

Women's Policy Institute Class of 2015-2016

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Criminal Justice Team

Azadeh Zohrabi



Azadeh is the National Campaigner at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights where she works with communities and policy makers on ending mass criminalization and incarceration. As the daughter of two formerly incarcerated parents, Azadeh is intimately familiar with the intergenerational impacts of imprisonment and is dedicated to reducing the number of lives damaged by incarceration. She brings a lifetime of personal experience and over 10 years of advocacy and research experience to her work, having focused specifically on juvenile justice, women in prison, solitary confinement, mass incarceration, and racial justice throughout the course of her career.

An attorney by training, Azadeh previously worked as a Soros Justice Fellow at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children where she served on the litigation team representing Pelican Bay prisoners in the federal lawsuit which resulted in a landmark agreement to end indefinite solitary confinement in California. Azadeh's work has been cited by courts, attorneys, and scholars and has been featured in the New York Times, The Nation, The Guardian, Democracy Now!, Washington Post, The Atlantic, Ebony, Mother Jones and Al Jazeera.

Azadeh is a graduate of University of California, Riverside where she double majored in Ethnic Studies and African American Studies. She continued her education at University of California's Hastings College of Law, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Hastings Race & Poverty Law Journal in addition to serving on the board of the La Raza Law Students Association. She is the author of two academic articles, "Resistance & Repression: The Black Guerrilla Family in Context" and "Creating the 'Bad Mother': How the U.S. Approach to Pregnancy in Prisons Violates the Right to be a Mother" (co-author). Azadeh is also a 2015 fellow in the New Leaders Council's inaugural Oakland cohort.

Lizzie Buchen



I am Statewide Advocacy and Communications Co-Coordinator at Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), a coalition of more than 70 grassroots organizations seeking to stop prison and jail expansion and reduce the number of people incarcerated in California. I engage our member organizations in state-level advocacy in Sacramento, and coordinate media and communications efforts to shape the public conversation on criminal justice issues. I also support local campaigns and mobilizations against jail expansion.

Prior to CURB I was at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco. As policy analyst, I developed and implemented CJCJ's policy agenda, working toward reforms that reduce incarceration by researching and drafting legislation, producing talking points and policy briefs, coordinating with government agencies, and managing partnerships with other advocacy organizations. Before CJCJ, I worked with the prisoner newspaper in San Quentin, where I trained the staff in journalism and editing, and helped them identify priority issues so their reporting could best empower their fellow incarcerated people. Through grant writing and partnership building, I helped the people inside bring their stories and perspectives beyond their San Quentin community to incarcerated people in nearly all California prisons, along with government officials, members of the general public, and a broad and engaged audience on social media.

My educational path has been a bit circuitous. I studied biology and psychology in college and went to graduate school in neuroscience. I then went to graduate school in journalism and worked as a freelance journalist for several years. My true education, however, began with my experiences in San Quentin. It was through the connections I made inside, with people held captive by prison walls, that my eyes were first opened to the depths of suffering and injustice in the criminal justice system. Since then, the people involved in the anti-prison and anti-oppression movements have continued to educate me, constantly challenging my views on incarceration, public policy, and how to make the world a better place.

Lynn Wu



Lynn Wu is a Staff Attorney and Juvenile Justice Policy Advocate at the Prison Law Office. She provides technical assistance to multidisciplinary stakeholder groups to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth, with a particular focus on girls and young women, sexually exploited youth, LGBTQ youth, and young people of color. Lynn also advocates on behalf of life prisoners seeking parole, including those who committed their crimes before turning 18, and works with a coalition working to eliminate the treatment of young people as adults.

Lynn has worked with and on behalf of system involved youth for over a decade. She taught middle school in East Oakland before serving as a new teacher coach and family liaison, supporting families with students who were not yet academically successful. She also worked as a consultant to the Oakland Unified School District to develop more effective systems for agencies to coordinate services for young people. Lynn also represented young people in dependency, guardianship, and expulsion matters and worked on child welfare impact litigation. Lynn has dedicated her career to improving the lives of and outcomes for vulnerable populations from prevention to reentry and believes strongly in the power of education and the role of schools to create and expand meaningful opportunities for young people and their families to heal, grow, and flourish.

Lynn was a recipient of the Legal Services for Children Child Advocate Award and was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Thomas I. Yamashita Prize by the Institute for the Study of Social Change. She also received the Alexander Marsden "Captain" Kid Scholarship and the Teacher Education for the Advancement of a Multicultural Society Scholarship. She has published and presented her work on meeting the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system, addressing the housing, educational, and financial competency needs of transitional aged youth in foster care, advocating for the educational rights of foster youth, and promoting youth activism to increase academic success. Lynn has also been a fellow with the Youth Justice Leadership Initiative, the Class Action Training Institute, the PLUS Leadership Initiative, Education Pioneers, and the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School.

Lynn earned her J.D. and M.P.P. from the University of California, Berkeley, her M.A.T. from the Center for Teaching Excellence and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco, and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Zoe Willmott



Zoe is the Program Manager for Essie Justice Group, an organization that harnesses the collective power of women with incarcerated loved ones to empower women and end mass incarceration. Essie Justice Group is building a loving and powerful network to equip women with the tools and resources to heal family, community, and make social change. Using a Healing to Advocacy curriculum, designed by and for women, Essie seeds groups for women to give and receive support. Together, women access their collective power as leaders and advocates.

Previously, Zoe served as a Program Director of Community Work's Project WHAT! Project WHAT! raises awareness about the effects of parental incarceration on children, with the long-term goal of improving services and policies that affect these children. *WHAT!* stands for *We're Here And Talking*, referring to the youth who make up the Project WHAT! team, as well as the 2.7 million children nationwide who have a parent incarcerated. Project WHAT! is a youth-led leadership development program that employs young people from the Bay Area who have had a parent incarcerated as youth advocates.

Zoe's work is at the intersection of youth empowerment and community-based approaches to addressing the injustices that result from mass incarceration. With a background in youth development and a passion for fighting for the rights of prisoners and their families, Zoe first started this work as a youth advocate while in high school when she joined the first cohort of Project WHAT! youth in Oakland, CA.

