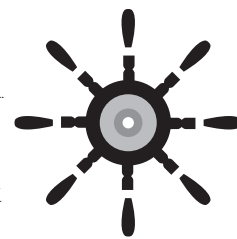


# Advocates' Guide Authors

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## MALIK SIRAJ AKBAR

Malik Siraj Akbar joined NLIHC in June 2015 as the Communications Specialist. Malik just completed his Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. There he was elected Vice President of Communications for the Kennedy School Student Government, and served as the Online Editor of the *Citizen*, the campus newspaper. Malik was responsible for managing the communications for more than 70 student organizations and professional interest groups.

Malik brings to NLIHC ten years of experience in journalism, communications, and international reporting. He has been a Contributing Writer at *The Huffington Post*, a Fulbright Hubert Humphrey Fellow (2010-11) at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, and a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the Washington DC-based National Endowment for Democracy (NED). He was a 2011 Visiting Journalist at the Pulitzer Prize-winning Center for Public Integrity.

Malik founded Pakistan's first English hyper local newspaper, the *Baloch Hal* in 2009, and previously served as the Bureau Chief of *Daily Times* in Pakistan's largest province of Balochistan. Malik's writings have appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *The Huffington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Times of India*, and several international publications. He has been interviewed or quoted by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, CNN, BBC, Al-Jazeera, Reuters, and the Voice of America. Malik is the author of two books, *The Redefined Dimensions of the Baloch Nationalist Movement* and *Pakistan: A Broken Democracy*. *The Huffington Post Live* called Malik "a real mouthpiece for the oppressed."

## ANDREW AURAND

Andrew Aurand joined NLIHC in July 2015 as the new Vice President for Research. Andrew has extensive experience in research and affordable housing. He previously served as a faculty member in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University, where he taught graduate courses in research methods and

housing policy, and where he completed research on the impact of comprehensive planning and land use principles on the supply of affordable housing for low income households. He has also worked in the Research Division of the Montgomery County Planning Department. Andrew received his PhD and MSW from the University of Pittsburgh.

## TRISTIA BAUMAN

Tristia Bauman combines litigation, legal education, and legislative advocacy strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Her work focuses on combating the criminalization of homelessness and advocating for laws that protect the civil and human rights of homeless people. Tristia also conducts legal trainings around the country, writes reports and other publications related to housing, and serves as a legal resource for homeless advocates.

Tristia began her law career at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. as a housing attorney working with low-income tenants in federally subsidized housing. She later served for several years as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami-Dade County.

Tristia hails from Auckland, New Zealand but was raised in Washington State where she attended the University of Washington as an undergraduate and law student. She received her B.A. in Anthropology in 2000 and her J.D. in 2006.

## STEVEN R. BERG

Steve R. Berg is Vice President for Programs and Policy at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, where he works to end homelessness by promoting effective public policies and local practices regarding housing, employment, and human services. He oversees most of the programmatic work of the Alliance. He came to the Alliance from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where he worked on state-level welfare reform and employment. Before coming to Washington, Steve spent 14 years as a legal services attorney in California and Connecticut, working on housing, government benefits, employment and family integrity issues. His experience includes nonprofit management and staff training and development.

## **NANCY BERNSTINE**

Nancy Bernstine is a policy consultant for the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) where she served as executive director from 2003-2015. NAHC is a national housing advocacy and policy organization which focuses on the housing and housing-related support service needs of people with HIV/AIDS. Previously, she was a member of a Washington, D.C. law firm providing legislative and administrative representation for nonprofit housing organizations and housing industry trade associations. She has worked in senior policy positions in U.S. nonprofit housing organizations including the National Housing Law Project and the McAuley Institute. Nancy is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and the American Bar Association Affordable Housing Forum.

