



FY2025

**National Environmental Justice
Advisory Council**

~Biographies~

NEJAC CHAIR



Professor

Environmental Studies and
Africana and Latin
American Studies
Colgate University

Lives in:

Region 2 - NY

Stakeholder Group:

Academia

Experience:

Environmental Justice
Environmental Psychology
Caribbean Environmental
Issues
Research

APRIL BAPTISTE

April Karen Baptiste is currently a Professor of Environmental Studies and Africana and Latin American Studies at Colgate University. She also serves as the Associate Dean of the Faculty for Global and Local Initiatives. Her research interests lie at the nexus of environmental psychology and environmental justice. Her projects have explored the worldviews to environmental problems, including extractive industries and climate change, in the Caribbean, with a focus on marginalized populations.

Her current research projects are twofold. The first examines the characteristics of environmental movements across the Caribbean region, seeking to understand whether environmentalism can be viewed through the lens of decolonization. The second is a book project on climate justice in the Caribbean region.

Dr. Baptiste received her PhD from State University of New York, College of Environmental Forestry in Environmental Studies, a Master of Science in Science for the Management of Tropical Environments from the University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Management from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad.

NEJAC MEMBER



Founder

Urban Conservation Corps
of the Inland Empire

Lives in:

Region 9 - CA

Stakeholder Group:

Community Based
Organization

Experience:

Workforce Development
for at-risk Youth
Environmental Education
Urban Forestry
Public Administration

SANDRA BONILLA

Sandy Bonilla was the first Mexican American from Los Angeles to serve as a prevention specialist (contractor) for grant programs under the US Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) under the Clinton Administration. For over 30 years, Ms. Bonilla has raised and directed over 20 million in grant funds for prevention and positive youth development and is the founder of the 14th Certified Conservation Corps in the State of California that provides equitable opportunities for young people of color to enter careers and training in environmental conservation and justice.

She served as a director for youth prevention services under three mayoral administrations for the City and County of San Francisco and played a significant role in the passage of the Children's Fund Proposition D that expanded prevention/ youth development in San Francisco. She also served as an advisor to the California Board of State and Community Corrections Title II funds; the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Advisory Committee for Urban Forestry, and a consultant to the California State University, Los Angeles on youth development and prevention as part of an emerging certificate program.

Ms. Bonilla is a youth development specialist and a candidate at the University of Laverne MS Child/Adolescent Development. She has also authored an environmental justice children's book called, "Saving Pepito".

NEJAC MEMBER



Material Management Specialist

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Lives in:

Region 10 - OR

Stakeholder Group:

State/Local Government

Experience:

Environmental Justice
Environmental Cleanup
and Leaking Underground
Storage Tanks
State Rules, Regulations,
and Policies

XIMENA CRUZ CUEVAS

Ximena Cruz Cuevas graduated from the University of Portland with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a quantitative focus. Ximena currently works at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as a Material Management Specialist, in addition to leading the agency's first Environmental Justice work group.

Since the beginning of her time at DEQ, she helped form a DEI restructuring group. Ximena participated as a co-facilitator, navigating tough conversations around discrimination in the workplace and unfair treatment perpetuated by management. In her role, she helped with agenda setting, tracking deliverables, setting goals, and creating subgroups. The result of these efforts included the creation of a permanent council with an application process for participation, permanent DEI Coordinator and DEI analyst positions to support the council, procurement for an outside facilitator to work with the council on an organizational assessment for the agency.

Ximena harnessed the passion and interest from staff and created the Environmental Justice Work Group, the group works across agency silos to include all regions, media, and job classifications. The group is staff led but coordinates with agency leadership to keep the flow of communication and works through administrative barriers.

NEJAC MEMBER



Executive Director
Planet Detroit

Lives in:
Region 5 - MI

Stakeholder Group:
Community Based
Organization

Experience:
Public Health Disparities
Environmental Health
Education
Air Quality
Climate Change

LAPRISHA BERRY DANIELS

Laprisha Berry Daniels holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Michigan State University, as well as master's degrees in social work and public health from the University of Michigan. She has over 20 years of public health experience, with 15 of those being in progressively responsible leadership roles, where she has been responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating efforts focused on eliminating some of the most stubborn health disparities.

NEJAC MEMBER



**Global Policy Director for
Social Equity**
Dow Inc.

Lives in:
Region 6 - TX

Stakeholder Group:
Industry-Business

Experience:
Environmental Justice and
Public Policy
Environmental Law
Environmental
Management
Workforce Development

JAROD DAVIS

As the Global Policy Director for Social Equity, Jarod leads the company's policy commitments, communications and compliance efforts related to human rights and social equity. Jarod is responsible for advancing Dow's proactive policy positions and strategies while managing the alignment of cross-cutting areas, such as environmental justice, economic inclusion, education, and workforce development.