Zoe is the recipient of UC Berkeley's 2014 Mario Savio Young Activist Award for her deep commitment to human rights and social justice and a proven ability to transform commitment into effective action. In 2015, Zoe was awarded the Superbowl 50 Fund Playmaker Award for innovative approaches to creating lasting solutions for youth impacted by incarceration. As a youth, she was honored with the Youth Warrior Award from the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. Zoe graduated from Barnard College with a degree in Urban Studies, concentrating in Race and Gender History of the United States. While in college, she focused her education and her organizing life on the impacts of mass incarceration nationwide, with an eye to the impact of incarceration on youth and families.

Domestic Violence Team

Guadalupe Garcia Montano



I am a lifelong learner and seeker of ways to make myself useful. I serve on the board of directors of the East Los Angeles Women's Center, which means I learn from individuals committed to empowering women and their families. I chair the finance committee and serve on the government relations committee. I am a former higher education administrator with experience in faculty development and academic program management. These days, I make myself useful as an independent academic editor: I help very intelligent people put their best voice forward. I am most proud of the fact that, starting January 2016, I will join the University of Southern California as adjunct faculty dedicated solely to overseeing doctoral students' research. My background means I access knowledge from various fields and understand the importance of situating new ideas within existing paradigms.

Because I ran programs at various college campuses, I know the challenges of bringing multiple constituencies to the decision-making process. I know the value of communication skills, but, more importantly, I know the significance of listening skills. Bringing an entire campus full of faculty into compliance with new regulations takes stamina, professionalism and in-depth knowledge of both sides of an issue. Working with hundreds of experts in their fields is both humbling and thrilling, as they taught me that I am an expert in mine. I navigate complex bureaucracies to make them accessible for wider audiences.

During the academic year, I volunteer with Los Angeles area high schools and non-profit organizations to help students craft their college applications and personal statements. I am an active member of my alma maters' alumni associations, having served on the board of the San Fernando Valley USC Alumni Club, as a delegate for UCLA's Office of Government and Community Relations and as hostess for UT El Paso's annual Los Angeles alumni reunion. I also held leadership positions at two college campuses, and I strive to be connected to the wider community. Earlier this year, I was honored by the city of Carson when I served on the planning committee for and as emcee at the annual Cesar Chavez Day celebration.

My educational journey led to a doctoral degree, which is rare for a first-generation immigrant and college student and which propels my efforts to ensure others follow the same path. I am a product of Los Angeles public schools and a strong believer in their potential to foster the intellect of the students they serve. I earned a master's degree from what was then the nation's only bilingual creative writing program. Studying at UT El Paso meant my office was a twenty-minute walk from the US-Mexico border and, from the parking area, I watched as people crossed the river into the United States. Those scenes remain the most poignant facet of my education.

Penny Morris



My name is Penelope Morris, and I work as the Children's Program Manager at Tahoe SAFE Alliance. As the Program Manager I am responsible for the participants of the Children's Program, leadership of our Children's Program Team, and awareness of our program within the community. My role entails quite a bit of direct service work as well as programmatic oversight. While the support is very constant, we also provide education of domestic violence, child abuse, and work closely with our local child protective services to increase awareness of their role with families, provide support during an investigation of a family, and talk about ways that they may benefit the family. We have a unique opportunity for Service Integration at the Community House where our Program is housed, where our agency collaborates and shares a building with the local Family Resource Center, and the local nutritional support agency. Through the Service Integration model, we are in the unique position of providing a lot of personal referrals, as well as participating in meetings with other agencies regularly at the request of the participant.

My experience in the social justice field started working with the local syringe access program to reduce HIV/HCV transmission rates among the community. At the syringe access program I learned how our society politicizes people's rights to equal access of medical services, social services, and respect. It was at the exchange that I was able to see and help reduce, the constant marginalization and lack of support for people seeking services to protect themselves from diseases by accessing condoms, unused syringes, and other unused syringe works. A success and victory that I was able to participate in included continuing my role as a volunteer with the syringe access program after the program closed. During the economic decline in 2009 the program lost 100% of our funding. Due to previous concerns a group of us started a Community Advisory Board and started raising funds independently to provide supplies to folks that needed it. At the time it was illegal to purchase syringes without a prescription, and there were no other options for getting unused syringes legally. I continued on to be the Vice President of the syringe access program that was volunteer based and we organized ourselves to provide supplies to people at risk of HIV/HCV. A lesson learned from that experience took place 4 years later when we had to absolve our services due to severe community attacks as well as leadership changes among Health Services Agency officials that stopped supporting the organization. I learned that community support and leadership positions cannot be underestimated. A favorite success that I shared in was participating in lobbying and educating legislators in Nevada of syringe access programs and syringe use as a necessary service for people that inject drugs. In 2013 after coordinated volunteer lobbying and educating, the legislation passed a full syringe access bill that decriminalized syringes and allowed the first syringe access program to establish in Nevada!

My educational experience was very non-traditional. I dropped out of school during 7th grade to start working full time, due to various barriers in my life that made full time school and dependence very difficult. I was able to continue my education by taking college courses while fulfilling high school course work independently from the classroom and working full time during the process. I continued to support myself through the remainder of my education, and travelled for fun at the guidance of my

older sister. I spent several months traveling with some girlfriends in Africa where I was made more aware of the poverty and racism in the world. I chose to study Community Studies with an emphasis on Public Health and Social Inequalities at the University of California, Santa Cruz. While I pursued my degree there, I was able to get very involved in the syringe access program and did much of my research on HIV/HCV transmission, social inequalities in access to health care, and how communities play a role in social change. My undergraduate thesis was "Legal advocacy: how that is HIV prevention." I was very interested in the support the syringe access program was able to provide to people who used the program, but once in public, the laws became a barrier to safer drug use. My graduate degree is in Public health from the University of Nevada, Reno and my thesis was, "Health Indicators of the Tahoe Forest Hospital District." In my graduate work I was able to spend quite a bit of time researching health disparities in my community, outlining what the various issues are, the resources that are allocated towards them, and best practices. I am very passionate about breaking down barriers and being a part of the solution!

