

Collaborative on Reckoning and Justice Member Bios

Aisha McWeay (she/her/hers) | Executive Director, Still She Rises; Adjunct Professor of Law, Vanderbilt Law School and University of Virginia School of Law



Aisha McWeay is a career public defender who currently serves as Executive Director at Still She Rises Tulsa, a legal nonprofit based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that focuses exclusively on representing mothers in the criminal and civil legal systems. At Still She Rises, she leads a team that includes criminal, civil, and family defense attorneys, investigators, client advocates, and resources specialists focused on providing holistic defense through individual client representation and impact litigation. Aisha also serves in a number of training and mentoring capacities to support indigent defense and community organizations nationally.

Before joining Still She Rises in 2019, Aisha worked with the Nashville Defenders, where she rose from Assistant Public Defender to General Sessions Division Chief and ultimately to Deputy Public Defender.

In 2017, she received Gideon's Promise Stephen B. Bright Award for her contributions to indigent defense, and was selected as the 2021-22 George Barrett Distinguished Practitioner in Residence by Vanderbilt University Law School.

Alina Das (she/her/hers) | Professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law; Co-Teacher and Co-Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic



Alina Das is an immigrant rights attorney, activist, and professor at New York University School of Law. Alina is the Co-director of the NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic, a leading institution in national and local struggles for immigrant rights. She defends the rights of immigrants facing deportation and partners with community groups on immigrant rights campaigns.

She has been published by leading law journals and cited by the U.S. Supreme Court, and authored *No Justice in the Shadows: How America Criminalizes Immigrants*. Alina is the recipient of numerous awards for advocacy and teaching, including the Immigrant Defense Project Champion of Justice Award, the Daniel Levy Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Immigration Law, the New York State Youth Leadership Council Outstanding Attorney Award, the NYU Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Faculty Award, the NYU James Weldon Johnson Professorship, and the NYU Law School Podell Distinguished Teaching Award.

She is a frequent commentator on immigration law and policy for national and local media outlets. Alina lives with her family in Brooklyn, NY.

Amy Sings In The Timber (she/her/hers) | Executive Director, Montana Innocence Project



Amy Sings In The Timber came to the Montana Innocence Project (MTP) with years of non-profit leadership experience and more than 20 years of professional commitment to advancing social and racial justice and human rights issues.

As an attorney, Amy represented formerly incarcerated, trafficked women to reunite them with their children. She has developed and supported access to justice and legal aid programs to address disparities in our justice system and promote the rule of law, working with communities to break down barriers and develop solutions to complex societal and institutional challenges. Amy has advocated for a trauma-informed continuum of care, sustainable stable housing models, and economic and educational advancement opportunities for marginalized and disenfranchised peoples.

Before joining the MTIP, Amy served as the Executive Director of the Montana Justice Foundation and in senior leadership roles with The Chicago Bar Foundation and Covenant House Illinois. Amy received her law degree from the University of Montana School of Law (now Alexander Blewett III School of Law).

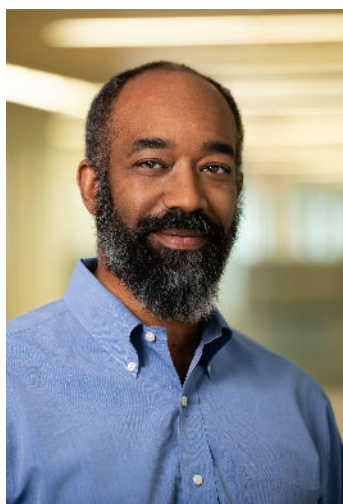
Andrew Alemán (he/him/his) | Deputy Director of People Power and National Partnerships, Black & Pink National



Andrew Alemán is the Deputy Director of People Power & National Partnerships for Black & Pink National and Principal Consultant for Andrew Alemán Consulting. Andrew's work is based in dismantling systems of oppression and shifting power to those who are targets of these oppressive systems. His vast expertise includes the following areas: LGBTQ+ communities, mental health, case management, community engagement, advocacy, supervision, sexual health, and domestic and sexual violence.

