

## Tad Aburn



George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr. is currently the Director of the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Air & Radiation Administration (ARA). He is responsible for the implementation and management of the State's air pollution and radiation protection programs, including air quality planning and monitoring, developing regulations, mobile sources control, climate change, air permitting, radioactive materials licensing, radiation machine registration and certification, and inspection/enforcement programs.

Tad has served as President of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) and the Lead for the Ozone Transport Commission's (OTC's) Transport Team. He has also chaired multiple committees for NACAA, the OTC and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA). Between 2006 and 2009, Tad was instrumental in the passage of the Maryland Healthy Air Act, the Clean Cars Act, and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act. Prior to taking over as the ARA Director, he managed the Air Quality Planning and Monitoring Program, which is responsible for Clean Air Act Implementation, State Implementation Plans and regulation development, ozone modeling, inventory preparation, and ozone education and outreach. Between 1986 and 1992, Tad developed and implemented Maryland's nationally acclaimed Air Toxics Control Program. He received an Environmental Engineering Degree from Brown University in 1978.

## Terri Adams



Terri Adams, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University. She currently serves as the Associate Dean of the Office of External Affairs, responsible for the research portfolio at the Graduate School. Dr. Adams also serves as the Deputy Director of the NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M) at Howard University. Her research takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine issues with theoretical and practical implications. Dr. Adams' specific research interests include emergency management, behavioral responses to severe weather and climate, and the impact of trauma and disasters on individuals and organizations. Her work centers on individuals' and organizations' decision-making processes in the face of crisis events. She is the author of *Policing During in Natural Disasters: Stress, Resilience, and the Challenges of Emergency Management*, which takes a critical review of the challenges faced by first responders before, during, and after natural disasters.

## Bonnetta Adeeb



Mrs. Bonnetta Adeeb is the co-owner of Adeeb Publishing and Adeeb Services LLC., and the founding president of STEAM Onward Incorporated. STEAM Onward is an international youth development and educational non-governmental agency, whose mission stems from her passions for both community development and youth leadership.

Bonnetta has a background in education (teaching from Kindergarten to 12th grade for over 36 years), and a legacy of empowerment, due to her upbringing in an activist minister's home. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and she has been a part of leadership initiatives, such as, the Black Leadership Council of Excellence (BLCE), and the Young Researches Community Project. In addition, Bonnetta's service has manifested in the programs she has directed, such as, White House Chefs in the Garden and Bay-Wise Certification for an Environmental Sound Landscape and Vegetable Gardens.

## Elizabeth Alex



Elizabeth Alex, MSW, became the Chief of Organizing and Leadership at CASA in 2005. Since then, she has played a critical role in expanding the organization and developing member leaders, including opening offices and creating new member committees in Baltimore, Maryland and York, Pennsylvania. Under her leadership, CASA piloted successful membership, racial justice, and youth programming initiatives, which have become core elements of CASA organization-wide.

She currently leads a team of over 30 organizing and support staff charged with building committees of members to drive progressive issue and civic engagement campaigns at the local, state, and national levels on defending immigrant families and promoting racial and economic justice. Some of these campaign victories include the Maryland DREAM Act, Maryland Highway Safety Act, Welcoming City policies in four jurisdictions, and Municipal Identification legislation in Baltimore, Maryland. Elizabeth holds a Master of Social Work in Management and Community Organizing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore and has over 20 years of community organizing experience in the U.S, Africa, and Latin America.

## Mustafa Santiago Ali



As a renowned leader, international speaker, policy maker, community liaison, trainer, and facilitator and honorary doctorate, Mustafa Santiago Ali wears many hats. He is the Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate & Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and also the Founder of Revitalization Strategies, a business focused on moving our most vulnerable communities from “surviving to thriving.” Before joining the NWF, Mustafa was the Senior Vice President for the Hip Hop Caucus (HHC), a national, non-profit and non-partisan organization that connects the Hip Hop community to the civic process to build power and create positive change. As HHC Senior Vice President, he has led the strategic direction, expansion, and operation of the Hip Hop Caucus’ portfolio on Climate, Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization.

Prior to joining the Hip Hop Caucus, Mustafa worked 24 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He began working on Social Justice issues at the age of 16 and joined the EPA as a student, becoming a founding member of the EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ). He most recently served as Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization and Assistant Associate Administrator working to elevate environmental justice issues and strengthening environmental justice policies, programs, and initiatives.

Throughout his career, Mustafa has conducted more than 1,000 presentations across the country, including speeches, guest lectures, and training. He has also worked with more than 500 domestic and international communities to secure environmental, health and economic justice. Mustafa uses a holistic approach to revitalizing vulnerable communities helping them to move from Surviving to Thriving.

Mustafa currently serves as a board member on Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Union of Concerned Scientist, Roddenberry Foundation, TREE, and Climate Hawks Vote.

## Camila Alvarez



Camila H. Alvarez, PhD, is currently an assistant professor of sociology at the University of California, Merced. Dr. Alvarez received her Ph.D. in Sociology (2019) and M.S. in Sociology (2014), from the University of Oregon, and her Bachelors of Arts in Mathematics and Sociology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2012.

Her areas of expertise include environmental sociology, environmental justice, and critical quantitative methodology. These passions are enhanced by her academic research, where she strives to address the question: How are social inequalities reinforced through environmental problems?

Dr. Alvarez has a background in mathematics, and a passion for numbers and using statistical methods in her research. As a result, she is able to contextualize her work using theoretical frameworks from political economy, and the sociology of race and ethnicity. She has published in *Social Problems*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Environmental Justice*, *Socius*, *Nature & Culture*, and *Sociological Perspectives*.

## Scott Andrews



Scott Andrews, MS, directs community impact and engagement for Aclima, a San Francisco-based Public Benefit Corporation specializing in the design and deployment of city-scale, hyperlocal environmental sensing. Much of his role at Aclima centers around engaging with and collecting feedback from residents and other stakeholders in environmental justice communities to better serve their specific needs through innovative tools and services. Scott's experience as a sustainability practitioner spans several decades and sectors, including applied research at the Earth Institute's Urban Design Lab and consulting with Terrapin Bright Green in New York City. Before joining Aclima in 2016, Scott served as the head of the Energy Track for the Clinton Global Initiative. There, he helped private companies, NGOs, and governments identify opportunities and implement projects to address global and local challenges, ranging from reducing respiratory illness in off-grid villages to expanding electric vehicle charging networks across North America. Scott completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Columbia University, where he received his Master of Science in Sustainability Management in 2012.

## Erik Antokal



Erik Antokal is Ørsted's director of workforce development. He is an experienced program designer and worker advocate, specializing in skilled trades and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in high-mobility careers. He works to build racial and gender equity through mutually beneficial union, community and employer partnerships, and he is currently focused on construction and operations careers in the offshore wind industry.

Erik has spent eight years practicing workforce development in the construction and utilities industries, at Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW), a nonprofit that prepares women for union trade careers and at FC Modular, an ambitious venture to mass-produce high rise buildings in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Erik is a graduate of the Coro Fellows Program and of Tufts University.



## Angeline Apostolou



Angeline Apostolou, is a Program Manager for Envolve Entrepreneurship, supporting programming and operations and managing Envolve's portfolio of grantees. She joined the team as Program Officer and was promoted to her current role in 2021. Prior to joining Envolve in 2019, Angeline served as Concierge Coordinator for the Concordia Annual Summit in New York City and interned in the US House of Representatives and with the Hudson Institute.

Angeline graduated from Dickinson College in 2015 with an undergraduate degree in International Studies, focused on security and Sub-Saharan Africa. During her academic career, Angeline worked as a research assistant on campus and a Project Supervisor for the Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues. She also interned with the US Army War College, and the Cameroon Youth and Student Forum for Peace while studying abroad in Cameroon.

## Yvette Arellano



Yvette Arellano (they/them) is a gulf coast organizer, emerging leader dedicated to environmental and racial justice, and the founder of Fenceline Watch, an environmental justice organization dedicated to the eradication of toxic harm on fenceline communities. In addition, Yvette is an active board member with the Center for International Environmental Law, the Backbone Campaign, the Greenlations organization, and the Peak Plastic Foundation.

Previously, Yvette has served as a policy researcher and grassroots advocate with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, and in 2015, they led the campaign against H.R. 702, opening the floodgates to United States crude oil exports. Yvette was instrumental in the publication “Double Jeopardy in Houston, Air Toxics and Health in the Houston Community of Manchester, and Plastic and Health: The Hidden Cost of a Plastic Planet.” This report highlighted the disproportionate toxic impact of the petrochemical industry on communities living on the fencelines.

Throughout their work, Yvette emphasizes that access to clean water, air, land, and food is a fundamental human right best pursued through vigorous intersectional thinking and organizing. They understand the importance of a multi-pronged approach that embraces various advocacy methods, including policy development, litigation, research, direct actions, coalition building, and crisis response. Currently, they continue this work by leading efforts in Houston, to help the city’s most vulnerable communities on the petrochemical expansion fueled by plastic production. Their work and dedication to community has not gone unnoticed, Yvette is the recipient of the 2020 Community Sentinel Award.

## Jessica Arriens



Jessica Arriens, MS, is a Program Manager of Climate & Energy Policy at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). She has Experience working at the intersection of science research & communication to accomplish policy and education goals. Jessica has been at NWF for over two years, and there she works on domestic federal policy advocacy and with NWF's field campaigns to advance policies that curb emissions, protect wildlife, and promote equitable climate solutions for frontline and fossil-fuel dependent communities. Jessica has a Master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from UCLA.

## Mei Azaad



Mei Azaad is a grassroots, community organizer based in occupied Ohlone Territories in so-called Oakland, California. The initiative she identifies with is a core organizer with the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP). Fight Toxic Prisons's work is rooted in highlighting the intersections of environmental justice, prison abolition, and decolonization. This includes working alongside incarcerated people in responding to environmental and public health conditions in carceral facilities, as well as providing support for local and national efforts to support incarcerated people and to halt the construction and expansion of the carceral system. Recently, Mei's focus has been on facilitating an inside-outside disaster response team to address the impacts of hurricanes on incarcerated people.

## Ana Baptista



Ana Isabel Baptista, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice in the Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management graduate program at The New School University in New York. Dr. Baptista also serves as the Co-Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School.

Prior to her time at The New School, she served as the Director of Environmental Justice and Community Development at the Ironbound Community Corporation, in her hometown of Newark, New Jersey. Dr. Baptista's professional practice is focused on advancing environmental justice through collaborative work with communities on issues ranging from cumulative impacts, air pollution, local planning tools and zero waste systems. Her current practice includes research on the equity implications of state level climate and energy policies and the launch of a national environmental justice movement fellowship for Environmental Justice activists housed at the Tishman Center.

Dr. Baptista serves on the 4th New York City Panel on Climate Change as well as the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, Ironbound Community Corporation, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) and the Victoria Foundation.

## **Nathalie Hernandez Barahona**



Nathalie Hernandez Barahona (she/her/they) is a first generation Xicanx. She is a community organizer for the mutual aid grassroots organization called “Yuma county abolition” dedicated to bringing autonomy, abolition, education and resources, decolonization, environmental justice and intersectionality to the Yuma county Arizona community. Nathalie works with a non profit called AZ CA HUMANITARIAN COALITION providing migrants at the U.S./Mexico border with most immediate needs.

## Mark Barnes



Mark Barnes, PhD, is a human geographer. His faculty appointment is in History, Geography, and Museum Studies at Morgan State University. Informing his scholarship and teaching are perspectival views from hazard, global environmental change, economic, urban, and transport geography subfields. Equity, mobility, sustainability, and environmental justice interventions relating to the causes and consequences of weather and climate extremes form the basis of his work.

In addition to co-chairing the Geospatial Collaborative, he directs its Environmental Studies Program whose purpose is to bring social and physical science disciplines together so as to help drive and support efforts towards equitable adaptation.

His graduate degrees in Geography and Urban Studies are from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and Temple University, respectively. He majored in Geography and Planning at West Chester University. Dr. Barnes is a proud Philadelphian and life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

## Eduardo Bhatia



Eduardo Bhatia, Esq, is an attorney, policymaker, leader, and visiting professor in public and international affairs at Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs.

Formerly, Eduardo was the Senate President of Puerto Rico. With over 25 years of experience in public policy, Mr. Bhatia is a firm believer in the active participation of all persons in the governing process. This morale reflects in his scope of work, as he is focused on strengthening the middle class, reforming public education, and helping public/private coalitions achieve fiscally responsible policy targets.

In previous roles, Eduardo has displayed his public service by helping to achieve the participation of Puerto Rico in President Bush's economic stimulus program in 2008, which amounted to above 1 billion dollars injected into the Puerto Rican economy. This was also displayed in his roles as legal official of the judge Levin H. Campbell, in the Federal Circuit Court of appeals from the first circuit in Boston, Massachusetts, main Assistant ('Chief of Staff') to Residente Commissioner Jaime B. Fuster in Washington, DC, and associate of the law firm McConnell & Valdes in San Juan.

Eduardo is also a Fulbright Scholarship recipient, former participant in the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, and delegate of the Democratic Party. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Princeton University in 1986, and his Juris Doctor at Stanford University in 1990. It is at Stanford that he helped found the Stanford Journal of Law and Public Policy in 1989.



## Daniel Blackman



Daniel Blackman is the Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast Region (Region 4). With this role, Daniel is responsible for protecting public health, and the environment across the Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee regions.

Prior to this appointment from President Biden, Daniel built a career dedicated to creating economic opportunities for marginalized communities throughout the South. This organizing work includes over a decade of advising policymakers of inequitable distribution, and advocating on behalf of Georgia ratepayers before Georgia's Public Service Commission. In addition, he has also served as chairman of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club and board member to the ACLU.

In addition to this advocacy work, he has a history of community-oriented work. Using his knowledge in groundwater contamination, public health, and safety, Daniel helped to testify before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on numerous accounts, pushing for clean energy and toxic chemical legislation. This also translates to his work during the Obama administration, as he used principles of civil rights to amplify environmental justice efforts in EPA Region 4.

## Yinka Bode-George



Yinka N. Bode-George, MHS, is the Interim Executive Director for Sharing the Power Foundation - a national philanthropic nonprofit that advances environmental justice and an inclusive clean energy future through grantmaking and seeding the next generation of environmental leaders. In this role, Yinka provides the overall strategy and development for the Foundation.

Yinka dually leads the strategy and management of Volt Energy Utility's environmental justice and community impact practice. Volt Energy Utility, a Black-led utility-scale solar energy development firm, partners with corporate clients to drive energy decarbonization goals in a manner that promotes environmental health and justice. As an environmental health advocate, Yinka has worked to advance environmental justice and sustainable development through policy advocacy and community building.

Prior to joining Sharing the Power Foundation and Volt Energy Utility, she led the Environmental Health Program for the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. In that role, she facilitated state-level environmental health and justice policies by resourcing and organizing a national network of state legislators around zero waste and circular economy solutions, toxic chemical protections, and sustainable agriculture policies.

## Christian V. Braneon



Christian V. Braneon, PhD, is a climate scientist and civil engineer, co-leading urban research at the Climate Impacts Group of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS).

Dr. Braneon co-leads the Environmental Justice and Climate Just Cities Network at Columbia University's Earth Institute and serves as a principal investigator for the GISS Climate Change Research Initiative. These roles combine to display his passion for climate science and developing equitable approaches for weaving it into urban planning as well as civil engineering practice. Dr. Braneon previously served as Co-Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's inaugural Environmental Justice Academy for community leaders. With NASA, as part of its partnership with Microsoft, Dr. Braneon has developed novel applications of remote sensing data that enhance resilience to urban heat stress. The partnership aims to improve scientific collaborations between non-traditional public and private organizations to advance societal use of Earth observations. Recently, he advised the New York City Council's Data Operations Unit on their data science strategy as they integrated Landsat 8 satellite imagery into their temperature mapping initiatives. Dr. Braneon's research team at GISS uses publicly available archives of satellite imagery and open-source software to evaluate the cooling effects of green infrastructure and characterize the distribution of climate risk.

Dr. Braneon's work on urban heat and climate change has been featured in broadcast and print media outlets such as CNN, CNBC, and Science. He holds degrees in applied physics and civil engineering from Morehouse College and the Georgia Institute of Technology respectively.

## Jose Bravo



José T. Bravo is a veteran environmental justice organizer and executive director of the Just Transition Alliance. In this role, José has for more than 20 years, led a coalition of environmental justice and labor organizations. These institutions focus on working with frontline workers, and community members who live along the fence-lines of polluting industries in creating healthy workplaces and communities.

Born in México and brought to the U.S. as a child, José's work in social justice issues is rooted in his upbringing in Southern California's avocado fields alongside his farmworker parents.

José has participated in the environmental justice movement since 1990 and has been involved in drafting the Environmental Justice Principles and the Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing. He has sat on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is presently a coordinator of the National Campaign for Healthier Solutions.

## Margot Brown



Margot Brown, PhD, MS, is the Vice President of Justice and Equity at the Environmental Defense Fund. Currently she is implementing a strategy to integrate environmental justice into organizational processes, policies and work around the globe. Dr. Brown has more than 20 years of experience working with communities of color low-income Indigenous and marginalized communities.

At the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), she led teams from the Office of Community Revitalization in providing technical assistance for sustainable development to communities in the Mississippi Delta and Appalachia. Dr. Brown also led EPA's Clean Green and Healthy Schools initiatives where she built alliances with national organizations like the Boys and Girls Club of America. Leveraging minimal resources her division created a national afterschool curriculum for vulnerable children. The program provided disadvantaged youth the tools to reduce their environmental risks empowering them with basic knowledge to improve the environmental conditions for their community.

With the recently launched Environmental Justice Community Capacity Center, Dr. Brown is working with a diverse group of EJ leaders to accelerate environmental progress that benefits the health and wellbeing of the people most disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices. Dr. Brown holds a Master of Science in Public Health and a Doctor of Science from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

## Sharunda Buchanan



Sharunda Buchanan, PhD, MS, is the Interim Director of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) within the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH). With decades of experience, Dr. Buchanan is responsible for leading initiatives that integrate environmental justice into the HHS mission to improve health in communities across the nation, advising senior leadership, representing OASH and HHS morals, and developing health and human strategies on environmental justice.

Prior to assuming this duty, Dr. Buchanan led and oversaw the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Environmental Health/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's work. With this role, she held multiple roles, that included, Director of the Office of Priority Projects, Director of the Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services, Chief of the Environmental Health Services Branch, and environmental Health Scientist in ATSDR's Division of Toxicology.

Dr. Buchanan is an avid public servant, advocating for environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities. She has a passion for developing leaders, and understands the significance of health equity, and improving public health across all sectors.

Dr. Buchanan received her Bachelor of Science, and Masters of Science degrees in Chemistry from Texas Southern University. Shortly after, she went on to achieve her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Clark Atlanta University.

## Robert Bullard



Robert D. Bullard, PhD, is often described as the father of environmental justice. He is the former Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University 2011-2016. Professor Bullard currently is Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and Director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice. Prior to coming to TSU he was founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He received his Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University. He is an award-winning author of eighteen books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, disasters, emergency response, and community resilience, smart growth, and regional equity. He is co-founder of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. Dr. Bullard is a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

## Camille Burke



Camille E. Burke is a native Baltimorean who is a proud graduate of the Institute of Notre Dame and Villa Julie College which is now Stevenson University. Camille has spent the bulk of her professional career of 20 +years in service to the citizens of Baltimore. Her work began in the Mayor's Office of Employment Development helping facilitate the transition from Welfare to work for those receiving public assistance. She then spent 10+ years assisting Baltimore's youth obtain quality after school programs and develop relationships with caring adults. Camille's work with the Family League of Baltimore City in the development of a blueprint for Out of School Time has been used across the country. The next phase of Camille's journey led her to accept a position as the Chief of Recreation Center Operations at the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. She was responsible for 55 Urban Recreation Centers and well over 300 staff members. Camille then transitioned to MDOT to work on the implementation of the REAL ID initiative and as well the update of the Rookie Driver curriculum and booklet. Since April 2015, Camille has been the Director of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention for the Baltimore City Health Department.



## Suzanne Burnes



Suzanne Burnes is the Just Growth Director at Partnership for Southern Equity. In addition, Suzanne Burnes serves as lead facilitator for the Partnership for Southern Equity's Just Growth Circle, an Atlanta learning community of practice that includes the full Water Equity Learning Team, founded upon the belief that the future of our communities depends upon our ability to realize equitable growth for all.

Outside of her work with PSE, Suzanne's firm Collective Wisdom Group serves NGO, local government, higher education, and philanthropic clients in building relationships among diverse voices for community and ecosystem benefit. From her founding of an Atlanta community development corporation 20 years ago, to her leadership in state government creating public-private sustainability partnerships, to serving as executive director of local NGO Sustainable Atlanta, Suzanne's passions are focused on the pursuit of an equitable, green, and resilient world.

## Dollie Burwell



Dollie B. Burwell was born, raised, and attended public schools in Vance County, North Carolina. In 1982, Dollie led her community in a protest against the state of North Carolina in what the Washington Post called, "The greatest civil rights movement since the 1960's." She was arrested and jailed five times, and spent countless nights in jail for blocking trucks carrying Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) laced soil that was set to be placed into her community's soil. By lying down in protest against these harsh chemicals, this was the beginning of the "Environmental Justice Movement."

Stories of her life and work have been published in several books including, "Crazy for Democracy, Women in Grassroots Movements," Temma Kaplin, "The Politics of Motherhood, Activist Voices from the Left to Right," Alexis Jetter, Annelise Orleck and Diana Taylor, and "Women Reshaping Human Rights, How Extraordinary Activists Are Changing the World," Marguerite Guzman Bouvard and many other documentaries, tv shows and newspapers including the Soledad O'Brien Show and the Washington Post.

Dollie served as Chair of the Joint Warren County/State PCB Landfill Working Group, a task force that worked to secure more than 25 million dollars from the state of North Carolina to detoxify the Warren County PCB Landfill which was successfully completed in 2004. In addition, Dollie has spent more than 30 years as a community organizer. She served as a board member for the UCC Commission for Racial Justice, UCC Office for Church and Society, and The Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It was here that she was instrumental in establishing two church youth groups "Free African Youth" (FAY) and "Save Our Youth" (SOY).

Dollie is a graduate of Durham College in Durham, North Carolina, where she earned her Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration.

## Amy Cahn



Amy Laura Cahn, Esq, is a Visiting Professor, and Director of the Environmental Justice Clinic at Vermont Law School. Through movement, lawyering practice and scholarship, Amy Laura collaborates with organizers and communities to confront the effects of racial segregation, neighborhood disinvestment, and environmental and climate risk and support self-determination.

Prior to joining Vermont Law School, Amy served as Senior Attorney and Interim Director of the Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice Program at the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), launching CLF's community lawyering program. Ms. Cahn joined CLF from the Public Interest Law Center in Philadelphia, where she was a Skadden Fellow and Director of the Garden Justice Legal Initiative—the nation's first urban agriculture law clinic. For five years, she served as legal counsel to residents in the frontline floodplain community of Eastwick in addressing the legacy injustices of this country's largest urban renewal project. Amy has clerked for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division. She is also a part-time lecturer at Tufts University, teaching Climate Policy and Climate Justice.

Today, Amy sits on the Penn Law Alumni Advisory Board for Inclusion & Engagement and the Legal Advisory Board for Alternatives for Community and Environment. She is a longtime community organizer and co-founder of Lower Manhattan's Bluestockings Bookstore. She has a B.A., summa cum laude, from Hunter College and a J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

## Astrid Caldas



Astrid Caldas, PhD, is a Senior Climate Scientist with the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. She does research on climate change adaptation and resilience with practical policy implications for ecosystems, the economy, and society. Her work also focuses on science communication, environmental justice, and equitable climate-related policies.