Rachael Langston



I am a staff attorney in the Disability Rights and Gender Equity & LGBT Rights Programs at the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center (LAS-ELC). I began my career at LAS-ELC in 2008 as a Skadden Fellow, with a primary focus on enforcing and expanding reasonable accommodation legislation. Currently, I represent workers who face discrimination based on their disability, gender, sex, or status as a survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault.

I am actively involved in our organization’s policy advocacy efforts. During the 2012-2013 legislative session, I spearheaded our organization’s sponsorship of Senate Bill 400 (Jackson), which was ultimately passed and signed by Governor Brown. SB 400 made it unlawful for employers to discriminate against an employee based on his or her status as a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. The law also requires reasonable safety-related accommodations for survivors in the workplace. I was also involved in advocating for the recently passed SB 358 which enhances equal pay protections for women in California, and I am active in our organization’s support of laws that would provide greater employment protections for workers with familial caregiving responsibilities.

As a person with a mobility disability, I recognize the importance of questioning the status quo and recognizing the unmet needs of communities which have been or are being marginalized. Through my work, I often provide community education and outreach so that those affected by inequities are better equipped to assert their rights and in doing so, create a more inclusive and progressive society. I am also involved efforts to improve upon and expand important rights and protections. Currently, I chair the San Francisco Equal Pay Advisory Board, which is charged with implementing a new Equal Pay Ordinance requiring San Francisco contractors to report their pay practices to the Human Rights Commission. I am also involved with the Bar Association of San Francisco’s Disability Rights Committee, which provides support and education both for lawyers with disabilities and practitioners in disability rights law.

I received my J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 2008. I hope to never stop learning and pursuing my interests and passions – consequently, I just recently – in my 30s! – learned how to swim, am currently enrolled in a method acting class, and recently joined an op-ed writing group to improve my ability to communicate my perspectives on the issues most important to me.

Tracey Rick



Tracey Rick has worked with victims of domestic violence since 2000. After working in a variety of positions at 2 domestic violence agencies, in 2009 she became the shelter manager at Family Assistance Program. She supervised the transition to becoming the first domestic violence shelter to accept pets in California and successfully developed a program to allow the pets to sleep with their families as if they were home. She developed policies to make the program more trauma-informed with a focus on empowerment and support. She worked with the Soroptomist Club of Victor Valley to remodel the shelter one room at a time. She is always looking for ways to support and empower women.

Tracey is a success story of the welfare to work program. While struggling to raise 6 children as a single mother she was forced to rely on the safety net. With limited job skills, she began volunteering at a local domestic violence shelter and going to school at night. After a year, she was hired at the shelter. Through hard work and dedication she was able to move out of section 8 housing and purchase her own home. Through her experiences she is able to empathize with her clients and share her own story as a motivation. Everyone can experience the American Dream.

In 2011, Tracey was diagnosed with breast cancer. After multiple surgeries and several rounds of chemotherapy, she is now a cancer survivor! During this process, she continued to work, never letting the cancer stop her from living and enjoying life.

Tracey Rick attended San Bernardino Valley College receiving multiple certificates. She began taking classes while working full time and raising 6 children. Now she focuses on classes which directly relate to working with victims of domestic violence such as expanding her knowledge of trauma-informed care, self-care, human trafficking and empowerment.

Sydney Reyes



Hi, my name is Sydney Reyes and I work at the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence as the Public Policy Coordinator. Here at the Partnership I have been able to learn about the systems that most survivors interact with over the course of their lifetime. My focus area is immigration, specifically around TRUST Act implementation and the new PEP-com program. I have also had the opportunity to work with members around relationship building with law enforcement.

Prior to working for the Partnership I was a program coordinator for the Women's Resource Center at the University of the Pacific. While working there I coordinated the 2014 production of the Vagina Monologues. Additionally I have interned with the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. The biggest take-away from any position I have worked are the people I had the privilege to work and the stories they have chosen to share with me. The ways my previous co-workers experience and navigate the world has forced me to be critical of the lens I view the world from and to always note my privileges and biases before making a decision.

For the past three years I have also had the opportunity to be a peer mentor for Pathways to Policy portion of the Women's Policy Institute that the California Center for Research on Women and Families host every year. This organizing has provided me the opportunity to meet so many intelligent and talented women in the policy field. Their leadership and expertise are encouraging. I continue to be an active alumna and frequently attend alumni and students events; I have attended as a guest, speaker, and moderator and am looking forward to hosting an event soon.

I graduated from the University of the Pacific with my Bachelors in Psychology and a minor in pre-law. I loved my developmental psychology classes. I am fascinated with the impacts trauma and stress have on neo-natal development. I hope to one day research the impact domestic violence has not only on neo-natal development but the child's lifetime of health development. While I was an undergraduate I also participated in UC Davis's King Hall Outreach Program. This program was designed to help low income and/or underrepresented get into law school.

Domestic Workers Rights Team

Blanca Vazquez



My name is Blanca Vazquez, I am an undocumented immigrant, originally from Mexico. I immigrated to the US with my family at a very young age and have resided in the bay area ever since. I am currently a staff member of the CA Domestic Workers Coalition doing communications and alliance building work to expand our ally base in preparation for the launch of our campaign in 2016. We are going to mobilize our base across the state to reauthorize the CA Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, because it will cease in January 1, 2017. Our ideology is grounded in the leadership of domestic workers and my role specifically involves working closely with domestic workers to build their leadership through their stories by supporting their preparation process when speaking in community mobilizations and during legislative visits. This past summer I launched a social media photo series titled, "Domestic Worker Spotlight" where we feature the story of a domestic worker leader via a portrait picture and a personalized quote as a way to explicitly demonstrate the powerful female leaders within our movement.

