

Jaime Alonso

Executive Director—GRID Alternatives Inland Empire



Jaime Alonso was born and raised in the Coachella Valley. Like many in this region, he came from a family of Mexican migrant farmworkers. Raised in a mobile home in an unincorporated area of Riverside County, Jaime recognized early on that access to adequate housing, safe drinking water

and reliable energy sources were not readily available to all.

This recognition motivated him upon his return to the Coachella Valley after graduating from the University of California in Los Angeles (U.C.L.A.) in 2005 to become active with Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC), a faith-based community organizing network.

During this time, Jaime also joined local community leaders in Coachella, CA to form what would become Raices Cultura, an arts and culture organization committed to the empowerment of youth and adult residents through artistic self-expression and cultural inclusivity.

Jaime graduated from Brooklyn Law School (2009) with honors and spent ten years working as a legal and policy professional in the Washington D.C. metropolitan region.

A California native through and through, Jaime has maintained strong ties with organizations and policymakers in the Inland Empire region.

In his role as Executive Director for GRID Alternatives, Inland Empire (Riverside, CA), Jaime manages construction, workforce, outreach, development,

tribal, communications and operations staff to install solar electric systems using both production and job training models and benefiting a mix of multifamily affordable properties, mission-aligned community facilities, and single family homes owned by income-qualified families.

Jaime works to grow GRID Alternatives' presence, policy influence, positive public image, mission impact, and financial viability in the region, including networking and speaking presentations.

Jaime is a current board member (2022-2024) of Lift to Rise, a non-profit organization in the Coachella Valley focused on radically increasing the supply of affordable housing by creating, expanding, and underwriting the affordable housing pipeline in the region, among other transformational initiatives. Jaime is also a Member of Citizens Business Bank's Community Advisory Committee (2021-2023) where he helps advise the bank on how best to shape and measure performance of its Community Reinvestment Act activities in order to help meet the needs of low and moderate-income neighborhoods and individuals.

Jaime enjoys wilderness, the arts, and traveling.

Professional Experience

Executive Director

GRID Alternatives, Inland Empire Region, Riverside, CA

August 2019 – Current

Manage team of over thirty solar staffers, including development, outreach, tribal, workforce, and construction departments to install solar electric systems on single family, multifamily and commercial properties in Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo counties, utilizing production and job training models. Develop short term and long-term growth strategies to maintain regional operations. Manage all finances of regional office including drafting of annual budgets and managing expenditures. Develop and maintain partnerships, joint programs and collaborative relationships with affordable housing developers, job training programs, solar developers, energy efficiency providers, local government departments, utilities, low-income policy entities and other local organizations.

CEO and Co-Founder

DP Strategies Group, formerly "District Political LLC", Washington D.C.

2015 – July 2019

Managed a political consulting and marketing firm of twenty-four staff members, including accounts, creative, communication, and strategy departments. Worked on ninety-seven political campaigns in five election cycles, at the local, state and federal levels, with notable victories in California, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.. Worked on thirty-three marketing campaigns for mid to large organizations including: Rutgers University, Fort Myer Construction, and John Deere. Maintained net margins above twenty-four percent, year-over-year.

Attorney

Jezic, Krum & Moyse, LLC, Silver Spring, Maryland

2011 - 2015

Managed firm's family law practice, which included two associate staff attorneys and five paralegals. Drafted complaints, petitions and motions; conducted discovery; prepared clients for depositions, hearings and trials; advocated for individual clients in court; represented over 900 clients in criminal and family law matters in my, and took over 40 cases to trial.

Judicial Law Clerk

Circuit Court, Maryland (Honorable Marielsa Bernard) Rockville, Maryland

2010 - 2011

Managed court room staff, which included two law clerks, court room clerk and administrative aide. Analyzed all factual and legal issues on cases brought before the court; drafted legal memoranda and opinions for hearings, trials and appeals.

Legal Fellow

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA), Coachella, CA

2009 (summer)

Advocated for migrant and non-migrant farm workers; analyzed California labor and housing laws and prepared complaints and motions for trial.

Schulte, Roth & Zabel Fellow

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, New York, NY

9/2008 - 6/2009

Analyzed federal and state public health policies related to toxic chemicals in New York City public schools in minority communities; reviewed scientific data and reports on toxic chemical exposure; crafted policy report on proposed legislation to remediate toxic chemicals; drafted state legislation to provide funding for chemical testing in public schools.

Legal Fellow

Brooklyn Legal Services, Corporation A, Brooklyn, NY

2008 (summer)

Provided legal assistance to not-for-profit organizations and community development corporations; drafted a disability policy for a not-for-profit hospital in East New York; reviewed a title policy for the construction of affordable condos; negotiated a ten-year commercial lease for a not-for-profit daycare center run by a Spanish-speaking individual; published an article in the organization's 2008 Fall newsletter.

Legal Extern

Environmental Protection Agency, NJ Superfund Branch, New York, NY

2008 (winter)

Analyzed federal environmental enforcement policy; reviewed reports and data from the Army Core of Engineers; crafted policy memoranda on new enforcement procedure under Superfund laws and regulations; drafted litigation memoranda.

Law Clerk

Law Offices of Suzanne Brown, P.C., St. Louis, MO

2007 (summer)

Drafted pleadings and motions to settle delays in naturalization; provided legal research on the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; kept Spanish-speaking clients updated on the status of their case.

Education

Brooklyn Law School, Juris Doctor, June 2009

University of California at Los Angeles (U.C.L.A.), B.A., Political Science, June 2005

Honors and Distinctions

Admitted to Maryland Bar, 2010

Admitted to New Jersey Bar, 2009

Gold Public Service Award (1000 hours of legal public service), Brooklyn Law School 2009

Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow, Brooklyn Law School, 2007



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