## **ANNA BLASCO**

Anna Blasco works with the Alliance's Center for Capacity Building to help communities adopt best practices to end homelessness. She has worked closely with service providers to improve rapid re-housing, and has provided guidance to communities on becoming data-driven crisis response systems and improving emergency shelter. Ms. Blasco sits on a local Continuum of Care leadership board, has extensive knowledge of HUD's Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs, and helps communities navigate the changes made by the HEARTH Act. She graduated from American University in Washington, DC.

## **MARY E. BROOKS**

Mary E. Brooks has worked as a low income housing advocate for more than 30 years. The majority of her work has involved policy advocacy advancing affordable housing, land use and zoning, community development, and civil rights issues. She holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University, where she received the College of Engineering Distinguished Alumna Award. She was awarded the Community Housing Leadership Award by the National Low Income Housing Coalition in 2004. Currently, she is Senior Advisor with the Housing Trust Fund Project of the Center for Community Change.

## **RAMON BULLARD**

Ramon Bullard joined the Housing Partnership Network (HPN) in October 2015 as Senior Associate for the Policy team. In this role, he supports advocacy efforts for legislative and regulatory changes to advance the nonprofit housing and community development sector, with particular focus on single-family housing issues. Prior to joining HPN, Ramon worked in the Division of Consumer and Community Affairs of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC). Ramon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Richmond, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University.

## **ROXY CAINES**

Roxy Caines leads Earned Income Tax Credit outreach efforts as the Get It Back Campaign Director for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington-based nonprofit organization that conducts research and policy analysis on issues that impact lower-income Americans. The Center has spearheaded a national public education campaign on tax credits for lower-income workers each year since 1989. Roxy assists local agencies and community groups across the country to organize outreach efforts and to promote free tax filing assistance programs.

## **JUDITH P. CHAVIS**

Judy Chavis has more than 25 years of association, legislative and administrative policy experience related to programs and services for low-income people. Prior to starting at AASC, Judy was the Assistant Executive Director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association where she co-directed governmental relations for the organization. She also provided policy development and advocacy; technical assistance; training on public assistance and social services "safety net" programs (e.g., Medicaid, Food Stamps, child care, TANF, etc.); and, issues affecting low-income families including workforce development, adult protective services, child support enforcement, and child protective services. Judy holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Ohio University and a Bachelor's degree with honors in Political Science/Sociology from The Ohio State University.

## DAVID COOPER

David Cooper is the Senior Economic Analyst with the Economic Policy Institute and the Deputy Director of the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) in Washington, DC. He conducts national and state-level research, with a focus on the minimum wage, employment and unemployment, poverty, and wage and income trends. He also coordinates and provides support to EARN, a national network of over 60 state-level policy research and advocacy organizations.

David has testified in a half dozen states on the challenges facing low-wage workers and low-income families. His research on the minimum wage has been used by policymakers in city halls and statehouses across the country, as well as in Congress and the White House. David has been interviewed and cited by numerous local and national media, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and NPR. He holds a Bachelor's and a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University.

## LINDA COUCH

Linda Couch has worked at NLIHC since 1995 except for three years at LeadingAge (formerly the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging), where she worked on affordable housing for low income seniors. Linda works on public and assisted housing issues, budget and appropriations and NLIHC's campaign to capitalize a national housing trust fund, among other issues. She also has a background in state governmental affairs, working for a private consulting firm and as a fellow in the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research. Linda has a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Connecticut and a B.A. from the George Washington University. She lives in Mount Rainier, Maryland with her husband and two young children.

## BAYLEE CRONE

Baylee Crone is the executive Director for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), a nationally recognized voice in efforts to end veteran homelessness. Crone is a technical expert on veteran homelessness and currently directs NCHV's Technical Assistance Center. In addition to providing intensive program development consultations with homeless veteran service

providers, she regularly gives trainings across the country on several topics related to homeless veterans. Utilizing strong relationships with partners throughout the country, Ms. Crone serves as a liaison between NCHV Member organizations and their partners in state and Federal agencies.