In response to his community-based work, Andrew has been recognized with the 2018 Heartland Pride Brad Fuglei Impact Award; 2019 Young, Black, and Influential Award for Advocacy; 2019 Ten Outstanding Young Omahans Award; 2021 Omaha Entertainment and Arts Award; and NASW-NE 2022 Social Worker of the Year Award. Andrew is honored to serve as an Executive Board Member for ACLU Nebraska, Nebraska Affiliate Board Representative for ACLU National, and Committee Member for GLSEN Omaha.

Besheer Mohamed (he/him/his) | Senior Researcher on Religion and Public Life, Pew Research Center



Besheer Mohamed is a senior researcher at the Pew Research Center. He is involved in the design and implementation of many of the center's domestic religion polls. He specializes in studying religious minorities in the United States, with a specific focus on Muslim Americans.

Before joining Pew Research Center, Besheer worked at the University of Chicago's Survey Lab. He has worked on the center's recent surveys of Muslim Americans, Mormons, and Asian Americans as well as its polling on religion and politics.

Besheer has appeared in numerous media outlets and regularly briefs policymakers, academics, and other important stakeholders. He has also published in traditional academic publications through Oxford University Press and NYU Press, along with the American Sociological Association's magazine, *Contexts*.

He received his doctorate in sociology and master's degree in Middle East Studies from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Cornell University.

Bruce Western (he/him/his) | Co-Founder and Director of The Justice Lab and Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University; Co-Founder, The Square One Project



Bruce Western is the Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice and Director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University. He studies poverty and socioeconomic inequality with a focus on U.S. incarceration.

With Jeremy Travis, Bruce co-founded the Square One Project that aims to re-imagine the public policy response to violence under conditions of poverty and racial inequality. In 2022 he co-chaired a National Academy of Sciences panel on reducing racial inequality in the U.S. criminal justice system and in 2014 was the Vice-Chair of the NAS panel on high rates of incarceration in the United States.

He is the author of *Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2018), and *Punishment and Inequality in America* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006). Bruce is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in 1993 in Sociology from UCLA.

Dara Baldwin (she/her/hers) | Senior Director of Policy, URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity



Dara Baldwin is the Senior Director of Policy at URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity, which works to build and sustain power in a young people's movement for reproductive justice by centering the leadership of young people of color who are women, queer, trans, nonbinary, and people of low income. Previously she served as the Director of National Policy for the Center for Disability Rights, Inc., where she led multiple advocacy campaigns, including the Violence Against Women Act of 2013. Dara has worked on multiple federal bills that passed in Congress and signed by Presidents from Clinton to Biden.

Dara serves on the Board of Directors for the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), the SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, the Daniel Initiative SET, and Curious Communications, Inc. She is an Ambassador for Health Equity Fellow and a member of the #SheWillRise Collective. She is an Adjunct Professor at McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Dara has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Rutgers University, Newark, NJ and graduated with honors a Masters of Public Administration from Rutgers University the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Newark, NJ.

DeAnna Hoskins (she/her/hers) | President and CEO, JustLeadershipUSA



DeAnna Hoskins has been committed to the movement for justice, working alongside people impacted by incarceration, for nearly two decades. DeAnna believes in collective leadership, advocacy for justice reinvestment, and bold systems change.

DeAnna leads with her own life experience having been directly impacted by the system of incarceration and the war on drugs and with her professional experience from the grassroots to federal government. DeAnna has been a part of JLUSA's national alumni network since 2016, as a Leading with Conviction Fellow.

She was the Senior Policy Advisor for the Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance Division under the Obama Administration. DeAnna managed the Second Chance Act portfolio, connecting people and communities to resources through partnerships and collaborations, and managed cooperative agreements between agencies.

Dona Kim Murphey (she/her/ella) | Founder and Principal Consultant, In Phase Neuro, PLLC



Dona Kim Murphey is a neurologist, neuroscientist, historian of science, and community organizer. She considers health as telescoping connections within and between individuals, families, communities, and society at large and frames all policy as health policy. She advances a critical civic consciousness and electoral participation as key to transforming structural oppressions.

Dona currently sits on the boards of Woori Juntos, Doctors In Politics, and the Race and Equity Leadership and Research Collective. She has also participated in patient-led research and advocacy efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dona is a former school board candidate in Texas who recently filed a Voting Rights Act lawsuit against Pearland Independent School District demanding single-member districts for representative local government.