Before joining UCS, Dr. Caldas was a Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a climate change and wildlife science fellow at the nonprofit conservation group Defenders of Wildlife, and a research scientist at the University of Maryland. Dr. Caldas has advised or consulted on projects with organizations including the Smithsonian Institution and the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center. She has a lifelong passion for butterflies and moths, which she has studied for many years and likes to use as models to raise awareness of climate and land use changes.

Dr. Caldas holds a Ph.D. in ecology from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. In addition to a M.S. in entomology from the Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil, she earned an M.S. in environmental management from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

She has brought word of the science behind climate change impacts to town halls, community centers, student panels, retirement homes, faith communities, grassroots groups, rallies, and anything in between. She has been quoted widely, including in The New York Times, People Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, USA Today, Huffington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Daily Press, Time Science, CNBC, Gizmodo, and Mashable, and has appeared on numerous NPR stations, TRT World, CBS, NBC, Fox, Univisión, and Telemundo. Her Twitter handle is @climategeek.

## Gilbert Campbell



Gilbert Campbell is Founder and CEO of Volt Energy Utility, a national renewable energy firm that finances and develops utility-scale solar and energy storage projects for large corporate clients, municipalities, and other institutions.

Gilbert serves on the Board of Directors at The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), The Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA), The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), is an Advisory Board Member at 3Degrees, and is a Founding Member of Renewables Forward. Gilbert also co-founded Volt Energy, a national distributed generation solar development company. Under Gilbert's leadership, Volt Energy successfully developed solar projects for numerous public and private sector clients including, Accenture, Exelon/Pepco, The Cheesecake Factory, Subaru, District of Columbia Government, Howard University and Wake Forest University.

Gilbert is an advocate and spokesperson for diversity, equity and inclusion in clean energy, environmental justice and sustainability; and regularly advises federal and local officials, corporations and other key stakeholders on policies and best practices. Gilbert has been nationally recognized for his efforts and has testified before Congress regarding the need for increased minority participation in the renewable energy sector.

In 2016, the Obama Administration presented Gilbert with the White House Champions of Change Award for his leadership in advancing climate change equity. Gilbert was named to EBONY magazine's 2014 Power 100 List, which recognizes influential achievements by African Americans annually. Under Gilbert's leadership, Volt is a 2014 recipient of Amtrak and The Washington Wizards Pioneer Award, which honors companies that have made a positive impact in their community. Realizing that change begins with preparation Gilbert has been a vocal proponent of STEM education and outreach opportunities for young people across the country. Gilbert graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.B.A in Finance from Howard University and has done post-graduate leadership training at Harvard University.

## **Shashawnda Campbell**



Shashawnda Campbell is an environmental justice coordinator with the South Baltimore Community Land Trust. As a community leader and activist for Environmental Justice, Shashawnda has used her voice to co-found “Free Your Voice.” This initiative is a student led group that worked for five years to shut down the largest incinerator proposal in United States history set to be built less than a mile away from their high school.

Shashawnda has continued this work with the South Baltimore Community Land Trust as she has helped to create community-led developments. These include, but are not limited to, permanent affordable housing (without displacement), and zero waste infrastructure. These experiences have proved Shashawnda’s dedication to the South Baltimore community, and as a lifelong Baltimore resident, she remains committed to the implementation of Baltimore’s Fair Development Plan for Zero Waste.

## **Karen Campblin**



Karen Campblin, MPA, is an experienced planner who has served many environmental and racial equity advocacy organizations in Northern Virginia for several years. Karen was named the 2020 Sully District Community Champion by Volunteer Fairfax for her devotion to promoting racial and climate equity in her communities. Karen is a member of the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice and is also the current president of the Fairfax NAACP. Karen got her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida and her BA in Political Science from Florida Atlantic University

## Ambrose Carroll



Reverend Ambrose Carroll, Sr., PhD, is a senior pastor at the Church by the Side of the Road in Berkeley, California. Amongst this title, he is also a practical Theologian, retired United States Naval lieutenant, and national non-profit educator. In terms of higher education, Reverend Carroll earned his Bachelor's degree from Florida Memorial College, his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from United Theological Seminary, and a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

Reverend Carroll began his career licensed to Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in 1989, and ordained to Beth Eden Baptist Church in 1994. Since then, he has served as the Youth and Young Adult Pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, Interim Pastor of the Rising Star Baptist Church of Oakland, Senior Pastor of the St. Paul Tabernacle Baptist Church of San Francisco, and the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Denver. Still these roles of service did not fulfill his duty of environmental emphasis. Thus, in moving his faith-based initiatives further, Dr. Carroll expanded his work by creating a national campaign to "Green the Church." This movement is charged with educating the Black Church and leading in the creation of sustainable programs to create green and efficient church buildings.

Revered Carroll's work has not gone unnoticed. In January of 2017, he was recognized by Congresswoman Maxine Waters to be in the Senate Chambers during the confirmation hearing for the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States.



## Lorig Charkoudian



Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, PhD, MA, was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2018. She has been a member of the House since January 9, 2019. Currently, Delegate Charkoudian is on the Economic Matters Committee, she is the chair on the Unemployment Insurance Subcommittee of the Economic Matters Committee, she is on the Public Utilities Subcommittee of the Economic Matters Subcommittee, the Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight, is an associate member on the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, and is a part of the Women Legislators of Maryland.

Delegate Charkoudian has received the Community Leadership Award, Maryland NOW, the Judge Robert M. Bell Award, MSBA Dispute Resolution Section, the Mary Parker Follett Award, Montgomery Serve, and the Takoma Foundation Azalea Award. Delegate Charkoudian has also been on The Daily Record Maryland Top 100 Women in 2014, 2001, and 1999.

Delegate Charkoudian attended Pomona College for her BA in Mathematical Economics. She obtained an MA in Economics from The Johns Hopkins University and a PhD in Economics from The Johns Hopkins University.

## Benjamin Chavis



Benjamin Chavis, Reverend Dr., PhD, and lifelong activist, overcame racial injustice and wrongful imprisonment to become a vocal leader in the civil rights movement, which pressed for equality between the races. Dr. Chavis is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Dr. Chavis began his career in 1963, as a statewide youth coordinator in NC for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

Dr. Chavis was born in 1948 in Oxford, North Carolina, into a long and distinguished line of preachers. His parents were Benjamin Chavis Sr. and Elisabeth Chavis. He grew up as the only son in a family of four children. His great-great-grandfather, John Chavis, is considered to be the first black graduate of Princeton University, because he graduated from a New Jersey seminary (religious school) that later became the university. John Chavis, according to Benjamin Sr., was killed in 1838 for teaching slave children to read and write. A native of Oxford, North Carolina, Dr. Chavis received the Bachelor of Arts, BA, in Chemistry from University of North Carolina. He even earned his Masters of Divinity, M.Div., magna cum laude, from Duke University while serving an unjust 34-year prison sentence as a member of the Wilmington 10, who Amnesty International declared political prisoners, a case that garnered international attention and was pardoned 40 years later. He also received the Doctor of Ministry, from Howard University and Doctor of Philosophy, Ph.D., in systematic theology, from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

From 1993 and 1994, Dr. Chavis served as the Executive Director and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and remains an active supporter of the NAACP. In 1995, Dr. Chavis was the National Director and organizer of the Million Man March. The 2010 theatrical release of the full-length movie *Blood Done Sign My Name* distributed by Paladin, directed by Jeb Stuart, starring Ricky Schroder, Nate Parker, and Lela Rochon depicts a true story from Dr. Chavis' early days in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960's and 1970's. Dr. Chavis has authored books and other publications including: *An American Political Prisoner Appeals for Human Rights*, *Psalms from Prison*. His areas of expertise include corporate diversity and inclusion, human rights, climate change, voting rights, bridging the gap between civil rights and hip-hop, and criminal justice reform.

## Duron Chavis



Duron Chavis is the founder of the Happily Natural Day festival, a summer festival dedicated to holistic health, cultural awareness and social change. Duron began his career with community advocacy, as first, a volunteer, then an employee with the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. It was in this role, and as an effort to supplement the annual jazz concert held at the institution, that the Happily Natural Day festival was founded

In addition to this main role, Duron is also credited with coordinating initiatives concerning agriculture and local food systems in a culturally relevant way. This first started with the 2009 launch of the Richmond Noir Market, which specifically targets low-income communities that are located in food deserts in the Richmond, Virginia area. This work continued when Duron developed his first acclaimed community garden in 2012. This initiative eventually led to the creation of urban farms, urban orchards, and urban vineyards that work in conjunction with poverty mitigation, workforce development, and health and racial equity.

## Chelsea Chee



Chelsea Chee is a member of the Navajo Nation. Chelsea is also the Customer Care Lead for Native Renewables. Native Renewables is an Indigenous founded and led non-profit. Native Renewables' mission is to provide off-grid solar electric units for 100 Hopi and Navajo homes per year.

Chelsea has been working in the non-profit and education sector for 15 years. After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Arizona, Chelsea started her work in Environmental and Climate Justice with the Black Mesa Water Coalition, while also contributing to her communities of Teesto and Dilkon on the Navajo Nation. Later, Chelsea took graduate courses for Public Administration and Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico while working in various positions and organizations, including the Tribal Energy Program at Sandia National Laboratories, a Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at the NM Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and a Director of Community with ETKIE while simultaneously working as a Senior Program Officer at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. Currently, Chelsea works with Native Renewables and is assisting her Navajo tribal elected officials at the community and tribal levels.

Chelsea lives in Arizona, in the city famous for an Eagles song and loves spending time with family and friends, meeting new people, celebrating life events, and keeping up with podcasts.

## Debbie Chizewer



Debbie Chizewer, Esq, is the Managing Attorney, in the Midwest Regional Office (Chicago) of Earthjustice.

As the Managing Attorney for Earthjustice's new Chicago office, Debbie has been building a Midwest team and a docket of cases across three program areas—climate and energy, healthy communities, and wild lands and wildlife. This work builds on Debbie's experience over the last two decades where she advocated for environmental protection across many issues -- fighting for environmental justice in the Midwest at Northwestern Law's environmental law clinic, promoting Great Lakes health at the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and protecting wildlife and public lands in the Rockies for the National Wildlife Federation.

Debbie also recently completed a 5-year term as the Board Chair for the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting economic and racial justice. While at Northwestern's Environmental Advocacy Clinic, Debbie led the clinic's representation of a community group living on a Superfund site, contaminated with lead and arsenic, in East Chicago, Indiana. Her work in East Chicago was recognized with the NAACP Indiana Conference's Environmental Justice Award. Debbie graduated from Princeton University and Boston University School of Law. After graduation from law school, she clerked in the US District Court in the District of Delaware.

## Scott Clow



Scott Clow is the Environmental Programs Director at Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Scott ascended into this role in the mid-2000s, after stepping down as water quality specialist with the Ute Mountain Ute tribe. As director, Scott has dedicated a large portion of his role to transitioning the Ute Mountain Ute reservation to solar generation.

Complementing his career, Scott is a 1992 graduate from Lafayette College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry and Environmental Science.

## Daniel Coffee



Daniel Coffee is currently studying the economic impacts of zero-emission vehicle adoption for the Luskin Center for Innovation, and is pursuing policy-focused opportunities in Los Angeles in the public and non-profit sectors.

Daniel has a background in environmental science, sustainability, and education from previous work as a peace corps volunteer, camp counselor, and science teacher as well as his education in Environmental Systems from UC San Diego.

## Sonkita Conteh



Sonkita Conteh is the director of the Namati Sierra Leone Program and a legal practitioner of the High Court of Sierra Leone. Sonkita holds a master's degree in human rights and democratization from the University of Pretoria. As a consultant for two years with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions Africa Office in Ghana, he researched and reviewed law and policy on the right to water and sanitation in South Africa and Ghana; drafted amicus curiae briefs, publications, and training manuals; and provided training to civil society organizations.

Sonkita has over 12 years' litigation experience, and has been a member of Sierra Leone's General Legal Counsel, the body that regulates the legal profession in the country since March 2016. He was recently appointed to the Sierra Leone Bar Association's Law Reports Committee to help produce new volumes of law reports. In 2017, he was named as one of the Schwab Foundation's Social Entrepreneurs of the Year and was selected for the Tutu Leadership Fellowship.



## C.N.E. Corbin



C.N.E. Corbin, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State University. Currently, Dr. Corbin studies the relationships between society and nature within the built environment by investigating the concept of the green city within the United States. Specifically, she focuses on public green spaces and how urban “sustainable development” initiatives and environmental policies and practices impact and shape land-uses and urban park access. Her continued research interests include: Community Development, Environmental Justice, Environmental Policy, Environmental Studies, Gentrification, Green Cities, Public Parks, and Green Spaces.

Dr. Corbin received her Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) from the University of California, Berkeley, completing a double major in African American and Media Studies. She completed her doctoral degree at the University of California, Berkeley in the department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. Her dissertation is titled, *From Redlining to Greenlining: The Political Ecology of Race, Class, and Access to Green Space in Oakland, California from 1937-2020*. Her early work is displayed in her career endeavors as she often incorporates media studies and visual culture into the uneven distribution of environmental harms and the uneven development of environmental goods in which low-income, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color reside.

In terms of public service, Dr. Corbin served on the Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) from 2015-2020 and was the chair of the PRAC from 2019-2020. She is an active board member of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation.

## Jose Acosta Cordova



José Acosta-Córdova, MUP, is the Environmental Planning and Research Organizer at LVEJO. He completed his Master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy, at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, at UIC. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs from UIC. He is the former President and Co-Founder of the Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Regeneration (LPODER) at UIC. LPODER was nationally recognized by the Latinos and Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APA) for its work with high school youth of color, as well as the numerous events they hosted regarding issues facing Latino/a/x people in urban environments throughout the western hemisphere.

José is the author of the Latino Neighborhoods Report: Issues and Prospects for Chicago, which he authored during his second year of graduate school while working as a Research Assistant at the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP). The report received widespread media and was produced for Metropolitan Family Services. It contains demographic information on twelve neighborhoods in Chicago where Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, along with an overview of Latinos in Chicago. José is the son of activists, and was raised in the environmental justice movement. He was part of the youth group of the SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP), an organization based in Albuquerque, NM, which fights for racial and gender equality, and social, environmental and economic justice. He has also coached HS varsity soccer at Roberto Clemente Community Academy for the past 2 seasons, and will continue coaching in the Fall 2018 season.

## Tom Cormons



Tom Cormons, Esq, is a founding member, and Executive Director of Virginia's first Appalachian Voices office. The office first opened in 2007, but it was not until 2013 that Tom assumed the role as Executive Director. Under Mr. Cormon's leadership, the first Virginia office and the organization has expanded to include a variety of new programs and offices within Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee regions. His reach has included the expansion of economic directives that overlay energy, and initiatives that take into consideration the impact of fossil fuels.

Prior to this role, Tom held experience in clerkships with the Environmental Defense Fund, Piedmont Environmental Council, Southern Environmental Law Center, and the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Cormons is also a member of the Virginia State Bar, and has worked with endangered migratory terns in South America for six seasons, overseeing aerial radio-tracking. In addition to this extensive experience, in February of 2021 Mr. Cormons was appointed by President Biden to serve on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC).

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree (1997) in political and social thought from the University of Virginia, and his Juris Doctor degree (2006) from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

## Lautaro Costantini



Lautaro Costantini is the Coordinator of Institutional Development at ProDESC, in charge of M&E and fundraising. ProDESC aims to contribute to the validity, justiciability and enforceability of economic, social, and cultural rights to achieve a fair and equitable society. The organization aspires to make structural changes for the most marginalized people whose rights, including labor rights and access to land and natural products, have been compromised by both state policy and the actions of trans-national corporations. Lautaro has a Degree in Political Science from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Policies and Development at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences.

## Marcellis Counts



Marcellis Counts is the founder of Apiary in the Sky, an LLC which seeks to address various quality of life concerns that residents of Black Communities face on a daily basis through beekeeping, and to create more representation and support networks for Black beekeepers. Apiary in the sky recognizes that many urban centers, once known as "legacy cities" were booming centers of commerce, only to have been exploited, polluted, and neglected. Many of these cities are home to predominantly black and brown communities. This organization hopes to bring awareness to the long history of environmental racism and discrimination in agricultural/green spaces by using the bees to lead the way to a brighter future.

## Kelly Crawford



Kelly Crawford, MS, is the Associate Director of the DC Department of Energy & Environment, Air Quality Division, and Chair of DOEE's Equity Committee. Kelly is a DC native with over 10 years of experience as an environmental engineer and emergency management professional, including air quality compliance, enforcement, asbestos permitting, management of environmental systems, integrated contingency planning, and remediation of environmental health hazards.

She leads a team of scientists and engineers developing and ensuring compliance with air quality regulations through the lens of equity in the District of Columbia. Prior to her tenure at DOEE, Kelly served as contract environmental engineer and program manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center supporting the Environmental Management System, Oil Control Program, and Air Quality Programs. Kelly is a Certified Public Manager (CPM) and holds an MS in Management with a focus in Emergency Management from UMUC, and a B.S. in Environmental Science from Rochester Institute of Technology. She is also a LEED Accredited Professional by the US Green Building Council.

## Adam Cutler



Adam Cutler is a Counsel in Fox Rothschild's Environmental Department and ESG Practice Group and serves on Fox's Sustainability Committee. He focuses his practice on advising clients on environmental compliance, risk communication and environmental justice, as well as environmental, ESG and energy policy issues.

Adam previously spent four years applying his environmental law experience in the public interest sector, including as interim executive director for a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the improvement of environmental and economic conditions in the city of Chester, Pennsylvania. Adam also worked as a staff attorney for a Philadelphia-area public interest organization, where he served as Director of its Public Health and Environmental Justice Law Project.

Adam has served on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Justice Advisory Board since 2011, and in 2022 he was elected to a second term as Chair, a position he has held since 2018. Adam also serves on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Environmental and Energy Law Section's Council, where he played a leading role in updating the guidelines for the PLUS Program, the PBA's sustainability program for legal organizations. In 2021, he was appointed to the Lower Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council, which advises the Township Board of Commissioners on environmental and sustainability issues.

## Benika Dixon



Benika Dixon, PhD, MPH, is an assistant professor at Texas A&M University, School of Public Health. She received her Bachelors in Chemistry at Spelman College, Masters of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University, and Doctor of Public Health in Epidemiology and Environmental Health at Texas A&M University. Dr. Dixon's research interests are Environmental Exposure, Disaster Epidemiology, Environmental Justice, Health Equity, Rapid Needs Assessments. Her teaching interests consist of Field Epidemiology, Outbreak Investigation, Disaster Epidemiology, Environmental Epidemiology, Environmental Justice.

Dr. Dixon's interest in disaster and environmental epidemiology stemmed from witnessing the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and serving as an environmental planner during the Freddy Gray riots. With her work, Dr. Dixon aims to give hope to vulnerable communities. Prior to attending Texas A&M School of Public Health, she assisted in the development of the Emergency Response Team at Morgan State University and worked with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to develop the HBCU Emergency Management Consortium. Dr. Dixon is a Founding Fellow of the Bill Anderson Fund, a fellowship developed for doctoral students to expand the number of historically underrepresented professionals in the field of disaster and hazard research and practice.



## Tatiana Eaves



Tatiana Eaves, MS, is an Environmental and Climate Justice Policy Specialist in the Environmental Justice, Climate and Community Revitalization Program (EJCCRP) at the National Wildlife Federation. Tatiana has an academic background in Ecology (B.S.), and Environmental Science and Policy (M.S). She has the passion and expertise to write, edit, and translate scientific research and policy in an engaging and incisive manner for a lay audience. Tatiana's goals are in making science and data accessible to everyone to empower communities and inspire inclusive policies. In collaboration with communities and policymakers, her aim is to ensure that environmental policies not only work to protect our lived environment but prioritize equity and justice at the local, state, and federal level to provide long-lasting solutions.

## Jennifer Egan



Jennifer Egan, PhD, is a program manager with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center. She currently teaches Sustainable Development and Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics at the University of Delaware Department of Applied Economics and Statistics. Dr. Egan has worked as a professional geologist and principal scientist on multidisciplinary water resource projects and research. She provides technical and regulatory expertise, project planning, and design, focusing on cost-effective and sustainable solutions for clients. Her experience includes working with stakeholders to provide holistic watershed management, planning, and research; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; wetland delineation; stream and wetland design and mitigation; permitting and legal expertise; flood and stormwater project analysis and design, including climate resiliency and dam removal research publication.

Her doctorate is in Water Science and Policy from the University of Delaware Department of Applied Economics and Statistics in the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources. Her doctoral research involved legal and economic analysis of policy interventions for nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Egan's current projects with the Environmental Finance Center include the development of conservation finance and program analysis for meeting total maximum daily load (TMDL) and multiple separate storm sewer (MS4) requirements in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

## Arthur Ellis



Sen. Arthur Ellis, a Disabled Veteran, has been a resident of Charles County for the past 23 years. During this time he has developed a passion for public service and has been at the forefront of community change throughout Charles County. With the support of his wife Rosalind and their two adult children Rachel and Myles, Sen. Ellis seeks to provide swift legislative reform to Charles County residents as a member of the Maryland Senate. Sen. Ellis is a lifelong Progressive Democrat and a contributing member of the Democratic National Committee.

## Taren Evans



Taren Evans, MUP, is the Coalition of Communities of Color's Environmental Justice Director. Before CCC, Taren worked as Neighborhood Revitalization Manager at Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East where she worked along with Living Cully partner organizations, Verde, Hacienda CDC, and the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) on anti-displacement efforts in the Cully neighborhood. Prior to that she worked for the City of Portland at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability where she focused on applying an equity lens to the 2015 Climate Action Plan. Taren serves on the Parks and Nature Equity Advisory Committee for Metro and as a Steering Committee member for the Cully Boulevard Alliance. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Portland State University.

## Mike Ewall



Mike Ewall, Esq, is the founder and director of Energy Justice Network, a national support network for grassroots community groups fighting dirty energy and waste industry facilities such as coal power plants, ethanol plants, natural gas facilities, landfills and incinerators of every sort. He has been actively involved in student and community environmental justice organizing since high school in 1990. He's taught hundreds of workshops at college campuses and activist conferences throughout the U.S. His grassroots support work has helped many communities achieve victories against power plants, landfills, incinerators, medical waste facilities and other polluting industries.

Mike's vision for an online interactive pollution mapping project began in 1995 and finally became a reality in 2010, now providing a platform for tracking existing, proposed, closed and defeated dirty energy and waste facilities, the corporations behind them, and the people and groups fighting them.

## Leslie Fields



Leslie G. Fields, Esq, brings twenty-five years of federal, state, local and international environmental justice and environmental law and policy experience to the Sierra Club.

Leslie was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland Urban Air Toxics Research Center. She serves on the boards of the Children's Environmental Health Network and Empower DC. She also serves on the board of Adeso African Solutions (an East African natural resources and development organization based in Nairobi, Kenya), and has been an adjunct law professor at Howard University School of Law in Washington D.C. Leslie is a graduate of Cornell University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

## Shelley Francis



Shelley Francis, PhD, and former Medical School Faculty member, is a public health executive, entrepreneur and transportation disruptor.

Dr. Francis is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of EVNoire. EVNoire's work focuses on two pillars: E-Mobility Best Practices and Equity Best Practices. The EVNoire Team specializes in providing business solutions to enhance electrification strategies for Utilities, Non-Profits, Municipalities, Government Agencies, Public Health Organizations, and Regional and National organizations to expand this market share. EVNoire also engages communities on workforce development opportunities in the alternative fuel/electric vehicle economy. The EVNoire Team provides opportunities to engage with multi-modal, clean transportation through education and outreach, expanding charging infrastructure, marketing/launches, workplace charging, workforce development and beneficial policies. Dr. Francis and Terry Travis' vision led to the Co-Founding of the nation's largest network of diverse EV drivers and enthusiasts, EVHybridNoire, a 501c3 Nonprofit. EVHybridNoire, is a national, award winning, multicultural organization focused on increasing EV adoption and awareness in diverse communities.

