affordable housing formally serving as the Assistant Director of National Neighbors (NN), a program of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. In his previous post, He was the Project Director of the Fair Housing Program for DB Consulting Group, Inc. DB Consulting Group, Inc. is a minority-owned firm that provides support and technical assistance to federal agencies. Mr. May managed the firm’s fair housing investigation, research, planning, enforcement, and education activities throughout the country.

Prior to joining DB Consulting Group, Inc., he was the Municipal Services Consultant at Iconographx, Inc. His responsibilities were to provide clients with technical assistance, census data mapping and analysis services on affordable housing, fair housing, and urban and regional planning projects. Before joining Iconographx, Inc. he served as the Executive Director of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC), a private non-profit organization established to address and eradicate housing discrimination throughout the state of Louisiana.

Mr. May previously was the Member Services Director at the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), an umbrella national civil rights organization made up of over eighty fair housing organizations across the country.
His responsibilities were to provide technical assistance and support for investigation, education and administrative activities to all member organizations. Before NFHA, he was the Coordinator of Investigations at the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC). At GNOFHAC, he conducted investigations and education trainings. Prior to working in fair housing, he was a case manager for Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority’s Supportive Housing program that targeted homeless individuals with substance abuse and mental health diagnoses.

In the past fourteen years of employment, Mr. May has received extensive training as a testing coordinator from the National Fair Housing Alliance and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in rental, sales, insurance and lending investigations. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and a Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning. He was a member of the Fannie Mae Housing Impact Advisory Council, and the National Fair Housing Alliance’s Board of Directors. He is a member of the national, community development division and state of Louisiana American Planning Associations.

Harpreet Singh Mokha currently serves as the Mid-Atlantic Region Director for the Community Relations Service (CRS), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he works with law enforcement and local government officials, community leaders, and federal agencies to support those leaders in addressing tension associated with allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin. CRS also works with these leaders to help communities develop the capacity to more effectively prevent and respond to violent hate crimes committed on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

Paul Monteiro, Director Community Relations Service at U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Monteiro previously served as director of AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) at the Corporation for National and Community Service. From 2009 to 2014, Mr. Monteiro was an advisor in the White House Office of Public Engagement and led outreach to faith-based organizations, Arab-American communities, and anti-poverty groups. He also coordinated the President’s mentorship program for young men attending local high schools. Mr. Monteiro received a B.A. from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from the Howard University School of Law.
Timothy J. Moran is a Deputy Chief in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. He has over 20 years experience litigating cases enforcing the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights statutes. Throughout his career, he has tried cases in various federal district courts, argued cases in the United States Courts of Appeals, and drafted briefs filed in the United States Supreme Court. A proud native of San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Moran began his legal career by serving as a law clerk to the late Honorable William Wayne Justice, in the Eastern District of Texas, from 1991 to 1992.

Mr. Moran joined the Civil Rights Division in 1992, through the Attorney General's Honors Program, and was assigned to the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section, where he litigated Fair Housing Act cases throughout the United States. From 1998 to 2000, he worked in the Division’s Appellate Section, where he argued civil rights cases in the United States Courts of Appeals. In 2000, Mr. Moran was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section. In 2010, Mr. Moran received the Attorney General’s John Marshall Award For Outstanding Legal Achievement For Participation in Litigation, for his work in securing a $2.7 settlement in United States v. Donald Sterling (C.D. Cal.), the largest settlement of a lawsuit alleging discrimination in rental that had ever been obtained by the Department. Mr. Moran graduated from Harvard Law School, cum laude, in 1991. Mr. Moran received his B.A. from Southern Methodist University, cum laude, in 1987. Mr. Moran has spoken frequently to fair housing groups, state and local agencies, and members of the housing industry about compliance with and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act.

Julie Nelson is the Senior Vice-President at the Center for Social Inclusion and Director of the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE). She is also a Senior Fellow at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California, Berkeley. GARE is a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Nelson is the former Director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights where she provided vision and hands-on leadership for Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. She has 25 years of experience working for local, regional and federal government, including with Seattle’s Human Services Department, Administrative Services and the utilities; Housing and Urban Development; and Pima County Community Services in Tucson, Arizona. She has a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Washington, and has served on the boards of many non-profits and is involved with groups working for racial equity.
Yolanda Francisco-Nez serves as Director of Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski’s Office of Diversity & Human Rights. Her work embraces and supports the mission of the Office, which is to “elevate the protection of basic human rights for all Salt Lake City residents through policy, education, advocacy and celebration.”

In 2009, Yolanda’s leadership was instrumental in the passage of local legislation to allow legal protections in housing and employment for the LGBTQ community – legislation that was duplicated in several municipalities throughout the state.