Ms. Crone earned a Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis on Traumatic Brain Injury at the George Washington University and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Service and Global Security from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

## JAMIE L. CROOK

As an associate attorney at Relman, Dane & Colfax, Jamie practices in civil rights litigation with an emphasis on housing, lending, and employment discrimination. Ms. Crook's better-known cases include *Central Alabama Fair Housing Center v. Magee*, 835 F. Supp. 2d 1165 (M.D. Ala. 2011) and *Anderson Group LLC v. City of Saratoga Springs*, 805 F.3d 34 (2d Cir. 2015). Following her graduation from Boalt Hall (Berkeley Law School), Jamie clerked for the Honorable Richard A. Paez, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and completed a fellowship with Altshuler Berzon LLP and the Natural Resources Defense Counsel in San Francisco. Before joining Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC, Jamie also worked in Johannesburg, South Africa, as a law clerk to Pius Langa, former Chief Judge of the Constitutional Court, and as a volunteer attorney with the Southern Africa Litigation Centre. She also served as counsel for the Fair Housing and Community Development Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Jamie is the author of "From *Hernandez v. Texas* to the Present: Doctrinal Shifts in the Supreme Court's Latina/o Jurisprudence," 11 *Harvard Latino Law Review* 19 (2008), and "Promoting Peace and Economic Security in Rwanda through Fair and Equitable Land Rights," 94 *Calif. L. Rev.* 1487 (2006). Along with Michael Allen and John Relman, she is a co-author of "Assessing HUD's Disparate Impact Rule: A Practitioner's Perspective," 49 *Harv. Civil Rights-Civil Liberties L. Rev.* 155 (2014).

## **SHEILA CROWLEY**

As the President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Sheila heads a membership organization dedicated solely to ending the affordable housing crisis in America. She joined the staff in December 1998, after two decades in Richmond, Virginia in organizational leadership, direct service, policy advocacy, and scholarship. She is a social worker with a bachelor's (1976), master's (1978), and Ph.D. (1998) from the School of Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is an adjunct faculty member for the VCU School of Social Work and for George Mason University Department of Social Work, teaching social policy, social justice, policy advocacy, and community and organizational practice. She was the 1996-1997 Social Work Congressional Fellow, where she served on the Democratic staff of the Housing Subcommittee of the United States Senate Banking Committee. From 1984-1992, she was the Executive Director of The Daily Planet, a multipurpose homeless service and advocacy organization in Richmond.

## **DAN EMMANUEL**

Dan Emmanuel joined the NLIHC staff in November 2013. Dan completed his Master of Social Work degree from Saint Louis University in May 2013 with a concentration in community and organization practice. Since 2008, he has worked in a range of housing and community development contexts involving program evaluation and community needs assessment. Prior to his role as Research Analyst, he served as a Senior Organizer for Housing Advocacy at the Coalition. Dan earned his B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology from the College of William & Mary.

## **LANCE GEORGE**

Lance George is the Director of Research and Information at the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Prior to becoming the HAC's Research Director, Lance served as the organization's Senior Research Associate for 10 years. Before HAC, Lance worked for Frontier Housing, Inc., a nonprofit organization that builds affordable homes for low income families in Appalachian Eastern Kentucky. Lance's research and policy analysis at HAC encompasses a wide array of issues and topics related to rural housing, including manufactured

housing, poverty and high need rural areas, rural definitions and classifications, mortgage access and finance, and general demography, mapping, and data analysis of rural people and their housing conditions.

## **ED GRAMLICH**

Ed Gramlich has been at NLIHC since October 2005. For his first two years Ed staffed the RegWatch Project, an endeavor to expand the Coalition's capacity to monitor federal regulatory and administrative actions, with a focus on preserving the affordable housing stock, both public and assisted. Between October 2007 and January 2010 he was the Director of Outreach. Prior to joining the staff of the Coalition, he worked for 26 years at the Center for Community Change (CCC) where his primary function was to provide technical assistance about CDBG to low income community-based groups. While at CCC, Ed also devoted considerable time to providing technical assistance to groups concerned about the negative impacts of UDAGs in their community.