Prior to joining the coalition team, I worked for another non-profit organization in the bay area called, SHARE Foundation as a Program and Operations Coordinator. I was part of the SHARE team for about two years and I learned many things during this time; especially because I transitioned into this position without any previous experience in operational work. But the organization saw high potential in me and invested in my development and my leadership. Although at this time I envisioned myself doing grassroots and policy work, I was immensely committed to my own growth and learned that my will to learn and push for justice would lead me in this position. All through my time at SHARE, I focused my grassroots work in the immigrants' rights sector doing local advocacy work with undocumented youth.

For the past 4 years, I have been an active member of the East Bay Immigrant Youth Coalition on a volunteer basis; I co-founded this small grassroots group in 2012. Since then, I have organized with undocumented youth to push for pro migrant policies in California. In 2013 we were part in successfully passing the Trust Act which is a law that formally unbinds local police enforcement with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE).

I acquired a Bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Development with a focus in Youth Work from San Francisco State University. Through my volunteer experience as a college student, I learned about the power of youth voices in social justice movements and was exposed to advocacy work lead by undocumented youth in California. Being undocumented myself, I surrounded myself with young leaders in the fight for immigrants' rights; essentially a completely new world to me. Through this exposure I soon found myself leading a small group of undocumented youth. This position presented many great learning opportunities for me such as, attending Netroots Nation, the most progressive national conference.

Lolita Lledo



My name is Lolita Andrada Lledo. I am the Associate Director of the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) based in Los Angeles, California. I am also the Lead Organizer for the Association of Filipino Workers (AFW), an organizing program of PWC. I am a long-time activist who actively fought during the anti-Marcos dictatorship struggle in the Philippines since the 70's until he was ousted in the famous EDSA Revolution in 1986. I have a lot of experience in building the base among workers, peasants, students and other sectors in the Philippines. I am a graduate of the University of the Philippines and studied masteral units in Industrial Relations. I migrated in the US in 1987. I am a proud grandmother of 3 grandchildren.

When I migrated in the US in 1997, I did not have any plan of becoming an activist again. After sacrificing my future of becoming a doctor and giving the best years of my life in the social justice movement to bring back democracy in the Philippines, I thought it is now the best time to prepare for my retirement and earn a decent living. But the old saying that "Once an Activist, is always an Activist" proved to be true to my case. On my first years in the US, I found out that there were no services being given to the undocumented Filipinos. I started to look for an organization where I can help organize the Filipinos and find solutions in their problems. That was the time I became an advocate of the undocumented and helped PWC create services and programs to soften the grounds for organizing. The undocumented low wage immigrant Filipino/a worker whom are mostly caregivers are one of the most hard-to-reach populations to organize. They are middle class in origin back in the Philippines and later found themselves being part of the working class here in the US. There is a great denial of their situation so they usually don't come out in the open and just become invisible. But through the years of patiently organizing, we are proud to say that we have finally broken the myth of caregivers not capable of organizing themselves. . PWC through my active leadership and other co-organizers were now able to build a 2,000 strong AFW membership whom the majority are caregivers. This is one of our best achievements and we are now ready to create more changes and meaningful improvement of their situation. We are active participants of the AB 241 campaign to provide overtime pay to caregivers and nannies in California. Currently, we are now doing a big campaign on the enforcement of this new law (AB 241). We are also an anchor organization of a national campaign called Caring Across Generation representing the caregivers which aims to reform how America cares for its seniors, sick and disabled. We are also a founding member of the national Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA). At age 60 and spent almost 41 years of being an activist and serving my community and people, I have developed a sense of being "behind the scene" organizer (probably because of my training of being an "underground organizer" during the anti-Marcos dictatorship struggle where we were forced to fight underground to defend ourselves from the dictator. . All I wanted right now is to leave a legacy among my community and build PWC as a strong organization, an organization which is being led by the caregivers themselves. I just wanted to continue the legacy of Larry Itliong, the great organizer of the Filipino farm workers in the 60's who also led the farm workers grape strike together with Cesar Chavez. I am just continuing his legacy to help n organizing the low wage immigrant Filipino workers in the 21st century. I also don't see myself retiring in 6 years as I promised myself to be

always available to continue the task of developing leaders and whatever wisdom I can share with the next generation of young Filipino organizers. For that, I am contented and I feel I truly lived my life.

I graduated valedictorian both in elementary and high school. Because my family was so proud of my academic achievements, my father wanted me to become a Doctor of Medicine. But this dream was cut short when I gave up my future and decided to organize underground to fight the dictatorship in my country. I belong to a generation of the best sons and daughters of the Philippines at that time whom unselfishly gave up our dreams to bring back democracy in the Philippines. I learned to live among the most oppressed sectors like the workers, farmers, urban poor, etc. I saw first-hand how exploitation was in reality. I was arrested and psychologically tortured by the Marcos military in 1978. I am now part of the more than 10,000 human rights victims being honored by the current government of the Philippines and being paid a reparation for all the sufferings I encountered when fighting the dictator. After my arrest, I decided to go back to the University and finished my study. This time, I don't want to become anymore a Doctor of Medicine but instead a Doctor of the People. I took up and finished Sociology and later went into the study of labor movements. I thought I could continue pursuing academic courses to hone my skills but I decided to focus on studying how to best organize my community. All I wanted is to leave a legacy and share whatever wisdom I have learned in understanding oppression and exploitation in society, social justice movements, legislative campaigns, etc. At the end of the day, what matters to me is if we can honestly say to ourselves if our lives have been spent in making this world a better place for all of us where there is justice, equality and everyone is respected and treated with dignity. All I hope is that my grandchildren will be able to celebrate my life with pride in their hearts that their lola, their abuela, their grandmother truly lived a meaningful life in this world.

Marienne Cuison



My name is Marienne Cuison, many call me Yenyen. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area my parents migrated to the US in the late 1980s from the Philippines in search of a better future. I graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Community studies. Through my major I was able to participate in a six month field study at the Filipino Community Center in San Francisco. Through this internship I was introduced to the larger Filipino community. After graduating from UC Santa Cruz in 2010, I went on to Public Allies then returned to UC Santa Cruz as an Advisor to student organizations and soon became the Organizing Director of Engaging Education Center at UC Santa Cruz. My career at UC Santa Cruz ended as of September 2015 and made my return to the Filipino Community Center.