Yolanda has led out on education for Salt Lake City’s immigrant and refugee communities regarding employee rights in the workplace. Yolanda developed the Human Rights Education Project which addresses barriers refugee and immigrant populations faced during integration. The project has received national and international attention, and has been recognized by the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Yolanda has also been a key force in the formation of a committee focused on issues of equality for women in Salt Lake City. The committee released “The Status of Women in Salt Lake City Report” which included policy recommendations to promote equal opportunity for women in the areas of education, politics, economics, health, safety and social wellbeing.

Yolanda has a bachelor’s degree in business management and a master’s degree in business administration. She is the founder of the nationwide Native American Women’s Book Club. She is a former board member of the Utah Governor’s State Charter School Board and current chair of the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Yolanda is a board member of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, KUED and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Yolanda is from the Navajo/Dine’ tribe. She is the granddaughter of the late Vincent Yazza, who was a Navajo Code Talker during WWII. Yolanda and her husband have five children and four grandchildren.

Sharon Ortiz, Western Regional Representative, was appointed Executive Director of The Washington State Human Rights Commission on May 15, 2009. Sharon has worked for the Commission for eight years. She started her career with the agency as an investigator in our Yakima Office and prior to her appointment was the manager of operations in eastern Washington. Sharon has been very involved with the urban Indian Community in Spokane. Sharon began her civil rights career at Northwest Fair Housing Alliance as first a testing coordinator and then assistant director. She has worked in civil rights for almost two decades, has great passion for the work and believes in equity for all. Sharon is an alumni of Whitworth College in Spokane.
Kathleen R. Padilla is the Director of the Office of Business Diversity at the Philadelphia International Airport. She is responsible for diversity participation on several hundred million dollars of DBE Contracting and Airport Concessions, DBE Certification, and Small Business Promotion. She has experience as a small business owner, as a social worker and as a consulting investigator for the DOJ.

She started her LGBT advocacy in 1984 helping to organize the Transgender Week in Provincetown, MA. Founded in 1975; Transgender Week is the longest running event of its type and the oldest LGBT event in Provincetown. She’s served as the interim head of the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition, on several Community Boards, as the President of OutFront! and has been a key leader in the passage of several LGBT rights bills. Ms. Padilla was the first transgender delegate to a Presidential Convention from Pennsylvania, was a representative to the White House Policy Meeting on transgender issues and helped draft the DNC’s first transgender voter protection guidelines. She was a Victory Fund David Bohnett Leadership Fellow recipient to the Kennedy School of Government and was honored with the Generations Award from the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition. She currently serves on the Mayor’s Commission for Women, the Mayor’s LGBT Policy Board and the Mazzoni Health Center Board.

Ms. Amy V. Peters has served as the Director, National Fair Housing Training Academy (NFHTA), since September 2012. NFHTA’s core mission is to train fair housing professionals on investigating and enforcing fair housing and civil rights laws. Prior to NFHTA she was the President of a product manufacturing company, which distributed products throughout the U.S. and abroad.

She served 32 years in the Federal Government at the Departments of Transportation, Energy and Housing & Urban Development. Her entire government career was in the Training & Education arena. She spent the last 24 of those 32 years at the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) where she administered training programs for all of HUD’s program areas, including Fair Housing, Single & Multifamily Housing, Community Planning & Development, Public & Indian Housing, the Real Estate Assessment Center & others. Ms. Peters retired from HUD in 2004 as the Administrator of the HUD Training Academy, which provided oversight and administration of all HUD training programs in program technical, leadership & management and general skills training areas.

She is a Faculty Member at the Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg, Virginia and holds a Masters’ Degree in Administration and a Bachelor’s Degree in Technology & Management, both from Maryland University, University College.
Rev. Jeffrey H. Jordan-Pickett is the Pastor of Whosesoever Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia (WMCCP). A native West Virginian, Rev. Jeff moved to Pennsylvania after being outed and defrocked by the then Bishop of the 3rd Episcopal district of the AME Church. Jordan-Pickett, originally met WMCCP when accidentally stumbling upon and attending his first pride parade. In October 1994, Pastor Jeff was installed as pastor of WMCCP. Since his installation Jordan has moved WMCCP in the direction of offering transformational Christ centered worship celebrations and ministries which are more relevant to the glbtq community. After spending 10 plus years as a resident of the William Way LGBTQ Community Center, Jordan-Pickett has recently led the congregation in relocating to University City where he hopes those already a part of WMCCP will begin better serving LGBTQ marginalized communities.

Charles H. Ramsey was appointed Police Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department on January 7, 2008 by Mayor Michael Nutter. Commissioner Ramsey leads the fourth largest police department in the country with over 6,600 sworn members and 800 civilian members. He brings the knowledge and experience of over forty years in the law enforcement profession. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Commissioner Ramsey served in the Chicago Police Department for nearly three decades in a variety of assignments. He began his career in 1968, at the age of 18, as a Chicago Police cadet. He became a police officer in February 1971, and was promoted through the ranks, eventually serving as commander of patrol, detectives and narcotics units. In 1994, he was named Deputy Superintendent of the Bureau of Staff Services, where he managed the department’s education and training, research and development, labor affairs, crime prevention and professional counseling functions.

