

Women's Policy Institute-State
Class of 2018

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Criminal Justice Team

Eunisses Hernandez

Policy Coordinator
[Drug Policy Alliance](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Eunisses Hernandez, a daughter of immigrants and lifelong resident of Los Angeles, began her work in criminal justice reform and drug policy over two years ago working to implement historic criminal justice reforms like Proposition 47: The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act. Eunisses has worked closely with people impacted by the criminal justice system, organized post-conviction relief clinics, and was an integral piece in passing civil asset forfeiture reform and marijuana regulation and legalization in California. In her role at the Drug Policy Alliance, she focuses on the local and statewide criminal justice portfolio, focusing on developing alternatives to incarceration, passing criminal justice legislation, and coordination post-conviction relief services. She is

a graduate of California State University, Long Beach School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Emergency Management and is a 2015-2016 WPI-County alum.

Amber-Rose Howard

Statewide Coordinator
[Californians United for a Responsible Budget](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Amber-Rose Howard is a natural writer, public speaker, and organizer committed to protecting human rights and liberties. She has years of experience as a grassroots organizer in southern California communities, including South Central Los Angeles, focused on strengthening the voices of formerly incarcerated people to advocate for the full restoration of their human and civil rights.

Currently, Amber-Rose serves as chairperson on the board of trustees for the Social Justice Advocacy Project, Inc. in LaVerne, CA. She holds a BA in Communication Studies concentrated in Public Argumentation & Rhetoric from CSU San Bernardino.

Jessica Jollett

Campaign Director
Lift Up Contra Costa County
Pronouns: she, hers



Born and raised in San Diego, California, Jess Jollett is deeply committed to seeking justice. Before becoming the Campaign Director at Lift Up Contra Costa County, a newly formed coalition created to impact local races, Jess worked as the Civic Engagement Specialist at Pillars of the Community in her hometown. Previously, she spent nearly 9 years at the San Diego ACLU, where she served in various capacities, including leading a statewide felony disenfranchisement campaign, which aimed to educate formerly incarcerated individuals of their right to vote. In 2015, Jess became intimately involved in fighting gang documentation and conspiracy laws through her work on a case

which involved the obscure penal code, P.C. 182.5. Since the release of the codefendants Brandon "Tiny Doo" Duncan and Aaron Harvey, Jess has worked as a founding partner to create their new organization, Justice4SD33, and change and implement new legislation surrounding gang documentation at the local and state level.

Romarilyn Ralston

Program Coordinator
[Project Rebound, California State University, Fullerton](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



In her work, Romarilyn advocates for college access and increasing opportunities for higher education for returning citizens. Following her own reentry, Romarilyn earned a B.A. degree with Honors in Gender and Feminist Studies from Pitzer College (2014), followed by a Master's degree in Liberal Arts from Washington University in St. Louis (2016). At Washington University, Romarilyn served as graduate student council and received the Mary McLeod Bethune 2016 Leadership Award, given to a graduate student who "through leadership, service, scholastic achievement, and

perseverance has served as an inspiration to the University community." Her policy experience includes work as a Coro Fellow in St. Louis. She speaks frequently on issues of incarceration and gender, to colleges, churches, and community organizations. She was a panelist on Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's Access to Higher Education Challenge Event at USC in 2016.

Kathryn Snyder

Senior Adviser
Tides Advocacy

Pronouns: she, hers and they, theirs



Kathryn Snyder is a Senior Advisor for Tides and The Advocacy Fund, with expertise in the areas of c3/c4 legal compliance, lobbying, and criminal justice reform. Kathryn is a member of the California State Bar, serves on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, is a member of black.seed and Black Lives Matter Bay Area, and serves as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate. Kathryn received a Juris Doctor from University of San Diego School of Law, and a BA in Sociology, BS in Human Development, and a Minor in Communication from University of California, Davis.

Economic Justice Team

Alexis Alvarez

Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Program

[Legal Aid at Work](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Alexis Alvarez advises and represents people with disabilities facing discrimination in employment and unequal access to government programs and services. Before joining Legal Aid at Work's Disability Rights Program, she was a staff attorney with the Disability Rights Legal Center's Cancer Legal Resource Center in Los Angeles, where she helped people tackle legal issues related to cancer. Alexis clerked for the Honorable Robert L. Hess and Barbara M. Meiers of Los Angeles Superior Court and the Honorable Gilbert M. Román of the Colorado Court of Appeals. She is a founding member of the National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities. Alexis received her J.D. in 2011 from UC Davis School of Law and her B.S. with honors in 2007 from Colorado State

University. During law school, Alexis was a senior articles editor for the UC Davis Law Review and served on the board of the La Raza Law Student Association.