Jarod started his career in 1999 at Dow AgroSciences (DAS) as an Environmental Specialist supporting manufacturing operations in Pittsburg, CA. He then served as a corporate Environmental Affairs Manager in Indianapolis, IN and a Legislative Assistant in Dow Chemical's (Dow) Washington, D.C. office before accepting the role of Public Policy Manager in 2007. Jarod built on this role by transitioning into the Corporate Sustainability team where he acted as the External Engagement Leader, which was followed by his leadership of the North American Product Regulatory team.

Jarod also served as the Regulatory Affairs Leader (RAL) for Texas. Complimenting his national regulatory leadership role, Jarod's RAL responsibilities focused on advocating Dow's regulatory and policy positions, management of government approvals and permits, and negotiations on government agency enforcement actions. As a transition from operational regulatory affairs, Jarod acted as the Global Product Stewardship Director for Packaging, Specialty Plastics & Hydrocarbons, where he led a global team of product stewards that enabled product development, ensured compliance with product regulations, and characterized product risks. Most recently, Jarod served as the Director of U.S. Public Policy and Issues Management, leading the company's policy efforts around litigation, chemicals management and circularity. Jarod holds a B.S. in Environmental Management from Louisiana State University. He also earned a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Tulane University School of Law with a Certificate of Specialization in Environmental Law. He is an alumnus of the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

NEJAC MEMBER



Director & Clinical Professor of Law

Tulane Environmental Law
Clinic

Lives in:
Region 6 - LA

Stakeholder Group:
Academia

Experience:
Environmental law
Environmental justice
Community
engagement

LISA JORDAN

Lisa Jordan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Louisiana State University, a Juris Doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans, and an LL.M. in Energy and Environmental Law from Tulane Law School. While in the LL.M. program she was a student attorney in the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, which she now directs.

Lisa began working in environmental law in 1996 when she started at the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic as a supervising attorney. She has worked at the Clinic since then doing exclusively public interest environmental law work, and much of it has been on behalf of environmental justice communities and other groups who would otherwise have been unable to afford representation. Lisa rose to the position of Deputy Director of the Clinic in 2014, and in 2017 became the Director and was appointed a Professor of the Practice. She was promoted in 2022 to Clinical Professor of Law and now serves dual roles at the Clinic: attorney and teacher. In addition to providing pro-bono legal representation to Louisiana individuals and communities, she also teaches second and third-year law students how to practice law.

From 1996-1998, Lisa worked as the lead attorney on the Clinic's advocacy on behalf of an environmental justice community in St. James Parish, and its allies, opposing a polyvinyl chloride plant proposed by Shintech Corporation (Lisa Lavie at the time). The efforts were successful, as Shintech abandoned its plans to locate in Convent, Louisiana.

NEJAC MEMBER



**Senior Director, Justice40
Accelerator**
Elevate Energy

Lives in:
Region 5 - IL

Stakeholder Group:
Non-Governmental
Organization

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Clean and Affordable
Energy
Public Policy
Water Policy
Strategic Planning

BRIANA PARKER

Briana Parker is the Senior Director at Elevate Energy, a nonprofit organization that works to create a just and equitable world in which everyone has clean and affordable heat, power, and water in their homes and communities — no matter who they are or where they live. She develops policy initiatives and advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local level to further Elevate's mission. Additionally, Briana supports Elevate's mission by ensuring its programs are well-adapted to the policy environment and by bringing Elevate's practical expertise to policy discussions. In addition, she leads Elevate's Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (DREI) Committee, including managing and developing committee members' capacity and leadership. Briana is an experienced facilitator whose work centers helping people find and lift their voices through a justice centered approach. She facilitates trainings, seminars, and stakeholder and community-based meetings.

Briana has served/serves on the following Boards and Steering Committees: Advancing Women In Energy Board Member, Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition Board, Michigan Alliance for Climate Justice, Steering Committee Member, National Welfare Right Union Board Member, and Michigan Energy Low-Income Policy Board Member. She was appointed to Michigan Deferral Reduction Workgroup Meeting Illinois Lead Service Line Replacement Advisory Board and is also a member of Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO). She is also a coordinator for the National Coalition for Legislation and Education on Affordable Water (NCLEAWater). Briana holds a juris doctor from the University of Toledo College of Law, a master's in community-based social work from Wayne State University, and a bachelor's in social work from Marygrove College. In her spare time, she coaches small businesses and professionals on strategy and innovation. She also practices meditation and yoga to balance.