Prior to his current appointment in Philadelphia, he served as the Chief of Police of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department from 1998 to 2006. Ramsey was the longest serving chief of the Metropolitan Police Department since DC Home Rule and the second longest-serving in the Department’s history. Under then Chief Ramsey’s leadership, the Department regained its reputation as a national leader in urban policing. Crime rates declined by approximately 40 percent during his tenure, community policing and traffic safety programs were expanded, and MPDC recruiting and hiring standards, training, equipment, facilities and fleet were all dramatic upgraded. He also oversaw and participated in numerous high profile investigations and events in Washington DC, such as: The 1998 murders of two United States Capitol Police officers inside the U.S. Capitol Building; The Y2K National Celebration in Washington, DC; The International Monetary Fund/World Bank Protests in April, 2000; The Chandra Levy Murder Investigation, The 9/11Terrorist Attacks, The 2001 Anthrax Attacks; The 2002 DC Sniper Investigation; The funeral of President Ronald W. Reagan and the 2001 and 2005 Presidential Inaugurations.

Commissioner Ramsey holds both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in criminal justice from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the National Executive Institute.
After his retirement from the Washington DC Police Department, he served as a member of the Independent Commission on Security Forces of Iraq, led by now National Security Advisor General James L. Jones, and also led the group of law enforcement professionals that reviewed the Iraqi police forces which garnered international attention for their work. He completed the Executive Leadership Program at the Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security in February 2008.

Commissioner Ramsey has lectured nationally on community policing and is seen as an expert in the area of policing and homeland security. He currently serves as President of the Police Executive Research Forum, First Vice President of the Major Cities Chiefs, and is a member of the Executive Committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He now serves on the National Advisory Council for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), comprising experts in the field of emergency preparedness, management and response.

Officer Jim Ritter, Seattle Police Department. Officer Ritter currently serves as the LGBTQ Liaison, SAFE PLACE Coordinator. He previously held the position of Deputy Sheriff of the Kittitas County Sheriff’s office, hired at 18, and served from 1980 -1983. He has held various positions from Patrol & Foot beat officer, Director & Training Coordinator of the Seattle Officers’ Guild, Vice Detective and Community Outreach Officer. From 2014 to present he has worked as Developer of the Seattle Police Department’s SAFE PLACE Initiative. The SAFE PLACE Initiative is designed to assist the victims of LGBTQ hate crimes and to collaborate with Seattle Business to provide a safe premise for the victims of these crimes until police arrive. This program continues to gain international attention for its innovation, simple design, low cost and community outreach capabilities.

Officer Ritter designed, proposed and implemented the concept of traveling throughout the U.S. with a full hiring team, including Civil Service examiners to expedite the process of screening, testing, processing and hiring entry-level and lateral Police Officers. Our model was the first of its kind in the Nation and covered by TIME Magazine and other media.

He has designed, proposed and implemented SPD’s “Career Partnership Program”, in which collaboration agreements were formulated with every Community College and University in the State of Washington that allowed students college credits for attending a 2-day class in which upon completion they would be allowed to take Seattle’s Civil service test (on site) and potentially be hired by the SPD. It was the first concept of its kind in the U.S.

Proposed and collaborated with one of the worlds’ largest advertising firms (JWT) to design (at no cost) a non-traditional “brand” and “slogan” for the SPD to assist in hiring police officers. The final concept and hiring campaign was “A Job Like No Other, In a City Like No Other” and won two international design awards for JWT, including best color design and best overall original concept in advertising (beating out all other Fortune 500 company’s advertising campaigns in 1999). I was flown to Chicago to receive the award, along with JWT executives.
Officer Ritter is also the Founder and President, Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum: 1997-Present: The Police Museum was established in 1997 as a private, 501c-3 educational facility that is designed to enhance police/community relations. The Museum was formed to “demystifying” the police and allows citizens and police officers the opportunity to learn about the historical, cultural and technological changes within the Seattle Police Department and King County Sheriff’s Office since their inception in the 1860’s.

The Police Museum also has the largest fleet of original, vintage police vehicles in the United States. Spanning from 1948-2003, these vehicles travel throughout the Pacific Northwest to special events and cars shows and demonstrates the changes in police transportation. These historic vehicles are a huge community relations tool that are seen by over 1 million citizens per year and establishes positive dialogue between the police and the communities they serve. On occasion I will even respond to calls in our original 1970 Plymouth Satellite and will often speak with nearly 1,000 people per day. (See the Associated Press coverage from 2013)

In the process of completing an 800-page history book on the Seattle Police. This 15-year project will be the most comprehensive and detailed history book on a U.S. Police Department ever published and will discuss all aspects of the SPD, ranging from corruption-plagued scandals, race relations, civil unrest, technology changes, cultural shifts within the organization and historic progressions.

The Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum has consulted with multiple police agencies throughout the U.S. that would like to form their own police museums. In 2009, I designed and assisted in the construction of the Silver State Police Museum in Virginia City, Nevada. The museum is located in the historic 1876 Storey County Courthouse and Jail.

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Mark Segal, PGN publisher, is the nation’s most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. Walter Cronkite called him a friend, Hillary Clinton told him he was more tenacious than she, and Barack Obama just felt that they needed to sit down and talk, and they did. But most in the LGBT refer to Mark Segal as the dean of American gay journalism. Respected by his peers for pioneering the idea of local LGBT newspapers, he is one of the founders and former president of both The National Gay Press Association and the National Gay Newspaper Guild.

In the radical days of New York City in June 1969 after Stonewall and the beginnings of the militant gay movement, Mark was one of the four members of the Action Group that organized demonstrations for three nights after the infamous Stonewall Riots. His personal accounts of that night appear in numerous history books. He immediately joined forces with others to create the Gay Liberation Front (GLF), which signified the new radicalization of the gay community in New York. At the age of 18 he was the youngest of the pioneers and, within a year, founded Gay Youth, the nation’s first organization to deal with the issues of gay teens and endangered LGBT youth. By age 19, he was president of Gay Youth, and a force in GLF NY.
Wanting to take the community out of isolation, Segal then created the Gay Raiders and took the fight national. The Raiders’ campaign against the television networks changed America and the gay Rights struggle. Before ACT UP, GLAAD, “Will & Grace,” “Roseanne” or “Ellen,” Segal was America’s first gay television star. Segal understood the power of media, and realized the LGBT community being created was one of isolation and invisibility. He believes to this day that educating the masses brings equality. The pivotal point of that campaign to end media silence came when Segal disrupted the CBS “Evening News with Walter Cronkite,” an event covered in newspapers across the country and viewed by 60 percent of American households, many seeing or hearing about homosexual rights for the first time. Including several other “zaps,” the trade newspaper Variety claimed Segal had cost the industry $750,000 in production, tape delays and lost advertising revenue. It labeled him a danger to television. And the networks caved. Segal became the poster boy of gay rights. Overnight, he was feature fodder for newspapers and magazines and did the talk show circuit, including three times on “The Phil Donahue Show,” the “Oprah” of its time.

Mark then decided to bring change to the political establishment. Again, his tactics made him a force to be reckoned with. Few candidates running for election in Pennsylvania go through the state without a courtesy call with Mark or — in the case of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama — an interview in the Philadelphia Gay News, which Mark founded in 1975. Segal's favorite achievement in this area was tricking U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornberg to sign and issue a Gay Pride proclamation. Segal reached political prominence when he launched the nation’s first campaign to unseat a city councilman. With the entire political machine behind the candidate, Segal launched the first gay political TV campaign. In an incredible upset, the councilman lost. Segal is now held in such high esteem that Sen. Bob Casey and Philadelphia Democratic Chairman, Congressman Bob Brady, had to bring Congressman Barney Frank to Philadelphia to gain Segal's support. He has served on dozens of boards and commissions, but his favorite is a board member of the Philadelphia International Airport.

In 1974, he demanded and got a meeting with Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp, and created the historic Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities. This was the first governmental body in the world to specifically look at the problems faced by the LGBT community. That was followed by the first executive order banning discrimination in state government. When the state police wouldn’t concur, Segal called a press conference and signed up to become America's first openly gay state trooper.

Aside from publishing PGN, Segal has also reported on gay life from far-reaching places as Lebanon, Cuba and East Berlin during the fall of the Berlin Wall. He represented the gay press and lectured in Moscow and St. Petersburg at Russia's first openly gay conference, referred to as Russia's Stonewall.

Segal currently coordinates a network of local LGBT publications nationally to celebrate October as gay history month, with a combined print run reaching over a half-million readers. His determination to gain acceptance and respect for the gay press can be summed up by his 15-year battle to gain membership in the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, one of the nation's oldest and most respected organizations for daily and weekly newspapers. The battle ended after the Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Daily News and Pittsburgh Post Gazette joined forces and demanded PGN's membership. Eventually, Segal sat on the board of directors of PNA.

