



21st Century Fellows

2009-2010 Cohort

Eva N. Boyce
Chief Financial Officer
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) – Boston, MA

Eva N. Boyce has over 25 years of combined experience in public accounting and nonprofit financial management and has been successful in a wide range of capacities, including: CFO, Controller, Treasurer, Consultant, Auditor, Trainer and Manager.

She is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for GLAD, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a Boston based non profit agency. Eva started at GLAD in the summer of 2005 on a contract basis and became a part-time employee in October of 2006. Her time gradually increased and she now spends 90% of her work week there.

Outside of GLAD, Eva serves as a volunteer board member for a local non profit agency, The Theatre Offensive and is on the Board of Visitors of the Fenway Community Health Center. She is president of ENB Financial Management a company that provides consulting, technical assistance, training and other key services to non-profit organizations. She is frequently asked to make presentations and teach at various venues & institutions about non profit finances, budgeting and audit preparation.

Since graduating from Boston College in 1977, Eva has blended her vision, energy and attention to detail into an effective problem solving approach that creates space for dialogue and encourages organizations and individuals to work on common goals and strive for excellence. Her planning templates & dashboards are signature tools that help organizations understand their challenges and opportunities.

Eva is a committed and effective trainer, teacher and leader. She also continues to be a student... eager to learn and inspire.

Eva is a Boston native, a mother, grandmother and the eldest of 4 siblings. She lives in Boston (Roxbury, Massachusetts).

Bernadette Brown
Director of Policy
Triangle Foundation – Detroit, MI

Bernadette Brown is the director of policy for Triangle Foundation, Michigan's statewide equal rights and anti-violence organization serving the LGBT and allied communities. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Columbia University, and her Juris Doctorate from Boston University School of Law. While in law school, Bernadette was a Student Advocate for Ending Domestic Violence and a member of Outlaw, BUSL's LGBT student organization.

She also worked with Massachusetts Representative Kathleen Teahan and drafted legislation to protect a parent's right to refuse to administer ADHD medications to his/her child. By far, Bernadette's "coolest" moment during law school arrived when she attended oral argument at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for the landmark case that legalized same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. Bernadette is a former public defender with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and was an attorney in the Litigation Department at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, in New York City. When she isn't working or watching foreign films, Bernadette enjoys playing Wii Rock Band and basketball with her 12 year old son, Jabran. They reside in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Michael Coleman **Director of Communications & Development** **Affirmations – Ferndale, MI**

Michael Patrick Coleman was born in Inkster, Michigan, a suburb 30 miles west of Detroit in the summer of 1965. Born the second of four to Ann and Charles Coleman, Michael studied for 12 years in the Inkster Public School system and graduated valedictorian of the Inkster High School class of 1983. As Michael's older brother became the first in his family to graduate from college, Michael began his post-secondary work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he majored for two years in metallurgical engineering. He realized that the humanities were more of his calling and decided to pursue his lifelong love of writing and "running his mouth" (as his dad often put it), and changed his major to journalism.

Michael's academic career was postponed upon word of the pending birth of his first child, Janet Michelle. He married and moved back to Michigan, to take advantage of a support network of family while he finished his degree and welcomed a second child, Kristina Marie. In the interim (and to pay the bills), Michael accepted an administrative position at the city of Dearborn, another Detroit suburb then known nationally for its segregationist mayor and racially discriminatory climate.

Michael soon learned that he was the first African American to be employed full-time by the city of Dearborn, in 1987. The following year, he accepted a position at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he completed a Bachelors of Arts with High Honors and Distinction in Communications in 1993. He was a proud member of the administrative team at U of M for 17 years.

Michael left U of M in 2005 to accept the General Manager position at Detroit Public Radio, and with it the challenge of restoring WDET to its former position as a leader in the public radio community and in metro Detroit. He restored popular National Public Radio programming to the station's lineup, and with it watched the station's audience and revenues increase. Having accomplished his mission, Michael accepted another monumental task – helping Affirmations, metro Detroit's LGBT community center, stabilize financially while the local economy floundered. Since joining Affirmations as Director of Communications & Development, the center has broken its record for the amount of financial support raised in both 2007 and 2008 (raising over \$1 million for the first time in 2008), and is on track to do the same in 2009.