Her latest endeavor is prognosUs, a public benefit company that delivers early dementia screening and culturally fluent and language-specific counsel to caregivers from communities disproportionately impacted by this racialized disease. Dona received her B.A. in History and Science from Harvard College and an M.D. and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Baylor College of Medicine.

Elaine M. O'Neal (she/her/hers) | Mayor, Durham, North Carolina



Mayor Elaine M. O'Neal is a native of Durham, North Carolina. She attended North Carolina Central University and graduated Cum Laude with a BS in Math in 1984. She went on to earn her J.D. from the North Carolina Central University Law School.

Elaine was a Judge for 24 years and was the first woman in Durham County to be named Chief District Court Judge. In 2011, she was elected the first woman Superior Court Judge in Durham County. She retired from the bench in 2018 to lead the NCCU School of Law as Interim Dean.

She is proud of her deep Durham roots that hold many family members in Durham, including several beloved children and grandchildren. She is a member of several organizations including First Calvary Baptist Church, Durham County Bar Association, George White Bar Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Elaine has the heart of a public servant and a deep abiding love for her hometown and for all who choose to call Durham home.

Elias Diggins | Sheriff, Denver, Colorado



Elias Diggins was sworn in as the Sheriff of Denver, Colorado, in July 2020. He has been with the Denver Sheriff Department since 1994, holding all uniform ranks during his career.

He is a past-president of the American Jail Association (AJA) and a Certified Jail Manager. During his term as AJA President, Elias introduced an initiative titled "Gender Equity in Jails Across America," which has been adopted by the Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections.

He is the recipient of the Legacy Award from the Association of Women Executives in Corrections. In his administration, he created a cabinet-level position titled, "Chief of Mental Health Services," hiring a licensed psychologist to fill the role.

Francisco “Cisco” Gallardo (he/him/his) | Senior Manager of Healing Generations Institute (HGI) State Initiatives, National Compadres Network



Francisco “Cisco” Gallardo is the Senior Manager of Healing Generations Institute State Initiatives for the National Compadres Network. HGI promotes familial community healing and addresses persistent community strife through retreats, gatherings, and incorporating indigenous culturally-based practices.

Raised in Denver, Colorado, Cisco committed his life to assisting the city's youth affected by gangs. Through culturally-centered healing, prevention, and intervention programs, he strived to cultivate a safe and productive environment in their homes and neighborhoods.

Heather Bruegl (she/her/hers) | Historian, Lecturer, and Independent Indigenous Consultant



Heather Bruegl works with institutions and organizations for Indigenous sovereignty and collective liberation. In the Munsee language, Heather’s name is Kiishookunkwe, meaning sunflower in full bloom. Heather is a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and a first line descendent Stockbridge Munsee.

She is a graduate of Madonna University in Michigan, holds a Master of Arts in U.S. History, and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in First Nations Education. Heather travels frequently to present on Native American history, including policy and activism, and has presented at the University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Brooklyn Law School, and the Tate Museum in London.

Heather respectfully acknowledges that she works and resides on the unceded, traditional and ancestral lands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok, the Peoples of the Waters that Are Never Still. Today the Muh-he-con-ne-ok reside in Wisconsin and are known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

Jason Pye | Director, Rule of Law Initiatives, Due Process Institute



Jason Pye joined Due Process Institute (DPI) in 2021, bringing many years of lobbying experience to the team. He has worked on several pieces of federal legislation that have become law, including the First Step Act and the Fair Chance Act.

Prior to joining DPI, Jason served as the Vice President of Legislative Affairs for FreedomWorks. In this role, he was responsible for lobbying on federal legislation, forming relationships with congressional offices, and keeping tabs on congressional activity. Policy issues in his portfolio at FreedomWorks included criminal justice reform and civil liberties.

Jason has appeared on Fox News, Fox Business, and numerous radio programs. He has contributed commentary to Forbes, The Hill, and Washington Examiner and has been cited or quoted in pieces published by The New York Times, Politico, Roll Call, and The Wall Street Journal.

Jeremy Travis (he/him/his) | Senior Fellow, Columbia Justice Lab; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Co-Founder, The Square One Project



In a long career as a pioneer for criminal justice reform, Jeremy Travis made path breaking contributions to prisoner reentry policy, violence reduction initiatives, and strategies for reducing incarceration. Most recently as Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice at Arnold Ventures, he worked to develop an array of research initiatives to shrink the footprint of the criminal justice system and strengthen community-based strategies for safety.

