

Advocates' Guide Authors

MICHAEL ANDERSON

Michael Anderson is the Director of the Center for Community Change's Housing Trust Fund Project. For three decades, the Project has operated as a clearinghouse of information on housing trust funds throughout the country, providing technical and strategic assistance to organizations and agencies working to create or implement these funds.

Based in Portland, Oregon, Michael provides technical assistance and support to state and local coalitions working to establish and strengthen housing trust funds that dedicate public revenue to creating and preserving affordable housing for people with the lowest incomes.

ANDREW AURAND

Andrew Aurand joined NLIHC in July 2015 as 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. 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.

RUSTY BENNETT

Dr. Russell Bennett, LGSW PhD serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CS), with an administrative office in Birmingham, Alabama, providing organizational management and program implementation services. Bennett currently serves as the Executive Director of the National AIDS Housing Coalition and Executive Director of the Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV & AIDS since the appointment of Collaborative Solutions as those organizations' management agent providing both administrative and program services. As CEO and founding director of CS, Bennett has developed CS as a leader in the delivery of a comprehensive array of services for nonprofit, state, and local government organizations serving the housing and health needs of vulnerable populations.

STEVEN R. BERG

Steve 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. Nancy is the 2016 recipient of NLIHC's Cushing Niles Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award.

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 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.

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 CHAVIS

Judith, Executive Vice President at American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC), has more than 25 years of association, legislative and administrative policy experience related to programs and services for low-income people. At AASC, she is responsible for the development and promotion of recommended standards of practice for service coordinators and provides technical assistance and training on service coordination fundamentals and policies. Judith also spearheads the organization's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels.

Prior to starting at AASC, Judith 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. Judith 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 is the Vice President, Housing Policy and Priorities for LeadingAge, an organization of more than 6,000 nonprofits representing the entire field of aging services. Linda focuses her work on expanding and preserving affordable housing options for very low income seniors. After 12 years with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Linda rejoined LeadingAge in 2016 to identify and advocate for solutions to America's aging population, which is rapidly growing and becoming poorer. Linda has testified before House and Senate committees, and has a special interest in the federal budget and appropriations processes. Linda received her undergraduate degree in philosophy from the George Washington University and a Masters of Public Affairs from the University of Connecticut.

BAYLEE CRONE

Baylee Crone is the CEO 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.

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.

ELLEN ERRICO

Ellen joined NLIHC in July 2014 as NLIHC's Creative Services Manager. Prior to joining NLIHC, Ellen served as a Graphic Designer for the United States Senate Printing, Graphics, and Direct Mail office. She comes to NLIHC with over a decade of graphic design experience, and has lent her talents to other organizations such as the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the American Trucking Associations. Ellen is a recipient of the 2014 Excellence in Achievement Award for her work on various projects while at the Senate. She is also the recipient of seven APEX Awards—highly prestigious advertising industry awards—for her branding, logo, advertising, and website designs. Ellen received her Bachelor of Arts degree from High Point University and a Web Design certificate from Northern Virginia Community College.

WILL FISCHER

Will Fischer is a Senior Policy Analyst who joined the Center in 2002. His work focuses on federal low-income housing programs, including Section 8 vouchers, public housing, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. This analytic work has been cited in numerous media publications.

Before coming to the Center, he held a position as an analyst at Berkeley Policy Associates, where he worked on evaluations of state TANF programs and several U.S. Department of Labor workforce development initiatives. Earlier, he worked on economic development and other issues at the International City/County Management Association.

Fischer holds a Bachelor of Art from Yale University and a Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy.

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. Since 2010 he has led NLIHC's efforts related to affordable housing regulations and has been NLIHC's expert on regulations related to the national Housing Trust Fund and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

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.