Through my various roles through Public Allies, UC Santa Cruz student organizations , Filipino Community Center and Engaging Education, I learned what organizing from the ground up meant. I learned what it took to take an idea and make it a reality. As I was an Ally with Public Allies, I was a member of the Chapter Organizing Committee of Anakbayan Silicon Valley. It was here where I was able to strengthen my commitment to serving my communities.

My passion and dedication stems from my involvement in the Filipino community. During my undergraduate years I was heavily involved with the Filipino Student Association and joined a professional Filipino Dance Troupe named Kariktan based in Concord, CA. I was drawn to my history and culture. I was given the opportunity to join a group on an 8 week exposure trip in the Philippines during the summer of 2011 where I got to witness the 4th International League of People's Struggles Assembly and integrate into the community.

I believe strongly in the power of Popular Education, workshops and group discussions. I received a BA that required field notes and a paper on my experience at the Filipino Community Center. I do not believe I will go back to school, but believe that I will continuously learn as I emerge my self deeper into the community and learn from them.

Nikki Brown-Booker



Nikki Brown-Booker is a member of Hand in Hand, the Domestic Employers Network. She coordinates the senior and disability working group and has been a leader organizer since Hand in Hand began in 2011. As a member of Hand in Hand I have given numerous presentations to state and national legislators. I presented my experiences as an employer at a US Senate hearing in Washington DC. She was very involved in the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights AB 241 campaign and spoke as an employer representative to the California assembly in support of the bill. I am a person with a disability and have been employing personal care attendants since 18 years old when I moved out of my parents' home to attend college. My mother immigrated to the US from the Philippines and was also a domestic worker. I believe that all workers deserve a dignified workplace including workers that work in the home.

I have a unique perspective as I have worked as a licensed marriage and family therapist in the disability community. I have been involved in the disability rights community for over 20 years. In the campaign I was able to help bridge the domestic worker rights community and the disability rights community to open up dialogue between these two communities which are often at odds against each other. Although this work is very challenging I have been helpful in getting the two communities to sit down with each other.

Some of my other accomplishments include being the board vice-president of Easy Does It a Berkeley based non-profit that provides emergency attendant care, transportation and equipment repair. I have developed curriculum and facilitated workshops on how to manage your attendant care services. I have also led several trainings on working with traumatized children and working with transition age youth with disabilities. As a marriage and family therapist I specialize in working with these two populations. I am also the youngest child in a family of eight and am very close with my family. In my spare time I enjoy the creativity of cooking which I got from my father who was a professional chef.

I have a master's degree in clinical psychology and use my psychology background to inform my community organizing work. I have traveled to Europe and Mexico and hope to do more traveling in the future.

Sarah Leadem



My name is Sarah Leadem. I am the Membership Coordinator for the California Domestic Workers Coalition, a statewide alliance working to advance the rights of California's nannies, housecleaners and caregivers. I coordinate our statewide membership program and support our partner organizations to engage in educational, organizing, and advocacy campaigns. I bring a unique perspective to the WPI team that is grounded in unifying policy advocacy with strategic campaigning that builds power for marginalized communities. I have had the privilege to work within the domestic worker movement on the statewide and national scale and to be part of efforts to forward a pioneering policy agency that unifies the needs of women, immigrants and workers.

I come to the Women's Policy Institute with more than seven years in organizing and advocacy in my native home of the Bay Area. I was moved to engage in the movement for social justice when I witnessed the sweeping inhumanity of the 2005 immigration raids in my hometown of San Rafael. This experience prompted me to learn early on that I could not stay neutral in moments of injustice. It was in this moment, that I was called to action as an ally to the immigrant community. As an undergraduate student at U.C. Berkeley, I was hungry for opportunities to expand my experiences as a young change-maker. I became a leader in United Students Against Sweatshops and helped steer local and national scale strategy around student campaigns in support of campus workers. I was soon recruited to support advocacy among students and employers in tandem with the California Domestic Workers Coalition during the pilot campaign to win the historic CA Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. It was here that I was introduced to the movement that stole my heart.

After years of working in solidarity with campus workers as a student, I was hired as a union organizer by AFSCME 3299 and worked for three years to represent University of California hospital and service employees. In the heart of labor movement, I found myself in the midst of protracted contract negotiations that escalated into nearly four consecutive strikes at California's most prestigious institute of higher learning. I marched alongside the courageous and visionary workers of California's public universities and hospitals toward victory, witnessing first hand the concerted erosion of public sector jobs and the power of collective organizing.

I completed my undergraduate Bachelors in Ethnic Studies with a minor in Public Policy. I had the privilege to complete my studies in Public Policy at the esteemed Goldman School of Public Policy and had the opportunity to study the intersections of inequality and public policy under the tutelage of Robert Reich. I am a proud recipient of the UCB Center for Race and Gender's undergraduate research grant, which funded my senior thesis my research on alternative labor organizing and the movement for justice for domestic workers in California. While pursuing my undergraduate education, I spent two consecutive summers in Nicaragua studying the impact of neoliberal economic trade policies in Central America and working with local attorneys to develop educational resources for women around civil and labor rights.

Health Team

Shazia Manji



Shazia Manji is an ardent writer and social justice advocate. She works as the Membership & Communications Coordinator at Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, where she trains and organizes health professionals and activists to advocate for policies and practices that improve health and the environment for all communities. She is working to build expertise in state environmental justice issues, as well as health education and nonprofit communications, while also looking to incorporate her background in visual art and graphic design into her work as an activist. For example, Shazia recently re-designed PSR-LA's website and created an infographic about the health impacts of short-lived climate pollutants.

Prior to joining the team at PSR-LA, Shazia was a communications intern at Breast Cancer Action and a program intern with the Center for Wireless & Population Health Systems at UC San Diego, where she supported a research study that implemented a walking program with older adults in retirement communities, while working with participants to identify and addressing environmental barriers to physical activity in their neighborhoods. As a student at UC San Diego, Shazia was a staff member at the Student Sustainability Collective, where she worked to organize education and policy initiatives that addressed the social, economic, and political context in which environmental injustices occur. Through the SSC she connected students with opportunities to work with local organizations, and founded the campus chapter of the California Health Professional Student Alliance, a student group advocating for single payer healthcare in the US.