Before moving to Arnold Ventures, Jeremy was President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York, the Director of the National Institute of Justice under Attorney General Janet Reno in the Clinton Administration, and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters of the New York City Police Department. As Senior Fellow at the Justice Lab, Jeremy is devoting his time to writing and research. With Justice Lab director Bruce Western, he is writing a book drawing on their collaboration with the Lab's Square One Project. He will also be advising a research team to develop a health and justice data hub that will track the impact of incarceration on New York City neighborhoods.

João Paulo M. Connolly (he/him/his) | Organizing Director, Austin Justice Coalition



João Paulo Connolly is the Organizing Director for Austin Justice Coalition and Co-Chair of the ATX Leadership Council, the board for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care. He also serves on the City of Austin Planning Commission and Community Advisory Committee for Project Connect, a mass transit infrastructure program. Previously, he has served on the Citizen's Police Review Commission.

In recent years, his advocacy and mobilizing efforts have focused on housing and mobility justice, land use, and equitable urban design. With the Austin Justice Coalition, he has worked to build power for local tenants and bus riders, advocated for permanent supportive and low-barrier housing, and organized within the homeless response system to increase opportunities for leadership of people with lived expertise, while challenging the criminalization and dehumanization of people experiencing homelessness.

Katharine Huffman (she/her/hers) | Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC; Executive Director, The Square One Project



Katharine Huffman is Square One's Executive Director as well as a Founding Principal at The Raben Group, a national advocacy, strategy, and communications firm based in Washington DC. Her work focuses on criminal justice reform, civil and human rights advocacy, and environmental health policy. Katharine's portfolio comprises projects that draw on political strategy, legal analysis, strategic communications, and creative outreach.

Prior to joining Raben, Katharine was the Director of State Affairs at the Drug Policy Alliance, opening the organization's first state-based office in New Mexico. She began her career as a Soros Justice Fellow at the Southern Center for Human Rights representing incarcerated people in southeastern prisons and jails.

Katharine received her B.A. from Emory University, where she was a Robert W. Woodruff Scholar, and her J.D. from Yale Law School. She serves on the Boards of the Justice Policy Institute and the D.C. Corrections Information Council; and is the 2017 recipient of the D.C. Human Rights Commission's Cornelius "Neil" Alexander Humanitarian Award.

Keith Wattley (he/him/his) | Founder and Executive Director, UnCommon Law



Keith Wattley is the founding executive director of UnCommon Law, where he leads the largest ever team of attorneys and advocates focused on trauma-informed counseling, legal representation, and policy advocacy on behalf of people serving life sentences. He believes that by demonstrating what's possible through a healing approach to even the most serious crimes, a very different world of alternatives to incarceration becomes viable. He seeks to end the discriminatory process through which parole boards decide who comes home from prison, while also establishing new norms for what constitutes an equitable workplace for those returning from or otherwise impacted by incarceration.

Keith was an inaugural Obama Foundation Fellow and was awarded the James Irvine Foundation's Leadership Award. He is active on several boards and teaches at the UC Berkeley School of Law, where he supports law students providing guidance to people navigating California's discriminatory parole process – which affects roughly half of California's 96,000 imprisoned people.

Malachi Garza (he/they/them) | Organizing Director, Solidaire Network



Malachi Garza works with donor organizers to mobilize critical resources to the frontlines of movements for racial, gender, and climate justice. Before coming to Solidaire, Malachi served as the Senior Strategist and National Network Director at the W. Haywood Burns Institute building community-based alternatives to juvenile justice systems across the United States.

Malachi serves on the boards of SONG Power, Auburn Theological Seminary, and GLSEN. Malachi is a Rosenberg Foundation Leading Edge Fellow and a founder of the widely acclaimed Brown Boi Project. Malachi's work in popular education, community organizing, and institutions spans over 20 years.

Marah Stith McLeod (she/her/hers) | Associate Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School



Marah Stith McLeod joined Notre Dame Law School in 2016. She teaches criminal law and criminal procedure and studies legal and ethical problems in these areas. Her scholarship explores the distribution of decisional power in the criminal justice system and the theory and practice of criminal punishment, including the death penalty.

