

Take Root 2018 Speaker Bios

Aimee Arrambide

Aimee has worked in the reproductive rights and justice movement for most of her professional career. During law school, she served as a legal intern at the Center for Reproductive Rights, Global Program and the New York Civil Liberties Union, Reproductive Rights Project. After graduating from New York Law School, she became the Director of Public Affairs at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, and Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition. She currently serves as the Co-President of Fund Texas Choice, and on the Advisory Council of ReproAction. Aimee is the co-editor of A Playbook for Abortion Rights.

Charon Asetoyer

Charon Asetoyer is a member of the Comanche Nation and a lifelong Native American women's health advocate and community activist. She is currently the Executive Director and Founder of the Native American Community Board (1985) and the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center (1998) on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. Charon has supported women's body sovereignty through family planning education, widely used date-rape and dating-violence prevention curriculum for youth, and has been tireless in her efforts to ensure access to birth control and emergency contraception for Native American women through the Indian Health Service. "

Amanda Bennett

Amanda Bennett has been the Client Services Manager at Jane's Due Process since July of 2016. She serves as case manager for the teens seeking judicial bypass across Texas, serving as their advocate with the courts and clinics while providing logistical and emotional support. She also coordinates Jane's Due Process's statewide attorney referral network. With a Masters degree in Public Policy and her experience helping hundreds of minors navigate Texas's laws, she has an intimate understanding of the nuances of Texas's statutes as well as how parental involvement laws harm teens.

Rebecca Berry

Rebecca Berry is an If/When/How Policy Fellow at the Black Women's Health Imperative. She recently graduated from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. She is passionate about the intersection of reproductive justice and education, as well as health equity for black women, girls and femmes. She has interned at Public Counsel and the Advancement Project where she helped address challenges faced by young people of color in over-policed schools. Born and raised in Los Angeles County, Rebecca has worked on local policy initiatives to decrease barriers to reentry for formerly incarcerated folks.

Kristen Black

Kristen received her MSW from the University of Chicago in 2014. While in school she interned at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center and provided literacy tutoring, art therapy workshops to young people detained in the center. Kristen also worked as a university research assistant for a study seeking to assess major themes surrounding power and place among adolescents through content analysis short stories created by youth. Prior to social work school, Kristen received a master's degree in women's and gender studies. She has worked as a criminal defense social worker for the Bronx Defenders since 2014.

Candace Bond-Therault

Candace Bond-Therault is a writer, yogi, lipstick enthusiast and aspiring optimist. She is the Senior Policy Counsel for Reproductive Rights, Health and Justice, and the Democracy Project Director at the National LGBTQ Task Force where she works through a black queer feminist lens to create change and shift culture towards intersectional liberation. Candace received her LL.M. degree in politics and legislation from the American University Washington College of Law, her J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law, and her B.A. in Human Rights from the College of William and Mary.

Carly Calhoun

Carly Calhoun (she/her/hers) is a queer, Southern, cis person who's married to a trans person. Carly graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law with a Certificate in Public Interest Law. During her time in school, she worked for the rights of TLGBQQIP2SAA folks and people living with HIV through several organizations including Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, Lambda Legal, and Birmingham AIDS Outreach. Carly is following her passion to fight inequity in the U.S. South as an If/When/How Reproductive Justice-HIV Fellow at SisterLove, Inc. in Atlanta, GA.

Nancy Cárdenas Peña

Nancy Cárdenas Peña, born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, is the State Policy and Advocacy Director for the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and currently lives in Austin, TX. Nancy's parents hail from Mexico. Growing up in a border town, she began her activism at an early age. Nancy is also a part of the board of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, the advisory board of Reproaction, ICE out of Austin, and Communities of Color United. Nancy hopes to continue bridging the intersection of immigration and reproductive healthcare in order to truly honor the history of Reproductive Justice.

Amelia Caron

Amelia Caron has been a full spectrum doula for over 17 years, providing emotional and educational support for individuals and families through a variety of life processes: menstruation and fertility, birth and postpartum, family loss, miscarriage, abortion, surrogacy, adoption, illness, and gender transition. They specialize in abortion, birth, and labor support for the LGBTQ individuals, survivors of abuse and vulnerable populations, as well as radical reproductive care and community-based medicine. In 2016, they founded the Knoxville Abortion Doula Collective to increase abortion access and decrease abortion stigma throughout East Tennessee.

Alexandra Chambers

Alexandra Chambers is a Ph.D. candidate at Vanderbilt University in religion and ethics. She has been volunteering in jails and prisons in Tennessee for over ten years and has experience providing pre-trial and jail support to women criminalized for their pregnancy outcomes. She is the policy chair for Healthy and Free Tennessee and is a founding member of Free Hearts, an organization led primarily by formerly incarcerated women advocating for incarcerated mothers and their families.

Courtney Chambers

Courtney is the Texas Advocacy Director for Shift, a non-profit affiliated with Whole Woman's Health that is working on stigma eradication and culture change around abortion. A native Texan, Courtney lives and works in Austin. Before returning to Texas in 2016, she lived and worked in Chicago, where she was the Regional Assistant Director for the Midwest AIDS Training + Education Center and was on the Board of Directors for Chicago Women's Health Center. She has BA in Feminist Studies from Southwestern University and a Master of Public Health from DePaul University.