Shazia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of California at San Diego, where she also studied Public Service and Visual Art. Through the Student Sustainability Collective, she learned a great deal through collective organizing, and is grateful that her introduction to activism was conducted through a lens that focused on history and justice. Shazia also lived and studied in Ankara, Turkey for four months as an undergraduate at Bilkent University.

Eva Holt-Rusmore



Evarosa (Eva) Holt-Rusmore brings eight years of multi-sector community health programming and youth development experience to WPI. Currently, she manages Girls' Health in Girls' Hands (GHGH), a girl-led collaborative movement for health empowerment. Through GHGH, Ms. Holt-Rusmore leads the development of a network of six public health agencies in Monterey County. She works directly with youth to implement countywide youth-led advocacy and health action campaigns focused on social and emotional health, resulting in two county resolutions in support of GHGH's work. These resolutions are the first ever youth-drafted resolutions to be passed in the county and represent over 600 youth involved in GHGH's programming.

Ms. Holt-Rusmore has worked previously in youth development at Second Harvest Food Bank in Santa Cruz, CA where she developed a youth-focused nutrition peer educator curriculum and in Oakland, CA implementing youth reproductive health and violence prevention programming. Internationally, Ms. Holt-Rusmore has worked in the food sovereignty movement in Spain with the Basque Farmers Union, in alternative economy efforts in cooperatives and collectives in Portugal, and with women's rights education in Sierra Leone. Her experience in community health has taught her that social change is a constant practice of humility, integrity and sense of humor.

Ms. Holt-Rusmore believes the personal dimensions of health justice are equally significant as the professional. An avid outdoors person, she belongs to the Central Coast chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society. She is a yoga teacher trained at the Niroga Institute and is a part the Re-evaluative Counseling community of young adults in Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Holt-Rusmore earned a MA in International Community Development from the University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, where her Master's thesis focused on immigrant community organizing and advocacy in food movements. She holds a BA in Political Geography from the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Holt-Rusmore was a Center for Race & Gender Fellow and a Fellow of the Center for Human Rights at the University of California, Berkeley. She was also a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to Portugal. She published qualitative research on women's rights identity and the international aid community. She is fluent in Portuguese and is a native Spanish speaker of Puerto Rican, Spanish Basque and German descent. Ms. Holt-Rusmore was raised in Nicaragua. She considers it an honor to be selected as part of the health team for the WPI 2015-2016 and is looking forward to working for health justice for women in California with a great team.

Stephanie Fajuri



Stephanie Fajuri is the Supervising Attorney with Disability Rights Legal Center's Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC). As CLRC Supervising Attorney, Ms. Fajuri provides legal services to people with cancer-related legal issues, presents educational workshops, oversees the CLRC's telephone assistance line and serves as the primary supervisor for CLRC attorneys, its intake coordinator, and its volunteers and externs. Ms. Fajuri has presented nearly 100 educational trainings on behalf of the Cancer Legal Resource Center, primarily focusing on topics such as health care reform, employment rights, access to health care and government benefits, and advance planning. Ms. Fajuri has spoken throughout the US, including at national conferences such as the American Bar Association's Emerging Health Issues Conference in 2014 in Phoenix, AZ and Living Beyond Breast Cancer's 2014 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA, as well as at regional coalition meetings and local churches, hospitals, and support groups throughout California. Furthermore, she has overseen the counseling of thousands of cancer patients, caregivers, and health care professionals on the CLRC's national telephone assistance line.

Prior to this position, Ms. Fajuri was a Staff Attorney with the CLRC, Development Coordinator with Disability Rights Legal Center, and spent summers in law school working at the Illinois Human Rights Commission and at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. During her short time at the Illinois Human Rights Commission, she assisted in updating the Commission's administrative code and drafted Administrative Law Judge decisions on a variety of employment and housing discrimination cases. Prior to entering law school, Ms. Fajuri spent her summers in during her undergraduate education canvassing door to door for organizations like the Sierra Club, Save the Children, and PIRGM.

As part of her role at the Cancer Legal Resource Center, Ms. Fajuri is a member of the American Bar Association's Breast Cancer Advocacy Task Force, the American Cancer Society's Los Angeles Regional Leadership Council, the Orange County Cancer Coalition, the Latina Task Force, and the Los Angeles ACCESS to Care Coalition. Additionally, Ms. Fajuri is a member of the State Bars of California and New York. She is also a member of Legal Voices, the chorus affiliated with the L.A. Lawyers Philharmonic.

Ms. Fajuri received a B.A. in History at the University of Michigan- Ann Arbor. After college, she taught English, History, and Music to 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at Shanghai High School- International Division in Shanghai, China for one year. Upon returning from China, Ms. Fajuri earned her Juris Doctorate at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she participated in the Public Interest Law Certificate program, and was awarded the Chicago-Kent Certificate of Service, Dean's Distinguished Public Service Award, Tuition Achievement Award, and served as Secretary of the Hispanic and Latino Law Student Association.

Trisha Chakrabarti



Trisha Chakrabarti is the Program and Policy Manager at Mandela MarketPlace (MMP), in West Oakland. MMP is a community-based organization that works at the intersection of economics and health. As a public health and food policy wonk, Trisha flexes her visioning and creative thinking muscles as a core member of the executive team. Currently, she directs MMP's food access initiatives, including weekly produce stands, a business development program for corner stores carrying healthy products, and a clinical-community partnership to increase healthy food access for patients of the Alameda Health System. Her expertise is in participatory health programming and research, and has previously worked as a technical assistance manager at the San Francisco Food Bank, and directed program design and evaluation for a peer-led health education training for young men of color. She is proud of her work supporting community residents in identifying solutions to health disparities, including forming a multi-sector coalition of farmers, small retail business owners, and healthcare workers to advance and maintain a food policy platform in the city of Chicago – a coalition that still meets regularly to confer with city officials.