Marah attended Yale Law School, where she was notes editor of the Yale Law Journal. She served as a law clerk to Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and to Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court. She also served as an Attorney-Adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel in the U.S. Department of Justice.

After her government work, she joined Sidley Austin LLP in Chicago and became a civil litigator and pro bono counsel in death penalty cases. She taught legal writing at Columbia Law School prior to coming to Notre Dame. Marah studied political theory at Harvard University, after which she spent a year working with Mother Teresa's sisters in a home for handicapped orphans in Kolkata, India. Marah now has four beloved children of her own.

Marc Levin | Chief Policy Counsel, Council on Criminal Justice



Marc Levin is the Chief Policy Counsel at the Council on Criminal Justice and Senior Advisor to Right on Crime. He is the former chief of policy and innovation for the Right on Crime initiative at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF).

Marc began TPPF's criminal justice program in 2005. This work contributed to nationally-praised policy changes that have been followed by dramatic declines in crime and incarceration in Texas. In 2010, Marc developed the concept for the Right on Crime initiative, a TPPF project in partnership with Prison Fellowship and the American Conservative Union Foundation. Right on Crime has become the national clearinghouse for conservative criminal justice reforms and has contributed to policies in dozens of states that fight crime, support victims, and protect taxpayers.

In 2014, Marc was named a "Politico 50" in the magazine's annual "list of thinkers, doers, and dreamers who really matter in this age of gridlock and dysfunction." Marc earned a B.A. in Plan II Honors and Government and a J.D. with honors from the University of Texas.

Marcia Rincon-Gallardo (she/her/hers/ella) | Chief of Technical Assistance Division, California Office of Youth and Community Restoration



Marcia Rincon-Gallardo is Chief of the Technical Assistance Division at the California Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). Prior to joining OYCR, she was the Executive Director of the Alianza for Youth Justice, Principal of NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All, Adjunct Professor at California State University, and author.

At the Alianza, she directed the coalition's efforts to amplify visibility and advocacy of Brown, Chicana/Latinx, Afro-Latinx, LGBTQ+, and Two Spirit youth to transform youth justice systems with long term solutions rooted in cultura, comunidad and healing. At NOXTIN, she provided training, technical assistance, and consultation at a national, state and local level in youth justice system reform and transformation efforts to increase equity for Brown, Chicana, Afro-Latinx and Indigenous youth.

Marcia, recognized as a leader and author in the field, co-wrote *Adapting JDAI to Tribal Lands: Lessons Learned*, 2019, *Latinx Youth Data Gap in the Youth Justice System*, 2020, and the *Ollin Youth Curriculum and Training of Trainers*, 2022. She co-taught the curriculum locally with directly impacted youth and their families to build policy advocates and leaders for the field. Marcia is Chicana, Mexicana, Indigena.

Marlon Peterson (he/him/his) | Author; Founder and President, Precedential Group; Host, DEcarcerated Podcast



Marlon Peterson has written, created programming, lectured, organized, and advocated alongside the formerly incarcerated, victims of gun violence, womxn, immigrants, and young people. Marlon is the author of *Bird Uncaged: An Abolitionist's Freedom Song*, host of the *DEcarcerated Podcast*, and owner of his own social impact endeavor, The Precedential Group Social Enterprises.

Marlon is Senior Atlantic Fellow, member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, and an inaugural Aspen Civil Society Fellow. He also sits on the Board of Directors Center for Justice Innovation, and the Village Capital Justice Tech Advisory Board. His TED Talk, "*A Call For Criminal Justice Reform*," has amassed over 1.2 million views.

Nneka Jones Tapia (she/her/hers) | Managing Director of Justice Initiatives, Chicago Beyond



Nneka Jones Tapia is the Managing Director for Justice Initiatives at [Chicago Beyond](#). She is an experienced psychologist who is passionate about mental wellness, criminal justice reform, and supporting young people who have experienced trauma. Since joining Chicago Beyond in 2018, Nneka has collaborated to launch programs focused on positive family engagement for families who are justice-involved, holistic healing supports within Chicago Public Schools, and peer-led healing supports for youth.