Dr. Francis is recognized as a national thought leader in Best Practices, E-Mobility and Public Health Disparities. Dr. Francis serves as a Board Director for the Electric Auto Association, a National 501c3 advocacy group.

## David Fraser-Hidalgo



Rep. David Fraser-Hidalgo has represented District 15, Montgomery County, in the House of Delegates since 2013. He is a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee and is the Chair of the Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittee. He also serves as the Chair of the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus. Rep. Hidalgo has been a resident of Montgomery County since he was 5 years old. A product of Montgomery County public schools, Rep. Hidalgo attended Albert Einstein High School, Montgomery College, and St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he earned a degree in history. He brings a local's perspective to the issues and challenges that face District 15. Rep. Hidalgo's background and experience place him in a unique position to work with and for other Marylanders.

Rep. Hidalgo has a proven track record as an advocate for the environment in his 8-year career as a Delegate. He has been named a "Green Champion" by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters every year since 2017 for supporting and sponsoring priority environmental legislation.

In 2017, he spearheaded the charge in the General Assembly to ban fracking in Maryland, making it only the third state at the time to successfully enact such a ban. He has led efforts to phase out our reliance on fossil fuels and encourage the use of electric vehicles in Maryland, with the passage of the Clean Cars Act of 2019 and the Clean Cars Act of 2021 this session. He is also a leading advocate for legislation to electrify the state's school buses and state vehicle fleets.

As the Chair of the Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittee, Rep. Hidalgo is dedicated to ensuring that roads in Maryland are safe for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. For his efforts, he was named Legislator of the Year in 2016 by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. When not in Annapolis, Rep. Hidalgo lives in Boyds with his two wonderful children, Samantha and Scott, and his dog Wally.



## Kim Gaddy



Kim Gaddy is the National Environmental Justice Director for Clean Water Action. She has been advocating for communities impacted by industrial pollution and the goods movement system in Newark and across the country for 18 years.

Kim develops and implements Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund's grassroots environmental justice campaigns and coalition building efforts nationally and in New Jersey. She is a former Newark School Board Member, New York/New Jersey Regional Representative for the Moving Forward Network, Port Commissioner for the City of Newark, Appointed by Governor Phil Murphy to serve as Vice-Chair of the NJDEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, former Chair of both the Newark Environmental Commission and the Essex County Environmental Commission, a founding member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance and New Jersey President of the International Black Women's Congress.

Previously, she worked in Municipal government in Newark for 12 years and served as the first female Chief of Staff, for Councilwoman Mildred Crump. Kim was recognized for her Community Service in the 2018 Newark Women from Suffragettes to the Statehouse, 2017 selected as 100 People of Newark, Women on the Move Award recipient and a 2007 recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Environmental Community award.

## Cesar Gamboa



Cesar Gamboa, Esq, is the Executive Director of Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos naturales, Perú. Cesar is a Lawyer by the National University of San Marcos and is a Doctoral candidate of Law and Political Science from the same university. Cesar is a professor of Environmental Law, Environmental Management, Land and Renewable Energy, Multiculturalism and Indigenous Amazonian, and Biocommerce at various institutions. He has also been a consultant to various NGOs in policy analysis related to energy, indigenous rights and biodiversity, with 16 years of experience on issues related to the energy sector, the rights of indigenous Amazonian peoples and biodiversity conservation in Spain, United States, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.

## Lisa Garcia



Lisa Garcia, Esq, is currently appointed as the Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 office. Her detail covers New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations.

Lisa is a proud graduate of Teaneck High School in NJ, Stony Brook University (SUNY), and Brooklyn Law School. She identifies as an active public servant and environmental lawyer who has advocated for environmental and climate justice for 20 years, representing grassroots groups and the public sector at all levels of government.

Prior to her appointment, in 2019, Lisa joined Grist Magazine to run an innovative new program called Fix. Prior to that, she was Vice President for Litigation for Healthy Communities at the nonprofit law organization, Earthjustice, where she launched various programs including Sustainable Food and Farming and the Puerto Rico initiative. Under the Obama administration, she led EPA's environmental justice work, serving as Associate Administrator and Senior Advisor to EPA Administrators Lisa P. Jackson and Gina McCarthy. She led the design team for EJSCREEN, the EPA's first nationwide EJ mapping tool to assess overburdened communities.

Prior to 2009, Lisa was Director of Environmental Justice and Indian Affairs at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and she was an Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Protection Bureau of the NYS Attorney General's Office and an Associate Professor at Rutgers Law School in Newark, NJ. She has also worked for Senator Robert Torricelli and New Jersey State Senator Byron Baer. Garcia has served on the boards of El Puente, The Fund for NJ, Eastern Environmental Law Center, the David Rockefeller Fund, Governors Island Trust, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and the Nature Conservancy.

## Adrian Gardner



Adrian R. Gardner, DPA, served as Executive Director, Recovery Communications and Technology, Office of Response and Recovery (SES Ret) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In this role, he was responsible for establishing the strategy and course of action for re-establishment of communications and technology for the U.S. Caribbean Territories in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Adrian also served as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for FEMA at the agency's headquarters in Washington, DC. In this position, Adrian was responsible for the governance and operations of the agency's information systems, ensuring the system complies with regulatory requirements in support of FEMA's mission and objectives. Currently, Adrian is the Chief Executive officer at SmarTech Nexus and TheChainBlockCompany, LLC.

## Anushi Garg



Anushi Garg, MS, is an architect and urban planner with a masters degree in City and



Regional Planning from Cornell University. She believes in creating place-based solutions that are fostered by communication, participation and collective dialogue with communities.

Her research interests include climate adaptation planning, disaster risk resilience and mitigation, geospatial mapping, and environmental justice. For her masters thesis, Anushi worked with a flood prone community in Cambodia to evaluate their vulnerabilities and propose resilience strategies. Anushi is originally from India, and prior to her masters she engaged in a diverse array of projects back home - from participatory urban design, to building low cost homes, researching landscape remediation strategies and conducting historical research.

	<p>As a CEEJH Faculty Assistant, Anushi has been leading community-engaged research projects on stormwater, flooding, and disasters funded by NSF and EPA; expansion of EJSCREEN funded by the US EPA and Maryland Dept of Natural Resources; and writing white papers and other documents on climate and environmental justice.</p>
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## Paula Glover



Paula R. Glover has served as President of the Alliance to Save Energy since January 2021 and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2017. A dynamic leader with more than 25 years of experience in the energy industry, Ms. Glover is the seventh president in the Alliance's 45-year history.

Paula's leadership at the Alliance is driven by her belief that universal adoption of energy efficiency is foundational to achieving energy affordability, economic growth, and decarbonization. She is responsible for working with the Alliance's diverse coalition of stakeholders to find lasting, consensus-based solutions. During her tenure, the Alliance has secured billions of dollars in federal funding for energy efficiency programs, amplified its work on energy justice, and worked to advance the next generation of technologies with the Active Efficiency Collaborative.

Paula previously served as President and CEO of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, a non-profit professional association whose focus is to ensure that African Americans and other minorities have input into the discussions and development of energy policy, regulations, and environmental issues.

Paula's other experiences include 15 years in the energy industry for both electric and natural gas distribution companies. She has served on the National Petroleum Council since 2014. She serves on the board of the Keystone Policy Center and Groundswell, a community solar development organization. She is also a Trustee for Cardigan Mountain School, a junior boarding school in Canaan, NH. She received her B.S. in Marketing Management from the University of Delaware.

## Adriana Gonzalez



Adriana Gonzalez is an environmental justice organizer with the Sierra Club in Puerto Rico. Her work includes halting the construction of a waste incinerator while promoting zero-waste solutions and the protection of the Northeast Ecological Corridor. She studied at the University of Puerto Rico Social Sciences school and majored in geography. As an activist, she has organized around the UN Climate Negotiations in Cancun, Durban, Qatar, and Paris. Locally in Puerto Rico, she has coordinated efforts to monitor leatherback turtles, to lobby for public policy such as a plastic bag ban, and to create community partnerships for sustainable development. Currently, as EJ organizer for Sierra Club, Adriana works with a base of about 300 volunteers and 10,000 local supporters in Puerto Rico.



## Sara Grineski



Sara Grineski, PhD, is a Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies at the University of Utah. Her research interests are in environmental health disparities, children's health, and environmental justice. Her doctoral education was funded by a five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) fellowship in urban ecology at Arizona State University. As a Master's student, she collaborated with a neighborhood on a community-based participatory research project on children's environmental health, an experience that set the course for Dr. Grineski's future career.

After graduating in 2006 with her Ph.D. in Sociology with a minor in Geography, she became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). While at UTEP, she was a Principal Investigator (PI) on the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) award, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). On this award, Dr. Grineski developed and directed the academic year and summer research mentoring programs for undergraduate student and faculty mentees, which spanned across 15 colleges and universities.

Separate from the NIH BUILD award, Dr. Grineski has received external research funding as a PI or Co-PI from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Health (NIH) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Dr. Grineski has published in outlets ranging from *Social Science & Medicine* and *Social Forces* to *Environmental Research Letters* and *Environmental Research*. Dr. Grineski has set as a top priority involving students in her research; over half of her publications involve student authors.

## Luz Guel



Luz Guel (she/they), PhD, is the Community Engagement Core Coordinator for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Environmental Health Core Center at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

As the core coordinator, Dr. Guel fosters collaboration and multi-directional communication among environmental health scientists and frontline communities on the role of environmental exposures in health. This includes but is not limited to clinicians, advocacy groups, educators, and policymakers. Through the academic-community partnerships fostered, they ensure that environmental concerns that affect the community's health guide the Center's research priorities.

As an educator and researcher within the Department of Environmental Medicine & Public Health at Mount Sinai, Dr. Guel uses community-based participatory research (CBPR), community science and anti-racist approaches to collaborate with New York City communities to address environmental (in)justices. Their research is rooted in understanding how systems of oppression continue to disproportionately affect the health and wellbeing of populations of Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

## Samantha Hamilton



Samantha Hamilton, MS, manages the LiveWell Springfield Coalition of the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts (PHIWM) where she leads the Transforming Community Initiative to promote health equity through policy, systems, and environment change strategies for access to nutritious food, safer Complete Streets, and healthier opportunities; and the Age Friendly City initiative, a process of community engagement and assessment to implement Age Friendly designation for the City of Springfield. She came to PHIWM from Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services (MLKFS), where over 15 years she progressed from Lead Camp Counselor to Director of Operations. While at MLKFS, Samantha supported state and federal grant initiatives around gang violence, substance abuse prevention, and teen dating violence. In addition, she trained and engaged youth who successfully advocated for passage of Tobacco 21. Samantha's leadership also resulted in youth safe haven programming, domestic and dating violence education, and annual community engagement events. Samantha has a BA in Business Management and a Master's in Counseling Psychology from American International College. Samantha has 15 years of experience working with residents including youth and adults in Springfield.

## Kristen Harbeson



Kristen Harbeson, MHist, is currently a political director with the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. She rose to this position in 2015, after five years as senior staff to Chairman Maggie McIntosh. During her tenure with the legislature, she worked for the Environmental Matters Committee. After earning a bachelor's degree from Hampshire College in 1996, Kristen spent a year in Paris before graduating with a master's degree in history and museum studies from the University of Delaware in 2000. Her lifelong passion for politics and policy, however, led her to shift to advocacy work, first at Preservation Maryland and then the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Kristen is a devoted resident of Baltimore City where she has lived for over 20 years and where she dedicates her time to her other great passions: traveling, dancing, cats, history, baking, and spreadsheets.

## Kerri Harris



Kerri Evelyn Harris is a veteran, activist, community advocate, and organizer who transformed and invigorated the race for the United States Senate in the state of Delaware. She currently serves as an organizing specialist for Namati's United States Environmental Justice program.

By standing unapologetically for criminal justice reform -- emphasizing restorative justice and ending mass incarceration, while also providing economic opportunities for returning citizens; Harris demonstrated a keen understanding of the current crisis of mass incarceration, recidivism, and the disproportionate ways institutionalized racism and economic injustice penalize low-income people and people of color.

Kerri proposed raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and indexing it to inflation. By insisting on increasing wages for the lowest-paid, Kerri exposes the lie of simply providing jobs to combat poverty, forcing the recognition that stagnant wages are actually a form of oppression.

In addition, Kerri defended educational access and environmental safeguards. All while fighting against the Bank Lobbyist Bill which weakened Dodd-Frank and has made it easier for communities to experience red-lining and predatory lending.

## Faith Harris



Reverend Faith Harris, PhD, has served over twenty years in various capacities including as Assistant Professor of Theological Studies for The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University (STVU). Her areas of specialization are womanist/feminist theology, eco-theology, and practical theology and ethics. She concluded her tenure at STVU in January 2022 and joined Virginia Interfaith Power & Light as Co-Director. She has earned the Doctor of Ministry Degree and the Master of Divinity degree, from Virginia Union University and a Masters of Sacred Theology, with an emphasis in Practical Theology, Christian Social Ethics, and Ecclesiology from Boston University School of Theology.

In addition to her academic and administrative work, Dr. Harris has been highly active in the Richmond community for more than 12 years serving as Co-Chair for Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Chapter Lead for Organizing for Action, member of Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, and Co-Chair for the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice.

## **Brent Harris**



Brent C. Harris, Esq, is the Vice President of Governance in Meta (formerly FaceBook). Brent is also an American attorney who worked on the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, and later served as Director of Global Affairs for Facebook, where he was instrumental in developing Facebook's Oversight Board.

## Chris Heaney



Christopher D. Heaney, PhD, MS, is an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with appointments in Environmental Health and Engineering, Epidemiology, and International Health. Dr. Heaney is the director of the Johns Hopkins Environmental Health Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory (EHMIL).

Dr. Heaney earned his Masters of Science degree in environmental health microbiology and virology and his PhD in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health in 2008. His dissertation, "Contact with Beach Sand and Risk of Illness," examined the relationship between beach sand contact, densities of fecal microbial pollution in sand, and the risk of enteric and non-enteric illnesses.

His research focuses on environmentally-mediated impacts on health and well-being, specifically community land use, waste disposal, and food production practices, and integrates the academic disciplines of environmental microbiology, molecular biology, immunology, epidemiology, and community-based participatory research (CBPR).



## Jill Heaps



Jill Witkowski Heaps, Esq, is the former director of the Environmental Advocacy Clinic at Vermont Law School, deputy director of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, and assistant director of the Environmental Law Clinic at the University at Buffalo School of Law.

Prior to assuming those roles, Jill served as director of the Choose Clean Water Coalition and as waterkeeper at San Diego Coastkeeper. She clerked for the Honorable Virginia Hernandez Covington of U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida and began her career as an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York City.

Jill graduated Order of the Coif (honors) from Washington University School of Law in 2002. In addition, she has also served for six years on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). Currently, Jill serves as a senior attorney at Earthjustice's Northeast office based in Buffalo, New York.

## Thomes Helme



Thomas (Tom) Helme is a coordinator at the California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC), and co-founder of Valley Improvement Projects (VIP). Valley Improvement Projects began in 2012 as a group of activists and community organizers from the Northern San Joaquin Valley of California. Led by Tom and Emiliano Mataka, the group had the mission of improving the quality of life of underrepresented and marginalized residents of California's Central Valley by advocating for social and environmental justice.

Tom studied Journalism and Political Science at Humboldt State University and Law at Humphreys College Laurence Drivon School of Law.

## Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson



Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is a 31 year old, Affrilachian (Black Appalachian), working class woman, born and raised in Southeast Tennessee. She is currently the Co-Executive Director of the Highlander Education and Research Center and she has previously served in positions of leadership for many organizations including being the past president of the Black Affairs Association at East Tennessee State University and the Rho Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She holds a B.A. in English with a minor in African and African American History.

She has extensive experience with community organizing and is a former staff member of the Chicago SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) History Project, and a past member of the United Students Against Sweatshops National Coordinating, Political Education and Collective Liberation Committees. Additionally she is a long-time activist working around issues of mountaintop removal mining, and environmental racism in central and southern Appalachia, and has served on the National Council of the Student Environmental Action Coalition. She is also an active participant in the Movement for Black Lives.

Ash-Lee has experienced Highlander through participating in Cultural Organizers' Weekend, Transitions, and has served as a board member since 2012. Ash-Lee comes to Highlander from Project South, where she is a member and regional organizer, active participant on the governance council of the Southern Movement Assembly, and organizer with Concerned Citizens for Justice (Chattanooga, TN).

## Marccus Hendricks



Marccus D. Hendricks, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning and the Director of the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab at the University of Maryland, College Park. To date, he has primarily worked to understand how social processes and development patterns create hazardous human-built environments and vulnerable infrastructure and the related risks in urban stormwater management and flooding. Other work has also focused on technological risks such as fertilizer explosions, as well as cascading events such as wet-weather events that overwhelm sanitary sewers and cause contamination, household back-ups and overflows. His work emphasizes participation and action that uses methods including photography, visual inspection and environmental sampling. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Science and a Master of Public Health, both from Texas A&M University.

Dr. Hendricks' primary research interests include stormwater infrastructure planning and management, social vulnerability to disaster, environmental justice, hazard mitigation, sustainable development, public health and the built environment, and participatory action research. At the intersection of his work, he uses a combined social vulnerability to disaster and environmental justice framework, to ensure that low-income and communities of color are planned and accounted for.

## Jessica Hernandez



Jessica Hernandez, PhD, is the founder of Piña Soul, a social purpose corporation who supports non-profits, government, and strategic community partners. Specifically, she is a transnational Indigenous environmental scientist, whose work advocates for the healing of Indigenous landscapes and environments through Indigenous Science.

Dr. Hernandez strongly believes that effective collaboration efforts and initiatives laced with community-based solutions and knowledge systems can help address environmental sustainability & conservation effectively. Throughout her graduate and professional career, she has created and implemented frameworks that are now offered through Piña Soul's consultation services. The frameworks provided are important to integrate into the negative impacts communities of color face.

## David Herzl



David Herzl, JD, is the CEO and co-founder of Aclima. Under Herzl's leadership, Aclima has developed a sensing platform that combines cloud computing and machine learning to make sense of the invisible world around us, at scales never before possible and at a fraction of the cost of traditional methods.

Herzl has brought together public and private players, including Google and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to use the power of environmental sensor networks to map pollution at the human scale. Aclima was recently named a 2017 World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer, a 2018 Cleantech Global 100 Company, and one of Fast Company's top World Changing Ideas of 2018. In June 2017, Aclima's methods were featured in *Environmental Science & Technology* when Aclima, Google, the Environmental Defense Fund and University of Texas at Austin published results of a year-long mobile mapping campaign to measure hyperlocal air pollution in Oakland, CA. This research was selected as the "Best Environmental Technology Paper" of 2017. Herzl also founded NextEarth Group in 2004 -- a family of entrepreneurs and companies dedicated to a more compassionate, equitable and environmentally intelligent world. At NextEarth, she was a trusted advisor to leading philanthropists and Fortune 500s working to invest capital and resources for the advancement of global sustainability. The inspiration for Aclima emerged from this work.

Herzl holds a JD from University of San Diego School of Law with specialization in corporate law and intellectual property law, as well as a BA from the University of California San Diego in economics, political science and communications.

## Amber Hewitt



Amber Hewitt, PhD, and a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, currently resides in Washington, D.C (Ward 2). She has expertise in racial equity policy, child/adolescent mental health and well-being, health system transformation, and the psychological study of race, ethnicity and culture.

Dr. Hewitt is the Chief Equity Officer for the Government of the District of Columbia. In this role, she is charged with developing an infrastructure in city government that will ensure policy decisions and District programs are evaluated through an equity lens. Amber previously served as the Director of Health Equity at Families USA, national, nonpartisan consumer healthcare advocacy organization.

Dr. Hewitt began her career as a tenure track assistant professor at the University of Akron in the Counseling Psychology doctoral program. Following her faculty appointment, in 2016, Dr. Hewitt was selected for the American Psychological Association (APA) Congressional Fellowship Program and worked in the Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker. Dr. Hewitt was appointed by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2017 to the District of Columbia's Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys. Dr. Hewitt received her B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Southern California; M.A. in Psychology from Boston University; Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Loyola University Chicago; and completed her predoctoral internship at the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology (CMTP) at Boston Medical Center.

## Anhthu Hoang



Anhthu Hoang, PhD, JD, is currently an attorney in the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 air program. Her current line of focus is air regulation, however, in the past, Dr. Hoang has worked with programs within the region and across the agency to integrate Environmental Justice into the EPA's core functions. In order to efficiently promote equal protection under the nation's laws for communities with EJ concerns, Dr. Hoang has also worked with state and municipal governments as well as diverse stakeholders to promote and share methods and tools to improve environmental and health protection for vulnerable populations.

Prior to taking on her role with the EPA, Dr. Hoang worked with a number of Environmental Justice organizations in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area advocating for communities of low-income and color. Thus, before launching her legal career, Dr. Hoang was an ecologist studying the impacts of agricultural pesticide contamination in wild amphibian populations. In addition to her law degree, Dr. Hoang holds a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology.



## Adrienne Hollis



Adrienne L. Hollis, PhD, JD, is both an environmental toxicologist and an environmental attorney. She has worked in the environmental justice and public health arena for more than 20 years, at the intersection of public health, environmental justice and climate. She works with environmental justice communities to identify priority health concerns related to climate change and other environmental assaults and evaluate climate and energy policy approaches for their ability to effectively address climate change and benefit underserved communities.

Dr. Hollis is the President and CEO of Hollis Environmental Consulting Services, LLC where she continues her work, identifying priority health concerns related to climate change and other environmental assaults and evaluating climate and energy policy approaches that benefit underserved communities. In addition, she is Of Counsel at Metropolitan Group, a social change agency that crafts and integrates strategic and creative services to amplify the power of voice of change agents in building a just and sustainable world and is also a professorial lecturer at the George Washington Milken School of Public Health in the Environmental and Occupational Health Program.

Dr. Hollis is a member of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Advisory Council, the Board of Scientific Counselors Climate Change Subcommittee, the Chisholm Legacy Project Advisory Committee, the Endangered Species Coalition Board of Directors, and the Climate Critical Earth Advisory Committee, to name a few.

## Erica Holloman-Hill



Erica L. Holloman, PhD, earned a B.S. in Marine and Environmental Science and a M.S. in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science from Hampton University. She earned her Ph.D. from the School of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

Dr. Holloman's area of expertise lies in the field of marine science, environmental risk assessments (human and ecological), community-based participatory research (CBPR), and environmental justice. She currently volunteers as Coalition Coordinator for the Southeast CARE Coalition, a broad, grassroots, community-based alliance created to address environmental concerns in the Southeast Community of Newport News, Virginia.

Dr. Holloman is also the founder and CEO of Ayika Solutions, Inc, an environmental consulting firm focused on providing scientifically sound, community specific, and socially relevant environmental information. Her interest in Urban Waters issues lies in those sacred spaces where science and authentic community engagement merge into implementable solutions.

## Shizuka Hsieh



Dr. Shizuka Hsieh, PhD, is a chemistry professor and the chair of the chemistry department at Trinity University.

Dr. Hsieh obtained a BA in Chemistry from Carleton College and a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Hsieh published a paper titled, "Asthma and Particulate Matter Pollution: Insights from Health Survey and Air Quality Monitoring in the Buzzard Point, Washington, DC Neighborhood." The paper was published August 12, 2021 in the online journal, Environmental Justice. This collaborative work with ANC Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton and Professors Harrison and Phoenix comes out of an air quality monitoring campaign — since 2016 — and a larger grassroots community effort to improve the environment and secure housing for the near Buzzard Point neighborhood.

## Brandon Hunter



Brandon Hunter, PhD, is a postdoctoral researcher at both Columbia University and at the Center for Rural Enterprise & Environmental Justice. He obtained his PhD and MS in environmental engineering from Duke University and received his BS in civil engineering from the University of Florida. His research explores novel wastewater treatment design, assessment, and implementation under environmental justice and equitable research frameworks.