In 2012, PGN won an unprecedented 10 awards from the Local Media Association — the largest number of awards given to any LGBT publication by a mainstream journalism organization. Segal is himself the most-awarded columnist in LGBT media. And in 2015 they received 11.
In 2005, he produced Philadelphia’s official July 4th concert for a crowd estimated at 500,000 people and made a profit of $1.1 million for charity. The star-studded show televised live from in front of Philadelphia’s famed Art Museum featured Sir Elton John, Patti Labelle, Brian Adams and Rufus Wainwright. On a recent anniversary of PGN an editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer stated "Segal and PGN continue to step up admirably to the challenge set for newspapers” by Finley Peter Dunne: “To afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted.”

Update: Mark was recently inducted into the National Lesbian & Gay Journalist Association's Hall of Fame, appointed a member of the Comcast/NBCUniversal Joint Diversity Board where he advises the entertainment giant on LGBT issues, and as president of the dmhFund is built what is the nations largest capital building project, the 19.5 million dollar John C. Anderson Senior affordable LGBT Friendly apartments, a HUD and White House Champion of Change project. which won the 2015 AIA National architecture award for affordable living.

Since 2006, Bob Skiba been the curator at the William Way Center’s wonderful John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives. The photos and artifacts featured here on The Gayborhood Guru come from those archival collections as well as from Bob’s own collections.

He’s given many lectures and produced exhibits about Philly area gay history, on topics ranging from bars to gays and religion to Philadelphia’s African-American LGBT community. He’s served as a keynote speaker for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Public History Community Forum.

He’s been honored with the Founders Award from Men of All Colors Together for his community service and was part of the William Way Center’s 2013 Homecoming Court. In 2015, he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Environmental Protection Agency’s LGBT Special Emphasis Program. He’s also a regular contributor to and a huge fan of Chris Bartlett’s Gay History Wiki.

Bob has worked as a tour guide in Philadelphia for about 15 years. He’s serving his fifth term as the president of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, edited their Tour Guides Handbook and is on the APT Master Guide Certification Panel. Bob sits on on the Education and Museum Committee at Elfreth’s Alley as well as the Advisory Committee for Dance USA Philadelphia.


Bob frequently gives historical walking tours of Philadelphia’s Gayborhood through the William Way Community Center. A Center City resident, you’ll find him either sorting through boxes at the Archives or strolling around the Gayborhood, camera in hand.

James L. Stowe (Jim), serves as the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights. Mr. Stowe is a native of Belmont, North Carolina. Jim and his family relocated to Montgomery County Maryland to serve as the 4th Director of the Office of Human Rights. The agency, established in 1960, provides leadership to the people of Montgomery County and works toward eliminating racism/discrimination; identifying and resolving community tensions; and educating the citizens about cultural diversity. These efforts culminate in our goal of Creating a Culture of Service and a Climate of Fairness and Inclusion.

The office has a rich legacy of human right advocacy and professional competency and continues today as one of the premiere civil and human rights agencies in the nation. Under Jim’s leadership the Office has sets it sights on even greater engagement in the community and heightening professional standards for all involved with the office.

Jim has been instrumental in developing new program initiatives and re-positioning the office for success in the 21st Century. These programs include increased emphasis in enforcement productivity and competency which led to the agency becoming fully certified with the EEOC Fair Employment Practices Agency Program, renewed emphasis in fair housing which led to fair housing continuing educational credit program for realtors, apartment managers and other housing providers as well as increased enforcements efforts through the Interagency Fair Housing Coordination Group to insure that all barriers to fair accessible housing for everyone are removed; new initiatives to combat the incident of hate violence activities through the Committee on Hate Violence and the convening of a county wide symposium on "Bullying in Schools" and a forum on Post 911 Issues and Concerns within the Muslim and Sikh Community; the Community Friendship Picnic and an increased effort in outreach activities with the Montgomery County Human Rights Commission to convene public forums on Racial Profiling, the Criminal Justice System and The Digital Divide, a response to the Trayvon Martin shooting; and an increase in programming for youth with an expansion of the Human Rights Youth Camp for 5th Graders, Human Rights Day Observance for all school levels and the Civil Rights Educational Freedom Tour which is for the entire community. Mr. Stowe is a member of a number of community organizations and works with these programs and activities throughout Montgomery County. The agency continues to evolve as the needs and demands of a growing diverse county shift and change. The agency remains however committed to the long held principles of fairness and equal justice under the law.
“My father grew up homeless, as a refugee following WWII. I believe every person deserves to be treated with the same dignity and respect for basic human rights as I would have wanted to see him and his family receive.”

Eric Tars serves as the Law Center’s senior attorney, focusing on human rights and children's rights programs. In his human rights capacity, he works with homelessness and housing advocacy organizations to train and strategically utilize human rights as a component of their work. In his youth rights capacity, he works to protect homeless students’ rights to education and advocates for homeless youth and families through trainings, litigation, and policy advocacy at the national and local levels.