NEJAC MEMBER



Council Elder

Atakapa Ishak Chawasha
Tribe

Lives in:

Region 6 - LA

Stakeholder Group:

Tribal/ Indigenous
Government and
Organizations

Experience:

Adaptation and Mitigation
Strategies

Sustainable Indigenous
Practices

Environmental Impacts to
Lowland and Coastal
Communities

ROSINA PHILIPPE

Rosina Philippe has lived her entire life in her tribe's ancestral land in and around the Plaquemines Peninsula of southern Louisiana. Because they live off what their land and waters produce, they are a subsistence people. There were no public schools when she was growing up and she never received what would be regarded as a formal education. Rosina did, however, receive the inherited knowledge and wisdom and life-sustaining practices and principles that her people have developed over centuries of living on their land. Rosina has also learned to live and work productively in the so-called Western world of commerce and industry and public institutions. She is a member, a current Elder, and an Indigenous knowledge holder of the Atakapa-Ishak/Chawasha Tribe of Grand Bayou, Louisiana.

Rosina participated in the creation of the First Peoples' Conservation Council (FPCC) in 2012 and was its President from 2018-2022. During her time with the FPCC, Rosina was instrumental in its full participation in the 2012 National Climate Change Assessment. Since 2016, Rosina has been the Vice President of the Lowlander Center and, throughout her life, she has been and is an advocate for the preservation of traditional and cultural heritage practices in Coastal Louisiana. In 2022, Rosina received her second Stewardship Award from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. For the past decade, she has been a leader and a tireless advocate for environmental justice as part of the Rising Voices Center for Indigenous and Earth Sciences (risingvoices.ucar.edu) through the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO.

Currently, with Rising Voices, Rosina is a leader of the \$20 million NSF Coastlines and People program-funded Rising Voices, Changing Coasts: The National Indigenous and Earth Sciences Convergence Hub. Over the course of the past twenty years or so, Rosina has worked with and supported the young people and teens of her tribe to take positions of leadership in her tribal community and beyond, including in their representation of Louisiana coastal tribes at such events as the COP-27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the Youth Climate Summit in Iceland, the Natural Hazards Workshop, and other domestic and international venues where our planet's health must be addressed and promoted.

NEJAC MEMBER



Executive Director

Zender Environmental
Health and Research
Group

Lives in:

Region 10 - AK

Stakeholder Group:

Non-Governmental
Organization

Experience:

Environmental justice
Community engagement
Capacity building

LYNN ZENDER

After earning an Oceanography B.S. and an Economics Minor, and working briefly as a Meteorologist, Lynn Zender went back to school for a Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering. After a near-death typhoid experience in Tanzania, Lynn transferred from the UC Davis doctorate program focused on groundwater modeling into one focused on sanitation, where she studied natural wetland treatment systems, as well as water, air, and soil remediation. She had an opportunity to assess open dumps at several Indian Reservations in work with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. Lynn developed an open dump assessment protocol and for her dissertation she looked at the sociocultural, institutional, legal, jurisdictional, and infrastructural differences from non-Indigenous communities that tribes have in carrying out environmental programs.

Lynn gained a background in Federal Indian Policy and after completing that work, she was asked in 1999 by Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes to conduct a baseline assessment of solid waste management in Alaska Native Villages. Lynn and the current Deputy Director started volunteering thousands of technical assistance hours to tribes there and received piecemeal pass-through funding their work. In 2007, they formed a non-profit organization to receive direct federal funding and accomplish the work that tribes and their communities wanted done. The Group has grown to fifteen employees with a blessedly good reputation for helping.

For the past 12 to 15 years, Lynn has been part of most of the statewide-level and even national-level discussions and issues related to rural Alaska solid waste. In her work with the National Tribal Toxics Council, she uses her geochemistry/ecotoxicology background to draft highly technical chemical comment letters reflecting Council concerns, like cumulative impacts from unique tribal and rural lifeways. Lynn started a rural Job training program and was instrumental in developing an Occupational Endorsement at the University of Alaska. In 2018, they began work with the Arctic Council on Indigenous community waste management across the Arctic.

NEJAC MEMBER



Senior Pastor
Green The Church

Lives in:
Region 9 - CA

Stakeholder Group:
Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Community Engagement
Ecological justice
Environmental Racism
Outreach
Faith-based Initiatives

AMBROSE CARROLL, SR.

Reverend Dr. Ambrose F. Carroll, Sr., is the Founder and CEO of GreenTheChurch.org, which is the largest repository and catalyst for the Environmental and sustainability movement built for and by the Black Church. He is the President at Large of the California State Baptist Convention and is a Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity. Dr. Carroll sits on the steering committee for the West Oakland Community Action Plan and is a member of the Environmental Justice Committee for the California Air Resources Board.