Michael divorced his wife of 14 years in 1999, and came out – on the air -- as a bisexual man. The following year, he met his current partner, Robert Kesselring. They share a home in Ypsilanti, Michigan with Michael's 15-year-old daughter and three rescue pets: a 13-year-old Siamese mix named Salem (after a character on a 1990s TV favorite of his older daughter's), a 6-year-old German Shepherd mix named Reeses (after the family's official candy bar), and a 1-year-old pit bull named Rover Jo (after a classic character from an early 1970s Muppet TV special).

Alan Francisco-Tiggos

Deputy Director for Finance and Operations

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) – New York, NY

Alan came to SAGE in May 2006 with his MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business, and now supervises administration, finance, and operations for SAGE, as well as large special projects such as SAGE's headquarters relocation and the creation of New York City's first full-service cyber-center specifically focused on the special needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults. While holding down his regular responsibilities, he has also served as SAGE's interim head of development on several occasions.

Before coming to SAGE, Alan was the lead management consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton for a project with the Coalition for the Homeless. For four years, he worked in various capacities at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, first as Administrative Manager in the Legal Department and later as Director of Foundation Relations and Planned Giving. He has also spent time at the American Civil Liberties Union and at Sponsors for Educational Opportunity.

Canadian by citizenship and Filipino by birth, Alan has lived in New York City for the past 16 years. And while he considers himself "almost a New Yorker," he still misses on occasion his Kentucky home where he was raised for most of his life by his adopted parents.

His undergraduate degree is from Columbia University.

Mushin Hendricks

Imam

The Inner Circle – Cape Town, South Africa

Mushin Hendricks is an Islamic Scholar with a background in Classical Arabic and Islamic Studies obtained at the University of Islamic Studies, Karachi Pakistan (1990-1994). He is an Imam (religious leader) by profession and also a human rights activist focusing on gender and sexual diversity in Islam. He has done independent research on Islam and sexual diversity, an area that does not get explored in the Muslim world. He has also delivered many papers and facilitated workshops on Islam and Sexual Diversity to many organizations in South Africa, USA and Europe.

Mushin Hendricks was elected by Echoing Green out of 970 international applicants as one of the top 10 social entrepreneurs of 2006. He has won many community awards for personal sacrifices and outstanding courage within his community. Mushin Hendricks also featured in the documentary "A Jihad for Love" which explores the lives of Muslims who are queer. Mushin Hendricks, who is regarded as the first openly gay imam, was also the spiritual backbone of the documentary and the Director of Education for the documentary's International Muslim Dialogue Project.

Mushin Hendricks is also the founder and director of The Inner Circle (founded in 2004), the largest formal organization for Muslims who are queer in the world and also the only organization that has a strong public education and training program in Islam and sexual diversity.

Andrés Hoyos

Associate Director of Center CARE Wellness

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center – New York, NY

I started my volunteer work with “Positivos por la Vida” a nonprofit agency. This was the first agency in my hometown of Medellin, Colombia to provide services for people living with HIV and AIDS. As a volunteer and while attending college majoring in psychology, I designed and implemented support groups and established the first national hotline. After this, I participated in a one-year internship in Guatape, a rural community in Colombia where I developed the mental health program, services for older adults and a community program for youth. Later on, I got involved with the first LGBT center established in the capital city of Bogota, Colombia in 2006. There was no formal training in Colombia on mental health and LGBT issues, so there were no mentoring opportunities available. I became aware of my need for more exposure and formal training around LGBT issues and immigrated to the United States in 2000.

Once in New York City, I pursued my Masters in Social. I have been working at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (the Center) for the past six and a half year, I have designed and implemented numerous community events and trainings for the community around critical issues such as HIV and AIDS, substance abuse with emphasis in Crystal Meth (prevention, treatment and aftercare), immigration, Latino community, MSM and mental health, among others. In 2007, I had the opportunity to start the first outpatient substance abuse treatment program serving exclusively the LGBT communities in NYS, Center CARE Recovery. In 2009, I expanded the Center’s services for people in recovery substance abuse, by starting a peer-led program called Foundations for Recovery. I currently hold the position of Associate Director of Center CARE Wellness within the Adult Services Department at the Center. I help oversee daily operations. In addition, I have a private practice where I provide individual, couple and group psychotherapy with emphasis in populations such as LGBT people, bilingual/bicultural couples and immigrants in general, as well as those seeking asylum base on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

As a volunteer, I have also supported different causes, such as being a board member at Queens Pride House, an LGBT community center in Queens, NY. I have advocated on behalf of communities of color, LGBT, MSM, and immigrant populations in several spaces including the NYC HIV/AIDS Prevention and Planning Group, where I was a member for the past 3 years, the Cultural Diversity Committee from OASAS (Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services - NYS), and the Cultural Diversity Advisory Group from ASAP (Association of Substance Abuse Providers - NYS). Recently while on vacation in Medellin, Colombia, I had the opportunity to participate as a panelist in an international symposium for LGBT public policies. While in Medellin on a recent visit, I also provided technical assistance to the mayor’s office with the design and implementation of LGBT public policies including starting the process to open an LGBT community center.

