



Redistricting CA Conference

BIOGRAPHIES

Adam Briones, Program Manager, Claiming Our Democracy Initiative, Greenlining Institute. Originally from Oakland, CA, Briones is a UC Santa Cruz graduate and has been with Greenlining for the past three years. During his time at Greenlining, he has worked extensively on issues around affordable housing, corporate responsibility, and non-profit empowerment.

Chris Carson, Program Director for Redistricting, League of Women Voters of California. For the past four years, Carson has been the Government Director for the League of Women Voters of California. In 2006/07, she represented the League during the year-long attempt to pass a legislative bill to reform the redistricting process in California. In 2008, she was the LWV Board member responsible for managing the League's work to pass Prop 11, the Voters FIRST Act. As Program Director for Redistricting, Carson is tasked with guiding LWV of California's work to achieve effective implementation of redistricting reform.

Dan Claypool, Senior Auditor Evaluator, Bureau of State Audits. Since November 2008, Claypool has been working as part of the State Auditor team tasked with implementing Proposition 11, drafting the regulations, producing the application to be used, conducting outreach, and implementing the application process. Claypool brings 13 years of experience with the Bureau of State Audits and its predecessor, the Office of the Auditor General.

Kathay Feng, Executive Director of California Common Cause. CCC is a citizens lobby that pursues election and redistricting reform, greater government sunshine and accountability, campaign finance reform, media access, and voting rights. In 2008, CCC spearheaded a successful campaign to pass Proposition 11 creating an independent redistricting commission. Prior to joining California Common Cause, Feng directed the Voting Rights work at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, leading the first California-wide API effort to participate in redistricting.

Rosalind Gold, Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Educational Fund. Gold has worked for two decades on policy analysis and research for the naturalization and Latino civic engagement efforts of the organization. She coordinates the research for several of the Fund's publications. She also has extensive policy expertise in the areas of newcomer civic integration, election reform, voting rights, redistricting and the decennial Census. Gold serves on the California State HAVA Plan Update Advisory Committee and the National Institute on Money in State Politics.

Catherine Hazelton, Senior Program Officer, California Democracy program, The James Irvine Foundation. Previously, Hazelton was Associate Director of the nonprofit, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, Scheduling Director on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, a Senior Legislative Aide to Assemblywoman Carol Liu, and Field Representative and Legislative Aide to Assemblyman Jack Scott. Hazelton's research related to redistricting reform and women in California politics has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Policy Matters* and other publications.

Douglas Johnson, Fellow, Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College, Redistricting Reform, the Census, and Geographic Information Systems. Johnson is also President of National Demographics Corporation, which specializes in redistricting and demographic services for state and local governments across California, Arizona, and Nevada, including service as the lead technical consultants to Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission for Congressional and Legislative Redistricting. Previously, Johnson was a Coro Public Affairs Fellow, and served as a Legislative Aide and Legislative Director to U.S. Representative Stephen Horn.

Eugene Lee, Project Director and attorney, Asian Pacific American Legal Center's (APALC) Voting Rights Project. APALC conducts election day poll monitoring and policy advocacy on behalf of Asian and Pacific Islander voters. In addition, APALC partners with local coalitions to promote electoral participation among the Asian and Pacific Islander community, and works with its national affiliate the Asian American Justice Center to provide training to community-based organizations on the language assistance provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

Justin Levitt, Counsel, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. Levitt focuses on redistricting, election administration, and other voting rights concerns. His work has included assistance to federal and state administrative and legislative bodies with responsibility over elections, and litigation, when necessary, as counsel for parties seeking to compel states to comply with their obligations under federal law and the Constitution. Levitt's Brennan Center monographs include: A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting (2008), The Truth About Voter Fraud (2007), and Making the List (2006).

Steve Lynn, Vice President, UniSource Energy Corporation and Tucson Electric Power Company. Previously, Lynn spent sixteen years as CEO and owner-partner at Nordensson Lynn & Associates, Inc., one of Arizona's leading marketing communications firms based in Tucson. Active in the community, Lynn currently serves as Chairman of Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission, Chairman of the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First), Past-Chairman of the Downtown Tucson Partnership, and Past-Chairman of Southern Arizona Leadership Council Board of Directors.

Karin Mac Donald, Director of the Statewide Database, the redistricting database for the State of California, and the Election Administration Research Center, at UC Berkeley Law School. Mac Donald works and writes in the areas of redistricting, voting rights, political demography, data and geography, election administration, local government, and electoral politics. She has worked as a redistricting consultant for various local and regional entities, including the redistricting commissions of San Diego and San Francisco.

Maricela Morales, Associate Executive Director, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE). CAUSE builds grassroots power for social, economic and environmental justice through policy research, leadership development, community organizing and advocacy. Morales is the first Latina elected to the Port Hueneme City Council. She is the Co-Chair of the statewide Roots of Change Stewardship Council working for a sustainable food system for California, and was Past-President of the Ventura County Leadership Academy and member of the Institute for Women's Policy Research workgroup.