Trisha began her work in food systems during her junior year of college, when studying abroad in South Africa and Zimbabwe. There, she met subsistence farmers and community leaders who saw a clear line between colonial policies and shifting agricultural and food trade patterns. Coming back to write and research at Food First deepened her understanding of the ways in which structural barriers manifest themselves in policy decisions – and, further down the line, in health outcomes. Trisha went on to work at the San Francisco Food Bank, managing community food pantries in neighborhoods undergoing rapid demographic shifts, and developed capacity-building tools to help partner sites grow and manage distributions effectively. Her deep commitment to creating environments for community empowerment, along with years of content expertise in federal and local food policies and community development strategies, led her to Mandela MarketPlace, where she is able to identify strategies for equitable and healthy community development.

Trisha has been a longtime advocate for alternatives to incarceration, and organized for several years for a statewide moratorium on executions. Currently, she volunteers weekly as a case manager for the California Reentry Program at San Quentin Federal Penitentiary, where she works with 4-5 clients on an ongoing basis, preparing them for parole board hearings and getting them ready for release. She also serves as a Board chair for the New Leaders Council-Oakland Chapter, a year-long fellowship for young progressives of color interested in careers in public service and politics. She was a recipient of the Block Direct Service Fellowship at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and is active in Bay Area progressive South Asian activities and associations.

Trisha is a lifelong learner, and is always looking for opportunities to grow and develop her interests and skills. She is certified in Permaculture Landscape Design, and has always been interested in the cultivation of land and food. Her undergraduate thesis was a comparison of post-colonial Marxist rhetoric in land reform strategy in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and rural West Bengal (India) – and she sees a connection to land and food as primary in the struggle against systems of oppression. She grew up in the South Asian diaspora, and her love of food was born from a love of the stories and traditions of her family. She works hard to maintain a connection to her family's culture and traditions, and spent

a year in India traveling, working at an international land rights organization, and living with her grandparents in Calcutta. She is a trained Indian folk dancer, and loves any and all dance forms – and then eating a good home-cooked meal after!

Reproductive Justice Team

Claudia Huerta



Claudia joined PPPSW in 2013 as the Binational Affairs Manager and now serves as the Legislative and Political Engagement Manager. Claudia Huerta is an experienced economic development and community relations strategist passionate about reducing systemic poverty cycles, advancing gender equity and reproductive healthcare rights, and increasing sustainable urban access. She has extensive experience working and advocating for low-income and marginalized communities in California, New York, Mexico and Brazil.

In her current role at PPPSW Claudia identifies strategies and implements programs to address key reproductive health issues and legislation impacting access to reproductive health care in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties. She works with legislators and staff, multiple community-based agencies, and volunteers to strengthen relationships and partnerships to ensure access to reproductive healthcare services and rights; and represents PPPSW on advisory boards and committees at a local and international level. She also provides cultural and linguistic expertise and guidance to enhance community health and voter education, reproductive justice outreach, and messaging to Latino communities and multi-cultural communities in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial counties in English and Spanish.

Claudia holds a Master's of Science in Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Spanish Literature from Columbia University. Claudia also writes about equity issues, sustainable planning trends and mobile technologies impacting economic access. She has been published in *The New Planner*, *Progressive Planning*, *This Big City*, and *Urban Magazine*.

Lizzy Laferriere



Elizabeth Laferriere is a policy and communications professional with diverse experience spanning city government, human rights, campaign management and think tank research. A lifelong advocate for women's and children's advancement, Elizabeth currently serves as a policy analyst on the child trafficking team at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). NCYL uses the law to ensure that low-income children have the resources, support and opportunities they need for a fair start in life. Through NCYL, Elizabeth serves as the Assistant Director of the Child Welfare Council's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Action Team. The CSEC Action Team is a multidisciplinary body dedicated to identifying promising prevention and intervention practices, increasing awareness of the intersection between child sex trafficking and the child welfare system and providing recommendations to the state of California on how to better address the problem.

Elizabeth previously managed a workplace equity policy portfolio and the gender analysis program at the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. While at the Department, Elizabeth authored the *Report on Sex-Based Discrimination in the American Workplace Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, the one shadow report written on the topic in response to the fourth periodic report of the United States to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Elizabeth advocated for workplace equity in-person at the 110th session of the UN Human Rights Committee as part of a gender discrimination work group.

Advocating for more women in office – and on behalf of gender-responsive policies – is a significant hobby and passion of Elizabeth's. She presently serves as Vice President of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC). Established in 2002, SFWPC is the largest women's organization in San Francisco with hundreds of active members of all ages and political parties, both female and male. SFWPC works to engage women in all dimensions of the political process and actively advocates for policy improvements that promote gender parity, especially those improving women's access to reproductive health services and medically-accurate information. Elizabeth is also a graduate of the Emerge California training program, which prepares democratic women to run for elected office.

Elizabeth received her master of public policy from Georgetown University where she specialized in international affairs. She spent her third graduate semester at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and focused on international politics, diplomacy and development. She studied South Asian Studies and History at Wellesley College and graduated with honors in 2010. She remains heavily engaged with Wellesley through her leadership on the Wellesley Club of Northern California's Board of Directors and by coordinating admissions activities in her region.

Erin Garner-Ford



Erin Garner-Ford, Executive Director of ACT for Women and Girls, is an activist passionate about reproductive justice issues. Ms. Garner-Ford was born and raised in California's Central Valley where she is known for speaking out about women's issues and rights. She is an energetic and organized leader who has been successful in the development and implementation of programming and reproductive justice campaigns for young women to make social and personal change. Her work in the Central Valley has never been easy as she has received significant pushback, but she has been instrumental in changing local and state policies, helping bring the first Planned Parenthood satellite clinic to Tulare County, defeating parental notification for abortion initiatives, and leveraging opportunities for women to gain access to pharmacies, clinics and resources.

Ms. Garner-Ford has spent over ten years working for ACT for Women and Girls to help grow and sustain the organization. She has continued to be successful in leveraging funding, growing the scope of ACT's work and establishing a concrete foundation for the organization. She began her work in women's rights advocacy and reproductive justice as an intern for Chico State's Women's Center and Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo as a pregnancy options counselor in 2003. When she began her work with ACT, she brought determination. Through her determination, ACT has become a successful organization impacting thousands of women through programming, campaigns, events and outreach.

