

Women’s Policy Institute-State
Class of 2017

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Child Care Team

Clarissa Doutherd

Executive Director
[Parent Voices Oakland](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Clarissa Doutherd is the Executive Director of Parent Voices Oakland, a chapter of Parent Voices California. Clarissa has been a strong advocate for mothers like herself who were caught in the crosshairs of ineffective public policy. In addition to supporting Parent Voices Statewide campaigns, she has worked to decrease the number of mothers in Oakland waitlisted for child care subsidies by developing leadership pipelines for families to have increased influence and decision making power in City and County policy-making. Clarissa is the recipient of the Gloria Steinem Woman of Vision award and currently resides in Oakland.

Stephanie Flores

Communications and Outreach Adviser
[California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Stephanie Flores is Communications and Outreach Adviser for the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Prior to joining the Commission, Stephanie worked as an intern and independent contractor for the Western Center on Law and Poverty. Stephanie became involved with the Western Center as an intern through the University of California Center Sacramento Policy Program, which she completed in fall 2015. Stephanie graduated cum laude from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2015 with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology.

Jennifer Greppi

Statewide Lead Chapter Organizer

California Child Care Resources and Referral Network – Parent Voices California

Pronouns: she, hers



Jennifer Greppi, a former CalWORKs recipient, works as the statewide lead chapter organizer for Parent Voices California. Prior to joining the statewide team, she was the organizer for the Southern Alameda County Chapter of Parent Voices for 11 years.

A vocal advocate for child care, Jennifer is often in Sacramento testifying on behalf of low-income parents on child care issues. She is committed to working hard to make policy changes that will help all children and families succeed in today's challenging economy! Jennifer is regularly sought after in the community for her expertise in child development and advocacy and her work with parents is known nationwide.

Begoña Guereca

Research and Policy Analyst

California Child Care Resources and Referral Network

Pronouns: she, hers



Begoña Guereca is a double Bruin, graduating with a B.A. in Political Science and a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from UCLA. She is passionate about issues of disparities in child welfare and the social determinants of health, poverty and inequality. She currently works for the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network as a Research and Policy Analyst.

Prior to joining the Network, Begoña served as the 2014-2015 Luskin Leaders Fellow, working on child sex trafficking issues for the Los Angeles County (LAC) Commission on Human Relations. She has also worked in Senator Feinstein's Los Angeles field office as an Administrative Researcher.

Ericka Omena Erickson

Coordinator
Marin County Child Care Commission
Pronouns: she, hers



Ericka Omena Erickson is a Brazilian-American community organizer and educator whose work is strongly driven by her passion for the advancement of social equity. She is currently the Coordinator for the Marin County Child Care Commission, which leads and supports countywide plans and advocacy efforts to ensure access to high quality early care and education services.

Ericka also works as a consultant with different nonprofit organizations and has served on the Marin Women's Commission and Marin County Planning Commission. Her background includes years of experience in grassroots organizing, nonprofit management, and higher education.

Criminal Justice Team

Sasha Buchert

Staff Attorney
[Transgender Law Center](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Sasha Buchert is a Staff Attorney with Transgender Law Center, where she works to remove barriers for transgender and gender nonconforming people. Before joining Transgender Law Center, she had the privilege of working at Basic Rights Oregon, where she served as the Communications Manager and was a member of their legal advisory group. Sasha also served as board member of the LGBT Bar Association of Oregon and as the chair of the Oregon State Hospital Advisory Board, where she was the first openly transgender person to be appointed to an Oregon state board. Sasha received her J.D. from Willamette University.

KellyLou Densmore

Legal Director
[Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



KellyLou Densmore is the Legal Director at the Transgender, Gender-Variant, Intersex Justice Project in San Francisco. She is a white, cis-gender, queer femme, born and raised in the Bay Area. KellyLou has been a dedicated organizer for racial and economic justice, prison abolition and queer liberation ever since her teens.

After graduating from Golden Gate Law School in 2013, KellyLou has been using her lawyering skills to support social movements. KellyLou is part of the National Lawyers Guild, serving on the SF Bay Area Chapter's Board of Directors. She is a lover of plants, music and liberation.

Woods Ervin

Program and Policy Director
Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project
Pronouns: they, theirs



Woods is an organizer with Transgender, Gender-Variant, Intersex Justice Project in San Francisco and Critical Resistance Oakland. Woods is from Memphis, Tennessee by way of Chicago, Illinois.

While in Chicago, Woods supported formerly incarcerated transgender youth at the Broadway Youth Center and as a volunteer at the Transformative Justice Law Project. Woods is currently doing active work to dismantle the prison industrial complex and come up with transformative practices for addressing legacies of community and systemic harm.

Coral Feigin

Director of Community Organizing
Western Regional Advocacy Project
Pronouns: she, hers



Coral comes from the rural east coast of Canada and has been organizing in the Bay Area for many years. She is a community organizer who does work around prison abolition, queer and trans liberation and poor people's community power.