Dr. Carroll earned a B.A. in Psychology from Florida Memorial University in Miami, FL, a Master of Divinity from Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, CA, and a Doctor of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Rev. Carroll is married to the former Mrs. Katresa Williams, and they have three children.

NEJAC MEMBER



Environmental Programs Director

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Lives in:
Region 8 - CO

Stakeholder Group:

Tribal/ Indigenous
Government and
Organizations

Experience:

Environmental Science
Water Quality and
Monitoring
Tribal Environmental Issues
Environmental Chemistry

SCOTT CLOW

Scott Clow studied environmental science and chemistry in college-with an interest in analytical chemistry, he entered the environmental testing industry in the early 1990's. I worked in analytical laboratories in various capacities spending the last two years of lab work doing gas chromatography on drinking water samples- for VOC's and SOC's. Upon the closure of the laboratory, he worked and learned of an opportunity to work for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southwest Colorado as a Water Quality Specialist. He held the position for 12 years, monitoring surface and groundwater quality, helping the Tribe gain jurisdiction to regulate surface waters, developing a groundwater protection plan and nonpoint source management plan, assisting in some drinking water monitoring and operations and wastewater monitoring and operations, writing grants, and various other work that was requested. When the opportunity presented itself to become the Director of the department he applied and got the position. Scott has been the department director for the last 13 years. In this capacity, he manages a staff that includes water quality, air quality, brownfields, biology, and other various environmental initiatives. We are fully grant funded and bring in several hundred thousand dollars per year to fund our program.

Over the years Scott has become more passionate about the Tribe's environmental issues and worked hard to garner the resources and experts to address them. Some include oil field pollution, pollution from a uranium mill adjacent to the Reservation, surface water pollution from various sources, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure expansion, drinking water treatment and Safe Drinking Water Act compliance assistance, solid and hazardous waste management, and development of a biology program to help with wildlife, habitat and species management including threatened and endangered species. Scott represents the Tribe on the Regional Tribal Operations Committee of EPA Region 8 tribes and is currently the Vice-Chair of the National Tribal Caucus. He has served as an alternate on the National Tribal Science Council, serve on the Board of Directors of two local not-for-profit organizations, volunteered for the Lower Dolores River Working Group, and was awarded a Citizen of the Year award in the community.

NEJAC MEMBER



President and Founder
Green ECO Warriors

Lives in:
Region 1 - CT

Stakeholder Group:
Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Clean Energy Policy
Community Engagement
Youth Programs
Workforce Development

LETICIA COLON DE MEJIAS

Leticia Colon de Mejias is a nationally awarded energy equity speaker, building scientist, author, educator, workforce development leader, and energy equity policy expert.

She is the Founder and President of Green Eco Warriors, an award-winning nonprofit, educational, and research organization focused on environmental conservation, environmental justice, sustainability, and the empowerment of youth and families. Through this organization, she has provided culturally aware climate and energy education, reclaimed wetlands, and created a Wetland Walk which increased the access to wetland areas for communities of color. Leticia focuses on the interconnectedness of air, water, land, and human life.

Leticia is an awarded published author; her books and tools focus on environmental leadership, sustainability, EJ, and she created a line of educational science-based graphic texts which feature a cast of diverse superheroes and align with national science standards (NGSS).

Leticia is the Founder and Co-Chair of Efficiency For All, a nonprofit whose workforce programs create local jobs which lead to a stable income, create resilience in families, and develop generational wealth in low-income communities.

Leticia has many appointed and volunteer roles including the Policy Co-Chair of the National Building Performance Association, Chair of Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs on the Commission for the state of Connecticut Commission on Women Children Elderly Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs, member of the Governor's Workforce Council in the Office of Workforce Strategy, and a member of the Minority Initiative Board where she advocates for equity issues and Climate Justice, transportation as well as diversity and inclusion. She provides input in several other local state agencies and local nonprofits and has served as an advisor on many state and local Commissions.

NEJAC MEMBER



Community Organizer

La Mujer Obrera

Lives in:

Region 6 - TX

Stakeholder Group:

Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:

Environmental Justice
Stakeholder Engagement
Lecturer
Community Organizing
U.S Mexico Border
Environmental Issues

CEMELLI DE AZTLAN

Cemelli de Aztlan, born & raised in El Paso, Texas serves as a community organizer with La Mujer Obrera, a local women's organization defending our' right to exist as a community, as we create spaces to heal our relationships with each other and the earth. Cemelli joined LMO's organizing project, Familias Unidas del Chamizal in 2017 to organize against unjust barrio school closures and demand clean-up of contaminated playgrounds. In May 2019, we organized parents on a hunger strike and set-up an encampment in front of the school for 7-days.