Jonathan Lang

Associate Director of Center CARE Wellness

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center – New York, NY

Jonathan Lang is the Director of the New York State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health & Human Services Network (the Network) for the Empire State Pride Agenda. The Network is a state-wide coalition of over 50 non-profit organizations that provide non-HIV community-based services to LGBT New Yorkers. As the Network Director, Jonathan is responsible for the oversight of all Pride Agenda activities related to the administration, support, and budgeting of the Network.

Jonathan served as the Pride Agenda's Network Coordinator from 2006 to 2008 and was responsible for maintaining the Network's internal infrastructure. In 2008 he was promoted to Senior Network Coordinator and was responsible for the maintenance and expansion of the Network's public funding streams from New York State government. He has designed and implemented several advocacy campaigns to increase funding for LGBT-serving organizations and has helped secure over \$25 million in public funding for LGBT health and human services, including the first-ever allocation from the New York State Senate.

Prior to working for the Empire State Pride Agenda, Jonathan was the Community Development Associate for the New York State Black Gay Network (NYSBGN) at the Rochester, NY field office. At NYSBGN he was responsible for assessing needs, building skills, and accessing resources in order to strengthen and create local program serving black gay men, as well as mobilize and support local community stakeholders in upstate New York. Jonathan also worked at the Men of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA) Project as a Health Education Specialist and was responsible for creating and implementing HIV prevention strategies that targeted young LGBT people of color.

Jonathan has served on the board of the Rochester chapter of GLSEN, and is a former co-chair the Equality Leadership Conference in Rochester, NY. In recognition of his work, Jonathan was awarded the "LGBT POC Advocate Award" by In Our Own Voices, an Albany-based organization that provides services for LGBT people of color in the Capital Region.

Jonathan has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Denison University in Granville, OH, and currently resides in Albany, NY.

Kelly Lewis **Community Organizer** **OutFront Minnesota – Minneapolis, MN**

Kelly Lewis is a Community Organizer for OutFront Minnesota, the state's largest Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender advocacy organization, and today, she is still working there as a community organizer. OutFront is currently working to achieve marriage equality in the state of Minnesota; as five other states have recently secured these rights, Minnesota is just on the brink of making history. Her primary role is working with high school and college-aged students teaching the importance of civic engagement. Kelly's outreach is also focused on communities of color to provide education and training on GLBT issues.

Kelly is involved with progressive political causes, first lending her time to the Missouri Public Interest Group working to combat an anti-environment initiative. In addition, she has worked on City Council, U.S. Senate and Presidential campaigns. In 2008, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Minnesota.

Kelly is a board member of aMaze, a nonprofit organization of parents, educators, and other caring adults working to create safe and respectful communities by promoting the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to work together across differences. She is also a board member of Color Coordination, an organization working to bridge individuals within communities of color who are GLBT-identified for furthered civic engagement, leadership development and wellness.

Rebecca Libed

Deputy Director of Development

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission – New York, NY

Rebecca Libed brings 12 years of experience to her position as IGLHRC's Deputy Director of Development. Prior to coming to IGLHRC, Rebecca served as the Homeownership Initiative Project Manager for Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation in Brooklyn. She has also held positions at the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the NGLTF Policy Institute. She received a Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies from Hamilton College and a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from New School University.

L. Indra Lusero

Assistant Director

The Palm Center – Denver, CO

Indra Lusero is a queer parenting, super-dork reading, erotic power wielding, ethno-hybrid, creative community builder and idea generator. Indra has been known to speak passionately about childbirth as a social justice issue, make messy art projects with the kids, practice karate, dismantle racism, get excited about administrative law, eat ice cream, have multiple intimate relationships, talk to god, and interface with bureaucracies - all in one day. Indra is deeply connected to the Rocky Mountains and the high desert plains stretching from Colorado to New Mexico, and currently lives with her family in Denver.