## **ELLEN LURIE HOFFMAN**

Ellen Lurie Hoffman joined the National Housing Trust in May 2014 as the Federal Policy Director. NHT is a national leader in "preserving and improving" affordable housing, ensuring that privately owned rental housing remains in our affordable housing stock and is sustainable over time. Ms. Lurie Hoffman is responsible for federal housing policy spanning the HUD Budget, fair housing, the Clean Power Plan, housing finance reform, and maintaining and improving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. She represents the Trust before congressional staff, federal officials, and other housing advocates and stakeholders. Ms. Lurie Hoffman facilitates the National Preservation Working Group, a coalition of over 40 nonprofit organizations dedicated to the preservation of affordable rental housing;

Prior to joining the trust, Ms. Lurie Hoffman worked for the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) for nine years, where she analyzed and advocated for federal multifamily housing policy issues on behalf of the nation's state Housing Finance Agencies (HFAs). NCSHA is the leading national nonprofit organization created by state HFAs to coordinate and leverage their federal advocacy efforts for affordable housing. Ms. Lurie Hoffman

led NCSHA's legislative campaign to advocate for congressional authorization of Ginnie Mae securitization within the FHA-HFA Risk-Sharing program. Ms. Lurie Hoffman has been engaged on the HUD budget, housing finance reform, HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), and FHA and USDA multifamily programs. She also promoted a primary role for state agencies in the Section 8 Performance-Based Contract Administration (PBCA) program with HUD and Congress.

Ms. Lurie Hoffman holds a Master in Public Policy degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in Political Science from Vassar College.

## **DAVID JEFFERS**

David Jeffers is Executive Vice President of Policy and Public Affairs for the Council of Federal Home Loan Banks. The Council is the public voice of the America's Federal Home Loan Banks. Before joining the Council, Jeffers was President and CEO of Collingwood Communications. Previously Jeffers was Fannie Mae's Vice President for Corporate Relations.

## **SARAH JEMISON**

Sarah Jemison joined NLIHC in February of 2016 as a Housing Advocacy Organizer. Prior to coming to NLIHC, Sarah worked as the Special Projects Fellow at Achievement Prep Charter School in Southeast DC, where she witnessed the impact of concentrated poverty, neglected public housing projects, and homelessness on students and their families. Sarah earned her B.A. in History with a minor in African American Studies from Princeton University. She is originally from Memphis, TN.

## **PAUL KEALEY**

Paul Kealey joined NLIHC in June 2014 with more than twenty-five years of leadership and management experience. Paul has a rich background of developing, directing, and evaluating large and complex operations, staff, and programs in international and domestic community development, human services, volunteer service, environmental conservation, and professional development and training. Most recently, Paul served as a Senior Vice President for NeighborWorks America. He has also held leadership positions with the Corporation for

National and Community Service/AmeriCorps VISTA, World Wildlife Fund, and Peace Corps. Paul earned a Master of Arts in Geography at the University of California, Davis, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations at San Francisco State University. Paul is also a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School/ NeighborWorks America 18-month Achieving Excellence Program.

## **JULIE KRUSE**

Julie Kruse joined NCHH as Policy Director in November 2014 where she leads federal advocacy efforts to improve resources and policies to promote healthy housing, leads the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, and directs a campaign to reduce substandard housing. Prior to joining NCHH, she worked for twenty-four years advocating for LGBT rights, tax fairness for working families, and economic and educational equity for women and girls. Julie holds a master's degree in education from Northwestern University and a bachelor's in honors biology from the University of Illinois.