She is the former warden of Cook County jail in Chicago, Illinois - one of the largest single site jails in the country. Under her leadership, Cook County jail implemented several bold strategies to promote wellness and to reduce recidivism, including the Mental Health Transition Center, a program that has helped hundreds of people who have been incarcerated to successfully reenter their families and communities.

Reuben Jonathan Miller (he/him/his) | Associate Professor, Crown Family School and Department of Race, Diaspora and Indigeneity, University of Chicago; Research Professor, American Bar Foundation



Reuben Jonathan Miller is an Associate Professor in the University of Chicago Crown Family School and in the Department of Race, Diaspora and Indigeneity, and a Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation. He was named a 2022 MacArthur Foundation Fellow.

Prior to joining the Crown Family School, Reuben was an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan among other roles. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, he was selected as a Member in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ (2016-17), a visiting scholar at Dartmouth University (2018) and at the University of Texas at Austin (2019), and an Eric and Wendy Schmidt National Fellow at the New America (2019).

In 2021, he was selected for an academic writing residency by the Rockefeller Foundation at the Bellagio Center in Bellagio, Italy. Reuben received his Ph.D. from Loyola University Chicago, an A.M. from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. from Chicago State University.

Rosemary Nidiry (she/her/hers) | Senior Counsel in the Justice Program, Brennan Center for Justice



Rosemary (“Ruby”) Nidiry is a Senior Counsel in the Justice Program. She manages the program’s Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration project, a coalition of nearly 200 police chiefs, correctional officials, and federal and state prosecutors from around the country committed to laws and practices that more effectively fight crime while reducing unnecessary imprisonment.

Before joining the Brennan Center, from 2017–2022, Ruby served as the Deputy Director of Fair and Just Prosecution, a national organization that brings together elected local prosecutors as part of a network committed to furthering a new vision for prosecution. Previously, she served for a decade and a half as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York.

She has also served in other roles at the U.S. Department of Justice, as a senior investigator for an international U.N.-sponsored criminal investigation commission, and in philanthropy. Ruby holds a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law and a B.A. from Princeton University.

Sara Totonchi (she/her/hers) | Transformational Leader and Social Justice Advocate



Sara Totonchi's career has focused on human rights and social justice for people in the Deep South, especially those impacted by the criminal legal system. For more than twenty years, Sara's advocacy home was the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR), a public interest law firm that works for equality, dignity, and justice for people impacted by the criminal legal system in the Deep South. As executive director, Sara led the SCHR team in carrying out its mission to end the death penalty, mass incarceration, the criminalization of poverty, and racial injustice.

In 2022, Sara served as Senior Advisor for Research and Policy for Stacey Abrams's gubernatorial campaign. Sara is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Promise of Justice Initiative in Louisiana, a Board Member of Motherhood Beyond Bars, and the past Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Re:Power.

Stephen B. Walker (he/him/his) | Director of Correctional Health, California Correctional Peace Officers Association



Stephen B. Walker advocates for a humanistic society as a reformer and podcast host (Reason55). After transitioning to reserve duty with the Marine Corps, he served 35 years with the California Youth Authority (the soon-to-be-defunct Division of Juvenile Justice) as a Youth Correctional Officer. He serves as Director of Correctional Health for the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and as a board member for the Child Abuse Prevention Center, Black Youth Leadership Project, California African American PAC, Desert Waters Correctional Outreach, and Creative Acts.

Stephen was elected as President of his local (union). He advanced within the union, serving in multiple capacities and culminating as Statewide Director of Governmental Affairs and (in retirement) Correctional Health division. His efforts have led to creating and enhancing holistic care services and programs for sworn officers in California's correctional system. He continues to advance these efforts for everyone the carceral system touches.

Sukyi McMahon (she/her/hers) | Director of the Collaborative on Reckoning and Justice, The Square One Project



Sukyi McMahon is the Director of the Collaborative on Reckoning and Justice at The Square One Project, a criminal justice narrative and culture change project housed at the Columbia University Justice Lab. She brings to the Collaborative years of convening, community organizing, and coalition-building experience, from her recent roles as Square One's Manager of the Roundtables on the Future of Justice Policy and as Senior Policy Director, inaugural Board Chair, and Founding Member of the Austin Justice Coalition, a Black-led organization that influences bold, anti-racist changes in local government.