Nancy Ramirez, Western Regional Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino civil rights law firm, representing Latinos in education, employment, voting rights, and immigrants' rights cases. Previously, as a MALDEF voting rights staff attorney, Ramirez handled redistricting and Voting Rights Act challenges to discriminatory election systems. Ramirez was the Director of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez's Orange County and Washington D.C. offices, Director of Outreach for California's 2000 Census Campaign, and taught legal writing at USC Law School.

Sharon Reilly, Chief Counsel to the California State Auditor. Reilly provides legal advice to program evaluators on the full range of legal issues facing state and local government, including advice on Legislation needed to support recommendations, working on legislative packages designed to improve accountability in state government, and overseeing the bureau's Legal Division and "Whistleblower" Investigations Division. Reilly has assumed lead responsibility for the implementation of the Voters First Act at the State Auditor's Office. Previously, she was Deputy Legislative Counsel to the California Legislative Counsel.

Steven J. Reyes, associate attorney with Kaufman Legal Group. Previously, Reyes was staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's (MALDEF) Voting Rights/Political Access unit, where he litigated redistricting, language access, and ballot initiative challenges under the Voting Rights Act. In addition, he worked with state and local election officials throughout the Southwestern US and civil rights organizations to protect the right to vote and ensure equal access to all aspects of the political process.

Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). MALDEF is a national organization dedicated to promoting the civil rights of Latinos in the US. Previously, Saenz was Counsel to the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, a member of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's four-member Executive team. Prior to that, Saenz was MALDEF's VP of Litigation overseeing civil rights litigation in the areas of education, employment, political access, immigrants' rights, and public resource equity. Saenz was MALDEF's lead counsel in challenging California's congressional redistricting in 2001.

Leland T. Saito, associate professor of sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity, the University of Southern California. Saito is the author of *Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos, and Whites in a Los Angeles Suburb* (1998). His current research is on economic development in downtown Los Angeles and the political involvement of racial minorities and immigrants. He served as the vice-chair of the San Diego City Redistricting Commission in 2000-2001. Saito was the San Diego regional coordinator of an Asian American statewide redistricting coalition in the 2000-2001 redistricting.

Larry Salinas, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations and the founding director of governmental relations, UC Merced. Salinas serves as the principal governmental liaison and advisor between the university and policy makers at the local, state and federal levels. He is responsible for a territory spanning California's Central Valley from Stockton to Bakersfield. Previously, Salinas served as the Public and Governmental Affairs Manager for Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Salinas served on the Modesto Districting Commission.

Trudy Schafer, Senior Director for Program, League of Women Voters of California and the LWVC Education Fund. A League member since 1978, Schafer served as president of the Sacramento League and was legislation director on the League's state board of directors before joining the League's staff as lobbyist in 1992. Her focus has been on advocacy on League priorities at the state Capitol as well as on a number of ballot measure campaigns, including redistricting, campaign finance, and budget reform measures.

Latonya Slack, Senior Program Officer, California Democracy project, The James Irvine Foundation. Previously, Slack was the Executive Director of the California Black Women's Health Project, where she created the Policy Advocacy Program, a Mental Health Initiative and an Advocate Training Program. Before that, she worked for the Service Employees International Union, Local 399. Slack has also worked with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles as a Consumer Law Advocate and, through AmeriCorps Legal Corps, on the Youth Empowerment Project.

Robert Stern, President, Center for Governmental Studies. Peter Schrag in the *Sacramento Bee* called him "the godfather of modern political reform in California." Previously, Stern was staff attorney for the California Legislature's Assembly Elections Committee and then Elections Counsel to the California Secretary of State's office. Stern was the principal co-author of California's 1974 Political Reform Act, and a principal drafter of the City of Los Angeles' Ethics and Public Campaign Financing laws approved by voters in 1990. He was the first general counsel of California's Fair Political Practices Commission.

Tunua Thrash, Director of Innovation, the Greenlining Institute. Thrash has an extensive background in urban revitalization, including urban infill retail and housing development, most recently serving as Director with Green Door Advisors, a national real estate urban advisory services firm. She has also served as Managing Director for the West Angeles Community Development Corporation, the community outreach arm of a 25,000 member church in Los Angeles. Thrash received her Masters in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts from UC Berkeley.

Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. Prior to joining NALEO, Vargas was Vice President for Community Education and Public Policy of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. As MALDEF's Director of Outreach and Policy, he coordinated the 1991 redistricting efforts which led to an historic increase in the number of Latino legislators. Vargas also directed MALDEF's National 1990 Census Program and was the senior education policy analyst at the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C. He serves on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee.

Samuel E. Walton, redistricting consultant, California NAACP. Previously, Walton served as the Deputy Administrative Officer for the California State Assembly, Deputy Director for the Assembly Speaker's Office of Majority Services, Senior Consultant to the California Assembly Majority Leader and to the California Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Program Manager for the Legislative Analyst, and Executive Assistant to the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Walton has served on the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission and the Planning Commission for the City of Sacramento.