## **JOSEPH LINDSTROM**

Joseph Lindstrom first worked with NLIHC in 2000 while organizing Wisconsin advocates in support of the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign. He led campaigns in Madison, WI, on issues such as the local minimum wage, funding for homeless services, and eliminating housing discrimination against Housing Choice Voucher recipients. In addition to his advocacy and campaign work, Joseph has also worked in various direct service capacities including as a homeless outreach coordinator, tenant's rights counselor, and workforce development professional. Joseph received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin with majors in political science and religious studies.

## **ELIZABETH LOWER-BASCH**

Elizabeth Lower-Basch directs the Income and Work Supports team at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). Her expertise is federal and state welfare (TANF) policy, other supports for low-income working families (such as refundable tax credits) and systems integration. From 1996 to 2006, Ms. Lower-Basch worked for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Lower-Basch received a Master of Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

## **PATRICK MAIER**

Patrick Maier is the Executive Director of the Innovative Housing Institute (IHI), a nonprofit consulting organization that is a nationally recognized leader in the field of inclusionary housing. The Institute provides research, consultation, and information on the best practices to local and state governments faced with housing affordability challenges. IHI is the lead author of the Regional Housing Plan for the Baltimore Region's Opportunity Collaborative, a federal Sustainable Communities Initiative Grantee. IHI recently assisted the City of Chicago in their revamping of the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, Chicago's inclusionary program.

## **KEVIN MARTONE**

Kevin Martone is Executive Director at TAC, a non-profit consulting firm that provides technical assistance on behavioral health, Medicaid, affordable, supportive housing and other human services to government agencies, national associations and direct service providers. Kevin has 20 years of experience in executive leadership at the national, state government and nonprofit levels, with expertise in public mental health and human services administration. He specializes in a range of issues related to behavioral health, including policy strategy, system financing and design, Olmstead and community integration, health reform, and the design and delivery of permanent supportive housing. Prior to joining TAC, Kevin served as President of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors where he advanced key policy issues on behalf of the nation's public mental health systems before Congress and federal agencies, including the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Kevin also served as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services overseeing the state mental health and substance abuse system. Upon his arrival, Kevin negotiated the State's Olmstead Settlement Agreement and led a statewide

transformation of the public behavioral health system that included a significant expansion of supportive housing. Previously, Kevin was CEO for Advance Housing, a non-profit supportive housing provider, and Vice President for the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey. He has taught at Tufts University School of Medicine and the Rutgers University School of Social Work on mental health policy and various social work issues.

## **SHARON MCDONALD**

Sharon McDonald is the Director for Families and Youth at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, where her primary focus is on policy and program strategies to prevent and end family and youth homelessness. Before joining the Alliance in 2001, Sharon was a direct practitioner in a Richmond, Virginia community-based service center for people experiencing homelessness. She has experience providing and supervising the delivery of social work services to families in a service-enriched subsidized housing development for low income families. Sharon was the 1999 National Association of Social Workers/ Council on Social Work Education Congressional Fellow and served in Senator Paul D. Wellstone's office, where she focused on welfare and housing issues. Sharon holds an M.S.W and a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

## **MONICA MCLAUGHLIN**

Monica McLaughlin joined NNEDV in 2007 and is the Senior Public Policy Specialist. She chairs national collaborations working to improve federal legislation and increase resources to address and prevent domestic violence. Monica leads national efforts to improve the safe and confidential housing options available for survivors.

As a life-long activist in the women's movement, Monica began her career as a domestic violence advocate in Montana, Chicago and England. Her work with survivors afforded her a unique perspective on the issues that impact women's lives and fueled her desire to advocate for survivors at a macro level. While completing her Master's in Communication Studies, she was the Public Relations and Advocacy Coordinator for a women's substance abuse treatment program, where she coordinated the agency's first legislative call-to-action campaign and initiated a speaker's bureau of women in recovery.