Before coming to the Law Center, Eric was a Fellow with Global Rights' U.S. Racial Discrimination Program and consulted with Columbia University Law School’s Human Rights Institute and the US Human Rights Network. Eric's work has spanned the country and the globe. He coordinated the involvement of hundreds of organizations in the hearings of the U.S. before the UN Committee Against Torture and Human Rights in 2006. Eric has conducted numerous trainings on integrating human rights strategies into domestic advocacy, and he currently serves as the chair of the US Human Rights Network's training committee and on the Steering Committee of the Human Rights at Home Campaign.

Eric received his J.D. as a Global Law Scholar at the Georgetown University Law Center. He received his B.A. in political science from Haverford College and studied international human rights in Vienna at the Institute for European Studies and at the University of Vienna.

Sandra Thompson has a long and diverse career in the non-profit sector. She has served as a Program Director, Agency Administrator, and Executive Director.

Sandra has comprehensive experience in administration, implementation of policies and training programs, and resource development, as well as budget development and analysis. She also has strong background in supervision, consultation, negotiation, and training.

Sandra holds a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Marywood University and a Master of Science in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to her professional experiences, she has a long history as a volunteer in HIV/AIDS services; juvenile justice; and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender issues.

She has served on the Boards of the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, Prevention Point Philadelphia, Liberty City Democrats, the Center for Responsible Funding, AIDS FUND, and the LGBT Elder Initiative.
Robin S. Toma, the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, has broad experience in the field of human relations. He was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2000 after working five years with the Commission. He was invited to be a member of the US Delegation to the 2001 UN World Conference against Racism, held in South Africa, Japanese American Leadership Delegation to Japan in 2003, and the Climate of Trust Delegation to Russia in 2005. He is co-author of the manual: Day Laborer Hiring Sites: Constructive Approaches to Community Conflict, and authored A Primer on Managing Intergroup Conflict in a Multicultural Workplace.

Mr. Toma was lead attorney in seeking redress for over 2,200 Japanese Latin Americans who were forcibly brought to the U.S. and imprisoned by the US government during World War II. He is also part of an ongoing gathering of leaders known as the Executive Session on Criminal Justice and Human Rights organized by Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. Previously, he served as staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California for nearly 7 years, promoting human rights and building multi-ethnic coalitions to bring about institutional change. A native of Los Angeles, Toma received his Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology and Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and his Master’s degree in Urban Planning and his Juris Doctorate from UCLA. He completed a three-year Kellogg National Fellowship/Leadership Program studying how genuine democracies can be built in culturally diverse societies around the globe. Toma lived two years in Barcelona, Spain and is fully fluent in Spanish.

Mark Kelly Tyler is a native of Oakland, CA and he is the third child of Bill and Elroy Tyler. In 1987, he accepted God’s call to preach the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

He is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University (B.A., Religion), Payne Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity), and the University of Dayton (Ph.D., Educational Leadership). Since 1994, Dr. Tyler has been in full time pastoral ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He has been blessed to serve as pastor of congregations from one coast to the other: Oakley Chapel (Tebbetts, Missouri); Quinn Chapel (Jefferson City, Missouri); Allen Chapel (San Francisco, California); Prince Chapel by the Sea (La Jolla, California); Bethel (Oxford, Ohio); Bethel (West Chester, Pennsylvania); and, Macedonia (Camden, New Jersey).

Dr. Tyler currently serves as the 52nd pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Mother Bethel, the first congregation founded by Bishop Richard Allen, has been a spiritual, social, and community force since the late 1700s. Mother Bethel also has the honor of serving as the final resting place of church founder, Bishop Allen. It is an international destination for pilgrims and
tourists alike. Dr. Tyler and Mother Bethel serve as host for the 50th Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in July, 2016.

Dr. Tyler led the drive to secure funding for Bishop Richard Allen: Apostle of Freedom (The Documentary), serving as Executive Producer and Writer on the project. He also served as the Producer and Writer for the Council of Bishops’ production of The Anvil: Echoes from the General Conference which made its debut at the 2012 General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Most recently, Dr. Tyler was interviewed by Dr. Henry Louis “Skip” Gates in the PBS documentary, The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross. Additionally, Dr. Tyler has appeared in various other documentaries, including: multiple episodes of Philadelphia: the Great Experiment; The Scroll: Evidence of the Life Unseen, Volume 2; the PBS series, A Taste of History; Philly Firsts; and, Coltrane’s Philadelphia.

Dr. Tyler has also been active in the world of theological education, currently serving as a Fully Affiliated Faculty Member at the Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio. He is a current member of the Adjunct Faculty at Payne Theological Seminary (PTS), Northeastern Seminary (NES), and a past Adjunct Professor at New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS). Additionally, Dr. Tyler is the past Director of Church Relations and Alumni Affairs at PTS and the past Director of Church Vocations at NBTS. He serves on the Advisory Board for the Urban Theological Institute at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and formerly served on the Advisory Board for Northeastern Seminary.

