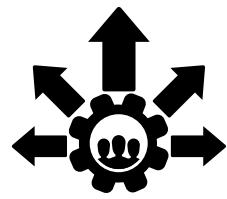


# Advocates' Guide Authors



## 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 Bernstein (Retired) served as executive as executive director of the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) since 2003. 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 provides project management and coordination to the Alliance's Center for Capacity Building. Ms. Blasco is currently helping to coordinate a comprehensive project to build capacity to reduce family homelessness in Virginia as well as providing support for projects related to rapid re-housing and improving emergency shelter. She graduated from American University in Washington, DC.

## ELINA BRAVVE

Elina joined the NLIHC staff in September 2010. Prior to joining NLIHC, Elina worked on affordable housing policy for the U.S. Green Building Council and undertook a housing market study for the Washington, DC Office of Planning. She completed her undergraduate studies in sociology and politics at Brandeis University and earned a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

## MARY 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 directs the Housing Trust Fund Project of the Center for Community Change.

## ROXY CAINES

Roxy is the Earned Income Credit Campaign Director for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington-based nonprofit organization that conducts research and policy analysis on issues that have an impact on lower-income Americans. The Center has spearheaded a national public education campaign on tax credits for lower-income workers each year since 1989 and distributes a widely-used community Tax Credit Outreach Kit for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Roxy assists local agencies and community groups to organize outreach efforts and to promote free tax filing assistance programs.

## CHRISTINE CAMPBELL

Christine joined the NLIHC team July 2014 from the AIDS housing advocacy group Housing Works, where she served as Vice President for National Advocacy and Organizing. Christine is an experienced administrator, policy analyst, and community organizer who has led cross-functional teams and built strong coalitions of advocates and activists. Christine taught their Capstone course and Project Management as an adjunct professor at the New York University Wagner School of Public Administration. Christine has previous work experience with AIDS organizations as Deputy Director for Technical Assistance and Program Evaluation at the Bailey House, and as Director of Schwartz Housing Services at the Whitman Walker Clinic. Christine earned a Master of Science in Organizational Development at American University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Rutgers University.

## 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.

## LINDA COUCH

Linda 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.

## DAVID COOPER

David Cooper joined the Economic Policy Institute in July 2011. He conducts national and state-level research on a variety of issues, including the minimum wage, employment and unemployment, poverty, and wage and income trends. He also coordinates and provides technical support to the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN). David has been interviewed and cited for his research on the minimum wage, poverty, and U.S. economic trends by local and national media, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *U.S. News and World Report*, CNBC, and NPR. His graduate research focused on international development policy and intergenerational social mobility.

## BAYLEE CRONE

Ms. 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.

## 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.

## SARAH ELLIS

Sarah Ellis is a Policy and Communications Program Associate at the Housing Partnership Network. Sarah has a Master in Public Policy Degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto.

## DAN EMMANUEL

Dan Emmanuel has joined NLIHC as an outreach associate serving members and states in the Southeastern United States and parts of the Midwest. 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 wide range of housing and community development contexts, including work at Saint Louis University's Doerr Center for Social Justice and Community Housing Partners in Williamsburg, Virginia. 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.

## **TOREY HOLLINGSWORTH**

Torey Hollingsworth is a Regional Organizer at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, where she supports NCRC member organizations in the Midwest. In that role, Torey works to build and strengthen local coalitions focused on promoting community reinvestment and fair lending practices. Additionally, she supports NCRC members through research on emerging issues, technical assistance around the Community Reinvestment Act, and strategic advice and support on community reinvestment campaigns. Torey joined NCRC after working as an organizer in Washington, DC's Ward 7 for Greater DC Cares. She received her BA from the University of Chicago, where she helped form a student and community collaborative that spurred her interest in organizing. Torey is originally from Dayton, Ohio.

## **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.

## **GARY KALMAN**

Gary Kalman oversees the federal legislative affairs of CRL. Prior to joining CRL, Mr. Kalman directed the federal legislative office for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. In 2009 Mr. Kalman was a founder and Executive Committee member of Americans for Financial Reform, a coalition of more than 250 national, state, and local organizations that, in wake of the economic crisis, led the effort to reform our nation's financial services sector. Mr. Kalman has also served as a political campaign and organizational consultant and as an instructor at LaSalle University where he lectured on nonprofit advocacy and development

## **PAUL KEALEY**

Paul 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.

## **MARY KOLAR**

Mary joined the NLIHC staff in January 2011. She is the Outreach Associate for New England and the Midwest. Originally from the Washington, DC area, she graduated from Fordham University, after which she spent time with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Following this experience, she worked for several years as an organizer for the New York City-based Tenants & Neighbors, an NLIHC partner. There, she focused on tenant issues in project-based Section 8 developments. Most recently, Mary worked with a grassroots community-based organization in Arlington, Virginia.