Danielle Beavers

Director of Diversity and Inclusion

[The Greenlining Institute](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



As Greenlining's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Danielle works to promote job creation for people of color. She leads Greenlining's workforce and supplier diversity advocacy in various industries. Danielle views diversity as the antidote to redlining in the job market, and works to ensure that anchor institutions and their regulators fully reflect and benefit communities of color. She serves as Vice Chair of the California Department of Insurance's Diversity Task Force and is also a member of the California Utilities Diversity Council, Wells Fargo's Supplier Diversity Advisory Group, and the Small Business Administration's Los Angeles PLUM Market Research Action Group. She first came to Greenlining as the 2012

Economic Equity Fellow and received her B.A. from Stanford University in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity with Honors.

Avni Desai

Public Policy Manager
[Community Housing Partnership](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Avni is a Public Policy Manager for Community Housing Partnership in San Francisco. She currently works on policy advocacy for the City and County of San Francisco, building support and developing policies that impact homeless and low-income San Franciscans, including the following issue areas: economic reform, criminal justice, affordable housing, and access to health services. Avni earned her Bachelors in Science from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Master's in Public Health from Loma Linda University. Avni is passionate about health equity and community development. She also serves on the Board of a youth-based gardening program called CommunityGrows in San Francisco and on the board of Horizon Services, Inc., an organization in the Bay Area that provides substance treatment and prevention services.

Jazmin Posas

Project Assistant
[Housing California](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



While attending Sacramento State University in 2009, Jazmin began working in public service by interning in the Sacramento office of former United States Senator Barbara Boxer. In 2011 she began working in government affairs with California Volunteers and then served as a Program Associate, overseeing a portfolio of AmeriCorps state programs within the same agency. In 2014 she relocated to North Carolina to work as a Program Coordinator with a social justice nonprofit based in Durham. The program develops leadership in young individuals to become advocates in the farmworker movement of the southeast. She provided anti-oppression trainings and raised awareness about the issues that have created poor working and living conditions of farmworkers in the south. While in North Carolina, she worked as a Certified Application Counselor educating and aiding individuals in the city of Raleigh and surrounding rural communities on navigating the marketplace and applying for affordable healthcare. Most recently, she worked as a community organizer for Communities for a New California Education Fund in Merced, bringing residents together and fomenting their leadership and involvement in their local government.

Jeylee Quiroz

Public Administrative Analyst Assistant

[UCLA Labor Center](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Jeylee Quiroz is an Assistant Public Administrative Analyst (research assistant) at the UCLA Labor Center. She graduated from UCLA with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Labor and Workplace Studies. Her interests lie in economic justice, young worker rights, immigration, the enforcement of workplace standards, and the law. She conducts research on low wage industries, develops and facilitates worker's rights trainings and curricula, and facilitates worker center-union-organization partnerships. As a young worker, she advocates for young workers' rights and is currently one of three members spearheading The Young Worker Project; a multimedia project that combines data, stories, and images by and for young

people. Jeylee has also co-authored groundbreaking young worker reports such as *I am a #YOUNGWORKER* and *Juggling Time: Young Workers and Scheduling Practices in the Los Angeles Service Sector* which get to the core of what young workers are facing today.

Health Team

Marianna Garcia

Program Coordinator
[The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Marianna Garcia is currently a Program Coordinator at the Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health. Committed to empowering underserved communities, she brings extensive community advocacy and outreach experience in the fields of health, immigration, and education. Garcia is very passionate about helping immigrant communities improve their health and strongly advocates for increased access to healthcare programs and services. In previous roles, Garcia has coordinated preventative, intervention, and research projects both in clinical and community settings. A native of San Diego, Garcia earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her zeal and passion for life are contagious as she brings laughter, thoughtfulness, and an adventurous spirit to everything she does. On a day off, you will find her teaching yoga, exploring the outdoors, enjoying a good book, or seeking a new adventure.

Susan Hagos

Community Engagement Specialist
[UCSD Center for Community Health](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Susan Hagos is an Eritrean-American advocate, community organizer, and researcher. The daughter of former refugees, Susan was raised in a globally conscious household that developed her early commitment to social justice. As a public health practitioner, she is passionate about mobilizing underserved communities to guide the research process and lead evidence-based strategies for reducing health disparities. Susan has over 5 years of domestic and international experience across public health programmatic areas including chronic diseases, maternal and child health, mental health and sexual and reproductive health. She holds an MPH in Global Health from the University of Southern California and a BA in International Development Studies with a minor in Public Health from UCLA.