Indra has been a teacher of elementary and middle school students, a performance artist, a doula, a wall-paper hanger, and is currently the Assistant Director of the Palm Center, a think tank that studies critical and controversial issues of the day, most recently, gays in the military. Her interdisciplinary work is published in *The Journal of Democracy and Education*, and *Educational Insights*, and *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology*, and *Blueprints: The Palm Center Blog* among others.

Indra just finished her term as the Chair of the Center for Educational and Economic Equity's board, and was a founding executive committee member of Let Us Rise, a Colorado grassroots, multiracial campaign to envision the world we want to live in. Indra remains active as a member of the LUZ Reproductive Justice Think Tank and is currently developing a project called the Elephant Circle to inspire curiosity about birth and protect its sacred role in our communities. She is currently blogging about birth, bonding and death at <http://indralusero.com>.

Juan Martinez

Development Director

Basic Rights Oregon/Basic Rights Education Fund – Portland, OR

Juan's connection with Basic Rights Education Fund (BREF) goes back to 2004, when he began volunteering for the organization by serving on the annual dinner planning committee. Juan now holds the position of Development Director for BREF, where he focuses his time on donor cultivation, grant writing and managing the annual event series. Juan brings deep relationships in Portland's LGBT and allied community, a passion for social change and a head for business to his work at Basic Rights Education Fund. In 2005, Juan and his partner Byron Beck served as lead plaintiffs in *Martinez v. Oregon*, Basic Rights Education Fund's legal challenge to Constitutional Amendment 36.

Juan is a native Oregonian, who lives in Portland with his partner of 14 years. Juan grew up in rural Oregon, where he attended McMinnville High School. He later went on to study Business and Spanish at the University of Oregon, where he eventually came out during his senior year one week before graduation. Juan spent the first part of his career working in the private corporate sector and later spent five years working for his family's small business. Throughout his career, Juan has maintained an active role in the community by giving of his time to causes and organizations important to him personally. He values the opportunity to build relationships not only with donors but also with other organizations working for social change. Juan is a former Co-Chair of the Board of the Q Center, Portland's LGBTQ community center.

Wanja Muguongo

Program Manager

UHAI: East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative – Nairobi, Kenya

Wanja Muguongo is an organizational capacity building specialist and currently works as the Program Manager of UHAI- the East Africa Sexual Health and Rights Initiative. UHAI- EASHRI is a human rights grant maker that gives grants and capacity support to sexual minority organizations in East Africa. UHAI aims to support the growth and strengthening of the LGBTI movement in East Africa and to help in achieving human rights for all irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity. UHAI is currently hosted by Akiba Uhaki, an East African human rights and social justice fund.

Before joining UHAI, Ms. Wanja Muguongo coordinated Kenya's volunteer involving organizations (VIO) network while serving for 2 years as the Program Officer in charge of the Volunteering and Community Capacity Building program at Ufadhili Trust, an East African capacity support foundation based in Nairobi. She served and continues to serve on the board of the National Volunteer Network Trust (NAVNET) in their programs committee.

Ms. Muguongo also lectured part time at Strathmore University, Nairobi in a youth leadership development program hosted jointly by Strathmore University and the Aga Khan Development Foundation; specializing in community development and capacity building for small community based organizations.

Between 2004- 2007, Ms. Muguongo managed community development programs in South Asia, working in India as a Program Management Advisor for VSO (Volunteer Service Overseas) and as the Community Mobilization Project Manager for Tearfund UK based in Kashmir, Pakistan.

Before working in Asia, Ms. Muguongo worked for 5 years in the human rights and democracy sector with Kenya's vibrant civil society. She worked first at the Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development managing a program on mainstreaming gender in Kenya's constitutional and legislative processes and later managed a 2 year joint civil society program monitoring Kenya's electoral process.

Ms. Muguongo resides in Nairobi and is a member of Minority Women in Action, a Kenyan LBT organization.

Tawal Panyacosit Jr.
Director, API Equality
Chinese for Affirmative Action – San Francisco, CA

Tawal Panyacosit Jr. is a founding member of API Equality and local partner, API Equality – LA, where he has helped to build a broad-based coalition of over 75 local, state, and national API organizations in support of marriage equality, garner extensive media coverage of the issue in the API and English language press, and equip numerous API individuals and organizations with the tools to be effective advocates for LGBT people.