## SHAWN PENSONEAU

Shawn Pensoneau is the Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs at National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC). Mr. Pensoneau has over 15 years of experience working for tribal interests on Capitol Hill and the federal government. His role with the NAIHC is the point of contact with Members of Congress and federal agencies with Indian housing programs and provides advocacy for tribal housing programs.

Mr. Pensoneau joined NAIHC in May of 2011 after serving for seven years as Director of Congressional and Public Affairs for the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). While at the NIGC, Mr. Pensoneau was responsible for the planning, coordination, and management of agency programs and activities relating to both legislative and public affairs. He has also held legislative positions at the Navajo Nation Washington Office, and at one time the NAIHC in 2003-2004.

Mr. Pensoneau has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Administration from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. He is a member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma.

## GARTH B. RIEMAN

Garth B. Rieman is the Director of Policy and Government Affairs for the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA), where he has worked since February of 1993. He manages the development and execution of NCSHA's legislative and regulatory agenda on a variety of affordable housing issues, including Housing Credits, Mortgage Revenue Bonds, Section 8, HOME, FHA, appropriations, the GSEs, and rural housing.

From 1989 to 1993, Garth served as a professional staff member and the Republican staff director for the United States Senate Housing Subcommittee. He also worked at HUD, the National Association of Realtors, and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Garth graduated from Pomona College and received a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

## KATHLEEN ROMIG

Kathleen Romig is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. She works

on Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and other budget issues. Romig previously worked at the Social Security Administration, Social Security Advisory Board, and Congressional Research Service. She began her career as a Presidential Management Fellow, during which time she completed an assignment at the Office of Management and Budget. Romig has a master's degree in Social Policy from University College Cork, Ireland, where she was a George J. Mitchell Scholar, and a B.A. from Michigan State University's James Madison College.

## JAIMIE A. ROSS

Jaimie A. Ross, Attorney at Law, is the President and CEO of the Florida Housing Coalition. In 1991, Ross initiated the broad-based coalition that successfully advocated the passage of the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act, providing a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing in Florida. She continues to facilitate the Sadowski Act Coalition to ensure funding for Florida's state and local housing programs. Her work includes all forms of legislative and administrative advocacy and education related to the planning and financing of affordable housing. She authored "Creating Inclusive Communities in Florida: a Guidebook for Local Elected Officials and Staff on Avoiding and Overcoming the NIMBY Syndrome", originally published in 2004, with 2016 edition underway. Nationally, she serves on the Boards of Grounded Solutions and the Innovative Housing Institute. Ross is the founder of the Florida Community Land Trust Institute, past Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee of the Real Property Probate & Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, and a former Fannie Mae Foundation James A. Johnson Community Fellow.

## SHANNON ROSS

Shannon Ross is the Director, Government Relations for Housing Partnership Network. In that role, she advocates on behalf of HPN's members and policy priorities with Congress, the Administration and other policy makers. Immediately prior to joining HPN, Shannon was the Vice President, Public Policy for Opportunity Finance Network, the leading national network of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) where she lobbied on issues involving the CDFI Fund and affordable housing. Shannon has also previously worked as a congressional staffer for the Senate Committee on Banking Housing and Urban Affairs and

Congressman John Tierney (D-MA) and practiced law at the Washington DC office of O'Melveny and Myers LLP. Shannon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

## **BARBARA SARD**

Barbara Sard rejoined the Center as Vice President for Housing Policy in 2011 after 18 months as Senior Advisor on Rental Assistance to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. She previously held the director's position at the Center between 1997 and 2009. She has written extensively on welfare, homelessness and housing issues and is considered a leading expert on the housing voucher program, rental assistance, and issues concerning the intersection of housing and welfare policy. Prior to working at the Center, she was the Senior Managing Attorney of the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services, where she worked for more than 19 years. Sard has a B.A. in Social Studies from Radcliffe College/Harvard University and a J.D. from the Harvard.

