

California Common Cause Board of Directors (5-06)

Board Chair Ric Bainter is an attorney who has been consulting on democratic governance projects in Bosnia, Azerbaijan and Vietnam since January, 2000. He is a former director of the New Politics Program at the National Civic League and a former director of Colorado Common Cause.

Board Vice-Chair Roy Ulrich is a public interest attorney, consumer advocate, and public radio broadcaster. As a political reform law specialist, he drafts legislation for and lobbies on behalf of citizens' groups.

Controller Bonnie Barkett is a Senior Policy Advisor at the US Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco and a former staff member at the national office of Common Cause.

Executive Committee representative Grant Davis-Denny is an attorney with Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, where he has provided pro bono representation to Congressional sponsors of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, and published several articles on campaign finance reform.

Executive Committee representative Kris Greenlee is the Sacramento Common Cause Chapter Leader who led the successful effort to pass public financing in Sacramento. She formerly worked in local government and for the President's Health Care Task Force at the White House.

Rebecca Avila is the Associate Dean for Administration at the USC Annenberg School for Communication. She is currently Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and formerly served as the Executive Director of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

A.G. Block is the Director of the Public Affairs Journalism Program at the UC Center in Sacramento and the former editor of the California Journal. He also is co-editor and principal author of "The California Political Almanac," published by Congressional Quarterly Press.

Thad Kousser is an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department of UC San Diego, where he has written extensively about term limits and other good government issues.

Steve Levin is the Political Reform Project Director at the Center for Governmental Studies, which creates innovative political and media solutions to help individuals participate more effectively in their communities and governments. Prior to joining CGS, Steve worked as an attorney at a political and election law firm in San Francisco.

Joanne McKray is a long-time California Common Cause activist who has coordinated grassroots campaign activities for several campaigns including the passage of public financing in Oakland.

Amaka Okechukwu is a University of Southern California student who serves on the NAACP State Executive Committee and as President of the USC NAACP chapter. She organized the first Democracy Matters high school chapter at Head-Royce School in Oakland.

Peter Reinke is Director of Civic Purpose at the college preparatory Head-Royce School where he also teaches history and law. He is past vice-president of Oakland's Public Ethics Commission and formerly served on the legislative staff of United States Senator John Chafee, working on children's and ethics issues. He also serves as board president of Clausen House Community Services.

Gloria Rubio-Cortés is the Director for Partnerships for the Community Technology Foundation of California, which seeks to improve access for and build the capacity of underserved communities in California to understand, design, and use information technology for social change. Previously, she has worked for the Levi Strauss Foundation, the National Civic League, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the National Council of La Raza.

Kathleen Thurmond is a community activist from Long Beach who has long been active on political issues. For the past 11 years, she has been President and CEO of Best Washington Uniform, an industrial uniform rental laundry. She is active with Rotary, Women's Presidents Organization, and on the Boards of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce and the International Business Association, as well as two non-profit organizations.

Paul Turner is the Senior Program Manager at The Greenlining Institute and National Director of the Claiming our Democracy project which educates minority and low-income communities on the discriminatory impacts of the current campaign finance system.

John Ulin is an attorney who represented CCC on voting machine litigation, on the Indian tribal political contribution reporting, and before the California Voting Modernization Board. When he's not litigating for CCC, he is a tremendously accomplished attorney at Heller Ehrman LLC. He has also served as the President of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps Board of Directors.