Dr. Hunter's mission is to utilize his academic, professional, and coalition-building experiences in engineering design, science research, and environmental justice activism to improve the health, safety, and well-being of those disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. Brandon also actively strives to transform institutional diversity, equity, and inclusivity in academic STEM learning, research, and administrative environments. He is currently an Early Career Fellow with UCLA's Center for Diverse Leadership in Science.

## Jolene Ivy



Prince George's County Council Member Jolene Ivey, MJ, was elected to her first four-year term on the County Council in November 2018. She represents Council District 5, and serves on the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee (where she is the Vice-Chair), the Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee, and the General Assembly Committee. She previously served in Annapolis as a Delegate representing District 47 in the Maryland House of Delegates, and as Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation. She led the fight to correct a state education funding formula, and as a result, approximately 20 million additional dollars come to the County's public schools every year. When she was Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families in Annapolis, Delegate Ivey led the effort to address and fix a disparity in funding going to Prince George's County for the Home Visiting Program, succeeding in ensuring that the county received its fair share.

A former broadcast journalist with a Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland, Council Member Ivey was a co-founder of Mocha Moms, a support group for at-home mothers of color, and helped grow it into a national organization. Council Member Ivey was named one of the Daily Record's Top 100 Women of Maryland in 2016 and was the recipient of the Maryland State NAACP's Kweisi Mfume Excellence in Advocacy Award. Among Council Member Ivey's priorities on the County Council are children and their families, the fight for environmental justice, and making sure the residents of Prince George's County and District 5 receive speedy, effective, and courteous services from the County Government.

## Rebecca Iwerks



Rebecca Iwerks is the Learning and Policy Advisor for the Namati Global Environmental Justice Corps in New York City. As the Learning and Policy Advisor, Rebecca helps land and environmental justice warriors find new ways to scale and sustain the impact of their work.

Before joining Namati, Rebecca fostered movements for change and capacity development on access to justice issues ranging from natural resource revenue management to land tenure. Rebecca also has roots advocating for gender justice, drawing from experience directly representing survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence in New York. Her career began working alongside the Burmese democracy movement in Thailand and India. Rebecca earned a Juris Doctorate from Fordham University and a B.S. in astronomy from the University of Massachusetts. She has three children who she tries to convince to enjoy recipes that she collects from her travels.

## Eric Jackson



Eric L. Jackson is the vice president and chief of staff for West Virginia State University. Eric has been serving as interim chief of staff since last fall. He has been with the university since 2007 and most recently served as director, Title III Programs and Budget Office.

He currently chairs the WVSU COVID-19 Task Force and led the team that developed the campus reopening plan for fall 2020, as well as subsequent semesters. He has previously chaired, or co-chaired, several search committees for a variety of key leadership positions at the university.

In addition to his work at WVSU, Eric is active in the community. He has served on the board for the local non-profit organization Dream Chasers since 2017 and currently serves as board president. He also served on several youth league boards, and has served on the Sub Area Planning Committee.

He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and has held several leadership roles in the fraternity including local chapter president, secretary, state and local membership selection chair and youth outreach/community outreach chair.

Eric has a bachelor's degree in English from WVSU, and master's degrees in public administration and business administration from Strayer University. He is a certified project manager through the Project Management Institute and a certified grant manager through the Management Concepts federal training organization.

## Joe James



Joe James is a black, climate-tech entrepreneur, and the President of Agri-Tech Producers, LLC, who has invented and begun implementing, inter-related and patented processes, which cost-effectively combat Climate Change, promote Environmental Justice, and can create lots of new bio-economy jobs, even in poor urban and rural communities of color, converting plant material into Bio-Products.

Using his patented Combined Remediation Biomass and Bio-Product Production (CRBBP) Process, one plants and then multi-tasks fast and very large-growing Bio-Crops, to cost-effectively do good things, powered by sunlight, like capturing large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, remediating air, soil and water, and then making circular economy Bio-Products from the harvested material, in which the captured carbon is sequestered. The multitasking feature of his CRBBP Process makes the cost of all of its outcomes much lower, than if the Bio-Crops were grown for a single purpose.

His state-based operating affiliate companies are now partnering with three utilities (Baltimore General Electric, Dominion Energy and Philadelphia Gas Works) in utility-funded, CRBBP Process demonstration projects, during which they are planting Biomass Sorghum on utility sites, to capture lots of CO<sub>2</sub>, then harvesting the crops and converting the resulting plant material into Biochar, which is embedded in the very same sites, to sequester the captured carbon, and earn carbon credits.

In addition, he is very concerned about the dangerous environmental conditions, under which too many communities of color suffer, including those downwind from major highways, where Airborne Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) and Tire Wear Pollution may be harming health. He believes that his Bio-Crops may be able to screen out some amounts of PM 2.5, and he is also making a less toxic, bio-based alternative to Carbon



	<p>Black Filler Powder, which makes up 33% of a tire's composition. He also intends to use his Bio-Crops to remediate Brownfield Sites and to even provide "Pop-Up Shade", in tree-less communities, to lessen Climate Change's Heat Island Impact, in the summer's hottest months. He is honored to be a member of Meta's inaugural Environmental Justice Cohort.</p>
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## Andres Jimenez



A long-time environmental advocate, Andrés Jimenez is the Executive Director of Green 2.0. Andrés is a strategic thinker, a relationship-builder, and carries an empathetic connection to the communities he advocates.

Most recently, Andrés served as Senior Director of Government Affairs at Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), where he worked with Congress to expand the voice of CCL and advocate for relevant legislation. Andrés also served as the Associate Director of Government Relations at Ocean Conservancy with a focus on creating bipartisan solutions for issues like ocean acidification and sustainable fisheries.

Andrés has a history of public service, having worked for New York City's mayor's office, the House Judiciary's Immigration Subcommittee, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, and Congressman Howard Berman. He is also an active member of GreenLatinos, serves on the board for the Culmore Clinic and is a member of the Green Leadership Trust. Andres is also an appointed Planning Commissioner for Fairfax, Virginia.

## Julie Jimenez



Julie Jimenez is a transportation and energy consultant as well as being a PhD student at California State University.

Through years of experience in organizing on and offline, creative storytelling, and strategic campaigns for environmental issues, Julie excels at centering the needs and leadership of the communities most affected by environmental racism and providing them support and tools as they fight for climate justice. Growing up in Los Angeles as a first-generation Mexican-American, Julie understood from a young age that zip code and race play a key role in quality of life, and is working to build a world where families like hers can thrive in healthy and resilient communities.

## Jill Johnston



Jill Johnston, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern California in the Division of Environmental Health, Department of Population and Public Health Sciences of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the USC Spatial Sciences Institute. She also serves as Director of Community Engagement in the Division of Environmental Health at University of Southern California.

Broadly, her research focuses on addressing unequal exposures to harmful contaminants that affect the health of working poor and communities of color. Dr. Johnston previously worked as a community organizer on issues of environmental and economic justice in South Texas.

Dr. Johnston received her Ph.D. in environmental sciences and engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied hazardous waste sites and industrial animal production. Currently, she engages in collaborations with grassroots organizations to conduct community-engaged action-oriented research at USC to support environmental justice.

## Kimberly Jones



Kimberly L. Jones, PhD, MS, is an Environmental Engineering Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education at Howard University in Washington, DC. She holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Howard University, a MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL and a PhD. in Environmental Engineering from The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Jones' research interests include developing membrane processes for environmental applications, physical-chemical processes for water and wastewater treatment, remediation of emerging contaminants, global drinking water quality, environmental justice, and environmental nanotechnology.

Dr. Jones currently serves on the Chartered Science Advisory Board of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and as chair of the Drinking Water Committee of the Science Advisory Board. She has served on the Water Science and Technology Board of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Board of Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors, where she was Secretary of the Board. She has served on several committees of the National Academy of Science and the Institute of Medicine. She served as the Deputy Director of the Keck Center for Nanoscale Materials for Molecular Recognition at Howard University. She also serves on the Center Steering Committee of the Center for the Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (CEINT). She also served as an associate editor of the Journal of Environmental Engineering (ASCE).

## Samuel Jordan



Samuel Jordan is the president of the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). Jordan founded BTEC in 2015 to complete the Baltimore Red Line light rail project and recover its transformative economic benefits for the Baltimore region and the "African American, Hispanic, low-income, and transit-dependent communities adversely affected by the project's cancellation in 2015.

As community-engagement organizers, Samuel and BTEC, work to assure the role of communities in shaping an urban landscape formed by the merger of land use and equitable transportation policy. An important element of the BTEC strategy is to emphasize the linkages among transit equity, public health, and environmental protection.

## Hilton Kelley



Mr. Hilton Kelley began his career as a sailor in the United States Navy. His naval career lasted six years and Mr. Kelley was honorably discharged in 1986. After being released from the military, Hilton pursued his life's passion of working in the film and television industry. He was inducted into the Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) in 1991.

After a decade in the film and television industry, Hilton shifted his ideology into becoming an environmental activist and rebuilding his hometown community. This began with the founding of Community In-Power and Development Association Incorporate (CIDA Inc). This corporation aims to challenge the environmental violations of superfund sites with Port Arthur, Texas. By collecting data from emission sources, Hilton has created an educational program to inform the community about the toxic burden they bear.

This theme of public advocacy continues, as in 2002, Mr. Kelley testified before the US. Senate on behalf of impoverished communities across the nation. However, his efforts have not gone unrecognized. In 2011, he was recognized as Goldman Environmental Prize winner and received presidential recognition for his achievements.

## Marva King



Dr. Marva King, PhD, is a retired Senior Policy Advisor with the Environmental Justice Office of the EPA. Dr. Marva King got interested in environmental justice while she was working on her master's degree at the University of Delaware and took a class on environmental policy in which she learned about environmental racism. In 1994, she joined the EPA and started working in the Environmental Justice Office. After 10 years in the Environmental Justice Office and another 10 in the air office, she returned to the EJ office in 2015. Her responsibilities included advising the director of the EJ office and his deputy.

Furthermore, Dr. King advised Mustafa Ali, EPA's former Senior Adviser for Environmental Justice. Dr. Marva King holds a PhD from George Mason University. In her dissertation she examines the link between social capital and the use of local collaborative partnerships for addressing neighborhood environmental and public health concerns within the context of two federal community collaboration programs.



## Leila Borrero Krouse



Leila Borrero Krouse is a Puerto Rican, from the city of Quenepa, Ponce. She came to the United States of America in 1975, and currently lives in the state of Maryland.

Since 1986, Leila has worked with migrant workers in various areas that affect the migrant. She started working on Social Services in Cambridge, MD, helping with the food stamp program. After that, Leila began working with health clinics as a medical interpreter and farmworker health educator. Later on, Leila started working on Legal Services and visited all the fields in Maryland and Delaware, and this is how, in one of those camps, she met Manuel, CATA's Lead Organizer. From there, Leila went to work with Catholic Charities addressing immigration matters and transitioned from this organization, to CATA, in 2012. She has learned so much from all the people that she has been in contact with. Leila likes to know and share the cultures and traditions of all of them.

## Kendra Krueger



Kendra Krueger, MS, currently works as a science educator at the City University of New York's Advanced Science Research Center. In this role, she has founded The Community Sensor Lab as a space for DIY community science and advocacy. Making her not only a scientist, but educator, artist, and woman of color.

Kendra received her Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and her Master of Science degree (M.S.) from the University of Colorado Boulder. To supplement her educational training, Ms. Krueger received additional training in anti-oppression facilitation, theater, mindfulness and permaculture. From this background, and her curious nature, the focus of her career work emerged.

Kendra seeks to inspire a deeper exploration of ourselves and our universe. Her pedagogy advocates that science can be a transformative tool for our external and internal world if analytical and intuitive skills are combined. This manifesto is displayed through Ms. Krueger's founding of 4LoveandScience in 2014. This serves as a platform to teach transformative science at universities, in k12 schools and in community spaces/gardens throughout the country.

## Jennifer Kunze



Jennifer is the Maryland Program Manager at Clean Water Action, where she organizes campaigns on local water, climate, and health policies across the state. In her time at Clean Water Action, she's worked to ban crude oil infrastructure in the Port of Baltimore, improve city policies in responding to sewage backups in homes, improve local water quality and drinking water through land use policies, and more.

She is a lifelong Maryland resident, hailing originally from Frederick and attending St. Mary's College in Southern Maryland before coming to live in Baltimore City. Outside of her work at Clean Water Action, she serves on the board of Charm City Land Trust, which works to preserve community green space and develop permanently affordable housing in her neighborhood in East Baltimore, and spends a lot of time working at her community garden.

## Larry Lambert



Larry Lambert is a Representative of District 7 in the Delaware House of Representatives. He is also a community leader and a proud lifelong resident of the 7th District (Claymont). His decades of service have been recognized by Senator Joe Biden in front of the US Congress, on the Oprah Winfrey show, in a proclamation by State Treasurer Colleen Davis, and in numerous News Journal features detailing his volunteer work across Delaware.

Larry attended Forward Elementary (in North Graylyn Crest), went to Brandywine High School, and taught Sunday School at Concord Baptist Church (on the border of Lancashire). After earning his degree from Temple, he served as an art teacher for 8 years at the Claymont Boys & Girls Club and substituted at Brandywine High School. He then worked in corporate banking for 9 years. Larry has actively worked to build bridges between Delaware's corporate and nonprofit sectors to bring resources into the 7th District such as road repairs, jobs, workforce development programs, mentors, homeownership seminars, air quality monitors, murals, air conditioners, free COVID-19 testing sites and boxes of fresh food for thousands of local families impacted by the economic shutdown.

## Saniya LeBlanc



Saniya LeBlanc, PhD, MPhil, is an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and Director of the Energy Innovation Initiative at The George Washington University. The Energy Innovation Initiative builds research and engagement capacity in three themes: energy as an equity enabler, the next generation energy network, and multiscale materials for energy. In leading the initiative, Dr. LeBlanc brings industry and academic research experience in creating energy conversion technologies using advanced materials and manufacturing techniques.

Prior to joining GWU, she was a research scientist at a startup company where she created research, development, and manufacturing characterization solutions for thermoelectric technologies and evaluated the potential of new power generation materials. Previously, she was a math and physics teacher at a multicultural high school in the D.C. public school system.

Dr. LeBlanc is a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award. In 2018, the American Society of Engineering Education named Dr. LeBlanc one of its “20 Under 40” high-achieving researchers and educators, and she also received the GWU Morton A. Bender teaching award. Dr. LeBlanc obtained a PhD in mechanical engineering with a minor in materials science at Stanford University. She was a Churchill Scholar at University of Cambridge where she received an MPhil in engineering, and she has a BS in mechanical engineering with a minor in French from Georgia Institute of Technology.

## Charles Lee



Charles Lee is currently a senior policy advisor for Environmental Justice at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Prior to assuming this role, Charles has been at the forefront of multiple environmental justice events. In the early 1980s, he created the environmental justice program at the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice. In 1987, he was the principal author of the Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States Report, which was pivotal in realizing race is the most significant predictor of where hazardous waste facilities are located in the United States. In addition, Charles has helped establish the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC).

Mr. Lee's public service record is also extensive. He has served on numerous panels, boards, and federal advisory committees. These include the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, the EPA's National Advisory Council on Environmental policy and Technology, the EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee, the West Harlem Environmental Action organization, the Environmental Support Center, and the Institute of Medicine Committee on Environmental Justice: Research, Education and Health Policy Needs.

## Gabriela Lemus



Gabriela Lemus, PhD, is the Executive Director of Maryland Latinos Unidos and the CEO of Revolution Strategy, a management and communications strategy consultancy.

Prior to Revolution Strategy US, she was the President of Progressive Congress and adviser to the co-Chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Representatives Raul Grijalva, and Keith Ellison. As an Obama Administration appointee, she served as Senior Advisor and Director of Public Engagement for Secretary of Labor, Hilda L. Solis. She was also appointed by Mayor Vince Gray to serve as a Trustee of the University of the District of Columbia – an HBCU. Dr. Lemus is a passionate advocate for justice – social, economic, environmental, gender – whose career spans more than 15 years in senior strategic leadership roles in congressional and government affairs, non-profit management, policy advocacy and community/civic-engagement. She has built and managed non-profits, has a wide range of experience in building multi-racial coalitions and advocacy campaigns, advancing public policy and civic engagement. She is an innovator in voter engagement and civic participation for the Latino community.

Gabriela has a PhD from the University of Miami, where she studied international political economy and political theory and wrote her dissertation on the drugs war and the US-Mexico border, implications for bilateral relations. She is the President of the Mi Familia Vota Education Fund (MFVEF), the co-Chair of the Center for Common Ground, and sits on the board of American Family Voices (AFV). She serves as the Chair of the Development Committee at Netroots Nation and the Chair of the Audit Committee at the National Institute for Reproductive Health.

## Michael Lengefeld



Michael Lengefeld, PhD, has research that intersects with his work on community organizations, such as the Food Recovery Network and the Goucher Prison Education Project. Professor Lengefeld currently teaches courses at Bemidji State University in Sociology and Environmental Studies, with a focus on social and environmental transformation. His research examines the dynamics of violence, development, and environmental justice.

Dr. Lengefeld's comparative-historical work on the environmental consequences of Cold War nuclear weapons production and the U.S. War on Drugs in Latin America is published in the *Journal of World-Systems Research*, *Human Ecology Review*, and *Armed Forces and Society*.



## Grace Tee Lewis



Grace Tee Lewis, PhD, is an Environmental Epidemiologist at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) focusing on health impacts of criteria and hazardous air pollutants, particularly among environmental justice communities. Her work includes mapping and development of a data driven tool to identify, prioritize, and visualize risk factors contributing to neighborhood vulnerability from inequities in environment, health, climate, and social stressors.

Dr Lewis supports community based organizations by providing scientific expertise for their advocacy efforts and development of environmental justice action plans. Her work also focuses on understanding health risks related to the marine and transportation sectors and strategies to improve regional air quality, monitoring and public health.

## Robin Lewis



Robin Lewis, MBA, MUP, is the current Outreach and Social Justice Coordinator at Beloved Community Church in Prince George's County, Maryland. Ms. Lewis has an educational background in economics, receiving both her Bachelor of Science and Masters from Rutgers University in New Jersey. In addition, Ms. Lewis has a Masters in Sustainable Urban Planning with a concentration in Climate Change from The George Washington University. During her time in academia, Ms. Lewis' research focused on the socio-economic aspects of sustainability in urban revitalization, such as issues relating to displacement, gentrification, and affordable housing. Therefore, her career interests stem from her background, and it is her belief that she has been called as a Christian to be a voice for environmental justice in her community.

This will for service has translated into the roles Ms. Lewis has taken on. As an advocate for education, in particular people of color and other marginalized communities, Ms. Lewis has helped others become more aware of environmental issues that are impacting their quality of life. Community engagement and organizing with various local grassroots and faith-based organizations has become the forefront of Ms. Lewis' work. She has taken up this role professionally, as she entered the field, working as a certified project manager for nonprofits and businesses, and leading a large community engagement project about energy sourcing and usage in Madison, Wisconsin. In addition, her work has advocated and promoted environmental legislation to clean-up the Renewable Portfolio Standards in Maryland.

## Brandon Lewis



Brandon Lewis, MS, is a PhD student at Yale University with an interest in air pollution and health impacts. He plans to pursue research on the effects of a variety of air pollution sources such as building materials and animal farming waste and quantify how they impact human health outcomes. Prior to joining the Bell research group in Fall 2021, Brandon received his Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and Master of Science in Atmospheric Science at North Carolina State University (NC SU). There, he used modeling methods to quantify local air pollution exposure from agricultural emission sources. During this time, his interest in Environmental Justice led him to work with local advocacy groups such as the NC Environmental Justice Network while incorporating environmental justice research into his thesis.

Also, Brandon has led air quality measurement projects abroad in Botswana, as part of an NSF IRES (International Research Experience for Students) project, and locally in North Carolina. In the greater atmospheric science field, Brandon had interned at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory focusing on wind energy development and optimization and at the NC State Climate Office.. Outside of research, Brandon has spent time upholding Diversity and Inclusion as a founding member of the first Community Climate Committee in NCSU's Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Science Department. In his free time, Brandon enjoys tennis, music, reading, playing saxophone and piano, and meeting new people.

## Tyler Lobdell



Tyler Lobdell, JD, is a staff attorney with Food & Water Watch's legal team. In this role, Mr. Lobdell focuses on combating factory farms through legal advocacy. This passion is also displayed through his additional roles as board member on the Legal Impact for Chickens and Crate Free USA teams.

Prior to joining the primary role with Food & Water Watch's legal team, Mr. Lobdell was a Food Law Fellow with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and Co-Editor in Chief of the Animal Law Review.

Mr. Lobdell received his Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) in History from The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his Doctorate of Law, specializing in animal and environmental, from Lewis and Clark College.

## Linda Loubert



Linda Loubert, PhD, is a Political Economist with a doctorate from the University of Texas at Dallas. She is an associate professor at Morgan State University and served as the interim chairperson of the Economics Department. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Michigan in the Ford Foundation Program on Poverty and Public Policy and Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research. She recently completed a year sabbatical at Johns Hopkins Economic Department.

A certified Geographical Information Systems (GIS) professional, Dr. Loubert has, for more than 20 years, used GIS to support her spatial analysis of socioeconomic data. Most of her publications include spatial analysis of socioeconomic data, an approach now better known as Geodemographics. Dr. Loubert especially enjoys bringing trending GIS tools to the classroom, where her students can learn the value of this emerging technology. She presents her work at economics and geospatial conferences, and she teaches these tools to faculty and students inside and outside Morgan's campus.

Dr. Loubert is currently serving on the Society of Government Economist Board and has served as the treasurer and board member for the National Economic Association. Other positions include serving as a governor-appointed member of the Open Data Council for the state of Maryland and as a board member of several of Baltimore's local organizations.

## Boris Lukanov



Boris Lukanov, PhD, joined Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) in 2017 to develop analyses on energy transition pathways that maximize health, equity, and environmental co-benefits. His work focuses on clean energy technologies, energy equity, air quality, energy efficiency, and integrated resource modeling and optimization. Dr. Lukanov authors peer-review papers and technical policy reports, develops interactive data visualization tools, and serves as an expert on technical advisory committees and in regulatory proceedings.

He has more than 10 years of multidisciplinary research experience in both experimental and theoretical science. His PhD research focused on the atomic-scale characterization of surfaces and thin films, with applications in photovoltaics, photoelectrochemistry, and computers. His postdoctoral and undergraduate research focused on theoretical simulations and computational modeling of complex fluid systems. Dr. Lukanov holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science from Yale University and a BA in Physics and Astronomy from Wesleyan University.

## Tai Lung



Tai Lung, MPP, is an EJSCREEN Project Lead at the Office of Environmental Justice of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He previously worked as a program analyst within the EPA and Managed the day-to-day coordination of several high visibility EPA projects.

Mr. Lung is a University of Maryland alumni. He received his Master's degree in public policy from the University of Maryland in 2017.

## BP Lyles



B. Preston Lyles, Sr. a native of Philadelphia, Pa has experienced a lot of good in his life as well as some share of less desirable times. BP holds 3 degrees; a Bachelor of Religious Education, A Masters of Divinity and a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration, Org. Leadership with a secondary concentration in International Peace and Diplomacy. He has spent over 30 years engaged in public speaking, working with and leading teams of various sizes, serving as a life coach to many, mentoring adults, raising up leaders and maintaining strong and meaningful long-term relationships with friends and family.

BP is currently a Lead Organizer with the Toxic Prisons Campaign of the Human Rights Coalition and also serves with the Prison Abolitionist Archive. He has a personal understanding of deep pain, loss and imprisonment. BP has made a personal commitment to being involved in the active change dialogue of Restorative Justice, seeking to impact the positive progression of reducing recidivism, unjustified incarceration and the closure of all environmentally toxic prisons.