## **JAMES SAUCEDO**

James Saucedo joined NLIHC in September 2015 as a Housing Advocacy Organizer. Prior to NLIHC, James worked at Ashoka Changemakers, where he served as a Finance & Administrative Associate. Prior to his work at Ashoka Changemakers, James was a Research Associate for a national real estate organization based in Washington, DC. In this role, James observed first-hand the gentrification trends in several cities across America. Originally from New Mexico, James earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business and served as a leader and member of several social justice-oriented student organizations.

## **GINA SCHAAK**

Gina Schaak is a Senior Associate at the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) with over 10 years experience helping nonprofit housing and service agencies navigating federal, state and local programs in order to access and create more permanent supportive housing for the most vulnerable populations. In addition to being a skilled TA and training provider with extensive experience providing support and consultation to numerous nonprofit homeless and housing

organizations, Gina serves as TAC's national policy researcher and public liaison. In this role, she tracks federal congressional activity related to relevant homeless and housing legislation and disseminates information to the public, both via TAC's website and through partnerships with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force. Prior to joining TAC, Gina worked for the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development managing multiple federal homeless Supportive Housing Programs.

## **JOSH SILVER**

Josh Silver has more than 25 years of experience in the housing and community development field. He is a Senior Advisor at NCRC. He produces white papers on the Community Reinvestment Act and fair lending policy and issues. He serves as an expert and provides advice and resources internally and externally. He came back to NCRC after serving as a Development Manager engaged in fundraising and research at Manna, Inc., a housing nonprofit developer and counseling agency serving the District of Columbia. He also previously served as Vice President of Research and Policy at NCRC for 19 years.

Prior to NCRC, Mr. Silver worked at the Urban Institute for five years. Mr. Silver holds a Master's degree in public affairs from the Lyndon Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin and earned a Bachelor's degree in economics from Columbia University in New York City.

## **LISA SLOANE**

Lisa Sloane is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) with over 30 years of experience working with federal, state and local governments as well as nonprofit agencies, to address the supportive housing needs of people with disabilities, including homeless individuals and their families. Lisa is Project Manager of TAC's Section 811 Technical Assistance contract with HUD.

## **JORGE ANDRES SOTO**

Jorge Andres Soto is Director of Public Policy with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA). Jorge leads NFHA's federal relations and advocates on behalf of its member organizations before Congress and federal agencies and coordinates



efforts with advocacy and industry groups on civil rights matters concerning housing and housing finance. Prior to NFHA, Jorge was at Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC where he worked as a civil rights paralegal on the development and litigation of several housing, lending, and public accommodations cases involving discrimination, as well as on public policy matters concerning employment and contracting diversity in federal financial regulatory agencies. Jorge also previously worked as a labor organizer at Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and community organizer with CRECEN/American Para Todos, Houston, Texas. Jorge earned his B.A. in History and American Studies from Wesleyan University.

## **LESLIE STRAUSS**

Leslie R. Strauss is Senior Housing Analyst at the Housing Assistance Council. She began working at HAC in 1991 as Research and Information Director and has also served as HAC's Communications Director. Currently she is responsible for a variety of policy and information activities, including much of HAC's work on rental housing preservation. She has a law degree and practiced real estate law for several years before joining HAC. She serves on the board of the National Rural Housing Coalition.

## **ERIC TARS**

Eric Tars currently serves as Senior Attorney with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Before coming to the Law Center, Mr. Tars was a Fellow with Global Rights' U.S. Racial Discrimination Program, and consulted with Columbia University Law School's Human Rights Institute and the U.S. Human Rights Network. Mr. Tars currently serves on the Board of the U.S. Human Rights Network and on the Steering Committee of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign. Mr. Tars received his J.D. as a Global Law Scholar at Georgetown University Law Center, his B.A. in Political Science from Haverford College, and studied international human rights the Institute for European Studies, Vienna, and at the University of Vienna.