Alma Leyva

Capacity Development Coordinator
[Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Alma Leyva is a Mexican-born and Orange County, CA-raised undocumented queer woman. Growing up and witnessing, firsthand, the barriers that came with being undocumented ultimately fueled her involvement in social justice. Alma brings over seven years of experience working with underserved communities, particularly the undocumented, through an intersectional framework that recognizes how experience is shaped by multiple identities. Alma has used her skills in organizing, research, and leadership development to advance the rights and protections of undocumented communities through different intersections including LGBTQ, women, and immigrant health rights. Her work is rooted in the acknowledgment that all of our struggles are connected, the need for holistic healing and the importance of movements being community-centered. Currently, Alma is the Capacity Development Coordinator for Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities, where she coordinates resident engagement and leadership development and builds people power from the ground up in Santa Ana.

Clarissa Rivas

Youth Leadership Coordinator
[East Oakland Building Healthy Communities](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Clarissa is the Youth Leadership Coordinator at East Oakland Building Healthy Communities (East Oakland BHC). Before joining East Oakland BHC, she worked at LeaderSpring managing multiple projects for their two-year Fellowship program for nonprofit executive directors. Prior to that, she was a National Teaching Fellow with Citizen Schools in the Greater Boston Area, serving as both an afterschool educator and Regional Citizen Teacher Lead. Clarissa's passion has always been to work and engage with youth. As someone who has spent the majority of her life escaping violence and abuse, both external and self-imposed – much of which she experienced as a teenager and young adult – she has committed herself to cultivating resilience and personal power within herself and others. A Xicana raised in deep South Texas and a graduate of Tufts University, Clarissa is proud to call Oakland home, where she is a mentor for the East Bay College Fund and practices Capoeira, Brazilian martial arts.

Terez Sanogo

Program Coordinator
Healthy Active Streets
Pronouns: she, hers



Terez Sanogo grew up outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she first found her passion for community engagement. She moved to Southern California in 2013 to attend Pomona College, where she studied Environmental Analysis with a concentration in Public Health. While at Pomona, Terez was a program coordinator at The Draper Center for Community Partnerships, where she developed partnerships between the college and local organizations for environmental, food, and educational justice in the Inland Empire. Terez is now a resident of North Long Beach, where she puts her passions for community building and youth engagement into action as the Program Coordinator for Healthy Active Streets. Since 2016, Terez has worked with Healthy Active Streets to organize and civically engage Long Beach residents, particularly youth, in advocacy for mobility equity and environmental justice.

Reproductive Justice Team

Kathryn Andrew

Policy Associate
[Children Now](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Kathryn Andrew has dedicated her career to improving the health outcomes of marginalized peoples, with a particular focus on women and girls. Her work has included promoting healthy relationship building, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, and youth empowerment, as well as improving health care provision for commercially sexually exploited youth. She has conducted a nationwide environmental scan of health programming and activities targeting girls for the purpose of developing a national health and wellness initiative for the Office on Women's Health. Katie is a steering committee member for the state's Adolescent and Sexual Health Working Group, is a member of the Preconception Health Council of California, and serves on the Sacramento County Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Advisory Board. At Children Now, Ms. Andrew primarily supports policy education, advocacy, and outreach efforts to improve oral health care quality and access for Californian's most vulnerable children.

Alison Chopel

Director
[California Adolescent Health Collaborative, Public Health Institute](#)
Pronouns: she, hers



Alison Chopel, DrPH, MPH, has worked for reproductive justice with diverse communities, including homeless youth in the Dominican Republic, indigenous mothers in Northern Mexico, Central American young adult sexual/reproductive health leaders, and youth journalists and adolescent mothers in Oakland. Alison's passion for enabling young people to fulfill their potential stems from her own experiences with abuse, homelessness, and parenthood in her youth, and she contributes skills and knowledge in community-based participatory research (CBPR), social epidemiology, and youth leadership development to the fight. In her role at CAHC, she works to develop opportunities for marginalized young people in

California to thrive. Her strategy is to always work in collaboration with unlikely partners to incorporate intervention programming, CBPR for needs assessment and evaluation, and advocacy for policies to increase health equity, in pursuit of social justice for California's most vulnerable youth.