## JOSEPH LINDSTROM

Joseph 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 is CLASP's policy coordinator and director of the income and work supports team. Her expertise is federal and state welfare (TANF) policy, other supports for low-income working families (such as refundable tax credits), systems integration, and job quality. 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 currently preparing the Regional Housing Plan for the Baltimore Region's Opportunity Collaborative, a federal Sustainable Communities Initiative Grantee. Under Mr. Maier's direction, IHI is the lead partner of the National Inclusionary Housing Conference, which serves to provide the educational and inspirational leadership of the Inclusionary Housing Movement.

## JANE MALONE

Jane Malone joined the National Center for Healthy Housing as Policy Director in 2010 after working for the Alliance for Healthy Homes for 12 years. Her current work focuses on advancing commitments to healthy homes by Congress and federal agencies, supporting local partners' policy change work, and improving model housing codes and standards. Prior to focusing on indoor environmental health concerns, she led efforts in Philadelphia to eliminate homelessness and improve public education. She attended the University of Pennsylvania.

## KEVIN MARTONE

Kevin Martone, LSW, is Executive Director at the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) in Boston, Massachusetts, a national, non-profit consulting firm. Kevin is recognized as an expert on behavioral health policy, system design issues, and community integration. Kevin has consulted in several states on issues pertaining to Olmstead and is currently the court appointed remedial expert in a Connecticut settlement agreement. Prior to joining TAC, Kevin served as Deputy Commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Human Services. In his role, he had executive oversight of the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Office of Emergency Management. On a national level, Kevin is also past president for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) where he helped represent the interests of the 50 states and territorial public mental health systems before the executive and legislative branches of the federal and state government. Previously, Kevin was President/CEO for Advance Housing, a non-profit supportive housing provider, and Vice President for the Supportive Housing Association (SHA) of New Jersey. He also teaches at Tufts University School of Medicine on mental health policy.

## 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 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.

## ANN O'HARA

Ann is co-founder and Senior Policy Analyst of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC). Ann is nationally known for her public policy work to expand affordable and permanent supportive housing opportunities for people with disabilities and her expertise in housing and supportive services programs and models for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. She has over 30 years' experience in federal, state and local affordable housing and human services policy and is an expert in the use of federal affordable and subsidized housing programs to meet the needs of vulnerable extremely low income populations. Working with the Washington, D.C.-based Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force, Ann has successfully advocated for national housing policy initiatives and developed legislative proposals leading to the creation of more than 80,000 new subsidized housing opportunities for people with the most significant and long-term disabilities. She has testified on these issues in the United States Congress on many occasions and is the author of numerous articles, monographs and studies related to expanding affordable and permanent supportive housing opportunities for persons with disabilities. Ms. O'Hara led recent successful effort to reform the HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing program through the enactment of the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2010. Prior to founding TAC in 1992, Ms. O'Hara served as Assistant Secretary for Housing and Director of Rental Assistance for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## KALIMA ROSE

Kalima Rose is the Senior Director of the PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity and works with diverse leadership to steer resources for transportation, housing, and cultural amenities to communities of opportunity. Kalima helps groups win and implement federal, state, and local resources for greater workforce participation, accessibility, and new investments that serve low-income communities and communities of color. She leads the organization's sustainable communities work, helping implement regional equity, fair housing, and new infrastructure investments that strengthen economic resilience. From 2005 until 2010, Kalima led the organization's Gulf Coast recovery work to shape a more equitable post-Katrina rebuilding of New Orleans and Louisiana. With three decades of economic, housing, and land-use policy expertise, she created the PolicyLink Equitable Development Toolkit, an online resource that highlights best social equity practices. Kalima has a degree in narratives and culture from the University of California, Berkeley, and loves to support thriving expressions of arts and culture—from New Orleans jazz to First Peoples artists to the storytellers of neighborhoods across America.”

## JEREMY ROSEN

Jeremy Rosen was the Policy Director for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Mr. Rosen previously served as Executive Director of the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH), as Director for Homelessness and Mental Health in the National Office of Volunteers of America, and as a Staff Attorney at Legal Services of Greater Miami. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994, and his J.D. from The George Washington University Law School in 1998. Mr. Rosen is an expert on federal, state, and local affordable housing policy, with a focus on homelessness, veterans housing, and housing for children, youth, and families. Mr. Rosen's work also focuses on access to government benefits for low income people, prisoner reentry, and the intersection of affordable housing policy and the education and child welfare systems. He is a frequent speaker on these topics, and has published numerous journal articles and papers.

## JAIMIE A. ROSS

Jaimie A. Ross is the President of the Florida Housing Coalition. Prior to joining the Florida Housing Coalition Board, Ross was a land use and real property lawyer representing for profit and nonprofit developers and financial institutions.

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, updated and republished in 2006. With funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, Ross produced “Creating Inclusive Communities”, a macro-media flash presentation on best practices for inclusionary housing programs.