ACT and Ms. Garner-Ford have received significant attention for their work in the Central Valley and have been awarded for their work with women. ACT has received the following awards under Ms. Garner-Ford's leadership: The Gloria Award, Women of Vision (Ms. Foundation for Women, New York City 2015), The Charlotte Ellertson Award for a bold move in emergency contraception (American Society of Emergency Contraception, New York City 2014) and Organization of the Year Award (Soroptimist, Visalia 2014). Ms. Garner-Ford has received individual recognition in connection to her work with ACT from the following: Emerging Leader Award (California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, Sacramento 2009), Ruby Award (Soroptimist, Visalia 2014), and Change Makers (National Women's Political Caucus, Fresno 2015). Ms. Garner-Ford is an active member of Networking for Women and an ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce, both located in Visalia, California. She is a prior member of the Arts Visalia non-profit board and a current member of the Tulare County Political Action Committee board.

Ms. Garner-Ford has a bachelor's degree in Women's Studies and a Master's degree in Leadership and Organizational Studies. She completed her thesis in 2009, *Feminist Leadership*, focusing on young women's leadership through a feminist lens to be applied to ACT's flagship program, the Female Leadership Academy. Ms. Garner-Ford loves to travel and enjoys watching her three kids play soccer all over the state of California.

Teni Adewumi



Teni (Teni) Adewumi is the Environmental Justice Program Coordinator at Black Women for Wellness and a PhD student at the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health. She works to combine her industrial hygiene background into occupational health work to provide workers with safe workspaces. She believes that all workers regardless of socio-economic status, immigration status, or gender have the right to safe and healthy workplaces. Previously, she has developed worker health and safety programs at a Fortune 500 company and now works at Black Women for Wellness where she researches the impact of environmental and reproductive toxins on Black women and girls.

She has received recognition and awards for outstanding student scholarship and service in her community including recognition from the American Industrial Hygiene Association, UCLA and the Tau Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Her work has been featured on Think Progress, HuffPost Live, and Cosmopolitan. She has held several leadership roles at the UCLA School of Public Health including president of the Industrial Hygiene Student Association and board member of Students of Color for Public Health. She is a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, National Safety Council, and American Society of Safety Engineers.

Teni's research interests include indoor air quality assessment and monitoring, environmental and reproductive justice, and applying industrial hygiene to under-served worker communities. She is currently studying the intersection of total worker health, workplace policies, and reproductive health.

Coming from an immigrant family has shaped the way she views health and wellness of women and girls. She stands on the shoulders of the women in her family who have paved the way for her to be able to lead and make change within her community. Teni completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health Sciences at California State University, San Bernardino. She recently completed her Masters of Science in Environmental Health Sciences/Industrial Hygiene at UCLA.

Wendy Calimag



Wendy Calimag oversees community-based programs at Girls Incorporated of Alameda County. Since 2004, she has presided over the development and administration of various programs including: teen pregnancy prevention programming (peer education, school based comprehensive sexual health education, parent workshops), girl led advocacy, family strengthening, fitness, and science, technology, engineering and math programs. At Girls Inc. she developed the Advocating Change Together program, which teaches girls to be systems change advocates to better their community. The program was awarded an Advocacy award in 2012 through Girls Inc. National. Wendy's programs reach over 2000 youth a year. Wendy also serves on the Senior Leadership Team, collaborating to set the strategic direction of the organization and her department. On the team, Wendy has been instrumental in bringing to light the experiences of girls from underinvested communities of color such as racism, oppression, gentrification, to name a few. Wendy represents Girls Inc. in the community serving on various initiatives over the years. The strength that she brings to the organization is her ability to work with families, her knowledge of equity and the desire and ability to advocate for the community.

Wendy has twenty five years of experience working in the youth development field. Her interest in helping others began in high school when she volunteered in a soup kitchen in inner city Chicago. This was her first exposure to the challenges families faced in the inner city. Before coming to Girls Incorporated of Alameda County, she worked as a social worker with foster care youth, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and families living in affordable housing. At her work at the OMI/Excelsior Beacon Center, she started their Wellness Services Department focusing on substance use prevention, gang prevention, violence prevention and mentoring. It was through this experience that she saw the need for gender specific services to address the unique needs of girls. Wendy has always worked in underinvested communities of color. She recognizes the importance of large scale community responses to address the challenges youth of color face.

Wendy also holds leadership positions at East Oakland Building Health Communities Initiative, Bay Area Communities for Health Education (BACHE), and Alameda County Public Health's Build Blocks for Health Equity; all these initiatives focus on changing systems for the betterment of the community, something Wendy is passionate about. At East Oakland Building Healthy Communities, Wendy leads the Youth Work Group, a group of youth and adult allies dedicated to achieving better health outcomes and changing the narrative for East Oakland youth. Currently, the youth are focused on expanding job opportunities and career pipeline programs. As a steering committee member for BACHE, Wendy helps to guide the work of this program dedicated to teaching parents to advocate for comprehensive sex education in the schools. Through BB4HE, Wendy assists in bringing trainings to collaborative members to spark collaboration to come up with creative solutions to achieve health equity. This year, she is helping to guide trainings on school to prison pipeline.

When not working or serving on a committee, Wendy loves to spend time with her family, read, take long walks, make jewelry and relax.

Wendy has a MSW from Washington University- St. Louis and a BSW from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. In graduate school, Wendy found her calling for systems change work. As a social work student, she concentrated on social and economic development and the impact on children and families. Her favorite classes were on human liberation, gender equity and political advocacy. She put her knowledge to the test as an intern with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, where she learned about policy advocacy through advocating for a bill that would insure the rights of homeless children to an education and through working on a demonstration project that would bring the local housing authority and social services together to ensure housing for families so that youth can be exited from the foster care system. In her spare time, she advocated for women's rights by attending abortion rights and Take Back the Night rallies.