Prior to joining API Equality, Tawal has worked as an organizer for the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Vote for Equality Project and with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in campaigns to defeat discriminatory ballot measures across the country, including the No on Proposition 54 Campaign in California and the No on Constitutional Amendment 36 in Oregon. In addition, Tawal regularly confers with national and statewide leaders in the LGBT movement and previously served on the Executive Committee of the No on Prop 8 Campaign. Tawal holds a Masters of Public Administration from Columbia University and a B.A. in Education from Brown University.

Sung Won Park
Project Manager
Intersections International – New York, NY

Sung Won Park started as a campus organizer working on issues of racial bias/injustice. Growing up as an immigrant in Brooklyn, he has developed a deep passion for socio-economic justice and action for marginalized communities. In addition, Sung has an academic background studying the cross-sections of race, politics, and health care.

After graduating college, Sung came back to New York City and started as a trainer for young people of color, who are mostly LGBT youth of color, conducting anti-discrimination trainings. Sung then joined the Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA) as a client advocate assisting recent immigrant monolingual Asian & Pacific Islander individuals living with HIV/AIDS. During his tenure at APICHA, Sung has developed and produced first ever needs assessment studies for overlooked groups such as the South Asian and Asian & Pacific Islander LGBT communities in New York City. Over time, Sung served as the Associate Director of Prevention and was responsible for HIV/AIDS prevention program design, implementation, and management. He has also presented at multiple local, state and national public health forums.

Sung has also taken part in the development and creation of the Dari Project: a volunteer run Korean and Korean-American LGBT resource project in New York City. The main objective of the project is to produce a book of stories of lived lives of LGBT Korean-Americans to address the stigma, silence, and isolation surrounding the community. Sung continues to work with the Dari Project as a member of the coordinating body.

Currently, Sung is a Project Manager at Intersections – a new social justice and peace initiative organization underwritten by the Collegiate Church of New York. His main focus is working with local communities who are marginalized, and a national social marketing campaign to advance the rights of LGBT individuals within the Mainline Protestant denominations in the US.

Rashad Robinson

Director of Media Programs

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) – New York, NY

Rashad Robinson serves as Senior Director of Media Programs for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the national LGBT media advocacy and anti-defamation organization. In his current role, he oversees GLAAD's advocacy and programmatic work, leading thirty staff members, consultants and fellows in GLAAD's New York and Los Angeles offices.

During his tenure, Rashad has overseen the implementation of five new programs: Sports Media; Young Adult Media; Religion, Faith & Values; Digital & Online Media and Advertising Media. Rashad has also increased the organization's outreach in local and regional communities and worked with staff to overhaul the organization's signature Media Essentials Training Curriculum. During his tenure the Media Programs team has experienced success with large scale PSA Campaigns that have been widely broadcast on TV and online, the creation of a host of media resources for journalists and local activists and increased visibility in combating media defamation of the LGBT community locally and nationally.

Before joining GLAAD in 2005, Rashad served as National Communications Director for the Right to Vote Campaign, a national collaboration of eight major civil rights organizations working on voter disenfranchisement. He also served as National Field Director with the Center for Voting and Democracy and served as lead organizer for the 2003 Claim Democracy Conference.

A popular speaker on LGBT and progressive issues, Rashad is a frequent spokesperson in print, radio and television, and has appeared on programs ranging from Access Hollywood to The O'Reilly Factor and for outlets such as: ABC, BET, CNN, Fox News, The Associated Press, Reuters, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Nation and Vanity Fair, among others. In 2004, he appeared as the youngest contestant on Showtime's Political Reality series American Candidate.

Francisco Roqué

Associate Director for the Institute for Gay Men's Health

Gay Men's Health Crisis, (GMHC) – New York, NY

Francisco Roqué serves as Associate Director for the Institute for Gay Men's Health at GMHC where he supports innovative approaches to reaching and mobilizing populations most impacted by HIV/AIDS with a focus on Black and Latino gay men. He is responsible for managing a portfolio of \$1,500,000 dollars which includes community-based research, dynamic publications, high visibility social-marketing campaigns, large and small-scale community events and programming, online interactive interventions and community mobilization efforts that are inclusive of coalition building.

As a result of his leadership over the past 4 years, community-level approaches, including community mobilization and social marketing at GMHC, have been enormously successful at the local and national level. He is responsible for the concept, development and implementation of several notable prevention campaigns all of which have been presented and disseminated to community members and community based organizations nationally. Recent examples include: I Love My Boo; My Son Is My Life; and Hurricane Tina.