Dr. Tyler’s ministry has also led him into the work of organizing for social justice and civil rights. As a member of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild), he serves as the co-chair of the Clergy Caucus. In January, 2015, Dr. Tyler served as one of the facilitators of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Action, Resistance, and Empowerment. Spurred on in response to the Black Lives Matter Movement, the funding crises in public education, and the fight for a living wage, organizers turned out one of Philadelphia’s largest public demonstrations in recent history with little more than one month to plan.

Dr. Tyler is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and in his “spare time” enjoys traveling to new places, riding his mountain bike, and roller skating. He and his wife, Leslie, live in the Philadelphia area. He has four wonderful children.
Fred Underwood is Director of Diversity and Community Outreach Programs at the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and manages the Association’s diversity and fair housing program. Since 1990, Fred has staffed NAR’s Diversity Committee, and leads the development of NAR’s policy on fair housing. Fred initiated a comprehensive program on diversity in the housing market and developed precedent setting partnerships with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to jointly address diversity, fair housing and outreach to the community. He maintains liaison with and promotes cooperation between the housing industry and fair housing organizations. Fred provides staff support for the NAR Multicultural Real Estate Leadership Advisory Group which includes the leadership of NAR, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals and the Asian Real Estate Association of America.

Fred has a 30-year career in promoting fair housing and inclusive communities. Prior to coming to the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in July 1990, Fred was an Equal Opportunity Specialist in HUD’s Chicago Regional Office. He previously coordinated the Fair Housing Program for the City of Evanston, Illinois, and was a tester and testing supervisor with the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities in Chicago. In the early 1980’s, Fred was Director of the Southwest Community Congress, an interracial coalition of grassroots organizations on Chicago’s southwest side.

Fred grew up in Seoul, Korea, where his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were missionaries for the Presbyterian Church. Fred has a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and holds the RCE, REALTOR® Certified Executive, designation.

Jesse Van Tol is Director of Membership and Organizing for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. In that capacity, he is responsible for implementing comprehensive communications and outreach strategies that highlight the organization’s membership, public policy positions and programs. Van Tol oversees a department of three communications staff, who are responsible for producing creative and content for newsletters and publications, press materials, web and electronic communications and other collateral.


Van Tol received his B.A. in History and International Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Gustavo Velasquez is the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he leads the President’s efforts to combat housing discrimination and to affirmatively further fair housing. Prior to his nomination, Velasquez was Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC dedicated to serve thousands of Latinos and other immigrants and underserved populations gain the necessary skills and capital to start and maintain their own businesses. LEDC also advocates for and supports communities to secure affordable and accessible housing. Prior to his tenure at LEDC, he served for seven (7) years as Director of the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights, where he led the enforcement provisions of the DC Human Right Act, considered one of the most comprehensive non-discrimination laws in the country. He also served between 2003 and 2007 as DC’s Director of the Office of Latino Affairs. During his District government career, Velasquez ensured that the very comprehensive civil rights of residents, workers and visitors to the Nation’s capital were protected and upheld according to the rule of law. Before his mayoral appointments in the District of Columbia government, Velasquez was Director of Operations and Director of the Division of Families and Neighborhood Development at Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia.

In this capacity, he managed large-scale programs in the areas of housing counseling, workforce development, and financial capability for the most vulnerable communities of Philadelphia and its surrounding area. He has served in numerous boards and advisory groups at local and national levels, with an emphasis on civil rights and educational organizations, as well as issues for the advancement of Latinos in the United States. He attended the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated with a master’s degree in government administration. He lives in the District of Columbia with his wife, Emily, and his two children.

Bobbie Wanzo is the Deputy Director for the Illinois Department of Human Rights and oversees the Charge Processing and Fair Housing divisions. Since beginning her career in state government, she has served in a number of positions and considers it an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to continue to serve the residents of Illinois.

In addition serving as the Midwest Regional Representative for IAOHRA she is the First Vice-President of the Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association (IMHRA).
JoAnn Kamuf Ward is Associate Director for the Human Rights in the U.S. Project, at the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, where she is a lecturer-in-law and a supervisor in the Human Rights Clinic. Ms. Ward focuses on promoting the use of human rights standards and strategies to address inequality and social injustice within US borders. Her work aims to strengthen awareness of human rights and to build domestic mechanisms to monitor, promote, and implement human rights. This includes research and writing, as well as international and domestic advocacy to improve access to basic rights at the federal, state and local level, working in coalition with a broad range of stakeholders. JoAnn engages in strategic litigation in domestic courts as well as advocacy at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to address systemic discrimination and inequality. She also leads the Institute's efforts to create resources on state and local human rights implementation, and raise awareness of the value added of human rights in local governance.