Most recently, Coral has been working with the No New SF Jail Coalition in San Francisco to push the city to invest in alternatives to incarceration and end the violent practice of jailing.

Janetta Johnson

Executive Director
[Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Janetta Johnson is an Afro-American trans woman who was raised in Tampa, Florida. Since 2006, she has been organizing around the intersections of violence she and her trans and gender non-conforming communities of color face. As a formerly incarcerated trans person, Janetta has faced adversity and this has informed her community work as well as her deep investment in the liberation of all black trans and gender non-conforming people.

Janetta works to restore her community's spirit from the confines of the prison industrial complex. She enjoys working to shift and reframe the value of black trans lives through media, education, and community building.

Aria Sa'id

Director of Programs
[St. James Infirmary](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Aria Sa'id serves as Director of Programs for the St. James Infirmary, a peer-based occupational health and safety clinic for sex workers in the San Francisco Bay area. Aria has also worked with marginalized and disenfranchised communities in public health through her appointment with the University of California, San Francisco's Department of Medicine. This has included research work with the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health as well as the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies division. Highlights in her movement-building work include joining Alicia Garza of Black Lives Matter, senior Mic.com correspondent Darnell Moore, and feminist writer Barbara Smith for a discussion about BLM and the LGBT community as part of Inforum at the Commonwealth Club of California.

Environmental Justice Team

Amy Aguilera

Civic Engagement Organizer

[People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Amy Aguilera became involved in social justice work after learning about discriminatory legislation towards immigrant communities. Born and raised in Oxnard, CA to immigrant parents, she saw the injustices these laws brought to families like her own and this inspired her to get involved. Amy received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and majored in Political Science. After graduating, Amy moved to San Francisco and began working as a Civic Engagement Organizer with People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER). Her focus is on community education around immigrant rights and advocacy on language justice for monolingual Spanish speakers.

Raquel Mason

Program Associate

[Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Raquel Mason joined PSR-LA in July 2015 as a Program Associate, where she supports PSR-LA's Climate Change and Toxics programming and coalition initiatives. Previously, Raquel partnered with MEND – an antipoverty organization in Pacoima, California – to assist with their newly established Grow Together Program. The project works to promote health for its participants through access to fresh produce, the exercise offered by gardening, and educational workshops. After witnessing this community of urban gardeners, Raquel was inspired and committed to the power of grassroots organizing. Raquel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Environmental Policy from Occidental College.

Abigail Ramirez

Policy Advocate

[Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Abigail Ramirez is a Policy Advocate in the San Joaquin Valley. She graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in Political Science & Spanish and an M.S. in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice.

Her previous efforts include immigration policy advocacy and community organizing abroad. Her work currently involves community organizing & advocacy on transportation equity issues & sustainable land use in the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

Laiseng Saechao

State Organizer

[Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Laiseng Saechao grew up in a toxic hot spot in Richmond, California where deep inequalities like poverty, violence, and environmental injustice existed. This sparked a commitment to social justice inside and outside of the classroom. In order to tie her academia to her passion for equity, Laiseng graduated from Scripps College with a degree in Politics and International Relations where her focus was Power and Justice. Currently she is the State Organizer at the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) building up statewide coalitions like the Asian Pacific American Climate Coalition through advocacy, civic engagement, and organizing.

Madeline Stano

Clean Energy Legal Counsel
Greenlining Institute
Pronouns: she, hers



Madeline Stano is Clean Energy Legal Counsel with the Greenlining Institute in Oakland, California. Her litigation focus areas include climate change, and the intersection of environmental and racial justice. She is admitted to practice law in California, is published in the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law and has appeared as a fracking legal expert on Al Jazeera America numerous times. She obtained her J.D. from George Washington University and her B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Trauma Justice Team

Sara Behmerwohld

Legal Advocacy Program Supervisor
[Human Options, Inc.](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Sara Behmerwohld began her work in the domestic violence movement at the age of 14, volunteering at a local shelter in her native Orange County. Since 2013, Sara has been the Legal Advocacy Program Supervisor at Human Options. There she works with legal advocates, pro bono attorneys, law enforcement, and other community partners to ensure that survivors of domestic violence have access to the legal resources they need to heal from trauma. Sara received her J.D. from The University of California Hastings College of the Law, and obtained her undergraduate degree in Politics and Journalism from Washington and Lee University.

Jessica Huerta

Community Education and Outreach Coordinator
[Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Jessica Huerta developed her passion to end violence against women from a personal and professional interest. As a Right to Know peer educator, she obtained training on crisis intervention and provided resources to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. In 2014, Jessica joined CHIRLA. As a Community Education Coordinator, she informs immigrant survivors about resources available to them regardless of their immigration status. Jessica is a Public Policy and International Affairs Alumna (2010), with a BA in Psychology and Sociology from the University of California, Irvine (2011) and a MA in Public Policy from Central European University in Hungary (2013). She also collaborated as a policy researcher at the Open Society Foundation.