## Angela Marconi



Angela Marconi, PE, is the Air Quality Division Director for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) in Delaware. Prior to that, she had been responsible for all air permitting, compliance, and enforcement throughout the State of Delaware.

Before coming to DNREC in 2015, Angela, who holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Delaware, worked in engineering positions with Cabe Associates and the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA).

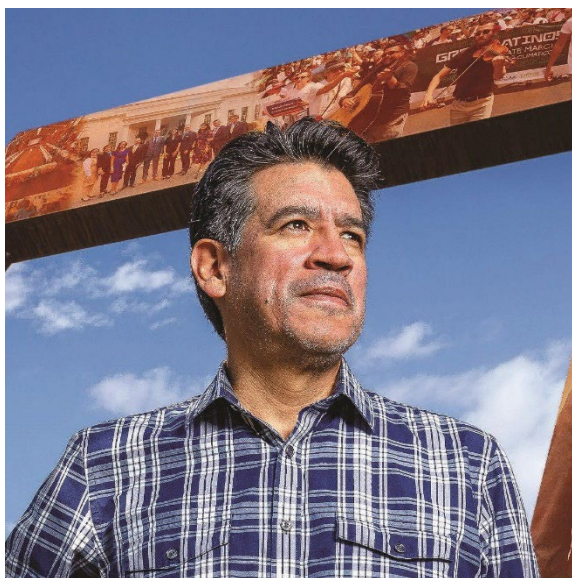
## Justin Madron



Justin Madron, MS, is the Associate Director of the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab. His duties include managing all processes involving the production and organization of spatial data used in the Digital Scholarship Lab's work.

Justin's personal focus is on data management and historical interactive mapping techniques. He is an adjunct lecturer for the Department of Geography and teaches courses in GIS, Design, and Geovisualization. He is also the Program Specialist/Instructor of the School of Professional Studies GIS Certificate Program at the University of Richmond.

## Mark Magana



Mark Magaña is the Founding President & CEO of GreenLatinos, a National network of Latino environmental and conservation advocates. Mark is the first Latino to have served as senior staff at both the White House and in Congressional leadership – as Special Assistant to President Clinton for White House Legislative Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor to the House Democratic Caucus Vice-Chair Robert Menendez. Mark also served as a Presidentially appointed Congressional Liaison at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as Legislative Assistant to Congressional Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), as a Federal Legislative Representative for the City of Los Angeles, and as a Research Assistant for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

As an early supporter of Senator Obama's Presidential Campaign, in February of 2007, Mark founded the National Latinos for Obama. Through Latinos for Obama, he helped build a national grassroots organization and mobilization effort.

Originally from Los Angeles, Mark lived in Washington, DC for 30 years and just recently moved to Boulder, CO with his wife and young children, where he serves on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters, Green 2.0, and the Children's Environmental Health Network.

## Michael Malcom



The Reverend Michael Malcom, MBA, is the Founder and Executive Director of The People's Justice Council and Alabama Interfaith Power and Light and a licensed and ordained United Church of Christ Minister. Rev Malcom is the former Senior Pastor of Rush Memorial Congregational UCC in Atlanta, GA. He is also the Environmental Justice Representative for the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. He is currently the co-chair of the Building Power from the Grassroots Task Force with Climate Action Network International, and the co-chair of the Environmental Justice working group for the Southeast Climate and Energy Network. He currently serves as the International Liaison for the US Climate Action Network and co-chair of the Faith Working Group for the Climate Strike Coalition.

Rev Malcom's academic journey began at Beulah Heights University where he graduated May 2008 with an undergraduate in Biblical Education and Leadership. He was accepted to and began attending The Interdenominational Theological Center where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree in 2011. Due to his understanding of the role of a pastor he completed five units of Clinical Pastoral Education at The Atlanta VA Medical Center and AnMed Health Hospital in Anderson, SC. In May of 2016 Rev Malcom graduated from Terry School of Business MBA program at the University of Georgia. In October of 2017 he completed a post master's human resource management course at Cornell University. In 2019 he completed the Convergence Leader Project with the Center for Progressive Renewal and the Just Energy Academy with Partnership for Southern Equity.

	<p>Michael's varied experience is coalescing in a powerful way to create an unparalleled opportunity for faith communities throughout Alabama to unite and raise their voice against environmental racism, economic oppression, environmental injustice and climate change.</p>
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## Ora Marek-Martinez



Ora Marek-Martinez, PhD, is Executive Director at Northern Arizona University's Native American Cultural Center, a professor at NAU, and an Indigenous Scholar & Mentor. Dr Marek- Martinez research interests include Indigenous archaeology, Southwestern archaeology, epistemic injustice, decolonizing methodologies, and community based participatory research. She has received her Ph.D. in Anthropology- Archaeology from University of California Berkeley.

She has served as Executive Director of the Native American Cultural Center for over 5 years and has also been teaching as an assistant professor of anthropology for over 5 years.

## Carolina Martinez



Carolina Martinez is the Climate Justice Director of the Environmental Health Coalition. Carolina works together with residents in low-income communities of color to advocate for climate and land use policies that respect their priorities, improve health, and are consistent with environmental justice principles. For 8 years, she worked with National City residents implementing a comprehensive community plan that phased polluting industries out of a residential neighborhood and created an affordable housing project. Currently, she is working on a community-led effort to transform San Diego's transit system into one that feeds the region's livelihoods, reduces air pollution, and threads communities together via the San Diego Transportation Equity Working Group and the 10 Transit Lifelines.

Carolina is a proud Colombian immigrant who enjoys working at the intersection of liberation, race, culture, gender, civic engagement, environmental issues, health and city planning in the struggle for environmental justice. Carolina has gained a Master's in Urban Planning and Latin American Studies and spends her free time learning to play Son Jarocho and dance Puerto Rican Bomba.

## Vivek Maru



Vivek Maru, Esq, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Namati. Vivek started Namati in 2011. Since then, Namati and its partners have supported cadres of grassroots legal advocates—sometimes known as community paralegals—in ten countries. These advocates work with their communities to protect common lands, enforce environmental law, and secure basic rights to healthcare and citizenship.

In all ten countries, paralegals and communities have achieved concrete remedies to grave harms as well as major improvements to entire systems, including a new anti-bribery policy for the health sector in Mozambique, stronger sand-mining regulations in India, and greater protection for women’s rights in Sierra Leonean land law.

Globally, Namati convenes the Legal Empowerment Network, more than 2,500 groups and members from over 170 countries who are learning from one another and collaborating on common challenges. This community successfully advocated for the inclusion of justice in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Vivek is co-author of *Community Paralegals and the Pursuit of Justice* (Cambridge University Press). His TED talk, “How to Put the Power of Law in People’s Hands,” has been viewed over a million times.



## Ian McDonald



Ian McDonald is a member of Not Another Power Plant, a community led organization helping to educate citizens and property owners residing in Killingly, Connecticut who would be affected by the integration of a new energy power plant. Since early 2016, the Florida based energy corporation, NTE, has been planning to develop a 550 megawatt power plant on Lake Road in Killingly, Connecticut. The Not Another Power Plant initiative is exposing the major health risks and environmental concerns of community residents that come with this construction.

## Deborah McGregor



Deborah McGregor, PhD, is well versed in Indigenous systems and their relation to environmental justice. She is Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, Birch Island, Ontario. Dr. McGregor received her BSc and PhD in forestry from the University of Toronto and her MES from York University. Many of her works have been published in journals, and she has given many speeches, sharing her knowledge with the world. She served as an associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto, Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives and the Aboriginal Studies Program, and Senior Policy Advisor, Aboriginal Relations at Environment Canada-Ontario Region. Dr. McGregor is now the Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School.

Along with Mario Blaser, Ravi De Costa and William Coleman, Dr. McGregor co-edited *Indigenous Peoples and Autonomy: Insights for a Global Age* (2010). She co-edited the Anishinaabewin conference proceedings series with Alan Corbiere, Mary Ann Corbiere, and Crystal Migwans. Dr. McGregor is the Primary Investigator on two current SSHRC-funded projects: *Indigenous Environmental (In)Justice: theory and practice* and *Indigenizing the First Nations Land Management Regime*. She is also a co-applicant in two current SSHRC projects: *Indigenous Knowledge Transfer in Urban Aboriginal Communities* and *Exploring Distinct Indigenous Knowledge Systems to Inform Fisheries Governance and Management on Canada's Coasts*.

## Reginald McKinley



Reginald McKinley, MBA, MDEM, is a Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary artist, social commentator, and equity consultant. He received his MA from University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, MBA fellowship from UCLA Anderson, and BA's, with honors, from Morehouse College. Reginald's research-based projects use domestic objects and photos to illuminate life as explored through the transitioning of times, temperaments, tenets, and technology. He has been featured on CNN, NPR, BBC, NBC, ABC. Along with these appearances, Reginald has guest lectured across the US and in Brazil. He believes that acknowledgement and exposure precedes visibility and his work documenting daily life helps question the attitudes and unwritten rules that dictate who has opportunities to be seen.

## Leticia Colon de Mejias



Leticia Colon de Mejias is the Founder and CEO of Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES), a Connecticut based full service Energy Conservation Company. In 2007, she co-founded and assumed the role of President of Green Eco Warriors (GEW). This is a non-profit Youth Ecology and Conservation group located in Windsor, CT. GEW focuses on fostering leadership skills, scientific inquiry, scholastic success, and environmental stewardship among young people - displayed in the group's mission statement: "Saving the Planet through Education and Motivation."

Mrs. Colon de Mejias has authored and illustrated eight children's books including; "Butterfly Rhythm, the bi-lingual "Hip Hop and the Wall", "Mrs. Busy Bee", "Pesky Plastic," and "Over the Moon and Past the Stars", "Dinero the Frog Learns to Save Energy".

In addition, Leticia developed and coordinated English as a Second Language, and Adult Basic Education courses for the staff at Hartford Hospital. She was also the proponent of the computer literacy and college level classes at the HH. She was the hospital's educational and workforce development consultant for over ten years. She developed the Your Educational Success Foundation (Y.E.S.), and subsequent Program workbook. These tools support adult learners who desire to begin or return to college. In addition, Leticia is a public servant, as she consistently delivers motivational talks to youth and adults.

In her free time, Leticia enjoys spending time with her husband and six children, partaking in public speaking engagements about climate change and energy conservation, as well as, workforce development, mentoring youth, gardening, watching documentaries, life coaching, cooking and eating great food.

## Vernice Miller-Travis



Vernice Miller-Travis, JD, is an Executive Vice President at Metropolitan Group, where she works on the intersection of environmental justice, public health, social justice and multicultural engagement issues around the country. However, Ms. Miller-Travis has been a leader in the environmental justice movement for more than 30 years. She helped write “Toxic Wastes and Race,” the first major study to prove environmental racism—the deliberate placement of toxic substances and environmental pollutants in communities of color. She stood with President Bill Clinton at the White House when he signed Executive Order 12898, which made environmental justice a federal government policy. She even helped to write “the Principles of Environmental Justice,” the foundational principles and beliefs that guide the environmental justice movement today.

In Miller-Travis’ early career, she led the environmental justice initiative at the Natural Resources Defense Council. She was also a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, where she funded environmental justice work all over the world. She is the co-founder of We ACT for Environmental Justice and has served on its board for more than thirty years. She also serves on the boards of Clean Water Action, Green Leadership Trust, Land Loss Prevention Project, NRDC Action Fund, Patuxent Riverkeeper, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum advisory boards.

## Harold Mitchell



Harold Mitchell, Jr is a Former South Carolina State Representative who has been committed to making the Arkwright and Forest Park neighborhoods within Spartanburg healthy and sustainable communities by advancing environmental justice, collaborative problem solving, and better neighborhood planning. He created the organization ReGenesis to represent neighborhood interests in cleaning up contaminated and abandoned property as well as revitalizing the surrounding community.

In the late 1990s, Mitchell led what began as an individual effort — but which would balloon into a community, and eventually statewide effort — to create support for the cleanup of and investment in the Arkwright and Forest Park communities. These low-income communities are nestled between waste sites and an active chemical plant. Mitchell created the ReGenesis Project to bridge gaps in economic development and spur community recovery in neighborhoods that were underserved, under-resourced, and overburdened.

## Karen Moe



Karen Moe, MSEE, is a member of the Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee and serves as the Air Quality Monitoring liaison working with the University of Maryland School of Public Health. She retired from NASA Goddard's Earth Science Technology Office, managing advanced information technology systems technology projects and since 2015 has focused on a variety of citizen science activities in Prince George's County.

## Jay Monteverde



Jay Monteverde, Esq, has advocated for human rights and social justice through grassroots organizing and law and policy advocacy for 20 years, focused largely on environmental justice, immigrant rights, and protection of civil liberties. At Namati, he leads the US Environmental Justice Program, working with the program team to assist US legal empowerment advocates and communities facing environmental injustice.

He started his legal career at the Illinois Attorney General's Office, where he handled environmental justice and other public interest litigation, investigations, and policy matters. Jay was born and raised in the Chicagoland area but later moved to China and worked with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, supporting grassroots organizations to push for environmental enforcement, transparency, and access to justice. Most recently, Jay co-founded Breach Collective, which partners with climate activists and frontline communities on locally-driven strategies to advance climate justice.



## Donna Moodie



Born in Jamaica, raised in Chicago, and now a resident of Seattle for over 20 years, Donna Moodie is well acquainted with the interconnectedness of social justice, community building, and neighborhood activism. Her passion for service and bringing communities together presents itself in both her work with Community Roots Housing and Marjorie Restaurant.

Donna opened Marjorie in 2003, naming it after her mother as a tribute to her love for entertaining and cooking. Moodie divides her time between running the restaurant and being the executive director of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict initiative through Community Roots Housing, which works to improve sustainability and environmental health in the neighborhood. “(Marjorie) has created a gathering of community. I feel like I’ve been able to use that as a platform to share a lot of ideas I have about food, social justice and the quality of food.”

Marjorie is Moodie’s third restaurant. Her first, Marco’s Supper club in Belltown, she opened in 1993 with her previous partner using their life savings. In 1997, the couple then opened Lush Life in Belltown, which Moodie transformed into Marjorie in 2003 after they split up. Donna became executive director of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict at Community Roots in January 2020, expanding her role to the Executive Vice President of Community Roots Housing, with a focus on Community development. The Capitol Hill EcoDistrict is a passion fueled department of Community Roots housing focused on building environmental resilience through a lens of social justice and racial equity.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Community Roots Housing focused on rent relief and

community engagement while in isolation. The EcoDistrict is also working to create a student-based health center at Lowell Elementary School. Moodie also spearheaded a program that delivers meals to their affordable housing residents who lost income due to the coronavirus.

Moodie serves on the Grist Board, participates in the Central Area and Capitol Hill Land Use Review Committees, has served on several Mayoral commissions and task forces, and serves on the Seattle Center Advisory Commission. She was a founding board member of the Capitol Hill Housing Foundation, chaired the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas Board. As a consultant, Moodie has advised food business startups and architects on diversity and inclusion and continues to advocate for the support and success of small businesses. She also serves on the Sentinel Event Review Panel, participating in creating an analysis of the protest events of 2020, in hopes to reform a system to inform better outcomes. Donna enjoys food and wine, dinner parties, the arts, paddleboarding and travel.

## Jorge Moreno



Jorge Moreno is the Co-Director of Operations at People of the Global Majority in the Outdoors, Nature, and Environment. Prior to working in development, Jorge coordinated partnerships with youth organizations to create custom outdoor courses for teenagers. Jorge's own outdoor journey began relatively recently. He spent 15 years in the construction business, working his way from washing equipment to managing operations. His career path took a U-turn after his first backpacking trips, in his mid-30s, which opened his eyes to the beauty of being outside – and to the lack of representation among people who looked like him. Now, he's devoted to making wilderness experiences more accessible to young people from communities that are historically underrepresented in outdoor recreation. In addition to serving as a volunteer and ambassador for Latino Outdoors, Jorge dedicates spare time to sharing his experiences, expertise and passion as a mentor, facilitator and educator.

## Erica Morrell



Erica Morell, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Lawrence University. Her role in this position is to engage in policy analysis, research, and teaching on environmental and food justice. Dr. Morell achieved her PhD in Public Policy and Sociology from the University of Michigan.

As a former resident of rural New Hampshire, Dr. Morell is heavily influenced by place and relations between the environment and human experience. Since her childhood, Dr. Morell has been active in nonviolent social justice organizing while building upon her own experiences with social privilege against ancestral oppression and resistance. She is most notably connected to the Holocaust, and various experiences as a refugee from communist Hungary. Her life and career path has exposed Dr. Morell to support for first generation communities, survivors of sexual violence, and groups impacted by addiction. Thus, it is from these relationships and connections, that Dr. Morell constructively pulls from to uplift students, and further engage in research, consulting, and service at the intersection of the environment and health equity.

## Omar Muhammad



Omar Muhammad, MA, has worked as a community advocate since 2007 as a volunteer for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC). He has served as LAMC's web-site content coordinator and community engagement liaison. Currently, he serves as LAMC's Executive Director.

Omar sits on the Mitigation Workgroup which advises LAMC on implementation of the Mitigation Agreement between the South Carolina State Ports Authority, Palmetto Railways and LAMC. He also serves on the Charleston County Affordable Housing Taskforce, and is an advisor to the executive boards for the Union Heights Community Council, Serve With Joy, Distinguish Gentlemen Mentoring Organization, Communities For Justice, local government agencies on community engagement strategies and the Amplify Fund South Carolina. He is a research consultant for the Charleston Community Research to Action Board, serves on the Clean Power Plan Environmental Justice Analysis Workgroup, and the Clean Power Plan Advisory Workgroup both for the State of South Carolina. He is a founding member for the South Carolina Environmental Justice Network, and for the Moving Forward Network's Southeast Regional Network. Mr. Muhammad completed a 9 month training with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) Region IV's Environmental Justice Academy and was selected Valedictorian for the inaugural class. He is also a past participant in a joint EPA Region IV and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Leaders in Environmental Action Pilot (LEAP) inaugural class. He has successfully led efforts to engage the LAMC communities through various outreach strategies and is

responsible for the EJRADAR's (an online mapping tool) success as an engagement and empowerment tool for Environmental Justice communities.

Omar has a history of public service, as he has successfully funded community research initiatives to train residents on the use of the EJRADAR online mapping tool, conduct a community-based health survey to assess health service gaps at the community level, conduct a zoning analysis for Environmental Justice communities and several other Citizen Science projects. He has been instrumental in leveraging relationships with academics and governmental agencies to assist in the development of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), other projects to address legacy pollution in low-wealth communities and redevelopment of underutilized properties into productive spaces such as parks and greenspace. Additionally, he has been instrumental in securing mitigation dollars totaling over 4 millions dollars to address quality of life concerns in low-wealth communities. Currently, Mr. Muhammad is pursuing a Masters Degree in Community and Urban Planning with a policy focus at the College of Charleston.

## Rianna Murray



Rianna Murray, PhD, is an Assistant Research Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH) at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Dr. Murray is also the Program Manager of the UMD Global STEWARDS program, an NSF-funded fellowship that prepares doctoral students to be interdisciplinary researchers at the Food-Energy-Water nexus. She is also a researcher with the CONSERVE Center of Excellence supported by USDA-NIFA, which investigates transformative on-farm treatment solutions that enable the safe use of nontraditional irrigation water. Dr. Murray teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in both public health and interdisciplinary studies at the Food-Energy-Water nexus.

## Earthea Nance



Earthea Nance, PhD, is the Regional Administrator for the United States' Environmental Protection Agency South Central Region (Region 6). She is an accredited environmental engineer who has, for two decades, worked with communities at disproportionate risk of environmental hazards. Dr Nance earned her Ph.D. degree in environmental engineering from Stanford University, and Master's (M.S.) and Bachelors of Science (B.S.) degrees in civil and environmental engineering from the University of California-Davis. As a professor and graduate student, she conducted community-based research after Hurricane Katrina, during the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and in communities without safe water and sanitation in Brazil and Mozambique.

Post Hurricane Harvey, Dr Nance actualized community and equity perspectives into regional disaster policy during her service on the Greater Houston Flood Mitigation Consortium and on the Harris County Community Flood Resilience Task Force. Layering on public service, within the city of New Orleans, Dr. Nance managed \$60 million in flood mitigation funds and created the City's first approved plans for hazard mitigation, sustainability, and green energy.

Dr. Nance utilizes her leadership skills to propel public and environmental office. She continues to place education first, as she serves on the faculty of



	<p>Texas Southern University, the University of New Orleans, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.</p>
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## Daria E. Neal



Daria E. Neal, Esq, is a Deputy Chief in the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section. Ms. Neal oversees a team of attorneys and who work with the federal agencies to ensure consistent and effective enforcement of civil rights statutes and Executive Orders that prohibit discrimination in federally conducted and assisted programs and activities, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Ms. Neal's work has been integral to supporting federal agencies civil rights enforcement and compliance efforts in areas ranging from environmental protection, transportation, health, and housing. Ms. Neal received the Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, as part of the team responding to civil rights issues related to COVID-19 in 2020 and a Special Commendation Award in 2016.

Ms. Neal has represented the Civil Rights Division on the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council and leads its Title VI Committee to improve interagency coordination of civil rights enforcement in matters related to the disparate environmental and health burdens of pollution. In 2014, Ms. Neal published *Recent Developments in Federal Implementation of Executive Order 12,898 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*. 57 How. L.J. 941. Ms. Neal has served as an adjunct professor at Howard University School of Law as well as New York University School of Law teaching seminars on environmental justice. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Ms. Neal was Senior Counsel for the

Environmental Justice Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Ms. Neal worked closely with communities to address environmental justice issues such as discriminatory zoning and violations of environmental laws. Ms. Neal convened a group of prominent environmental justice advocates, academics, and attorneys to develop recommendations to federal executive agencies for addressing ongoing environmental injustices. In collaboration with several advocates, she published the report "Now is the Time: Environmental Injustice in the U.S. and Recommendations for Eliminating Disparities." Ms. Neal also published the article, Healthy Schools: A Major Front in the Fight for Environmental Justice, 38 ENVTL. L. 473 (2008), which addresses the impacts of locating schools near hazardous and polluting facilities and proposes strategies for addressing disparities in the environmental health of schools that serve predominantly minority students.

Ms. Neal is an active member in the District of Columbia legal community. She has served as a Board Member of the Women's Bar Association for the District of Columbia and served as a Co-Chair of the Women in Public Service and Politics, Chair of the 19th Amendment Centennial Committee, Treasurer from 2012-2013 and Co-Chair of the WBA's Government Attorneys Forum from 2008-2011. Ms. Neal is a proud graduate of Hampton University and received her law degree from the University of California Los Angeles, School of Law.

## Farmer Dominic Nell



Farmer Nell is the founder and owner of City Weeds, an innovative urban agricultural business in Baltimore, Md. that is striving to make healthy food options available in the city's food deserts. Nell is on a mission to put an end to food apartheid in Baltimore and change the narrative around nutrition in the city. Before he founded City Weeds, Nell was a community artist, photographer and filmmaker. He discovered his passion for food justice in 2016 when a photography gig brought him to the City Seeds School of Food, a Baltimore-based training program for food entrepreneurs looking to launch or grow their businesses.

This was around the same time that Nell was learning how to grow microgreens with City-Hydro, a vertical farm experimenting with innovative, space-efficient solutions to the urban food crisis in Baltimore. A 2014 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that microgreens pack five times the vitamins per serving of their conventional, mature counterparts. Additionally, microgreens require far less space than traditional crops, making them an ideal candidate for urban communities where growing space is limited.

Inspired by his experiences with City-Hydro and City Weeds, Nell began harvesting his own microgreens and selling them at Fresh at the Avenue, a community farmer's market in West Baltimore that specializes in affordable, locally sourced foods. Nell's commitment led him to found City Weeds, a business dedicated to bringing fresh, affordable microgreens

to low-income communities throughout Baltimore.