Prior to joining the Human Rights Institute, JoAnn worked in the general litigation group at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, as well as an attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc. Ms. Ward received her J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from Fordham University School of Law in 2006. From 2008-2009, she served as a fellow at Fordham Law School’s Leitner Center for International Law and Justice. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband and two children.

Phantazia Washington is an unabashed multiracial, black, genderqueer, femme. Social justice, specifically resisting intersecting systems of oppressions are recurring themes in their work as an artist, activist, Transition Framework and TLGBQI+ educator. Through their work as a Trainer with The Bryson Institute of The Attic Youth Center, Phantazia provides workshops for youth and adults, throughout the region on gender, sexuality, and best practices for building genuine cultures of respect for TLGBQ youth. In addition to their work as an educator, Phantazia was a founding member of Get H.Y.P.E!, a youth-led training cohort, and co-facilitates The Justice League, an internship for youth seeking to raise awareness of the experiences of queer and gender-expansive youth of color in the child welfare, educational, and juvenile justice systems. In addition to their work at The Attic, Phantazia is also an artist. They have worked with The Mural Arts Program to help create murals that generate awareness to issue of youth homelessness, and specifically the overrepresentation of TLGBQ young people amongst homeless youth.
Ms. Watts was appointed the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in July 2007. Prior to her current appointment she served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. She has more than 30 years of experience in civil rights enforcement and education in the public and private sector. She served as the first Executive Director of the National Fair Housing Training Academy in Washington DC.

Beverly has served as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; Director of Management Advisory Services for the Ralph G. Moore and Associates; Regional Director of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Executive Director, Illinois Minority and Female Business Enterprise Council and as one of the first Title IX coordinators in the country during her tenure at the US Office for Civil Rights. She was an adjunct faculty member at Spalding University. She has made presentations to numerous organizations on civil rights, diversity, and leadership at the national and international level.

Beverly is a Past President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) where she represented IAOHRA throughout the US, Canada and at the UN World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa. She currently serves as the IAOHRA Southern Region Representative and Annual Conference Planning Chair. She has served as Chair of Women Executives in State Government and currently serves as the Mission Advisor to the Cable Board and on the board of the YWCA of Middle Tennessee and is a life member of the NAACP.

Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2014 NAACP Frances Dancy Hooks Award, 2014 ECHO Dreamers Award, 2014 YWCA Carrie Hull Award, the City of Louisville Martin Luther King award and induction into the KY Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

She is a graduate of Tennessee State University, Southern Illinois University, and has completed Executive leadership programs at Duke University and the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Gwendolyn Wiggins, Esq., MBA, is the Human Relations Supervisor/Human Relations Official for City of Orlando’s Human Relations Office. She held the position of Assistant to Director of Human Relations at the City of Orlando from 2006 -2010, prior to leaving to pursue law school full time. She attended the Florida A&M University School of Law from 2011 through 2014 and was sworn into the Florida Bar as an Attorney in 2015. Her education includes a Juris Doctorate (J.D.), Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Bachelors of Art in Organizational Management and an Associate Degree (Paralegal studies). She is also an Adjunct Professor at Strayer University where she teaches business classes. She is also a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family and County Court Mediator and has been a County Court Mediator for the Ninth Circuit (Orange & Osceola Counties) since 2007.
The Reverend Starsky D. Wilson is a pastor, philanthropist and activist pursuing God's vision of community marked by justice, peace and love. He is president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, pastor of Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) and former co-chair of the Ferguson Commission.

Deaconess is a faith-based grant making organization devoted to making child well-being a civic priority in the St. Louis region. From a corpus of approximately $50 million, the foundation has invested more than $75 million to advance its mission in the area. Starsky's leadership has birthed a dynamic community capacity building model, aligning policy advocacy, organizing and community engagement with grantmaking.

Through Saint John's, Wilson has led congregational activism on myriad issues, including youth violence prevention, Medicaid expansion, public school accreditation, voter mobilization, capping payday lending and raising the minimum wage, while more than quadrupling worship attendance and annual giving. There he established The Beloved Community Conference to resource local social justice ministries and Sojourner’s Truth: A Celebration of Preaching Women.

In 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed Rev. Wilson co-chair of the Ferguson Commission, a group of sixteen citizens empowered to study the underlying conditions and make public policy recommendations to help the region progress through issues exposed by the tragic death of Michael Brown, Jr. On September 14, 2015 they released the ground-breaking 'Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity' Report, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility.

Starsky serves national boards for Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund, Chicago Theological Seminary, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy and local ones for the United Way, St. Louis Regional Chamber, Teach for America-St. Louis and the Mayor's Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Starsky earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, master of divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing the doctor of ministry degree from Duke University’s Divinity School. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Eta Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Starsky is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. They are raising four children in the city of St. Louis.

In recent years, Rev. Wilson’s leadership has been honored with numerous awards
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