Francisco has over 15 years of community organizing and social marketing experience. He has implemented grassroots as well as federally-funded community level programming to address health disparities within communities.

In addition to his work at GMHC, Francisco has developed publications and city-wide social marketing campaigns in Los Angeles, New York, and Miami. He also coordinated HIV testing and prevention programs at The Hispanic AIDS Forum in Jackson Heights, Queens for three years.

Before moving to New York City, he managed \$2,300,000 in demonstration projects for the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP) for Los Angeles County. Francisco's experience prior to OAPP consists of several years of innovative community organizing with young Black and Latino MSM in South Central Los Angeles while working at the African American Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI).

Francisco and his work have been featured in The New York Times, The Village Voice, The Los Angeles Times, The NY Blade, Next Magazine, HX Magazine, NY 1, and Frontiers Magazine. Recently, he was featured on "Mobilizing Hope" on PBS's In the Life Series and can also be seen in the documentary film, "Sex Positive" which was in theaters this May. He also speaks fluent Spanish and is a skilled graphic designer, photographer, videographer and editor.

Catherine Sakimura

**Staff Attorney & Family Protection Project Coordinator
National Center for Lesbian Rights – San Francisco, CA**

Cathy Sakimura is a staff attorney and coordinator of the Family Protection Project at the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The Family Protection Project seeks to increase access to family law services for low-income LGBT parents and their children, with a focus on improving services to families of color. This project provides free legal information to low-income LGBT parents and their children; trains and supports attorneys providing free and low-cost services to these families; and works in coalition with organizations serving communities of color to provide culturally competent services to families of color. Cathy also works on NCLR's litigation docket, particularly on family-related cases.

Cathy began the Family Protection Project in 2006 as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. She received her J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law in 2006 and her B.A. from Stanford University in 2001. Prior to law school, she worked at Gay-Straight Alliance Network, where she empowered young people to combat harassment in their schools and participated in a multi-organization project linking work against homophobia with work against racism.

Cathy is currently a member of the Board of Directors of COLAGE, a national movement of children, youth, and adults with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer parents.

Reverend Roland Stringfellow

**Coordinator of the Bay Area Coalition of Welcoming Congregations
The Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies in Religion & Ministry at The Pacific School of Religion –
Berkeley, CA**

Rev. Roland Stringfellow earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master of Science degree in Counseling from Indiana University. He later earned a Master of Arts degree in Ministry from Grace Theological Seminary and in 1990 became a licensed minister in the Baptist Church. In 2005, Roland was ordained with the Metropolitan Community Church and in 2006 he earned his Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion with a certificate in Religion and Sexuality. He has worked as a pastor in Indiana and California. In addition to all his work within church contexts, Roland also worked in the field education in a variety of capacities – teacher, guidance counselor, college advisor, and vice-principal. Cathy is currently a member of the Board of Directors of COLAGE, a national movement of children, youth, and adults with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer parents.

Currently Rev. Stringfellow is continuing his work in creating dialogs on the topic of LGBT equality with church congregations and in religious institutions in his role as the Coordinator of the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations in the Bay Area of California with the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Sexuality on the campus of Pacific School of Religion. He has conducted multiple workshops on Marriage Equality concerning the role of people of color and communities of faith play in this local, state and national debate.

Beverly Tillery

**Director of Community Education and Advocacy
Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund – New York, NY**

Beverly Tillery is the Director of Community Education and Advocacy at Lambda Legal. In this position she coordinates the work that actively engages the LGBT and HIV communities and our allies in our ongoing fight for equality and justice. Through community forums, educational programs and by building relationships with other organizations, we seek to build a greater understanding of the issues Lambda Legal addresses through our litigation. We inform people about LGBT issues and rights and then give them the tools to take individual and collective action to help achieve equality.

Fighting all forms of oppression in our society through organizing, advocacy and popular education has been an integral part of her life's work. Over twenty years ago she started out as a community organizer with ACORN in Washington, DC and then, New York City, Dallas and Boston. She then worked at and co-directed a small nonprofit in Massachusetts called the Coalition on New Office Technology that organized women clerical workers across the state around workplace health and safety and other rights issues. While there, she became a member of SEIU District 925. As a union activist, she helped start the local's first LGBT caucus. She also served for several years on the board of WILD (Women's In Leadership Development) an organization that helps train, promote and support women labor leaders.