He expanded his operations, going from a casual gardener to a full-time farmer in just months. Nell even began selling microgreen starter kits, so that anyone could grow and harvest food in their own home. Nell is the founder of Be More Green, an after school achievement program that encourages youths to lead healthy lives and empowers them to start, grow and sustain businesses that enrich Baltimore's low-income communities. Class topics range from gardening and marketing to meditation and breathing exercises. Nell says that he is constantly being humbled by the kids he meets.

## Ruth Ann Norton



Ruth Ann Norton, President & CEO of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, joined the organization in 1993 and has led its development into one of the nation's most effective and foremost authorities on healthy housing and its impact on the social determinants of health and racial equity. An expert on lead poisoning prevention, healthy homes and the intersection of climate, energy and health, Ruth Ann directs GHHI's national strategy, policy framework and services to integrate climate, healthcare and healthy housing as a platform for improved health, economic, educational and social outcomes for low-income communities.

She broadened the organization's mission by designing the GHHI comprehensive model in 2009 in partnership with HUD and CDC that is built on a framework of cross-sector collaboration. GHHI works in over 75 partner jurisdictions to implement its model that effectively integrates resources to comprehensively deliver lead hazard reduction, healthy homes, energy efficiency and housing rehabilitation interventions. She has been at the forefront in building the business case for healthcare investments in housing to address the social determinants of health and racial equity.

Ms. Norton serves as a member of: the EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee, the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health, the National Council of State Housing Agencies' National Advisory Group, the Ohio Asthma Council, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center For Population Health Information Technology Advisory Board. She is Chair of the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission and is also a federally appointed Liaison Member to the CDC's Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee.

## Abel Olivo



Abel Olivo is the Executive Director of Defensores de la Cuenca, which translates to Watershed Defenders, a non-profit dedicated to engaging Latinos and Spanish-speakers in watershed-related issues and experiences. A community activist in Prince George's County, MD, Olivo uses his insights and perspectives as a former lobbyist & advocate to connect resources and relationships through coalition building and strategic partnerships for the community. Olivo has extensive experience in developing and implementing policy and engagement campaigns to maximize reach, impact, and message.

## Adam Ortiz



Adam Ortiz serves as the Environmental Protection Agency's Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator where he oversees federal environmental and public health protections in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and seven federally recognized tribes. Ortiz grew up in New York's Hudson Valley, and received his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science and Government from Goucher College in 1996. As director, he currently leads a \$140M, 200-person environmental program including clean energy, waste management, watershed restoration, policy development and public engagement.

Before coming to the EPA, Mr. Ortiz was the Director of the Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Environmental Protection, where he launched programs boosting recycling, curbside compost collection, building energy efficiency standards, and watershed restoration projects.

Previously, Mr. Ortiz played an integral role in the state of Maryland's Office of the Lieutenant Governor. He began under Secretary Tom Perez, but soon worked as Deputy Chief of Staff, where he oversaw policy, communications and strategic direction for the office. Additionally, he served as liaison to labor unions, towns and cities and other constituencies. In tandem, Ortiz was elected 3-terms into the office of the Mayor of Edmondston, Maryland. As Mayor of the Town of Edmonston, Maryland for three terms, Mr. Ortiz ended years of chronic flooding through water infrastructure



improvements, spearheaded the east coast's first "Complete Green Street" that successfully captures and filters stormwater runoff, enables bike and pedestrian access, and has improved the quality of life of the town's diverse residents.

These roles as well as his organizing within Prince George's County, Maryland display his devotion to public administration and advocacy success.

## Na'Taki Osborne Jelks



Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Environmental and Health Sciences Program at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. Through her work, Dr. Jelks investigates urban environmental health disparities; the role that place, race, and social factors play in influencing health; cumulative environmental risks and health; the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, and the connection between urban watersheds, pollution, the built environment, and health. She also develops, implements, and evaluates community-based initiatives that set conditions to enable low-income and communities of color to empower themselves to reduce exposure to environmental health hazards and improve health and quality of life. Jelks is currently co-leading UrbanHeatATL, a research initiative in which local students and community members are mapping urban heat islands in Atlanta with community science.

Dr. Jelks co-founded the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), a community-based environmental justice organization that works to grow a cleaner, greener, healthier, more sustainable West Atlanta through authentic community engagement, organizing, education, community science, and participatory research. Since 2018 she has served on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a federal advisory committee that works to integrate environmental justice into the Environmental Protection Agency's programs, policies and activities as well as to improve the environment or public health in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks. Jelks is currently one of two vice chairs of the NEJAC. A nationally recognized leader in engaging urban communities and youth of color in environmental stewardship, Jelks also co-founded the National Wildlife Federation's Atlanta Earth Tomorrow

Program in 2001 and served as the program director from 2005 until 2017.

Jelks studied Chemistry and Civil and Environmental Engineering at Spelman College and the Georgia Institute of Technology respectively before earning a Master of Environmental and Occupational Health degree at Emory University and a Ph.D. in Public Health at Georgia State University.

## Ufuoma Ovienmhada



Ufuoma Ovienmhada is a third year PhD student at MIT in the Aeronautics and Astronautics Department. Her studies revolve around applications of satellite remote sensing data for environmental justice. In her dissertation, she researches distribution of environmental hazards in carceral landscapes. Prior to beginning her PhD, she completed a Masters in the MIT Media Lab. Her Masters Thesis focused on applying remote sensing, low-cost sensors, drone data collection and community-centered design techniques to invasive plant species management in West Africa. Before arriving at MIT, she completed a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University and worked at Public Lab, a community science nonprofit. Outside of research, Ufuoma is involved in campus activism pertaining to DEI and alternative forms of public safety.

## David Padgett



David Padgett, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Geography, and Director of the Geographic and Information Sciences Laboratory at Tennessee State University.

The founding of the Geographic and Information Sciences Laboratory is especially dear to Dr. Padgett, as it is a testament to his early love for the applications of geospatial technology. As lab Director for over two decades, and along with his many undergraduate research assistants, he has provided technical assistance in geoscience and geographic information systems (GIS) to environmental justice communities throughout the United States. This work also aligns with Dr. Padgett's early work as a Tennessee State University GLOBE Mission Earth Project trainer and partner. This Missions's mission is to introduce STEM disciplines to students and teachers from populations underrepresented.

Dr. Padgett's efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2020, Dr. Padgett was announced the winner of the sixth annual Youth Environmental Science (YES) Medal. This honor, presented by the Youth Learning as Citizen Environmental Scientists (YLACES), is meant to reward the implementation of inquiry-based, experiential science education where students do science and contribute to an understanding of our environment.

## Chrishelle Palay



Chrishelle Palay is the director of the Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) Coalition. HOME was created in response to Hurricane Harvey in an effort to ensure all Houstonians recovered from the disaster in an equitable manner. HOME is composed of several organizations whose expertise ranges from policy advocacy, direct services, legal enforcement and grassroots organizing. Prior to leading this collective, Chrishelle focused on fair housing policy advocacy as the Southeast Co-Director at Texas Housers for over 7 years. Through this work she has provided housing and neighborhood development policy analysis and review to local community organizing groups who were addressing major disinvestment and neglect in their communities. Her expertise expanded through disaster recovery efforts after the 2008 Hurricane Ike disaster recovery process. This experience well positioned community leaders, organizers and advocates to demand equitable investment and treatment for low income communities in the Hurricane Harvey recovery process.

Before transitioning into social justice work, Chrishelle practiced architecture, specifically multifamily high-rise development. Chrishelle is a Next City Vanguard alumnus, and was a Ford Public Voices Fellow of the OpEd Project. She also participates in several national cohorts including Community of Practice on Local Housing Strategies, Ford Just Cities Narrative Shift Project and National Fair Housing Peer Network Group.

Chrishelle has a Bachelor's of Architecture from Prairie View A&M University and proudly serves on the boards of directors of National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County and Rhodes School For The Performing Arts.

## Raj Pandya



Rajul (Raj) Pandya, PhD, directs AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange. The Thriving Earth Exchange helps volunteer scientists and community leaders work together to use science, especially Earth and space science, to advance community priorities related to sustainability, resilience, disaster risk reduction, and environmental justice.

Dr Pandya invites everyone to be part of guiding and doing science, especially people from historically marginalized communities, so that the sciences can contribute to a world where all people and nature can thrive, now and in the future.

Raj chaired the National Academies committee on "Designing Citizen Science to Support Science Learning," serves on the boards for Public Lab and the Anthropocene Alliance and is a member of the Independent Advisory Committee on Applied Climate Assessment. He helped launch the Resilience Dialogues – a public-private partnership that uses facilitated online dialogues to advance community resilience. He was a founding board member of the Citizen Science Association and served as Education and Human Resource Commissioner for the American Meteorological Society.

Before joining AGU, Raj led education, engagement, and diversity programs connected to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, led an international research and development project that used weather data to better manage meningitis in Africa, and held a faculty position at West Chester State University. Raj got his PhD from University of Washington exploring how large thunderstorms grow and persist.

## Jacqueline Patterson



Jacqueline Patterson, MSW, is the Founder and Executive Director of the Chisholm Legacy Project: A Resource Hub for Black Frontline Climate Justice Leadership. The mission of the Chisholm Legacy Project is rooted in a Just Transition Framework, serving as a vehicle to connect Black communities on the frontlines of climate justice with the resources to actualize visions. Prior to the launch of the Chisholm Legacy Project, Patterson served as the Senior Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program for over a decade. During her tenure, she founded and implemented a robust portfolio which included serving the state and local leadership whose constituencies consisted of hundreds of communities on the frontlines of environmental injustice. She also led a team in designing and implementing a portfolio to support political education and organizing work executed by NAACP branches, chapters, and state conferences.

Since 2007, Jacqueline has dedicated her career to intersectional approaches to systems change. Her passion for social justice led her to serve as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United; Senior Women's Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid; Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health, Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University, and U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica. Jacqueline has published multiple articles, reports, and toolkits including: "Equity in Resilience Building for Climate Adaptation: An Indicators Document," "Jobs vs Health: An Unnecessary Dilemma," "Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue," "Gulf Oil Drilling Disaster:



Gendered Layers of Impact,” “Disasters, Climate Change Uproot Women of Color;” “And the People Shall Lead: Centralizing Frontline Community Leadership in the Movement Towards a Sustainable Planet;” “In the Eye of the Storm,” “Our Communities, Our Power,” “Fossil Fueled Foolery.” She’s also authored chapters in two books as follows: “Equity in Disasters: Civil and Human Rights Challenges in the Context of Emergency Events” in the book Building Community Resilience Post-Disaster, as well as, “At the Intersections” in the book, All We Can Save.

Jacqueline holds both a Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland and a Master’s degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the Advisory Boards for Center for Earth Ethics and the Hive Fund for Gender and Climate Justice, on the Governance Assemblies for Mosaic Momentum, Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship, and the Equitable Building Electrification Fund, as well as on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, the Bill Anderson Fund, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, the Movement Strategy Center, the Just Solutions Collective, and the National Black Workers Center Project.

## Maria Payan



Maria Payan is an educator and advocate for socially responsible agriculture. Through forums, films, community events, and even after-school programs for children, Maria has been instrumental in working with communities to fight the expansion of industrial animal facilities throughout Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. She is committed to keeping independent farmers viable, while striving to preserve our natural resources and rural heritage for future generations. Through her work, Maria has formed strong coalitions to empower rural communities, especially vulnerable underserved communities with little political power.

## Mike Payan



Michael's idyllic rural childhood in southern Pennsylvania changed dramatically when industrial agriculture set up shop in his rural township. After years of lax enforcement and declining health, his family fled their home and moved to Delaware. Michael graduated from the University of Delaware and is thrilled to pursue his passion lifting up and standing beside those whose voice and political power have been suppressed. Michael co-founded Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health, a collective voice for positive solutions and inclusiveness in representation working towards healthy communities on the Lower Eastern Shore.

## Tenyo Pearl



Tenyo Pearl, Ed.D, is the Campus Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, and Program Coordinator of the Nonprofit Leadership Program at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

## David N. Pellow



David N. Pellow, PhD, is the Dehlsen Chair and Professor of Environmental Studies and Director of the Global Environmental Justice Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara where he teaches courses on social change movements, environmental justice, human-animal conflicts, sustainability, and social inequality. He has published a number of works on environmental justice issues in communities of color in the U.S. and globally. His books include: *What is Critical Environmental Justice?* (Polity Press, 2017); *Keywords for Environmental Studies* (editor, with Joni Adamson and William Gleason, New York University Press, 2016); and other noteworthy publications.

David has consulted for and served on the Boards of Directors of several community-based, national, and international organizations that are dedicated to improving the living and working environments for people of color, immigrants, Indigenous peoples, and working class communities, including the Central Coast Climate Justice Network, Community Environmental Council, Global Action Research Center, the Center for Urban Transformation, Greenpeace USA, International Rivers, Community Environmental Council, the Fund for Santa Barbara, the Prison Ecology Project. He earned his B.A. in Sociology and Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1992. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University in 1998.

## Millie Piazza



Millie Piazza, PhD, MS, is the program manager for the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice for the Washington State Department of Ecology. This office directs the agency's work to eliminate environmental and health disparities for communities most at risk from pollution and other environmental impacts. The office also leads organizational strategy on diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect to ensure these values are reflected in who we are, where we work, and what we do. Together the program team endeavors to strengthen equity and justice throughout agency activities, implement Washington's environmental justice (EJ) law, conduct technical EJ and equity analyses, and advance compliance with Title VI and other nondiscrimination obligations.

Dr. Piazza designed and conducted the first statewide EJ study for the agency in 1994. She has broad experience in national and international environmental justice, and currently serves on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, and the WA State Environmental Justice Council. Dr. Piazza holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, Master of Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College, and Bachelors in Sociology from Whitman College.

## Daniel del Pielago



Daniel del Pielago was born in Peru and immigrated to the DC metro area in 1980. For the past 15 years he has been organizing with communities of color here in the District around the issues of preserving and improving affordable housing and traditional public education. In his role as Organizing Director, Daniel hopes to support staff organizers in pushing their campaigns and the organization forward as a whole. Daniel, is also a husband, father of two and lover of music of all types, he has collected music in the vinyl format for over 20 years.

## Colette Pichon-Battle



Colette Pichon Battle, Esq. is the founder and Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy and develops programming focused on Equitable Disaster Recovery, Global Migration, Community Economic Development, Climate Justice and Energy Democracy. In this role, she works with local communities, national funders and elected officials in the post-Katrina/post-BP disaster recovery.

Colette was also a lead coordinator for Gulf South Rising 2015, a regional initiative around climate justice and just transition in the South. In addition to developing advocacy initiatives that intersect with race, systems of power and ecology, she manages GCCLP's legal services in immigration law and disaster law. In 2018, Pichon-Battle joined the Movement for Black Lives Policy Table Leadership Team leading to advance national work on Climate Justice.

Colette is both a 2019 Obama Fellow and a 2019 TED Fellow. In 2018, she was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate from Kenyon College and in 2016, she was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity. Adding to these achievements, in 2015, Colette was selected as an Echoing Green Climate Fellow and she has received additional awards from the State of Louisiana, and the American Bar Association for her work in disaster recovery.



## Paul Pinsky



Paul Pinsky became a member of the Maryland Senate in 1994 after serving two terms in the House of Delegates. He serves as Chair of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee where he is an outspoken voice.

Senator Pinsky is a strong advocate for a clean environment and was the lead sponsor of the landmark Healthy Air Act (2006) which limits pollution emitted from coal-fired power plants, among the state's oldest and dirtiest. The bill also required reductions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. In 2009, Senator Pinsky sponsored the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act which requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% from 2006 levels by 2020. Subsequent legislation, he sponsored, requires a 40% reduction by 2030. In 2022 he sponsored the Climate Solutions Now Act which mandates 60% reduction by 2031 and for Maryland to reach net zero by 2045.

Senator Pinsky is recognized as the state leader in building and expanding efforts around National Board Certification, a rigorous process to recognize outstanding educators. He was the lead sponsor of several successful bills that provide state funding to obtain the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. He also served on the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, known as the Kirwan Commission and subsequently was a major force behind the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future which aims to make the state's education system world class. The senator also serves as chair of the Education subcommittee.

Senator Pinsky has also led efforts to reform Maryland's tax structure by closing corporate tax loopholes and creating a progressive tax structure as well as provide health care for all Maryland residents.

Adding to his achievements, Senator Pinsky taught high school history for twenty years. He represents the 22nd district in Prince George's County where he lives with his wife and two daughters.

## **Sor Rattanamanee Polkla**



Sor Ratanamanee Polkla is a lawyer and executive coordinator and co-founder of Community Resource Centre foundation (CRC). CRC has worked on litigation and advocacy to promote and support communities in Thailand and Southeast Asia to access justice. CRC also works on Business and Human Rights. Sor Rattanamanee Polkla works with communities which have faced violations from development projects of private companies and state agencies. These projects include coal power plant, biomass power plant, dam, mining (gold mining, lignite mining, coal mining, limestone mining), and land bridge. Polkla has been working in the field for Human Rights and Environment as a lawyer and advocate since 2000. CRC was founded in 2010 in Thailand and registered as a foundation in 2015.

## Walkiria Pool



Walkiria Pool's professional career includes over 15 years in community development and the housing service industry with a focus on affordable housing and asset development. She earned her MA Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University and a graduate certificate in Women and Politics and Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. As an undergraduate Walkiria earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Boston, majoring in Psychology and Sociology. She was responsible for developing and implementing the Project "Más a ti" for the National Council of La Raza, the first community-based financial institution for low-income families in the nation.

Adding to her contributions, Walkiria also served as Youth Program Director in the family Asset Building division of Lawrence Community Works and as an AmeriCorps Vista member at the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation. She has served on several boards of directors and advisory committees of community-based organizations.

## Vivek Ravichandran



Vivek Ravichandran, MPH, is a first-year Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH) PhD student at The University of Maryland School of Public Health. He is a University of Maryland alum who received his Bachelors of Science in Public Health Science from UMD's School of Public Health in December of 2018. He went on to obtain his Masters of Public Health in Environmental Health from the Emory Rollins School of Public Health in May 2021. His master's thesis examined the role of the social determinants of health and broadband access in COVID-19 disparities associated with a lack of telemedicine in rural Georgia. His analysis included biostatistical methods such as, regression analysis, outlier diagnostics, and hypothesis testing. During this time, he also received a certificate in the social determinants of health.

Currently, Vivek has returned to the University of Maryland, under the mentorship of Dr. Sacoby Wilson at the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH), to utilize and build his epidemiological methods and examine the intersection of health equity and climate justice, while promoting community engagement.

## Tony Reames



Tony G. Reames, PhD, is the Deputy Director for Energy Justice at the US Department of Energy. He leads the Department's new office of Energy Justice Policy & Analysis in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity. Reames was most recently a professor of environment and sustainability at the University of Michigan, where he established the Urban Energy Justice Lab to conduct research and develop solutions on the production and persistence of racial, income, and geographic disparities in the energy economy.

Adding to his accomplishments, Tony has also served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and worked in both the private and public sectors as a licensed professional engineer. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, a Master of Engineering Management from Kansas State University, and a Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

## Autumn Redcross



Autumn Redcross, PhD, is currently a part of the staff at the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Specifically, she is the Movement Building Director and the founding Director of the Abolitionist Law Center Court Watch Program.

Prior to her time at the Abolitionist Law Center, Dr. Redcross served a one-year appointment as a Visiting Professor at Point Park University, as a faculty member of psychology in the School of Arts and Sciences. This establishment comes after the success of her 2019 dissertation defense in the study of Philosophy of Communication and Rhetoric at Duquesne University. Her Duquesne University experience was met with more success, as she was the inaugural Gaultier Community-Engaged Teaching Fellow to the Community Engagement Teaching and Learning Center. Additionally, she trained as a Democratic Conversations Coordinator through Everyday Democracy and completed her certification as an Inside/Out pedagogy instructor. These experiences ultimately added to Autumn's interest in democratic education, community-trauma informed engagement and restorative justice.

## Dana Clare Redden



Dana Clare Redden, MBA, is a passionate solar professional dedicated to the development of distributed generation solar globally. Growing up in a small rust-belt town in western Pennsylvania, the environmental impacts of fossil fuels shaped her perspective, particularly for disenfranchised communities and those most vulnerable. Realizing this need for environmental justice and greater resources, Dana founded Solar Stewards, a social enterprise connecting corporate social responsibility initiatives with schools and universities, affordable and senior housing, places of worship, and nonprofits in marginalized communities.

Dana holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from Drexel University as well as an Executive MBA from IE Business School and Brown University. She is among GRIST Magazine's 50 Fixers, a two-time judge at the DOE/NREL Solar District Cup, an ACORE Accelerate member, and serves on the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) board of directors. She currently resides in Atlanta, GA where she continues to work at the intersection of climate action, environmental justice, and social entrepreneurship for communities worldwide.



## Jennifer Roberts



Jennifer D. Roberts, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Her scholarship focuses on the impact of built, social and natural environments, including the institutional and structural inequities of these environments, on physical activity and public health outcomes of marginalized communities. Adding to her many achievements, Jennifer is the Founder and Director of the Public Health Outcomes and Effects of the Built Environment (PHOEBE) Laboratory as well as the Co-Founder and Co-Director of NatureRx@UMD.

## **Marilynn-Marsh Robinson**



Marilynn Marsh-Robinson is the Senior Manager in Partnerships & Outreach at the Environmental Defense Fund. Marilyn-Marsh Robinson is responsible for collaborating and leading aspects of EDF's zero-emission vehicle transportation strategy, identifying potential partners, nurturing shared dialogue, developing opportunities to leverage common work and implementing tactical joint efforts and helping develop, guide and execute organizational priorities to facilitate deployment of zero-emission vehicles in North Carolina. Marilyn serves on the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board, is a member of the planning committee of North Carolina Environmental Justice Network and has previously served on the North Carolina Conservation Network board.

## Gabby Ross



Assateague Coastkeeper Gabby Ross, is an on-the-water advocate who patrols and protects the Maryland and Northern Virginia Eastern Shore coastal bays, standing up to polluters, and granting everyone's right to clean water. The Coastkeeper provides a voice for waterways when they cannot speak for themselves, to defend their right to be clean and healthy, swimmable and fishable.

Gabby is Assateague Coastal Trust's 3rd Coastkeeper. As a young girl, she enjoyed exploring Delmarva with her family- learning how to fish, clam and crab. Gabby found an escape in the coastal waters of Delmarva, where the rich fertile soils, bountiful waters and seemingly endless landscapes fueled her passion in conservation and environmental stewardship. She earned her BS degree in Environmental Science at Salisbury University. Her commitment to protecting coastal watersheds has been reflected working for the Maryland Park Service, Delaware Natural Resources, and forming a grassroots citizen activist group named Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs (CCAIC).

She has spent the last few years fighting the growing expansion of Industrial-scale poultry operations on the shore, as well as the fighting for more water and air quality monitoring. This grassroots effort also petitioned to make citizens aware of the environmental and social justices' issues still present in many counties. In 2020 she received the Water Warrior Award from Waterkeepers Chesapeake for her efforts protecting the Paleo Channel underground aquifer, introducing new zoning laws to protect citizens from expanding poultry operations and working on introducing the Community Healthy Act.

## Raya Salter



Raya Salter, Esq, is an attorney, consultant, educator and clean energy law and policy expert with a focus on energy and climate justice. Ms. Salter has a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a B.A. in economics from Wesleyan University.

Raya Salter is the founder of the Energy Justice Law and Policy Center, and a member of the New York State Climate Action Council. This counseling body is developing the plan to implement the nation's leading climate law, the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. This statute is the state origin of the Federal "Justice40" environmental justice initiative, making Ms. Salter one of the nation's leading Justice40 experts.