## **ALAYNA WALDRUM**

Alayna Waldrum is a affordable senior housing and services consultant with over 20 years of experience in affordable housing. She currently advises Section 202 providers and acts as

coordinator for nonprofit senior service providers in Washington, D.C. Previously she served as the Legislative Representative for LeadingAge, an association serving the largest Section 202 housing providers in the country, and as the first Director of the LeadingAge DC affiliate. She advocates on affordable senior housing and supportive services before Congress, regulatory agencies, and local governments. She had served as the Associate Director of Policy at the LeadingAge California representing non-profit affordable housing providers before the state legislature, local HUD offices, the tax credit allocation agency and with state regulatory agencies. She began her work in affordable housing in 1994 working with first time home buyer's program in Baltimore, Maryland, where she developed and conducted homebuyer education sessions for low-income, first-time buyers. Alayna holds BA from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a JD from the University of California, Davis. She resides in DC where she is on the board of a local not-for-profit that provides affordable housing to families living with HIV/AIDS and volunteers on the Home First Advisory Council for Seabury Aging Resources.

## **OLIVIA WEIN**

Olivia Wein is a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) focusing on low income energy and utility issues. She is co-author of the fifth edition of NCLC's manual Access to Utility Service and co-author of The Rights of Utility Consumers. She co-chairs the LIHEAP Coalition. Ms. Wein serves on the Federal Communication Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Universal Services Administrative Company. She was an Economic Justice Fellow at Consumers Union prior to her work at NCLC.

## **ELAYNE WEISS**

Elayne Weiss joined the NLIHC staff in November 2014. For the last three years, Elayne served as a legislative assistant for the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office where her work concentrated on reproductive and women's rights. In her position at the ACLU, Elayne helped craft and implement strategies to meet the organization's advocacy goals, and worked on a broad range of issues, including housing protections for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Recently, Elayne

played a critical role in helping plan and manage the successful legislative campaign expanding reproductive health coverage for U.S. servicewomen and military families. Elayne holds a JD from the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law and a BA in economics from Brandeis University. Elayne is originally from Philadelphia.

## **RUTH ANNE WHITE**

Ruth White, MSSA is one of the nation's leading experts on the nexus between housing policy and child welfare. She is co-founder and Executive Director of the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare and former director of Housing and Homelessness for the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). At CWLA, she co-edited the landmark issue of the League's journal, *Child Welfare*, documenting the extent to which children are needlessly held in foster care because their parents lack decent housing. Through White's advocacy, \$50 million in new funding for the Family Unification Program has been made available for families and youth in child welfare since 2009. White is also certified as an Assisted Housing Manager.

White has a Master of Science Degree in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Ohio State University. She is currently a Furfey Scholar and doctoral candidate at the Catholic University of America. Ruth serves on the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty and currently co-chairs the National Homeless Advocates Group.

## **ALEX WILLIAMS**

Alex Williams joined NLIHC in September 2015 to complete her year-long Master of Social Work practicum. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Social Work with a concentration in Social Change at George Mason University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work at James Madison University. Prior to working at NLIHC, Alex worked in nonprofit development as well as community outreach and engagement with refugees, immigrants, and youth and families.

## **RENEE M. WILLIS**

Renee M. Willis joined NLIHC in June 2015 as the Vice President for Field and Communications. In this role, Renee leads all of NLIHC's field and communications efforts in support of our mission, goals, and objectives. Renee brings more than fifteen years of experience in affordable housing, including establishing and leading successful community and region-wide initiatives. Renee has extensive experience in strategic planning, financial management, marketing, organizational development, staff management, and program operations. Renee served as Housing Services Chief with Arlington County, VA from 2008 to 2015. Prior to her work in Arlington, she served as the Administrator of the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs for Montgomery County, MD from 1999 to 2004 and as an Advocate and Manager for the Public Justice Center's Tenant Advocacy Project in Baltimore, MD from 1993 to 1999. Renee earned dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Spanish from the University of Maryland. She also holds a Certificate in Public Management from George Washington University. ■