ETHAN HANDELMAN

Ethan Handelman directs NHC's policy and advocacy agenda focused on advancing federal housing policy to assist low- and moderate-income people, strengthening the nation's housing finance system, connecting people to opportunity through housing, advocating for housing policy during tax and budgetary reforms, and building stronger communities that coordinate, housing, transportation, health, education, technology and energy policy. He has testified before Congress and speaks and writes regularly on housing issues. Ethan joined NHC in March, 2011, after leading the advisory practice at Recap Real Estate Advisors, assisting public- and private-sector clients to understand and shape the affordable housing financial and policy environment. Ethan received his MA in International Relations from Harvard University and holds a BA in Political Science from University of Michigan. He serves on the board of Housing Unlimited, a nonprofit housing provider in Montgomery County, Maryland.

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).

DAVID JACOBS

Dr. David Jacobs is the Chief Scientist at the National Center for Healthy Housing in the US. He also serves as Director of the US Collaborating Center for Research and Training on Housing Related Disease and Injury for the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization, an adjunct associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and a faculty associate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is one of the nation's foremost authorities on childhood lead poisoning prevention, and was principal author of the President's Task Force Report on the subject in 2000 and the Healthy Homes Report to Congress in 1999. He has testified before Congress and other legislative bodies and has many peer reviewed publications. Dr. Jacobs is the former director of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he was responsible for program evaluations, grants, contracts, public education, enforcement, regulation, and policy related to lead and healthy homes. His current work includes research on asthma, international healthy housing guidelines, lead poisoning prevention and green sustainable building design. He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist and has degrees in political science, environmental health, technology and science policy and a doctorate in environmental engineering.

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 is the chief operating officer at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, leading the Coalition's planning and evaluation, financial and human resources management, resource development, field outreach and organizing, and communications. Prior to joining NLIHC as its COO in 2014, Mr. Kealey occupied a number of leadership positions, developing and directing programs and operations in international and domestic community development and affordable housing, human services, volunteer service, environmental conservation, and professional development and training. Paul served for twelve years as a senior vice president and division director for NeighborWorks America, overseeing its affordable housing and community development training programs (the NeighborWorks Training Institute), the Achieving Excellence leadership program with Harvard University, the Success Measures enterprise, and other programs and services. He has also held leadership positions with the Corporation for National and Community Service/AmeriCorps VISTA, World Wildlife Fund, and Peace Corps. After serving as a Peace Corps volunteer with his wife in Guatemala in the 1980s, Mr. Kealey joined the Peace Corps staff as a chief of field operations in Washington, DC, deputy country director in Costa Rica and Paraguay, and country director in Paraguay. Paul earned an MA in Geography at the University of California, Davis, and a BA in International Relations at San Francisco State University. Paul is also a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School/NeighborWorks 18-month Achieving Excellence Program.

SHERRY LERCH

Sherry Lerch has over 30 years' experience in the mental health and substance abuse service systems, ranging from direct service provision to system administration. Sherry draws on her past experience in the public sector as a consultant, specializing in the areas of developing and implementing standards and approaches to serving individuals with mental illness and co-occurring physical health, developmental, and substance use disorders; managed care implementation and ongoing operations; integrating physical and behavioral health care; and identifying inter-agency and cross-systems approaches and solutions to resolve complex issues.

Sherry has spent much of her career in county and state government, including serving as the Acting Deputy Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in Pennsylvania. Other roles have included Director of Policy, Planning and Program Development, Director of Operations, Special Assistant for Substance Abuse Services, and Chief of Care Management. Sherry came to TAC to carry on her mission to enhance opportunities for individuals with life challenges, including mental health and substance use disorders, to live and thrive in their communities.

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.

LISA MARLOW

Lisa Marlow joined NLIHC in October 2016 as the communications specialist. Lisa worked previously with AABB as a communications coordinator for the CEO. In this role, she focused on messaging and presentations for the CEO and revamping the brand of the organization. Prior to AABB, Lisa served as a program associate for PICO National Network a faith-based grassroots non-profit, where she assisted with web development, managed social media, and coordinated organization-wide events. Lisa also worked at The Endocrine Society as manager of public policy and public affairs where she started the Society's clinical practice guidelines program and published 15 guidelines at the end of her tenure. Lisa graduated from American University with a Master's degree in Strategic Communication after receiving her Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Towson University.