Amber Akemi Piatt

Program Associate
[PolicyLink](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Amber Akemi Piatt is a researcher and advocate with a decade of professional experience in nonprofit organizations, higher education, and philanthropy. Born and raised in Reseda, California, she is passionate about advancing gender equity, racial justice, and positive youth development. She works at PolicyLink, a national research and action institute committed to advancing economic and social equity. She was also appointed to the Alameda County Human Relations Commission, which seeks to preserve human rights for all people who live or work in Alameda County, where she serves as the Chair of the Policy Subcommittee. She received her Master in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley in health and social

behavior and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in psychology and Spanish.

Maya Ram

Student
[University of California, Los Angeles](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Maya Ram is a rising fourth-year undergraduate at UCLA, studying World Arts & Cultures and Public Health. She is passionate about reproductive justice, healing through the arts, and building coalition within communities of color. On her campus, she promotes mental and emotional well-being as a peer coach, builds coalition among women and femmes of color in leadership, and is active in the greater Los Angeles community.

Maya currently interns with the UCLA Art & Global Health Center's Sex Squad program, through which high school

students engage with topics around sex, sexuality, and gender using performance art and personal narratives. She engages in reproductive justice work with youth of color in the San Fernando Valley by encouraging self-determination and creating space to explore identity and agency within sexual health.

Krystal Torres-Covarrubias

OUT for Safe Schools

[Los Angeles LGBT Center](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Krystal Torres-Covarrubias has a background in education programming, training and facilitation, and community collaborations. She is currently working as the OUT for Safe Schools Coordinator on the public policy team at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, where she works with district staff across the country to build safe and supportive school environments for LGBTQ students. She previously served as a Program Manager for City Year Los Angeles at David Starr Jordan High School, where she partnered with school administrators, teachers and staff to address the dropout crisis in Los Angeles. Krystal earned her Ed.M. in Education Policy and Management from Harvard's Graduate School of Education in 2014 and was granted the 2014 Intellectual Contribution/Faculty Tribute award.

SB 320 Team

Vrindavani Avila

Program Assistant/Student

[California State University, Sacramento/Women's Resource Center](#)

Pronouns: they, theirs

Vrindavani Avila is a queer Latinx who has been doing reproductive justice work and education for almost ten years. Educated and trained as an abortion and birth doula, much of their work focuses on full spectrum reproductive support and health. Vrindavani facilitates workshops on autonomous menstruation, centering the experiences of the LGBTQ community, using gender inclusive language and aiming to educate people with cervixes on reproductive health. They are currently finishing their undergraduate degrees at Sacramento State University, majoring in Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies with a Chicana concentration. Their research focuses on decolonizing gender and sexuality, focusing on the imposition of patriarchy, heterosexuality, and the gender binary on indigenous peoples of this land and other communities of color that are affected by colonization. Vrindavani also works at the Women's Resource Center educating students on being an active bystander to incidences of violence and providing tools on preventing sexual violence.

Rocío González

Health Policy Advocate

[Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project \(MICOP\)](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Rocío González, Health Policy Advocate, joined the Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project in 2017. Born and raised in Ventura County—and as a child of undocumented immigrants—she knows first-hand that immigrant rights and our indigenous community's access to quality health care is essential to equity. Previously, Rocío worked as Policy Analyst with California Pan Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), where she advocated for statewide policies to improve the health of California's growing and largely diverse communities of color. She received her B.S. in Nutrition Science and Ethnic Studies from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis

Obispo, where she was awarded the 2015 President's Diversity Award and the recipient of CSU-LSAMP Scholar Award in the category of outstanding Social Change Advocate for Underrepresented Communities.

Felisa Preskill

Associate Director

[Innovating Education in Reproductive Health, UCSF](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



For over 15 years, Felisa Preskill has worked to improve abortion access and education in sexual and reproductive health in the health professions. As the co-founder and Associate Director of Innovating Education in Reproductive Health, a program of the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at UCSF, Felisa leads a team in creating digital content to address the omission of abortion from health professions curricula and to apply educational theory to teaching in this arena. Most recently, Innovating Education produced *Explained: Abortion Research and Policy*, a digital media series that distills social science research into a format accessible to practicing clinicians, legislative staff and advocates, and the general public. Felisa has served as a program director, researcher, digital content creator, policy analyst, non-profit board member, and abortion clinic counselor. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the Goldman School at UC Berkeley and a bachelor's degree from Brown University.

Natasha Schimmoeller

Clinical Fellow, Family Planning

[University of California, Davis Medical Center](#)

Pronouns: she, hers

Dr. Natasha Schimmoeller has a strong interest in reproductive health and justice. As an obstetrician-gynecologist, she strives to provide her patients with evidence-based reproductive health care and to advocate for their right to reproductive autonomy. Dr. Schimmoeller earned a Public Health B.A. and Bioethics M.A. at Case Western Reserve University, then graduated from the M.D./M.P.H. program at New York Medical College. She completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Boston University Medical Center. Currently, she is completing sub-specialty training in Family Planning at the University of California Davis Medical Center.