Nationally, she serves on the Board of 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

## KATHY RUFFING

Kathy Ruffing is a Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, specializing in federal budget issues. Ruffing spent 25 years at the Congressional Budget Office, where she analyzed a wide range of topics including interest costs and federal debt, federal pay, immigration, and Social Security. Upon her departure, the Congressional Record praised her as a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to advance the legislative process and whose analyses displayed the best characteristics of CBO reports: impartiality, clarity, and comprehensiveness. Before joining CBO, Ruffing spent several years at the Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration. More recently, she helped launch a budget study at the National Academy of Sciences. Ruffing earned a B.A. in economics and political science at the University of Pittsburgh, and an M.A. in economics at The George Washington University.

## DAVID SANBORN (PENOBSQUIT INDIAN NATION)

David Sanborn is the Executive Director of the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC). NAIHC was founded in 1974 and is composed of 278 members representing 468 tribes and housing organizations. It is guided by a 10-member Board of Directors representing tribal housing programs in nine geographical regions across the United States. David is responsible for carrying out the Board of Directors' policies and initiatives, and to advocate for and support American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in their self-determined goal to provide culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for native people.

David has spent his entire professional career working as an advocate for Indian Country. Previously, he was the Senior Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs at the U.S. Department of Defense in the Office of Secretary of Defense. He was responsible for the development and implementation of the department's American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Consultation Policies, and advising the department on issues relating to Native Americans. He also worked at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in the Public Programs department planning and designing special projects and initiatives for the Director.

## 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 Harvard

## KRISTIN SIGLIN

Kristin Siglin is currently Vice President, Policy at Housing Partnership Network, a business collaborative of 98 high-performing nonprofits that finance, develop and manage affordable housing and community development projects. She helps formulate and present the views of Housing Partnership Network members to federal policymakers.

Before coming to HPN, Kris was a Vice President at Enterprise Community Partners, a community development intermediary and syndicator of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Kris had various roles at Enterprise including Vice President and Senior Policy Advisor, Vice President for Economic Opportunities, and Vice President for Knowledge Sharing. She managed a special project that commissioned and disseminated original research on school-centered community revitalization. Initially she was Vice President for Policy and opened Enterprise's Washington advocacy office.

In 2001-2003 Kris was the Policy Director of the Millennial Housing Commission, a 22-member bipartisan commission charged by Congress with examining the nation's housing policy and making recommendations to improve the affordable housing delivery system.

Kris worked on Capitol Hill for ten years, including a stint as the Minority Staff Director, Subcommittee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. She also served on the personal staff of Senator

Christopher S. Bond (R-MO) and Representative Jim Leach (R-IA.)

She has an AB in History, Magna Cum Laude, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

## LISA SLOANE

Lisa has 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 a Public Policy Associate with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA). Jorge represents the interests of NFHA and its member organizations before Congress and federal regulatory 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 social justice intern organizer at Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in Houston, TX and as a community organizer with CRECEN/American Para Todos, also in Houston. 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 the Director of Human Rights and Children's Rights Programs 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 as the Chair of the Training Committee of the U.S. Human Rights Network and on the Steering Committee of the Human Rights at Home 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.

## JESSE VAN TOL

Jesse Van Tol is the Chief of Membership & Policy for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. In that capacity he leads research, policy & government affairs, membership & organizing, conference & events, and the National Neighbors Silver program for NCRC. Jesse has been with NCRC for nearly a decade, with previous senior positions in communications and organizing. His expertise includes strategic communications, advocacy & organizing and policy, and he has worked extensively on financial reform, community reinvestment, the foreclosure crisis and fair housing issues. He has been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press and has appeared on Marketplace and National Public Radio and many other media outlets. Jesse has been a communications institute fellow with the Opportunity Agenda, as well as a Senior Fellow with Humanity in Action, an international human rights network. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and is originally from Memphis, TN.

## ALAYNA WALDRUM

Alayna Waldrum is a Legislative Representative for LeadingAge, an organization that represents not-for-profit long-term care providers of housing and services. She joined LeadingAge in 2004 and advocates on affordable senior housing issues before Congress. Prior to joining LeadingAge she was the Associate Director of Policy at the Aging Services of California, the LeadingAge state partner. There she represented 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 volunteers for a local not-for-profit that provides affordable housing to families living with HIV/AIDS.

## 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.

## EVA WINGREN

Eva Wingren has been Mercy Housing's Policy Associate for almost three years. She assists the Senior Vice President in representing Mercy's viewpoint, as a reputable national low income housing developer, manager, and owner working daily with federal programs, to federal policymakers. She also helps convene discussions among Mercy Housing practitioners to strategize about policy changes that will help them further Mercy's mission of creating stable, vibrant and healthy communities. In addition, she is the Grants Manager for Mercy Loan Fund, a national CDFI that has provided critical financing for over 19,000 units of affordable rental housing where developers could not get favorable financing from banks or other traditional sources.

Prior to her current role, Eva was a Mercy Housing intern in Seattle, WA, creating a policy analysis of the recapitalization prospects of a scattered site rural multifamily portfolio subsidized by USDA. She graduated from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington with a Masters of Public Administration in 2011. She also holds a BA in Anthropology from Arizona State University, where she was inspired to pursue a career in public service by evaluating a program that connected climate scientists and land use decision makers to promote the sustainability of the Southwest region. She has served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in rural Malaysia. ■