As a representative of La Mujer Obrera, Cemelli was appointed to the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to share the experiences of frontline populations, the impacts on our most vulnerable populations- children, women and elders, as we implement and advocate for alternative solutions to address and combat historical environmental racism. As an appointed council member, Cemelli advocates on behalf of communities like barrio Chamizal, calling attention to the 'sacrifice zones' along the U.S. border where the long-overdue negative environmental impacts of NAFTA still need to be addressed.

NEJAC MEMBER



Water Quality Director
Little Big Horn College

Lives in:
Region 8 - MT

Stakeholder Group:
Tribal/ Indigenous
Government and
Organizations

Experience:
Environment
Education
Tribal Government
Environmental Justice
Research
Youth Engagement

JOHN DOYLE

John Doyle was born, raised and continues to live in Crow Agency, in the heart of the Crow Reservation. He is an enrolled Tribal member and has dedicated his life to addressing environmental and social justice concerns for his people, beginning with serving as a County Commissioner for 24 years, the Director of the Tribal Water and Wastewater Authority for 15 years and continuing after his retirement to serve through co-founding and co-leading multiple community organizations dedicated to improving Tribal environmental health, youth environmental literacy and community development.

John Doyle is currently employed with Little Big Horn College and Montana State University conducting collaborative environmental health research with the Crow Tribal community, under the guidance of the Crow Environmental Health Steering Committee. John Doyle has devoted his life to helping his people, the Crow Tribe, and in the past ten years has become active in Tribal environmental health on a national level.



NEJAC MEMBER

Executive Director

Northeast Ohio Black
Health Coalition

Lives in:

Region 5 - OH

Stakeholder Group:

Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:

Food Insecurity
Health Disparities
Community Outreach
Education
Health and the Built
Environment
Health Impact
Assessments

YVONKA M. HALL

Yvonka M. Hall, MPA is the Executive Director of the nationally recognized Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition. She received a Master of Public Administration from Texas Southern University and a Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College. She is a proud graduate of John Marshall High School in Cleveland, Ohio and a 2019 inductee into the Alumni Hall of Fame. The Cleveland Plain Dealer named her the HomeGrown Hero for her work addressing food insecurity.

The 1974 murder of her mother Yvonne Boston Hall dramatically changed her life; her childhood promise to use her life to help others has led to the creation of cutting edge programs and impacted thousands of people's lives. She was named as 100 Women to Know in America.

She is a mother, grandmother and activist deeply impassioned and involved in social justice activities locally and nationally. Her efforts will save many children from the lifelong impact of lead poisoning. She is currently working on a number of initiatives including a ban on menthol products, healthy menu options and implementing antiracism in hospital settings policies. Her work is designed to address equity issues in the community and highlight the need for policy in calls to declare racism a public health crisis. She was honored as a Black Green Woman in 2021. She was named to the National Environmental Protection Agency National Justice Advisory Committee where she serves as the chair for the Farmworkers and Pesticides Workgroup.

She is a member of numerous local and national organizations. She is a nationally recognized Congressional award-winning health disparities expert. She speaks all over the country about effectively engaging the African American Community the Art of Community Engagement.

She is an activist, leader, influencer, humanitarian, speaker, researcher and philanthropist.

NEJAC MEMBER



Chief Environmental Science Officer

City of Houston Health
Department

Lives in:
Region 6 - TX

Stakeholder Group:

State and Local
Government

Experience:

Environmental Science
and Engineering
Environmental Policy
Air Pollution
Human Health Risk
Assessment
Environmental Statistics
Research

LOREN HOPKINS

Dr. Loren Hopkins serves as the Chief Environmental Science Officer for the Houston Health Department, and as a Professor in the Practice of Statistics in the Statistics Department at Rice University. In this dual capacity, she conducts research to inform environmental health policy. By applying her understanding of environmental processes, statistical analysis, human health risk from pollution exposure, disease data, and the principles of public health intervention, she evaluates health disparities in Houston, the role pollution plays, and the impacts of public health interventions and policies to improve community health.

Dr. Hopkins provides local, state, national, and global leadership on environmental studies, regulation, justice, and health. She has over thirty years of experience as an environmental scientist. Dr. Hopkins provides environmental expertise from many different perspectives, including practitioner, professor, researcher, policy-maker, regulator, and author of over 50 papers. Additionally, she currently serves as a national expert for the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine for her work regarding viability of the National Wastewater Surveillance System, and has previously served as a visiting scientist at CDC.