Currently, Raya Salter is an adjunct professor of law at Cardozo Law School and has written widely on energy policy. Her book, "Energy Justice, Domestic and International Perspectives" was released by Edward Elgar in 2018. In addition, Ms. Salter is an experienced advocate, having practiced energy law and regulation in multiple jurisdictions, including New York and Hawaii. Her work also includes collaborating with environmental and climate justice advocates to implement the CLCPA, as well as testifying before congress about the legislation's implementation. Ms. Salter also serves as Board Member for EESI and on the Advisory Boards of Evergreen Action, Our Climate and the Initiative for Climate Risk and Resilience Law, a joint initiative of Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Environmental Defense Fund, the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law, and Vanderbilt Law School. She also serves on the Coalition for Green Capital Environmental Justice Advisory Board. Raya is also a climate and energy content creator and media host. She has produced and been featured as an expert host, advocate and storyteller in print, online and television, including national advertisements for Verizon.

Previously, Raya was the Lead Policy Organizer for the NY Renews Climate Justice Coalition, a Senior Attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council and a Regulatory Attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund. Prior to becoming an environmental advocate, Raya worked as a regulatory attorney at the law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf in New York City, representing energy industry participants in matters relating to regulation by state public utility commissions and federal agencies, transactions involving energy assets, participation in organized electric markets and inter and intra-state transmission. Before becoming a lawyer, Ms. Salter worked in community-based organizations teaching technology to youth and adults and developing summer and after school programming.

## Karla Sanchez



Karla Sanchez (she/her/ella) is a mother of one, born and raised in Yuma, AZ. She is a Caregiver/Coordinator at Direct Network of Arizona, as well as a volunteer for both Hospice of Yuma and The Arizona-California Humanitarian Coalition. On top of her volunteer work, Karla is also a community organizer for Yuma County Abolition, a grassroots frontline community organization committed to liberation through intersectional education, autonomy, mutual aid, decolonization & environmental justice. Being a mother, Karla's core mission is creating a space, with her YCA family, that fosters community-based action. Ensuring support and justice to her community, restoring our vital relationships to Pachamama, each other, and ourselves are among a few aspects of her and YCAs work that allows a much-needed possibility for a world where she, her daughter, and all of us can thrive as a community for the betterment of all beings.

## Ruth Santiago



Ruth Santiago, Esq, is a veteran attorney, environmental justice advocate, and member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Ms. Santiago is a resident of the municipality of Salinas in southeastern Puerto Rico where she has worked with community and environmental groups, fisher's associations and other organizations for over thirty years on projects ranging from a community newspaper, children's services, a community school, ecotourism projects to rooftop solar energy pilot projects. Ruth has been involved in the establishment of broad alliances to prevent water pollution from landfills, power plant emissions and discharges and coal combustion residual waste.

Ruth is also part of a civil society initiative to promote community-based solar projects and energy democracy called We Want Sun ([queremosolpr.com](http://queremosolpr.com)). In addition to litigation in courts and administrative agencies, she has co-organized environmental education projects, advised the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on watershed protection and land use issues. Most recently, Ruth has worked on cases related to energy projects and integrated resource plans. Ms. Santiago earned degrees from Lehigh University and Columbia Law School and has published articles on energy issues in Puerto Rico.

## Greg Sawtell



Greg Sawtell is the Zero Waste Just Transition Director with the South Baltimore Community Land Trust. Mr. Sawtell has a background working on environmental justice campaigns since 2012. His educational experience, being a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, and University of Maryland school of Social Work, has emerged this initial career of social advocacy.

Beginning in Baltimore, Mr. Sawtell contributed to the successful organizing efforts to stop the nation's largest trash incineration from being built less than a mile from schools in South Baltimore, Greg coordinated the development of Baltimore's community-led Zero Waste Plan. He has continued this social advocacy and organizing work by currently focusing on implementation in coalitions with labor, community, and government.

## BeKura Shabazz



BeKura W. Shabazz is the Social Justice and Health Disparities committee chairwoman of the Virginia Green New Deal, Chesterfield NAACP Criminal Justice committee chair, and Internal Policy Committee of the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative. She is also an Advisory Board member of the Virginia Human Rights Network, and has just recently expanded her advocacy scope to the state of Maryland by becoming the Legal Empowerment Director of Life After Release.

With over two decades of experience in dirtroots advocacy and action in the areas of criminal justice, policy, environmental injustice, child welfare reform, housing, and economic injustice work, BeKura is an avid public servant.

Prior to assuming her current roles, BeKura previously served as State lead for federal legislation on climate change and sea level rise with the Virginia Conservation Network. Since leaving this role, BeKura has been heavily involved in fighting against oppressive and systemic nonprofit culture against African Americans. This manifests in her founding and role with First Alliance Consulting LLC, a Criminal Injustice Reform Network, and Mothers Against Mandatory Minimums. She is also a certified mediator, conflict resolution specialist and provides legal advocacy services for legally underserved community members.



## Jerome Shabazz



Jerome Shabazz, MS, is the founder and Executive Director of JASTECH (Juveniles Active in Science and Technology) Development Services, Inc. Developed in 1998, JASTECH is a not-for-profit organization that works to promote environmental justice, encourage sustainable design, and to promote public health in urban communities. In 2002, JASTECH applied for and received a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant under the Clean Water Act to establish the Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC), a community-based center dedicated to preserving our built and natural environments.

Prior to working in the non-profit sector, Jerome worked for twenty-five years in Water and Gas utilities. He served as Safety & Training Manager at the Philadelphia Gas Works - LNG Processing Division and was responsible for 49 CFR §193.2713 training in operations and maintenance; trained personnel and contractors on safety issues, codes, regulations, departmental standards, corporate policies and procedures. He also worked in the training, engineering, and operations divisions at the Philadelphia Water Department.

Jerome is an adjunct professor and educator at both Community College of Philadelphia and Penn State University. He has received numerous citations and awards, most recently from the PA House of Representatives – PA Legislative Black Caucus; City Council of Philadelphia, and the Environmental Protection Agency for his commitment to Environmental Justice.

## Queen Shabazz



Queen Zakia Shabazz is an author, educator, lecturer and environmental justice advocate. Her work began in 1996 when she discovered that her young son had been poisoned by lead, prompting her to establish United Parents Against Lead (UPAL). UPAL is a national networking organization of and for parents of children poisoned by lead that works to end the threat of lead poisoning and other environmental hazards through education and awareness, advocacy, intervention, and resource referral.

In addition to serving as executive director of UPAL, Queen is a local Stand for Children Organizer, a position she's held since 1996. She currently serves as Coordinator of the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC) and is a member of the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative. Queen is an inaugural Community Partners in Residence Fellow at the University of Richmond, and a former elementary school teacher. As an advocate for Adult Literacy she has served as a READ Center Board member and on the advisory board of the Senate Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead Poisoning Prevention. She continues to provide valuable insight, time and dedication towards the eradication of lead poisoning.

Queen holds a bachelor's in business administration and a paralegal certificate specializing in real estate and civil litigation. She is also a notary public and a 2019 graduate of the EPA's Environmental Justice Academy.

## Surabhi Shah



Surabhi Shah, MS, is the acting director for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Community Revitalization.

Prior to this role, Ms. Shah was the director of the EPA's Urban Waters Program, where she led a team to create public and private partnerships that helped revitalize urban waterways and lands along areas of rapid economic development. Her work, in partnership with the departments of Agriculture, Interior and Housing and Urban Development expanded their initiative across states, and helped reverse decades of community neglect. In areas with large communities of color (Baltimore, MD, Grand Rapids, MI, Atlanta, GA, etc.), an economic study estimated that the Urban Waters Program would yield \$17 to \$19 million a year in direct benefits from increased recreation.

With her extensive experience in community development, Ms. Shah is partial to helping improve how state governments partner with state localities in the future. Ms. Shah received her Bachelors of Science degree (1990) in systems design engineering, and Masters of Science degree (1993) in civil engineering from The University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

## Nicky Sheats



Nicky Sheats, PhD is the director of the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College, where he has defined the primary mission of the Center as providing support for New Jersey's environmental justice community. He has also been a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, New Jersey's only statewide environmental organization that focuses solely on environmental justice (EJ) issues, since its inception in 2003. Among the issues he is working on are particulate matter air pollution, climate change, cumulative risk and impacts, developing environmental justice legal strategies and increasing the capacity of the EJ community to address these and other issues. The EJ community's stance on climate change, in particular, has gained attention since it uniquely emphasizes reducing emissions of particulate matter along with carbon dioxide and is highly critical of carbon trading.

Dr. Sheats has also been appointed to New Jersey's Clean Air Council and in recent years has expanded his work to a national level where he is currently a member of the EJ Leadership Forum on Climate Change and EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. He is also serving as a lead author on the health chapter of the National Climate Assessment and will serve on the national NAACP's Environmental and Climate Justice Advisory Panel. Within the EJ Leadership Forum on Climate Change, he is the primary organizer of the EJ and Science Initiative. Sheats received his PhD. from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University in the year 2000 where his field of study was biological oceanography and his specialty was stable isotope biogeochemistry.

	<p>Post-graduation, Dr Sheats worked for Environmental Defense as a science and law fellow, at The College of New Jersey as a visiting scholar, and at the Earth Institute of Columbia University as a postdoctoral fellow. Dr Sheats also has an undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. He worked as a public interest attorney for almost eight years after graduating from law school. During that time period he served as a law clerk for the Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (the equivalent of a state supreme court), a landlord-tenant and housing attorney at Camden Regional Legal Services, a public defender in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and a legal instructor at a community legal education and college preparatory program in Harlem.</p>
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## Peggy Shepard



Peggy Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and has a long history of organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents in community-based planning and campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally. She has successfully combined grassroots organizing, environmental advocacy, and environmental health community-based participatory research to become a national leader in advancing environmental policy and the perspective of environmental justice in urban communities — to ensure that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment extends to all. She has been named co-chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council as well as chair of the New York City Environmental Justice Advisory Board, and was the first female chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Black Environmental Justice Network and the Board of Advisors of the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Her work has received broad recognition: the Jane Jacobs Medal from the Rockefeller Foundation for Lifetime Achievement, the 10th Annual Heinz Award For the Environment, the William K. Reilly Award for Environmental Leadership, the Knight of the National Order of Merit from the French Republic, the Damu Smith Power of One Award, the Dean's Distinguished Service Award from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, and Honorary Doctorates from Smith College and Lawrence University.

## J. Marshall Shepherd



J. Marshall Shepherd, PhD, MS, is a leading international expert in weather and climate and is a Georgia Athletic Association Distinguished Professor of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Georgia with a joint appointment in the UGA College of Engineering. Dr. Shepherd was the 2013 President of American Meteorological Society. Dr. Shepherd serves as Director of the University of Georgia's (UGA) Atmospheric Sciences Program and Full Professor in the Department of Geography where he was a previous Associate Department Head. Dr. Shepherd is also the host of The Weather Channel's Award-Winning Sunday talk show "Weather Geeks", a pioneering Sunday talk podcast/show as well as a contributor to Forbes Magazine.

Prior to UGA, Dr. Shepherd spent 12 years as a Research Meteorologist at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center and was Deputy Project Scientist for the Global Precipitation Measurement mission. President Bush honored him on May 4th 2004 at the White House with the Presidential Early Career Award for pioneering scientific research in weather and climate science. Dr. Shepherd is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. In February 2013, Dr. Shepherd briefed the U.S. Senate on climate change and extreme weather.

Dr. Shepherd currently chairs the NASA Earth Sciences Advisory Committee and was a past member of its Earth Science Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Nature Conservancy (Georgia Chapter), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Advisory Board, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed's Hazard Preparedness Advisory Group United Nations World Meteorological Organization steering committee on aerosols and precipitation, 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR4 contributing author team, National Academies of Sciences Panels on climate and national security, extreme weather attribution, and urban meteorology.

Dr. Shepherd received his B.S, M.S. and PhD in physical meteorology from Florida State University. He was the first African American to receive a PhD from the Florida State University Department of Meteorology. He is also the 2nd African American to preside over the American Meteorological Society. Dr. Shepherd co-authored a children's book on weather and weather instruments called "Dr. Fred's Weather Watch". He is also the co-founder of the Alcova Elementary Weather Science Chat series that exposes K-5 students to world-class scientists.

## Jacqueline D. Shirley



Jacqueline D. Shirley, MPH, is a Tribal member of the Native Village of Hooper Bay on the Bering Sea coast, and is currently employed at Rural Community Assistance Corporation.

Born and raised in Alaska, Jacqueline has dedicated the last 40 years of her life and career to advocating for the improvement of human and environmental health. In her current role, Ms. Shirley provides training and technical assistance to Tribes, nonprofits, and local agencies to either improve or develop water, wastewater, and solid waste sustainable systems and programs in rural communities across the western portion of the United States.

Jacqueline obtained her Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She also served 18 years in the Army National Guard as a Field Medic. She currently resides in Albuquerque, NM.



## Patrice Simms



Patrice L. Simms, Esq, is an environmental attorney and thought leader with twenty-five years in the environmental law arena. Currently, Patrice serves as the Vice President of Litigation for Healthy Communities with Earthjustice. Before joining Earthjustice, he was a professor and led environmental law programming at Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

From October 2020 to January 2021, Patrice served as the volunteer lead of the EPA Agency Review Team for the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition. He also served in a political appointment in the Obama Administration as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Over the course of his career, Patrice has also worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its Office of General Counsel and with its Environmental Appeals Board, and as a Senior Attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Currently, Simms is a member of the Board of Directors for the Environmental Integrity Project, and prior to joining the staff served for five years on the Board of Trustees for Earthjustice. He was a founding steering committee member of the Green Leadership Trust and helped launch what is now Green 2.0. He is also a current Fellow with the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL). Patrice is a 1998 graduate of Howard University School of Law.

## Alan Smith



Alan Smith, MS, is Manager, Community Leadership for Consumer Reports, working with the Community Mobilization team to build consumer power by distributing leadership and investing in them as educators, organizers, storytellers and testers in their own right. He supports local leaders in building community and in building the power needed to reform marketplaces.

Before joining Consumer Reports, Alan was the Associate Director of Networked Initiatives at the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive economic think tank. He has also worked as a producer on WNYC's Peabody award-winning Brian Lehrer Show, where he reported on cutting edge policy ideas from around New York City, the country and the world.

Previously, Alan worked as the communications director for the Brooklyn Movement Center, and helped organize Mark Winston Griffith's campaign for City Council. Alan graduated from Swarthmore College with a dual BA in English and African History, and has a masters in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.

## Alex Smith



Alex Smith is the founder of Division Street Landscaping, a landscaping company that is staffed entirely by individuals who were formerly incarcerated. He manages day-to-day operations, working with clients, and securing new partnerships. In his previous position as the Director of Operations for the Baltimore Tree Trust, he planted over 7,500 trees and created the Urban Roots Apprenticeship – a workforce development program that trains men and women with barriers to employment in basic landscaping and tree care. He has also created the Division Street Academy under his own company with the goal of providing training in landscaping and entrepreneurship specifically in the landscaping industry, and consults with Workforce Development programs across the country that cater to the green job industry. Mr. Smith believes that there is a special kind of healing that takes place when the citizens of a community that once destroyed the community play a vital role in beautifying and maintaining those same places.

## Ceeon Smith



Ceeon Smith, PhD, is well-regarded in her field for her dedication, professionalism and innovations in the service of Benedict College. In 2019 she was the recipient of the Presidential Vocation from the Council of Independent Colleges. Dr. Smith attributes her success towards a persistent progressive streak, laying out a reliable plan for advancement and remaining focused.

In 2018, Dr. Smith assumed the responsibilities of the executive vice president of Benedict College, which added the oversight of college publications and committees, records and retention and human resources to her everyday duties. As the chief of staff, she assists in supporting members of the president of the college's cabinet to fulfill the mission of the college. In her role, she created the Colleges Risk Management team, which is a collaboration across the college of faculty and staff to evaluate and implement safety and risk policies and practices affecting students, faculty, staff and campus visitors. She also created under the umbrella of the Small Business Incubator, a team to create a Student Innovation Hub and Cosmetology Makers Space designed to focus on developing students' soft-skills and to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship in their college experience. Dr. Smith believes that if a student secures a patent and professional certification along their journey to a four-year degree, then that is a well-traveled collegiate journey. Dr. Smith has excelled as a communications administrator and crisis communication professor at Florida Memorial University since 2016.

## Stephanie Smith



Stephanie Smith, JD, MA, represents Baltimore City's 45th Legislative District. She was formerly a member of the House Ways and Means Committee from 2019-2021 and is currently a member of the Appropriations Committee, where Stephanie sits on the Education & Economic Development Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee on Pensions.

In 2020, she was elected by her peers to become Chair of the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland House of Delegates. In March 2022, Legislative Black Caucus chairman Darryl Barnes appointed Smith to serve as the caucus parliamentarian.

Stephanie attended Hampton University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science; University of Delaware, where she earned a Master of Arts degree in urban affairs and public policy; and the Howard University School of Law, where she earned a Juris Doctor degree. She is also the Assistant Director of Baltimore's Department of Planning. Stephanie has policy experience in the fields of education, environment, urban affairs, affordable housing, public health, equity, and land use.

## Sheila Somashekar

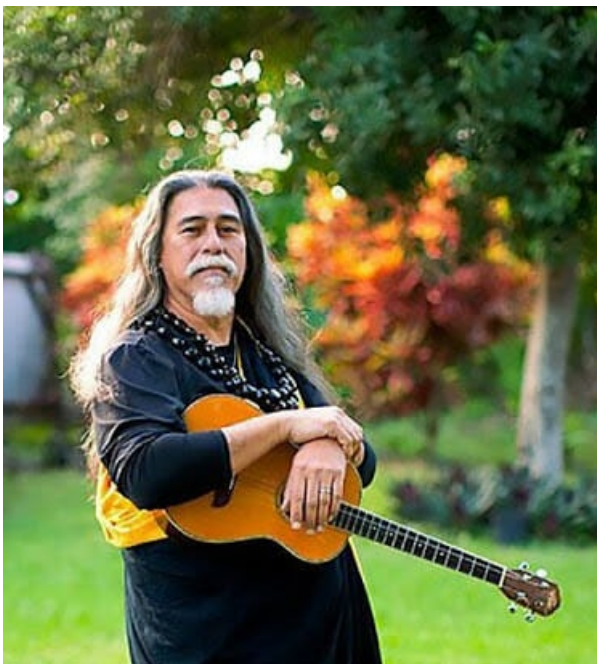


Sheila Somashekar, MPH, MUP, joined the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland in 2020 as Director of the Purple Line Corridor Coalition. As Director, she mobilizes coalition partners to realize the vision of an equitable transit corridor. She brings over 15 years of experience in community organizing and engagement, specializing in economic strategy, social justice, affordable housing, neighborhood asset building and workforce development.

She most recently served as Director of Community Impact and Engagement for United Way of the National Capital Area. At United Way, she oversaw multiple stakeholder collaboratives and established a new set of community-centered programs, including the launch of one-stop financial service centers across the Washington, D.C. area. She also helped raise over \$1M in support of that work. Prior to that she spent six years in New York City, working on neighborhood planning and economic opportunity initiatives in nonprofit and public sector roles.

She holds a Master of Urban Planning and Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Maryland, College Park.

## M. Kalani Souza



M. Kalani Souza, Reverend, is a gifted storyteller, singer, songwriter, musician, performer, poet, philosopher, priest, political satirist, and peacemaker. A Hawaiian practitioner and cross-cultural facilitator, he has experience in promoting social justice through conflict resolution. Kalani is the Founding and current Director of the Olohana Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit based on Hawaii's Big Island since 2008. Olohana focuses on building community capacity, cohesiveness, resilience, and emergency preparedness around food, energy, water, and knowledge systems.

Kalani is also a Coastal Community Resilience Trainer with FEMA Consortium, the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He serves as a cultural competency consultant for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Services Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and is regularly called to lead and participate in workshops and webinars on topics including disaster preparedness, community, relationships, knowledge systems sharing, indigenous environmental stewardship, and climate change adaptation. He also serves as a mentor with the Hawaii non-killing effort out of the Spark Matsunaga Center for Peace and as a board member for the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, part of the National Park Services Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.

Previously, Kalani taught Conflict Resolution at University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He served as the chairman of the Indigenous Knowledge &

Education (IKE) Hui of the Pacific Risk Management Ohana (PRiMO), a collection of federal, state, county and non-governmental agencies that work primarily to mitigate and respond to disasters in the greater Pacific region; and recently consulted with the President's Ocean Policy Task Force around the indigenous knowledge and science integration perspective in Washington D.C.

Kalani was on the Committee for Intense Public Conflict of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), a body of 6,000 international professional peacemakers; and served as one of two Hawaiians in the Native Network, a group of 450 peacemakers on the Department of the Interior (DOI) out of the Morris Udall Center for Peace in Tucson, Arizona.



## Tracy Stephens



Tracy Stephens was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He is the president of Sunnyside Civic Club and a team member of the Harris County Community Flood Resilience and the Deep South Consortium for Environmental Justice. In addition, he is a retired City of Houston Public Works and Engineering, a vice-chair of Gulfgate TIRZ 8 Board, and a chair of the South Park Super Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehab.

## Simone Stewart



Simone Stewart, PhD, is a published researcher in the field of fluid mechanics and a doctor of Mechanical Engineering, now working as the Industrial Policy Specialist for the National Wildlife Federation's Climate and Energy Policy team. Stewart is passionate about the social consequences of her research, which focused on rough surface obstacle arrangement as a proxy for large-scale direct air capture arrays. Stewart hopes to rid our environment of excess CO<sub>2</sub> to meet our climate goals. In addition to her PhD research, Stewart served as the Graduate Assistant for the UCSB Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy because she has always believed in using her scientific background to create political and social change.

## Eli Straussman



Eli Straussman is a Geographic Information System (GIS) analyst for the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) at the University of Maryland, College Park. In this role, Eli provides the statistical and geospatial analysis of public datasets, as well as, developing online Environmental Justice products. This work includes, but is not limited to, “My Block Counts,” and the updating of the Environmental Justice Mapping tool developed by CEEJH.

Throughout the past 5 years, Eli has worked for various non-profit organizations in Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh assisting newly immigrated residents in securing housing, and educational opportunities. This is supplemental work to Eli’s current pursuit of a Master’s degree in GIS at the University of Maryland, College Park. His Master’s research interests include the development of spatial networks of social groups, and the independent development of a community data resource that allows residents to report and review police misconduct.

## Faith Taylor



Faith Taylor is a second year master's student at the University of Maryland College Park. She is in the Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Sciences program and her concentration is in environment and society. She is advised by Dr. Michael Paolisso. Her thesis work focuses on using a comparative analysis to assess how environmental injustices are captured by case studies and screening tools. Her interests include race, environmental justice, environmental racism and vulnerability.

## Matthew Tejada



Matthew S. Tejada PhD, MS, is a career senior executive and Director of the Office of Environmental Justice at the Environmental Protection Agency. As Director, Dr. Tejada leads the Environmental Justice Programs cross-cutting work throughout the EPA and federal government. His roles include directly supporting communities and working with other EPA divisions, federal agencies, academic partners, business, industries, and state, local and tribal partners to further the mission of the EPA and its efforts to integrate environmental justice considerations in all policies, practices, and programs.

Prior to his tenure with the Environmental Protection Agency, Dr. Tejada spent over five years in the nonprofit world as Executive Director of the advocacy Air Alliance Houston, which focuses on environmental justice issues affecting the many overburdened communities in the Houston and Texas Gulf Coast area. These issues were particularly related to air pollution, and included but were not limited to, toxic hot spots and diesel particulate matter. Dr. Tejada was centrally involved in advocating for these justice issues in local, state and federal level legislative and policy arenas. Dr. Tejada received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Oxford where he was a member of St. Antony's College. His research and dissertations largely focused on environmental and energy policy, international relations, politics and the development and role of civil society in a democracy. Dr. Tejada received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Texas at Austin, then served two years in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria as a high school teacher of English as a foreign language.