Dey Nava

SB 320 Co-Campaign Manager
Women's Foundation of California

Pronouns: she, hers



Dey Nava most recently served as the Public Affairs Officer for Planned Parenthood Northern California. In 2015, she graduated from UC Davis with a B.S. in Anthropology, and went on to complete a fellowship with Oakland-based TOLA (The Organizing & Leadership Academy). During her time at Planned Parenthood, she empowered the next generation of young leaders at the first-ever Youth Power Summit and trained hundreds of supporters to lobby their legislators during an annual lobby day. She also helped advance reproductive healthcare legislation such as SB 999, which guarantees 12 months of birth control under all insurance plans. Dey is passionate about advancing healthcare access for all, and ensuring that the social and economic environments within communities support opportunities for a long and healthy life. In her spare time, she enjoys watching films, exploring new restaurants and traveling.

Trauma Justice Team

Jasmine Amons

Program Associate, Health
[National Center for Youth Law](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Jasmine Amons is a Program Associate for the Health Team at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). Jasmine serves as the Assistant Project Director for the California Child Welfare Council's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Action Team and staffs the Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Project (LA RHEP) for Foster Youth, a collective impact project aimed at reducing the number of unintended pregnancies among foster youth. Outside of NCYL, Jasmine hosts East Bay Green Drinks and is Co-Chair for Thousand Currents' Leadership Team. She previously worked as the Grants and Development Manager at Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment. She graduated with a B.A. in History and a minor in Italian Studies from the UC Berkeley in 2013.

Jodi Doane

Grants Manager
[JVS SoCal](#)

Pronouns: she, hers



Jodi Doane has been working in social justice issues for more than twenty years, primarily in child welfare, juvenile justice, immigration, and workforce development. She is the current Secretary of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles and volunteers with NewGround, a nonprofit connecting and empowering Jewish and Muslim change-makers. Jodi works in workforce development and is responsible for securing new and on-going funding for agency services. She is driven by the opportunity to bring about good, and fights for self-sufficiency through employment, reproductive health, women's rights, common sense gun laws, and fair and compassionate immigration.

Jodi has been active on public policy committees and workgroups. She is currently a participating editor of a professional development series for emerging professionals and of an informational document regarding children in out-of-home care. Jodi holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Holly Fleming

State and Communications Coordinator

CALICO Center, Children's Advocacy Centers of California

Pronouns: she, hers



Holly Fleming began her career in a community clinic as a marriage and family therapist trainee where she provided counseling to adults, children, families and couples. In 2014, Holly joined CALICO, Alameda County's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), as a child interview specialist and communications and development coordinator. There she has conducted over 400 forensic interviews of children and adults with developmental disabilities who have experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, gross neglect, or who witnessed community-based violence. She also works to raise awareness about child abuse and trauma through fundraisers, community events, and written outreach in newsletters and social media.

Holly recently began working for the Children's Advocacy Centers of California, a program of CALICO, where she provides support and assistance to CACs and multidisciplinary teams throughout the state. She is a graduate of Santa Clara University and is completing a Master's in Clinical Psychology from California State University, Fullerton.

Suni Serena Ramirez

Staff Attorney

Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse

Pronouns: she, hers



Suni Serena Ramirez is a San Francisco-Bay Area native with passion for the law, social justice, and the movement to end domestic violence. Her dedication towards civic engagement was fostered as a girl in San Francisco participating in community meetings with her parents. Serena has been engaged in immigration and domestic violence since 2010, when she assisted survivors and children with immigration applications. She is a proud alumna of Southwestern Law School and the University of California, Los Angeles, where she received a B.A. in International Development Studies, focusing

on human trafficking and socioeconomics in Latin America and South-East Asia.

Linh Tran-Phuong

Bilingual Advocate
YWCA Silicon Valley
Pronouns: she, hers



Linh Tran-Phuong started her anti-violence career as a sexual assault awareness educator on her college campus and as a volunteer hotline counselor at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. She currently works as a bilingual advocate with the YWCA Silicon Valley. Her day-to-day involves responding to in-person crises, connecting survivors to resources, and supporting her clients through the convoluted criminal justice process. She is an unrelenting idealist who believes in the collective's ability to inspire systematic change. Linh is the proud daughter of

Vietnamese immigrants and was the first in her family to go to college. She received her B.A. in psychology from Harvard University in 2015.