NEJAC MEMBER



Managing Director
Moonshot Missions

Lives in:
Region 2 - NJ

Stakeholder Group:
Non-Government
Organizations

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Water Equity and
Affordability
Clean Water Act
Community Engagement

ANDY KRICUN

Andrew Kricun has nearly 40 years of experience in wastewater and biosolids management. He currently serves as a Managing Director for Moonshot Missions, a nonprofit dedicated to providing assistance to underserved communities with water and wastewater challenges. Prior to that, he served for many years as the Executive Director and Chief Engineer of the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. He also serves on the USEPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the New Jersey Environmental Justice Advisory Council. He also served for several years on the board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies as well, serving as co-chair of both the environmental justice and utility of the future committees.

Mr. Kricun graduated with honors from Princeton University with a degree in chemical engineering. He is also a licensed professional civil engineer as well.

I hope that this is helpful. Please let me know if you need anything else from me at this time.

NEJAC MEMBER



Founder/Operator

Building A Sustainable
Earth Community

Lives in:

Region 7 - KS

Stakeholder Group:

Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:

Developing Community
Leadership on Climate
Change
Community Engagement
Environmental Justice
Environmental Psychology
Community Engagement
Training

RICHARD MABION

Richard Mabion was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, and served a 2-year tour of duty for the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict (66-68). He graduated from Phillip University in 1971 with a BS in Education and a minor in Psychology. He then spent the next three decades as a self-taught urban/inner-city human behaviorist in Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri. Since 2006, he has worked as an independent community organizer in the environmental movement in the Kansas City metropolitan region. In 2007, he founded an Environmental Literacy organization called Building A Sustainable Earth Community. He has since been recognized for his commitment to involve more inner-city people of color in environmental causes. This responsibility led to the creation of an Environmental Literacy conference called Breaking The Silence from 2007 to 2012.

As a result of his efforts, the Pitch News organization selected Richard as their 2008 Activist of the Year for the state of Kansas. In 2011, Building A Sustainable Earth Community was one of two organizations selected by the Midwest Sociological Society for its' annual Social Action Award. It was given to exceptional grassroots organizations working to further social justice in the Midwest. In January 2012, the Kansas Sierra Club elected him as their first statewide Black Board member. Then, in 2013, the National Sierra Club selected Richard as their 2013 Achiever of the Year. In 2014, the Kansas City, Kansas NAACP Branch elected Richard as the president of their Branch. He ran on an Environmental Literacy ticket. Then, in 2016, he was selected as the Man of the Year for the EPA Region 7 Environmental Justice Department. In 2019, Cornell University selected Richard from over 600 applications to join this small community of 40 professionals from 28 countries dedicated to climate change mitigation. In 2019, The local Community Action Partnership (CAP) agency, Economic Opportunity Foundation (EOF), appointed Richard, a member of their current Board of Trustees, to the position of President of their Board. In 2020, Richard was presented with the President's Award by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE).

NEJAC MEMBER



Chairperson

Martin County Concerned
Citizens

Lives in:

Region 4 - KY

Stakeholder Group:

Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:

Biology

Water and Infrastructure
Community Engagement
Environmental Science

NINA MCCOY

Nina McCoy is chair of the Martin County Concerned Citizens, a group that is working to build citizen involvement to attain safe, reliable and affordable drinking water for their community. She also works with East Kentucky Water network in their regional efforts for drinking water issues. Nina is also on the Martin County Water District Board of Commissioners.

In a related effort to assure water quality within the ecosystem she serves as treasurer and longtime annual sampler for Big Sandy River Watershed Watch in Kentucky. She is also a board member on Friends of the Tug Fork, which is an interstate alliance between West Virginia and Kentucky working to restore the river that forms the state boundary and serves as the drinking water source for many communities.

Nina has served on the statewide steering committee for Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and is currently on the coordinating committee for the Kentucky Poor People's Campaign. She has a BS in Biology, an MA in Teaching Secondary Science, and she retired in 2014 from 30 years of teaching with a National Board Teacher Certification.

NEJAC MEMBER



Board Member
Clean Water Fund

Lives in:
Region 9 - CA

Stakeholder Group:
Non-Government
Organizations

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Law
Stakeholder Engagement
Community Organizing
Resiliency

AYAKO NAGANO

Bar Admission: California and New York

Education: University of California, Berkeley, B.A. Legal Studies; Fordham Law School, J.D. / Golden Gate University, L.L.M. Tax Law / candidate, McGeorge Law School, L.L.M. Water Law

Languages: Japanese and English (native in both languages)

In November 2019, Aya was appointed as a council member to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). NEJAC is a federal advisory council that advises the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights at the EPA.

Currently, Aya serves as Secretary of the Board for: Common Vision, which installs school gardens all across California, and Nippon Kobo, which produces cross-cultural programs by luminaries in the Japanese American community. Aya also serves on the board of Clean Water Fund as Board Treasurer, to develop strong grassroots environmental leadership and to bring together diverse constituencies to work cooperatively for changes that improve their lives, focused on health, consumer, environmental and community problems.