## Sylvester Turner



Mayor Sylvester Turner, Esq, is currently serving his second term as Houston's 62nd mayor. In this role, Mayor Turner is leading Houston's response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, including budget deficits, homelessness, and other outside factors such as natural disasters. Most notably, Mayor Turner oversaw Houston's remarkable rebound from Hurricane Harvey, passing five balanced budgets.

However, amongst these initiatives, Mayor Turner's priorities include the Complete Communities and Hire Houston Youth program. Complete Communities is a public service mission and designed to revitalize and improve Houston's most under-served neighborhoods through partnerships with local stakeholders. Similarly, Hire Houston Youth targets the creation of jobs and internship opportunities for thousands of young Houston residents.

In addition to the above roles, Mayor Turner is a trustee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (serving on the Audit and Finance Committee), Chair of Climate Mayors, member of the C40 and Global Covenant for Mayors for Climate and Energy, immediate past President of the African American Mayors Association, a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee, and Chairman of the Resilient Cities Network. He is also the recipient of multiple awards, including the Ohtli Award (the Mexican government's highest honor), the Pioneer of Public Service Award, and has been featured in multiple notable publications such as the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and New York Times.

As a graduate of the University of Houston and law degree recipient from Harvard University, Mayor Turner is passionate about the city of Houston, and continues to serve Houstonians with pride.

## Fred Tutman



Fred Tutman, MA, is the CEO and head riverkeeper of Patuxent Riverkeeper. Mr. Tutman is amongst the longest serving Waterkeepers in the Chesapeake region, and the only African-American Waterkeeper in the nation. Mr. Tutman founded the Patuxent RiverKeeper organization in 2004, and is an avid grassroots community advocate for clean water in Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate waterway.

In addition, Mr. Tutman is an adjunct instructor at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he teaches an upper level course in Environmental Law and Policy. He also serves on the Board of the Environmental Integrity Project, and on the Board of Waterkeeper Alliance.

Prior to founding the Patuxent Riverkeeper program, Mr. Tutman worked as a volunteer activist on the Patuxent over 20 years, and operated a business that provided professional media and mass communication services internationally.

## Uloma Uche



Uloma Uche, PhD, MPH, is an environmental Health Science Fellow at the Environmental Working Group. Specifically, Dr. Uche's focuses revolve around drinking water quality, pesticides, and non-ionizing electromagnetic frequency radiation.

Dr. Uche's educational career began with a Bachelors of Science in biochemistry from Abia State University in Uturu, Nigeria. She later went on to achieve her Masters of Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and her doctorate in public health, from the University of North Texas Health Science Center. To achieve her PhD. title, Dr. Uche successfully defended her dissertation which examined the association between environmental factors and childhood obesity. Since then, her work has been published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Environmental Research.



## Christopher Upperman



Christopher R. Upperman, BA, is a Board Member of Envolve Entrepreneurship. Christopher is a Manager in the Governance & Strategic Initiatives Organization at Facebook. He was previously Envolve's CEO, leading the operational and strategic functions within the organization. Christopher is passionate about reaching underserved communities and believes entrepreneurship can be a vital pathway towards economic self-sufficiency.

Prior to joining Envolve, Christopher was an Obama Administration political appointee at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and served as the Assistant Administrator (Head) of the Office of Public Engagement. His primary focus was increasing entrepreneurship, business opportunities and capital access for underserved and minority-owned enterprises.

Prior to his time as Assistant Administrator, Christopher served as Senior Advisor for Entrepreneurial Development with a focus on programs related to economic development and encouraging small business ownership. He provided advocacy for Millennials and underserved entrepreneurs and served as one of the White House's "My Brother's Keeper Initiative" liaison officers. Prior to his appointment at SBA, Christopher worked at the White House as an Analyst and Director of Student Correspondence in the Office of Presidential Correspondence.

## Crystal Upperman



Crystal Upperman, PhD, MPA, is a Senior Manager at Deloitte in the Government and Public Services practice helping to bring best-in-class sustainability, climate adaptation, and climate equity support to clients.

Formerly, she was a Vice President at AECOM leading climate resilience, social performance, and ESG for the Americas. She worked in tech at a San Francisco startup leading Business Strategy for air quality monitoring and equity mapping. Prior to that, she was a Research Associate at the World Resources Institute on the Global Commission on Adaptation—which demonstrated that adapting to climate change improves human well-being and results in better, more sustainable economic development and security for all. She was also a consultant at the World Bank conducting research on sustainable agricultural development in China, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Crystal spent 4 years with the Maryland Department of Health leading the U.S. CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects grant that identified climate impacts and associated health effects in Maryland communities.

Upperman began her career at BASF researching catalyst coatings for reducing vehicle emissions. Crystal's research focus is in environmental science, exposure science and spatial epidemiology. Her research background includes a national assessment of the impact of climate change on chronic respiratory disease prevalence, which was funded by the US EPA. She has engaged in research projects that entail health risk assessment of climate and weather hazards, exposure assessment of pollen and extreme heat, environmental science translational research to promote sustainability and positive environmental and public health policies. She served on the Biden-Harris Campaign's Climate, Energy, Environment policy committee and contributed to the Resilience and Environmental Justice subcommittees. Crystal is a Trustee for The Nature Conservancy's Maryland/DC chapter, a board member for WE ACT, a member of the advisory board for APHA's Center for Climate, Health, and Equity, and a Steering Committee Member for the Environmental Law Institute's Emerging Leaders Initiative.

Crystal Upperman earned a PhD in Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland as a U.S. EPA STAR Fellow and an NSF LSAMP Fellow. She also holds a MPA in Nonprofit Management from Kennesaw State University and a BS in Environmental Science from Spelman College.

## Jennifer Valiulis



Jennifer Valiulis, MS, is the Executive Director of the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA), a small non-profit that serves the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Since starting with SEA in 2015, Jennifer has focused on community engagement in environmental sustainability. She is working with a coalition of nonprofits to move the island away from an economy that has depended heavily on an oil refinery, towards a more environmentally sustainable and just economy. Before joining SEA, Jennifer's primary career focus was wildlife ecology, working in the local government in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and in the private sector as the co-owner of Geographic Consulting, a natural resources consulting business. Much of the focus of this work was endangered species recovery; the highlight of which was running the Sandy Point NWR Sea turtle monitoring program for five years. She has a BA in Biology from Earlham College and MS in Zoology from Colorado State University.

## Jayson Velazquez



Jayson Velazquez is a second-year master of environmental science student at Yale School of the Environment. His research focuses on the response and resource distribution of community-based organizations through political, climate, environmental, and colonial crises in Puerto Rico. He himself is Puerto Rican born and raised in New Jersey to a family from San Lorenzo and Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

His work experience spans equitable electrification strategies in smart cities, urban food access, just energy transitions, and green infrastructure across the nonprofit and public-private partnership landscape in the San Juan and Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, Northern New Jersey, Central Ohio, and Connecticut.

Jayson is currently a Graduate Research Fellow in the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Sustainability Initiative at Yale School of the Environment under the direction of Dr. Dorceta Taylor. In this role, Jayson is analyzing physical access to food outlets. In his own time, he is working with nonprofits in New Haven, Connecticut on developing resources for disaster and refugee resettlement. Jayson also serves on the Board of Directors for the Keney Park Sustainability Project in Windsor, Connecticut.

Beyond his professional and academic endeavors, you can find Jayson playing his ukulele, riding his bike, or building a new Lego set.

## Johana Vicente



Johana Vicente, MS, is the National Senior Director of Chispa, an offshoot of the League of Conservation voters which aims to create healthier environments in Latinx communities, and communities of color. Johana first joined Chispa Maryland in 2014 and served as a community organizer. Johana is a passionate advocate for justice, making sure her community has access to clean air and water. Johana has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Mount St. Mary's University and a Masters degree in social work (MSW) from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

## Rebeca Villegas



Rebeca Villegas, MS, MUP, is the Senior Environmental Justice Program Manager at the National Wildlife Federation. In her role, Rebeca builds capacity among the organization to participate and support an environmental and climate justice agenda through relationship building, project development, and strategic planning. She also analyzes federal and state legislation and programs to develop policy proposals to ensure fair and equitable impacts and benefits for communities of color and lower-income communities. Rebeca is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan—where she earned a Master of Science in Environmental Justice, Policy, and Planning and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning in Land Use and Development in May 2020.

## Kearni Warren



Kearni Nichelle Warren is a determined organizer and activist across multiple local and global issues. She is also an author and speaker. Hailing from Chester, Pennsylvania, she has mentored youth in her hometown and honored community elders through the Caregiver Society, an intentional and inclusive community supporting caregivers' spiritual, mental, and physical needs which she created in partnership with the Presbytery of Philadelphia and her local church in 2018 after the death of her mother. A long-time SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania union member and leader, she has been fighting on the state and federal levels for living wages and worker rights for home care workers.

In 2021, she shook up the political establishment in Chester as a first time candidate, drawing almost 20% of the votes in a three-way race against a longtime incumbent. She is the Philadelphia Area Organizer for Energy Justice Network, currently advocating against incineration in Chester, PA, Camden, NJ and Philadelphia. She was recently accepted into the Environmental Leadership Fellowship Program for 2022 and she is a 2021 graduate of the national political training program, Emerge PA. Because of her passion for public health, she was appointed as a co-leader on the Health Equity Action Team (H.E.A.T.) for the Pennsylvania Department of Health Office of Health Equity and she is a member of the Delaware County Sustainability Commission Zero Waste Subcommittee assisting with the first-ever Delaware County Sustainability Plan, where she also lives.

## Mary Washington



Senator Mary Washington, PhD, is an advocate for Maryland's 43rd District as a legislator, professor, ally, public policy leader and trail-blazer.

Born in Philadelphia, senator Mary began her professional career teaching at a Catholic elementary school. Her scholarly interests and dedication to serving at-risk populations and urban communities brought her to Baltimore where she earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Washington began her academic career as an assistant professor at Lehigh University, and was awarded post-graduate fellow at the Population Studies Center of the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently a member of the part-time faculty at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).

In 2010, Senator Washington made history becoming the first openly LGBT African-American elected official in Maryland – and only the second such state legislator in the country. As a current Senator and over her two-terms as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, she has distinguished herself as a leader fighting for affordable access to water, protecting families at risk of losing their homes to unfair tax sales and foreclosures, making sure Baltimore city schools receive fair and equitable funding, and helping unaccompanied homeless youth get the services and support they need.

Senator Washington has sponsored and passed landmark legislation that will require Maryland to take action on numerous important issues affecting vulnerable and underserved individuals, groups, and communities. Her work as a Legislator has earned the trust of her colleagues and constituents on budget and tax issues, as well as the impact of funding choices on Maryland's families.



## Jamal R. Watkins



Jamal R. Watkins, currently serves as Senior Vice President of Strategy and Advancement at the NAACP. Jamal previously led the Association's efforts to maximize the African-American community's participation and representation in our democracy as the Vice President of Civic Engagement at the NAACP. Mr. Watkins previously served as National Outreach Director for the AFL-CIO. In this role, he was responsible for strengthening and growing national strategic partnerships with the labor movement across a range of priority campaigns and program work.

Prior to joining the AFL-CIO, Jamal held leadership positions in a number of organizations dedicated to community organizing and civil and human rights. These include Deputy National Political Director at Service Employees International Union; Chief of Staff at the Center for Social Inclusion; Managing Director for Campaigns for Amnesty International, the world's largest grassroots human rights organization; and, Deputy Director and Interim Executive Director of City Year Los Angeles, a national non-profit AmeriCorps organization.

Jamal has worked in several distinct arenas, including politics, campaigns, communications, education, human resources, and fundraising. He played key roles as a National Recruiter for the DNC, Fundraising Canvass Director for Grassroots Campaign, Florida State Director of the Young Voter Alliance during the 2004 Presidential Election, Regional Coordinator on the "Yes on Proposition 79" Campaign for Health Access of California, and most recently developing a voter mobilization and engagement field strategy for the 2014 midterm election cycle. A native of California and a resident of Washington D.C., Mr. Watkins earned his B.A. in Philosophy, with a minor in Political Science, at Stanford University and completed graduate-level work at New York University for Speech and Interpersonal Communication.

## Arielle Wharton



Arielle Wharton, MS, is a Faculty Assistant within the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH). Graduating with a Bachelor's in GIS and Computer Cartography from the University of Maryland and a Master's in Applied Meteorology and Climatology, Arielle believes in creating nature-based solutions and technology fostered by communication within communities. Her interests include climate change mitigation, meteorological and climatological phenomena, implementation of mapping tools and climate education and communication. At CEEJH, Arielle has been lending her expertise to provide updates with GIS and mapping tools/ projects, developing and leading climate and environmental justice program curriculum and materials for community engagement, outreach and education, acting as a liaison or point of reference for stakeholders, and report writing and research.

## Rachel White



Rachel White, MPH received her Bachelor of Science in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015, her MPH in Epidemiology from University of Texas School of Public Health in 2017, and is currently a PhD candidate in Epidemiology minoring in biostatistics and environmental and occupational health. Her dissertation topic is looking at the association between PM2.5 air pollution exposure and COVID-19 mortality. She is also a disaster epidemiologist at the local health department. Rachel is passionate about environmental justice and is contributing efforts to address this issue as a board member of Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS). She conducts analysis of ACTS' community air monitoring network data to identify trends and sources of pollution in hopes of transitioning the data to action.

## Jalonne White-Newsome



Jalonne L. White-Newsome, PhD, is the The White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Senior Director for Environmental Justice. In this role, Dr. White-Newsome advises Chair Mallory on environmental justice policy, and helps to advance the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advancing environmental justice.

Dr. Jalonne founded and led Empowering a Green Environment and Economy, LLC (EGE2), a strategic consulting firm that focused on transforming communities by using people-centered solutions to combat climate change, improve public health, pursue environmental justice, and advance racial equity. Within this initiative, Dr. White-Newsome, and her team worked with institutions across private and public sectors to create policies, practices, and partnerships that will better serve the needs of low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities.

Prior to both of these roles, Dr. White-Newsome was a Senior Program Officer at the Kresge Foundation and created the Climate Resilience and Equitable Water Systems Initiative, the first national grantmaking initiative focused at the intersection of climate change and water inequity. She also served as the first Director of Federal Policy for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, managing their federal policy office in Washington, D.C. She also provided leadership for the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change, a national coalition of environmental justice leaders.

In addition to these roles, Dr. White Newsome is a lecturer at The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and has been recognized by Grist and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters for her environmental justice advocacy. In 2022, she was named Crain's Detroit Most Notable Leader in Sustainability.

Dr. White-Newsome earned a Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, a master's degree in environmental engineering from Southern Methodist University, a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University, and a certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

## **Sherri White-Williamson**



Sherri White-Williamson, Esq, is the Environmental Justice Policy Director at the North Carolina Conservation Network (NCCN) where she focuses on incorporating consideration of environmental justice in NCCN's policy and outreach efforts. Ms. White-Williamson retired from the U. S. EPA, Office of Environmental Justice, where she served in many roles including Manager of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice established under Executive Order 12898 and Designated Federal Officer to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Ms. White-Williamson is a 2018 graduate of Vermont Law School (VLS), South Royalton, VT, where she earned dual degrees, her Juris Doctor and a Masters in Energy Regulation and Law. While at VLS she co-chaired its first Environmental Justice solutions conference and co-founded the Environmental Justice Law Society. She was awarded the Marc Mihaly Environmental Leadership Award in recognition of her commitment to the environment and environmental justice. She currently resides in Sampson County, North Carolina where she co-founded the Environmental Justice Community Action Network ([www.ejcan.org](http://www.ejcan.org)) located in Clinton (Sampson County), NC. EJCAN is working closely with impacted communities affected by CAFOS (poultry and swine), a regional landfill, and wood pellet manufacturing. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Duke University and Au Sable Institute.

## Mark Whitlock



Reverend Mark E. Whitlock, PhD, is currently an active reverend serving the Reid Temple AME Church (RTAME) in Glenn Dale, Maryland. Known for his commitment to God, his family, social justice, and the church, Reverend Whitlock was appointed to this position in July of 2019. He has previously served as pastor of Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Church (COR Church) in Irvine, CA, and has raised more than \$1.2 billion for the kingdom of God through donors, corporate, federal and institute grants.

Reverend Whitlock's vision for his career in service is backed by a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from the University of La Verne, a Master of Business from The University of Southern California, and an M.Div and Doctoral Degree in Ministry from the Payne Theological Seminary.

## Donele Wilkins



Donele Wilkins is a result-oriented leader and visionary who has demonstrated servant leadership in her hometown Detroit for nearly 20 years. Firstly, by leading the local movement for environmental justice on the front-lines, and secondly, by expanding to achieving true sustainability for all. Her achievements include: participating in the development and adoption of an Environmental Justice Policy in the state of Michigan, and conceiving and launching the first Green Jobs Training Program in the city. She has been an advocate for citizen involvement in Brownfield Redevelopment as well as other environmental policies, ensuring environmental stewardship is at the forefront of discussions with community leaders and decision makers. Ms. Wilkins is the founder and CEO of The Green Door Initiative, an organization that aims to take not only the city of Detroit, but the nation, to the next level of environmental stewardship. GDI stands out as a national model for sustainable living through civic engagement for everyone!

## **D. Rica Wilson**



D. Rica Wilson, PhD, is the founder and Executive Director of Brown Girl Wellness, a non-profit organization that strives to empower women and children in historically exploited communities. Dr. Wilson graduated from St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in English. She has a Master's Degree in English, with an emphasis in teaching English as a Second Language, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a doctorate in ministry with a focus on Pastoral Counseling and a certificate in Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Dr. Wilson is also a mother of three, enjoys cooking, and traveling with her sons. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.



## Sacoby Wilson



Sacoby Wilson, PhD, is an Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health. This is also where he directs the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH). Dr. Wilson has over 20 years of experience as an environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues, and translate research to action.

## Nsedu Witherspoon



Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, serves as the Executive Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), where her responsibilities include successfully organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. For the past 21 years, she has served as a key spokesperson for children's vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country.

She is a leader in the field of children's environmental health, serving on the External Science Board for the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) NIH Research work. She is a Co-Leader of the Health/Science initiative of the Cancer Free Economy Network and Co-Chair of the National Environmental Health Partnership Council. Ms. Witherspoon is also the Board Chair for the Pesticide Action Network of North America, Board Member for the Environmental Integrity Project, and serves on the Maryland Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council.

Ms. Witherspoon has held past appointments on the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental Protection Agency, the NIH Council of Councils, the Science Advisory Board for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Board for the American Public Health Association. She is a past member of the National Association of Environmental Health Sciences Council and the Institute of Medicine's Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable.

Ms. Witherspoon has a variety of publications and has the distinct honor of having one of CEHN's leadership awards, the Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award, named in her honor. She is also the recent recipient of the William R. Reilly Award in Environmental Leadership from the Center for Environmental Policy at American University and the Snowy Egret Award from the Eastern Queens Alliance.

Ms. Witherspoon holds a B.S. in Biology Pre Med from Siena College and a M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health from The George Washington University, School of Public Health and Health Services. She is a proud mom to 4 children!

## Beverly Wright



Beverly L. Wright, PhD, MA, is an environmental justice scholar and advocate, author, civic leader and professor of Sociology, is the founder and executive director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. The Center addresses environmental and health inequities along the Louisiana Mississippi River Chemical Corridor and the Gulf Coast Region. The Center is a community-university (communiversity-model) partnership organization providing education, health and safety training and job placement for residents in environmental justice and climate-impacted communities within the United States.

Dr. Wright has conducted groundbreaking and significant research in the area of environmental justice and developed a curriculum for use at the elementary school level that has been used by the New Orleans Public Schools. She manages Worker Health and Safety Training Programs that embrace a work-based curriculum and a holistic approach to learning for young men and women living near Superfund and Brownfield sites resulting in their employment.

Dr. Wright received the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award from the State University of New York, Buffalo, the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award in 2006, the 2008 EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition 2008 Community Award, the Ford Motor Company's Freedom's Sisters Award in July of 2009, the prestigious 2009 Heinz Award as well as the 2010 Beta Kappa Chi Humanitarian Assistance Award bestowed by the National Institute of Science and the Conrad Arensberg Award given by the Society for the Anthropology of Work in 2010. Additionally, she was also recognized by the Grios as one of its 100 History Makers in the Making in 2010. She has also

	<p>received the Urban Affairs Association's SAGE Activist Scholar Award in May of 2011. She is the author of numerous scholarly books and articles. She co-authored Race, Place &amp; the Environment After Hurricane Katrina from Westview Press, and The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How The Government Response Endangers African-American Communities from New York University. She received a BA from Grambling College and an MA and Ph.D. in Sociology from State University of New York at Buffalo. Currently, Dr. Wright is serving as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council under the Biden-Harris Administration. She is also a member of the Justice 40 Initiative Workgroup.</p>
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## Lennox Yearwood Jr.



Lennox Yearwood Jr, Reverend is the President & CEO of Hip Hop Caucus, a minister, community activist, U.S. Air Force veteran, and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. Rev. Yearwood entered the world of Hip Hop Politics as the Political and Grassroots Director for the Hip Hop Summit Action Network in 2003 and 2004, and as a key architect of P. Diddy's "Vote Or Die!" campaign in a run up to the 2004 Presidential Election. To carry the energy of the efforts beyond election day, he founded Hip Hop Caucus in September of 2004. The goal of Hip Hop Caucus is to build a powerful and sustainable organization for the culture's role in the civic process and empowerment of communities impacted first and worst by injustice. As a non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue organization, Hip Hop Caucus focuses on addressing core issues impacting underserved and vulnerable communities, with programs and campaigns that support solution-driven community organizing led by today's young leaders.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Rev Yearwood established the Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign where he led a coalition of national and grassroots organizations to advocate for the rights of Katrina survivors. The coalition successfully stopped early rounds of illegal evictions of Katrina survivors from temporary housing, held police and government entities accountable for injustices committed during the emergency response efforts, supported the United Nations "right to return" policies for internally displaced persons, promoted comprehensive federal recovery legislation, and campaigned against increased violence resulting from lack of schools and jobs in the years after Katrina. In 2008, Rev Yearwood led Hip Hop Caucus' launch of Respect My Vote!, a campaign and coalition that works with Hip Hop artists to engage young people in the electoral process. He has also fought on the frontlines for vulnerable communities, including at the international climate negotiations in Paris and efforts to fight new

	<p>oil pipeline developments in Maryland and at Standing Rock. He has received numerous awards for his work, including being dubbed as a New Green Hero by Rolling Stone, and recognized by the Obama White House as a Champion of Change.</p>
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## Ami Zota



Ami Zota, ScD, MS is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and an internationally recognized expert in environmental health sciences, reproductive and women's health, and environmental justice. She directs the ARISE-EJ research group whose mission is to secure environmental justice and improve health equity through advancements in science, policy, communication, and training next generation leaders. Her current research examines how social-structural factors, such as racism and sexism, shape beauty culture, consumer product use, chemical exposures, and the health of women and children across the life course.

Dr. Zota is also the founding director of the Agents of Change in Environmental Justice program whose mission is to empower environmental justice leaders from historically excluded backgrounds in science to reimagine solutions for a just and healthy world. Agents of Change seeks to increase diversity in environmental and climate sciences, spur innovation in environmental science and policy, and increase accessibility of scientific information for marginalized communities.

Dr. Zota is equally committed to developing innovative approaches for science translation so that her research can more effectively be used to inform individual and collective decision-making. Her research has been featured in high-impact national and international media publications including the Washington Post, LA Times, USA Today, Huffington Post, and the Atlantic Monthly. She has helped shape health and safety standards for consumer product chemicals by participating in legislative briefings and communicating science through the media. She received her masters and doctorate in environmental health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