Sukyi was Co-founder and President of Equity Action ATX, which strengthens and advances local transformative justice efforts at the polls. She has served as Policy Coordinator at Just Liberty, a bipartisan organization dedicated to comprehensive criminal justice reform through state legislation. Sukyi served as the inaugural Vice Chair of the Community Police Review Commission and on the Human Rights Commission for the City of Austin, as well as numerous task forces and committees to ensure community voices were included in local policy making around safety and justice.

Susan M. Glisson (she/her/hers) | Founder and President, The Glisson Group



Susan M. Glisson is the founder and president of The Glisson Group, a consulting firm that cultivates healing and fosters fairness related to racism and difference. She directs the Welcome Table Collaborative, a network of organizations born in Mississippi committed to building bridges of belonging and justice for all. Susan was the founding executive director of the Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, a civil rights and social justice non-profit based in Mississippi.

Susan holds bachelor's degrees in religion and in history, a master's degree in Southern Studies, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. She has been recognized for her leadership, including being named a "Hero of the New South" by Southern Living in 2013, a "Boundbreaker: People Who Make a Difference" by NPR and a Champion of Justice by the Mississippi Center for Justice as one of "The Courageous Thirteen," who challenged Mississippi's discriminatory HB1523 bill against the LGBTQIA community in Barber v. Bryant in 2016.

Tim Head (he/him/his) | Executive Director, Faith and Freedom Coalition

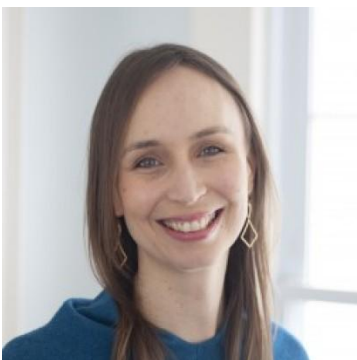


Tim Head is the executive director for the Faith & Freedom Coalition. Tim has played a key role in creating several legislative bills passed in recent years – most notably, the landmark federal prison reform bill commonly referred to as the First Step Act, as well as the Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) and the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA).

Tim has contributed to over 100 media outlets including Fox News, National Review, Christian Post, Washington Examiner, The Hill, The Jerusalem Post, AP News, USA Today, The New Yorker, Washington Times, Atlanta Journal Constitution, MSNBC, NPR, CBN, One America News Network, and Newsmax.

Tim worked in public policy as the district director for a member of the Texas congressional delegation. He also has served as chief of staff and as policy advisor to members of the Texas Legislature and worked on the Republican Party of Texas' 2010 Victory Texas effort. Tim graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. in Psychology and a M.S.W. He also received his J.D. from Baylor Law School.

Virginie Ladisch (she/her/hers) | Senior Expert, Truth-Seeking and Civic Engagement, International Center for Transitional Justice



Virginie Ladisch is a senior expert in truth seeking and reparative justice at the International Center for Transitional Justice and currently leads ICTJ's work in the United States. She has provided technical support to transitional justice processes in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Liberia, The Gambia, Kenya, Nepal, Tunisia, and Uganda. Virginie has expertise in convening and facilitating dialogues to advance justice, particularly with marginalized groups.

Prior to joining ICTJ, Virginie was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship for independent research, during which she conducted fieldwork on truth commissions and reconciliation in South Africa and Guatemala. Her work has been published in the International Journal of Transitional Justice, the Journal of Public and International Affairs, the Cyprus Review, and the Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth. Virginie Ladisch holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and a B.A. in Political Science from Haverford College.

Vivian D. Nixon (she/her/hers) | Writer in Residence, The Square One Project



Reverend Vivian D. Nixon is Writer in Residence at The Square One Project. Vivian comes to the Square One Project after 20 years as the Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship (CCF), a nonprofit dedicated to helping women with criminal convictions earn college degrees.

As a formerly incarcerated woman and CCF program graduate, Vivian has been a leader in the movement to ensure that justice-involved women and their families have a better future. Vivian writes across genres to advance ideas about social justice and personal well-being, and has published essays, poems, opinions, and critiques in various media outlets.

Vivian earned her undergraduate degree post-incarceration while under community supervision. Later she earned an MFA from Columbia School of the Arts, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bard College, and was ordained a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.