Aya also serves on the conceptual committee of the Frontline Resource Institute, the Steering Committee of the Green Leadership Trust, a coalition of non-profit board members of color, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within Environmental movement. Aya is co-chair of ITRC (International Transformational Resilience Coalition) in California, working to build widespread levels of psychological and psycho-social-spiritual resilience for the adversities generated by climate change; and helps organize the Plastic Reduction Working Group in the Berkeley / Albany area.

NEJAC MEMBER



Staff Attorney & Director
Environmental Justice
Legal Services
(EJLS)/Alternatives for
Community & Environment
(ACE)

Lives in:
Region 1 - MA

Stakeholder Group:
Community-Based
Organizations

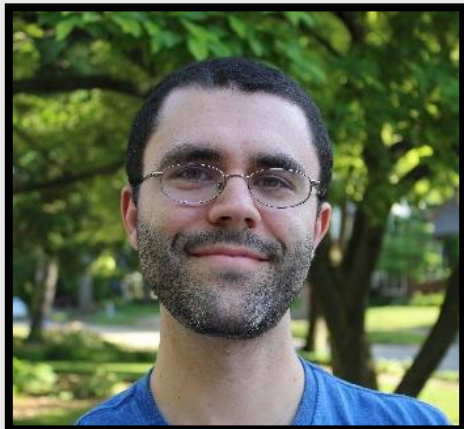
Experience:
Environmental Justice
Environmental Law
Air Quality
Diesel Emissions
Legal Services
Youth organizing

SOFIA OWEN

Sofia is ACE's Senior Attorney and the Director of the Environmental Justice Legal Services Program. She works with ACE staff to ensure that the legal rights of people of color and low-income residents are protected. She also provides systematic legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of environmental justice populations at the local, state, and federal levels. She is a Co-Chair for Pro Bono & Public Service with the Boston Bar Association's Energy and Environmental Law Section. Since 2021, Sofia has served as a representative for Region 1 on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC). She also sits on the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Council.

Sofia came to ACE from Slingshot Action (formerly Toxics Action Center), where she provided organizing assistance to community groups in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island and built power to address environmental racism, settler colonialism, and other systemic barriers that disproportionately affect communities on the front lines of pollution. Previously, Sofia worked as a Trial Attorney for the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She has a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, a Master's in Environmental law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

NEJAC MEMBER



Associate Professor

Department of Liberal Arts
Kettering University

Lives in:

Region 5 - MI

Stakeholder Group:

Academia

Experience:

Environmental Justice
Social Science
Clean Water Act
Stakeholder Engagement
Research

BENJAMIN PAULI

Dr. Ben Pauli is Associate Professor of Social Science at Kettering University in Flint, MI. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University (2014). Dr. Pauli has been extensively involved in the response to the Flint water crisis as an activist and researcher. He is the author of *Flint Fights Back: Environmental Justice and Democracy in the Flint Water Crisis* (MIT Press 2019), which examines the role of local water activists in exposing, addressing, and constructing a narrative around the crisis.

From 2016 to 2017, Dr. Pauli worked with the Flint Area Health and Environment Partnership on a legionella sampling project funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. He is the president of the board of the Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint (etmflint.org), a local environmental justice group, and acting chair of the Flint Water System Advisory Council. Dr. Pauli's water-related research and advocacy interests include issues of water and trust, water governance, environmental justice, and principles of engagement and collaboration in community-based research.

NEJAC MEMBER



President
Becenti Chapter

Lives in:
Region 6 - NM

Stakeholder Group:
Tribal/ Indigenous
Government and
Organizations

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Tribal and Indigenous
Communities
Engagement
Rural Community
Engagement
Mining
Oil and Gas
Community Organizer

JONATHAN PERRY

Jonathan Perry is a member of the Navajo Nation and resides in the community of Becenti located within the Eastern Navajo Agency in northwestern New Mexico. He has dedicated his life to serving his people, protecting communities, and preserving Diné cultural and historical knowledge. Currently Mr. Perry is serving as the Becenti Chapter President, a local leadership position, within his community; and is considered a Náat' áánii (leader) on the Navajo Nation due to his many years of serving the Navajo people.

Prior to becoming an elected tribal official Mr. Perry was active in many community grassroots organizations ranging from cultural preservation initiatives to the protection of natural resources and sacred areas. Mr. Perry is notably recognized for his work in efforts to address cleanup of areas contaminated from past uranium mining activities on and near the Navajo Nation. As an outspoken advocate for emphasizing the importance of the involvement and voice of communities, he created advisory bodies within the Navajo Nation government to provide opportunity for the public be involved with policy making.