Cindy Marroquin

Education Program Manager

Rape Trauma Services

Pronouns: she, hers



Cindy Karina Marroquin began her work in the Violence Against Women movement in 2002 working directly with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Central Valley. Cindy continued at the state coalition where she provided technical assistance to rape crisis programs and engaged in state and national sexual violence coalition-building efforts. Ms. Marroquin has managed programs throughout the Bay Area, provided gender-based violence and anti-oppression workshops focused on marginalized and underserved communities. Currently, Cindy is the Prevention Education Program Manager at RTS in San Mateo County and is a 2015 California Latinas for Reproductive Justice Bay Area Fellow.

Hemali Shah

Staff Attorney

South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency

Pronouns: she, hers



Hemali Shah has seven years of experience advocating for individuals and families experiencing interpersonal violence at non-profit organizations in Southern California. Her expertise lies in assisting immigrant survivors with the cultural-sensitivity training to address their complex legal issues regarding safety, family law matters, and immigration relief available to victims of violence. Currently, Hemali is Staff Attorney at the South Asian Helpline & Referral Agency, where she provides legal services to the South Asian community by educating survivors about their rights to dispelling myths and misinformation perpetuated by intergenerational cycles of violence.

Angela Turner

Staff Attorney
[Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Angela McNair Turner is a Staff Attorney with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (“LACLJ”). She provides legal services to survivors of sexual assault and assists clients with legal issues related to housing, immigration, employment, family law, privacy, crime victims’ rights and restraining orders.

Before joining LACLJ, Angela was a staff attorney and Skadden Fellow at Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. Angela earned her law degree from Berkeley School of Law. Angela graduated magna cum laude from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration.

Reproductive Justice Team

Cristina Flores

Voter Engagement Senior Coordinator
[California Latinas for Reproductive Justice](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Cristina Flores was raised by parents who instilled in her the importance of voting and social justice. She later began organizing in her hometown in South Texas around issues she is passionate about and went on to organize on political campaigns. While Texas' anti-choice legislation became increasingly more stringent, she knew she wanted to work with an organization that prioritized both reproductive justice and voting. Currently, Cristina is the Voter Engagement Senior Coordinator at California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, where she works to mobilize and engage communities, regardless of age or documentation status.

Sarah Hutchinson

Senior Policy & Program Coordinator
[ACT for Women and Girls](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Sarah Hutchinson is a native of the city of Fresno in California's Central Valley, and completed her Bachelor's degree at California State University, Fresno in History with an emphasis on social justice movements. Since then, Sarah has served her community through various health and advocacy campaigns, including a stint as an AmeriCorps member. Sarah's expertise in exploring reproductive justice at the intersection of economic inequity and racial injustice to increase health access for rural youth residents has defined her contributions to ACT. Sarah is the lead legislative advocacy coordinator for ACT's policy work, where she addresses health access barriers of marginalized communities on a statewide level.

Amanda Le

Policy Associate

[ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Amanda Le has been involved in the reproductive freedom movement since college and works both professionally and personally on reproductive justice issues in San Diego. Currently, Ms. Le is the policy associate at the American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties (ACLU-SDIC), where she advocates for policy change relating to civil liberties both on a local and statewide level.

She serves as the chair of the board of directors for the San Diego Coalition for Reproductive Justice. Ms. Le is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego and was born and raised in Visalia, California within the Central Valley.

Sara Spriggs

Operations Manager

[ACCESS Women's Health Justice](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Sara Spriggs is the Operations Manager at ACCESS Women's Health Justice, where she combines her passion for social justice and talent for organization to support the work of furthering self-determination for all Californians. She joined ACCESS in 2012 as a Healthline intern, providing pregnancy options peer counseling, rides, and housing to callers seeking reproductive healthcare in California.

Sara received her B.A. in Political Economy and Printmaking from The Evergreen State College in 2011. She currently resides in Oakland.

Diane Tober

Assistant Adjunct Professor
[University of California, San Francisco Institute for Health and Aging](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Diane Tober, PhD, is Assistant Adjunct Professor at UCSF Institute for Health and Aging. Her research interests focus on reproductive justice, fertility, and family, including: how single women and lesbian couples access reproductive technologies to create their families, sperm donor decisions and experiences, and egg donors' decisions and experiences. She also investigated perceptions and use of family planning among Afghan refugees and low income Iranians in Iran. Dr. Tober received her PhD from UC Berkeley/UCSF joint program in Medical Anthropology. She is currently working on a documentary film on egg donation and a forthcoming book: *Romancing the Sperm: The Shifting Politics of Alternative American Family*.