Bev later became a union organizer, working at SEIU 1199 in Baltimore and DC where she led campaigns to help health care workers form a union. Her one regret from her time at SEIU was not having the opportunity to organize her mother, a nursing home worker, into the union. Bev then worked at Amnesty International where she helped develop and oversee a national field organizer program and at the New York Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health where she ran an immigrant worker project.

Bev has designed and facilitated hundreds of trainings and workshops on topics such as workers rights, LGBT rights, organizing and anti-oppression. She has also served as the President of the Board of the National Organizer's Alliance, a national organization of social justice organizers and workers.

Bev is a native of Washington, DC and grew up in suburban Maryland with her parents and four sisters. She currently lives with her partner Roz and almost 4-year old daughter Stella in Harlem USA. She tries to maintain a healthy balance between her work and personal life and wants to find ways to address some of the issues that make it difficult for young people of color to choose and sustain social justice careers.

Hector Vargas

Director, Education & Public Affairs Department

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund – New York, NY

Hector Vargas is the Deputy Director of the Education & Public Affairs Department for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people with HIV.

In his role current Lambda Legal role, he helps lead and manage the organization's community education & advocacy, editorial and communications functions. His duties include serving as a lead team member for Lambda Legal's educational role in Iowa, where Lambda Legal recently won marriage equality, and supervising other strategic projects. He also served for five years as Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office Director based in Atlanta. In addition, he is a lead member of the organization's Multicultural Program Committee, which has been developing recommendations on ways the organization's work can better address the needs of people of color and low-income people within LGBT and HIV-affected communities.

Before joining Lambda Legal, Vargas was a state legislative lawyer with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, where he worked with state and local activists and elected officials on legislation to protect LGBT people. Previously, he was an assistant director with the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities of the American Bar Association, and prior to that, he was a national student organizing director with the National Association for Public Interest Law, now known as Equal Justice Works. While living in Washington, DC, he was an active member of Asian Pacific Islander Queers United for Action (AQUA), having served as a co-chair of the group. As a lawyer for the U.S. Commerce Department, he helped re-establish a departmental Asian Pacific American employee network, and also worked with Commerce GLOBE, the group for LGBT department employees.

A 1993 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Vargas received a bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish also from the University of Georgia.

George B. Walker, Jr.

Vice President, Leadership Initiatives

Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute – Washington, DC

George Walker is the Vice President of Leadership Initiatives at the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute, the nation's leading organization that identifies, trains and supports openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender candidates, campaign staff and officials. In this position, George is responsible for creating and managing professional development and educational programs for LGBT elected and appointed officials.

Professionally, he served as the development director for the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy. Prior to working at ACS, George served as a major gifts officer at the Human Rights Campaign, deputy operations director for the Center for Community Change, and associate director at the Peace Development Fund. He volunteered with the U.S. Peace Corps in Guayaquil, Ecuador from 1994 to 1996.

George has worked extensively in the area of social justice for his entire professional career. A national keynote speaker, he has spoken to gatherings in the areas of religious life, youth motivation, volunteerism, community renewal. George is a graduate of Morehouse College (BA History) and The Divinity School, Duke University (M-Div). He is an ordained minister and serves as Adjunct Minister of Peoples Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in Washington, D.C.

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, he resides in Washington, D.C.

Javarré Wilson
3MV Program Coordinator
Black Coalition on AIDS

Javarré Wilson obtained his Master's Degree in the Health Education Department at San Francisco State University (SFSU) with an emphasis on promoting health and social justice in the urban community. Currently, he works as a Program Coordinator for the Many Men Many Voices (3MV) program at the Black Coalition on AIDS. Javarré has experience working and addressing complex issues among Black, Bi, Transgender and Straight- identified men. As an undergraduate in the SFSU Black Studies Department and as a graduate student, five of his articles addressing social and cultural issues among Blacks and other indigenous communities were published in the IMHOTEP Magazine, SFSU Native American and Africana Studies Journals. Traveling in Africa (Chad and Cameroon) in 2001, Javarré worked in local villages to address HIV/AIDS and other health issues. As we move deeper into the 21st century, his interest has become more focused on the issues and struggles among members of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender (BLGBT) community. Javarré is committed to work for social change that will allow people of color the right to live in any community of choice, equal access to Ivy League colleges, the elimination of HIV/AIDS cases in communities of color, reduce the recidivism rates among former Black inmates, and help to form a strong and cohesive Black Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender community.