Mr. Perry is a former council delegate of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council where he served on the Law-and-Order Committee, the Resources and Development Committee, and the Navajo Nation Sacred Sites Taskforce; he is also a former member of the Eastern Navajo Land Commission where he worked on land and energy matters concerning communities located in Eastern Navajo Agency; and is a former Becenti Chapter Vice-President.

NEJAC MEMBER



Tribal Utility Consultant

Rural Community
Assistance Corporation

Lives in:

Region 6 - NM

Stakeholder Group:

Non-Government
Organizations

Experience:

Environmental Justice
Public Health
Tribal and Indigenous
Communities
Engagement
Rural Community
Engagement
Regulatory
Training

JACQUELINE SHIRLEY

Jacqueline Shirley born and raised in Alaska, is a Tribal member of the Native Village of Hooper Bay on the Bering Sea coast, is currently employed at Rural Community Assistance Corporation. She provides training and technical assistance to Tribes, nonprofit and local agencies, to improve or develop water, wastewater and solid waste sustainable systems and programs in rural communities across the western portion of the U.S.

Ms. Shirley obtained her Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She also served 18 years in the Army National Guard as a Field Medic. She is a current member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the EPA. She has spent the past 43 years advocating to improve human and environmental health.

NEJAC MEMBER



Executive Director
Lewis Place Historical
Preservation, Inc.

Lives in:
Region 7 - MO

Stakeholder Group:
Community-Based
Organizations

Experience:
Nursing
Environmental Justice
Stakeholder Engagement
Community Development
Residential Development
Health Disparities

PAMELA TALLEY

Dr. Pamela Talley is an advanced nurse practitioner with a doctorate degree in nursing and a national certification in adult psychiatric mental health nursing. She utilizes her knowledge and skills to serve the poor and vulnerable. In 2000, she co-founded Lewis Place Historical Preservation, a community-based nonprofit organization. The mission of Lewis Place Historical Preservation is to save this historic community that was placed on the national registry of historic places in 1979. Since 2009, Pamela Talley has served as the volunteer Executive Director.

In 2007, Dr. Talley was recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a Community Health Leader for assisting grandparents raising grandchildren, many of whom were facing issues of eminent domain and were being displaced. She founded an organization, known as "Grandparents As Parents Support Project". 2012, she successfully led neighbors in an effort to drive St. Louis city government with assisting uninsured neighbors with rebuilding the homes of the uninsured after the community was hit by an enhanced fajita scale 1 tornado.

In 2015, Lewis Place Historical Preservation have obtained a historic vacant house, established a joint venture as a co-developer. The house was renovated and sold to a family at an affordable rate. Pamela Talley currently serves as co-chair of a collaborative community committee designed to organize, execute and implement residential development to improve the Lewis Place and Fountain Park neighborhood.

NEJAC MEMBER



Executive Director
San Juan Bay Estuary
Program

LIVES IN:
REGION 2 - PR

Stakeholder Group:
Non-Government
Organizations

Experience:
Environmental Justice
Environ. Sustainability
Island Environmental Issues
Community Engagement
Forestry and Ecosystems
Climate Change

BRENDA TORRES- BARRETO

Brenda Torres Barreto is a professional in the field of sustainability with vast experience in environmental management, corporate social responsibility and public policy development through empowerment and multisector alliances. She has excelled in leadership positions in Puerto Rico and the United States.

Among the initiatives promoted during this period is the development of the Puerto Rican Creative Network and the National Puerto Rican Agenda.

Currently, Brenda serves as Executive Director of the San Juan Bay Estuary Program, an initiative focused on the restoration of water bodies in the metropolitan area of Puerto Rico, and part of the National Estuary Program partly funded by the USEPA. Through the Estuary Program, Torres Barreto coordinates multi-sector efforts, empowers citizens to be part of the restoration process and ensures the well-being of residents of the metropolitan area.

Brenda's passion is the management of non-profit organizations for the conservation and restoration of habitats. In California, Brenda served as the Executive Director of the Audubon Society's third largest chapter in this state, serving 4,000 active members and more than 100 volunteers. Ms. Torres Barreto also worked as a public policy analyst for the United States Forest Service in Washington, DC, where she evaluated mechanisms for the ecosystem assessment of national forests in the western United States. She collaborates with the Puerto Rican diaspora through her volunteer work at the Roundtable of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at the City University of New York Hunter College. Brenda is an Op-Ed contributor to local newspapers. Brenda is a LEED Accredited Professional for the development of green buildings. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Integrated Water Resource Management from the University of Puerto Rico.