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 is the Deputy Director of Public Policy at the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), where she works to improve federal legislation and increase resources to address and prevent domestic violence. She leads and co-chairs various national coalitions, educates Congress, implements grassroots strategies and engages various government agencies to ensure that addressing domestic violence is a national priority.

Monica has led national Appropriations efforts to secure record federal investments in programs that address domestic violence and sexual assault.

Monica also directs NNEDV's housing policy work with achievements such as: leading successful efforts to secure life-saving housing protections in the Violence Against Women Act of 2013; advocating for domestic violence survivors' access to housing and homelessness resources in the McKinney-Vento Reauthorization Act of 2009; and drafting housing protections for immigrant survivors in the Senate-passed bill, S. 744. Building on her housing policy work, Monica leads NNEDV's *Collaborative Approaches to Housing for Survivors*, a multi-agency technical assistance consortium designed to improve survivors' access to safe, affordable housing.

SARAH MICKELSON

Sarah Mickelson has joined NLIHC as Director of Public Policy in June 2016. Sarah previously worked with Enterprise Community Partners as a Senior Analyst. In this role, she focused on building Congressional support for federal affordable housing and community development appropriations, including funding for programs administered by HUD and USDA. Prior to Enterprise, Sarah served as Policy Counsel at Rapoza Associates, a government affairs and lobbying firm specializing in affordable housing and community development, where she focused largely on rural development. While working as a Legislative and Policy Analyst at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Sarah's portfolio included expanding access to affordable mortgage and small business credit in low-income communities. Sarah graduated from the University of Connecticut, School of Law after receiving her Bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. She has also been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2009.

GARTH B. RIEMAN

Garth Rieman is the Director of Housing Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives 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, tax-exempt Housing 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 Ross, Attorney at Law, is the President and CEO of the Florida Housing Coalition. In 1991, Ross initiated, and continues to facilitate, the broad-based coalition that successfully advocated the passage of the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act, creating a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing in Florida. Her work includes all forms of legislative and administrative advocacy and education related to the planning and financing of affordable housing. She recently authored "Creating Inclusive Communities in Florida: a Guidebook for Local Elected Officials and Staff on Avoiding and Overcoming the NIMBY Syndrome". Nationally, she serves on the Boards of Grounded Solutions Network 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. *Housing Policy Debate*, the leading journal of housing research, named her to its editorial advisory board in 2015. 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 Law School.

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 of 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 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.

BRIAN STROMBERG

Brian Stromberg is a research associate at the National Housing Conference (NHC). He joined NHC in January 2016. Brian's work at NHC has included opportunity mapping, fair housing, and the annual report on wages and housing costs, "Paycheck to Paycheck." He holds a master's degree in geography from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. in planning and public policy from Rutgers' Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. His interests include land use, community land trusts, affordable housing policy, housing finance policy and GIS analysis.

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 at the Institute for European Studies, Vienna, and at the University of Vienna.

OLIVIA WEIN

Olivia Wein is a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) focusing on affordable energy and utility service for low-income consumers. 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 has been advocating for a strong LIHEAP program for over 18 years. Ms. Wein serves on the Federal Communication Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee and serves on 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 B.A. 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.

RENEE M. WILLIS

Renee Willis joined NLIHC in June 2015 as the new 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.

DIANE YENTEL

Diane Yentel is the President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a membership organization dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. This is Diane's second stint at NLIHC, having previously worked as a policy analyst from 2005 to 2008. Diane is a veteran affordable housing policy expert and advocate with nearly two decades of work on affordable housing and community development issues. Before rejoining NLIHC, Diane was Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Enterprise Community Partners, where she led federal, state and local policy, research and advocacy programs. Prior to Enterprise, Diane was the director of the Public Housing Management and Occupancy Division at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where she managed a team overseeing the development and implementation of nationwide public housing policies, procedures and guidelines. She also worked to advance affordable housing policies with Oxfam America and the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, and was a community development Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia. Diane has a Masters in Social work from the University of Texas at Austin.