Karo Chowning

As her paid work, Karo Chowning provides training and development for workplaces integrating reproductive health referrals. She lives in south Oklahoma City and is past president of the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice, a 501(c)(4) organization formed in 2010. Karo supports pregnant and parenting people with training as a birth doula, abortion doula and lactation coach, and is a co-founder of Oklahomans for Paid Family Leave. Previously, she directed two U.S. Department of Education college access TRiO grant projects hosted at Oklahoma City Community College – Upward Bound and Student Support Services. She is a veteran, a mother, and received her Master of Science from the University of Oklahoma in personality and social psychology. Karo prefers that you pronounce her name however you would pronounce Karo brand corn syrup. :)

Zabrina Collazo

Zabrina Collazo is the Program Associate for Women's Health at the Ms. Foundation. Zabrina, who began her career in philanthropy at the Scherman Foundation shortly after graduating from CUNY Hunter, supports the Ms. Foundation's grantmaking in the areas of reproductive health, rights and justice and works collaboratively on the foundation's cross-movement building efforts. She oversees the management of all grantee convenings and supports the program's capacity building and programmatic initiatives. Zabrina is also the co-chair of the Youth Leadership Engagement Working Group at Funders for Reproductive Equity and a 2016 CoreAlign Speaking Race to Power Fellow.

Julie Dalbom

Jules, Deaf activist, is a Mental Health counselor for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community in Louisville, Kentucky. Received a Masters in counseling from Gallaudet University for the Deaf. After being a clinic escort in Louisville, KY, Jules joined the Kentucky Health Justice Network, as a board director, working on the disability-focus in reproductive justice. Language and physical accessibility, racism, poverty and LGBTQA access are usually the issues addressed. Kentucky Health Justice Network's growth is due to its partnership with social social organizations and is currently expanding its trans health access within the LGBTQA community and working on disability focus.

Elizabeth Dawes Gay

Elizabeth Dawes Gay, MPH is a strategist, advocate, communicator, and convener who turns research into social impact. Elizabeth is the founder of Sisu Consulting, where she works with organizations and individuals to advance social justice for women of color. Her life's mission is to create a world where women of color have what they need to achieve their ideal health and well-being. Elizabeth also serves as Steering Committee Chair of the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, a new initiative seeking to advance maternal health, rights, and justice for Black people in the United States. Elizabeth is a recognized thought leader on women of color, reproductive and maternal health, and social justice who has been published in outlets such as The Nation, Rewire, The Root, EBONY.com, and TIME Motto.

Priya Desai

Priya Desai lives and works in Oklahoma City. By day she works in higher education. Outside of that, she volunteers as Co-Executive Director of the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice and also serves as the Advocacy Director for the United Nations Association of Oklahoma City. She is also a co-founder of Oklahomans for Paid Family Leave and serves on the Board of Directors for the World Experiences Foundation. Priya grew up in Oklahoma City and holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree of Social Work with an emphasis in Administration and Community Practice from the University of Oklahoma.

Farah Diaz-Tello

Farah Diaz-Tello, J.D., is Senior Counsel for the SIA Legal Team. Her entire lawyering career has been dedicated to ensuring that everyone is supported in their decisions and experiences around pregnancy, and free from violence or coercion from the state or private actors. She currently lives in NYC, but her heart is in Texas forever.

Jenny Dodson Mistry

Jenny Dodson Mistry is the Manager of Local Initiatives at the National Institute for Reproductive Health, where she has the honor of partnering with organizations across the country working to build the reproductive health, rights, and justice movements in their communities. Jenny engages in this work in her own city as Co-Chair of the WIN.NYC Pro-Choice Network and a founder of the tumblr project Abortion Looks Like. She is a dedicated volunteer to programs that foster equal educational opportunity in New York and New Jersey. Jenny holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and an MPH from Columbia University.

Alison Drieth

Alison Dreith is Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri. She holds a BA in Political Science from University of Missouri - St. Louis, and has long worked for progressive issues. Since moving to Missouri in 2008, Alison has worked at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition. Currently, she serves on the board of Missouri Family Health Council, is Vice President of the St. Louis chapter of Empower Missouri, and is President of the Freedom of Choice Council. She and her husband, Jake, live in St. Louis with their two dogs, Lola and Blue.

Jennifer Driver

Jennifer is the State Policy Director at SIECUS. She oversees SIECUS' efforts to integrate and engage state and community partners, develops strategic policy and advocacy guidance to state and local partners, and leads analysis of the SIECUS state profiles and legislative reports. Previously, Jennifer served as the Manager of Training and Education with Welcoming America where she managed the racial and health equity work for the organization. In addition, she incorporated an intersectional approach to immigrant inclusion while providing training and education on race, structural racism, ethnicity, housing, health, and poverty.

Andi Duncan

Andi is a graduate student at the University of Alabama pursuing their Master's in Communication Studies. A proud Hoosier, they were raised in southern Indiana. In 2017, they graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.A. in Communication Studies with a minor in Women's Studies. Andi spent two years with the Alabama Alliance for Healthy Youth focused on removing the homophobic language from the state's sexual health education law. When Andi isn't working or writing, they can be found caring for their two cats and one hedgehog, at a rugby game, or faxing letters to their legislators.

Corrine Galvan Gutierrez

Corrine, a native Angeleno, identifies as a mixed Xicana/Latinx queer guerilla gardener and mujerista. They once cycled 525 miles in 8 days down the coast of California. They started two nonprofit organizations focused on access to healthy affordable food via community gardening and sustainability in disproportionately underrepresented communities of color in Los Angeles, CA and Camden, NJ. They are an active member of Roots of Autonomous Resistance and currently work to find housing for people experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake City, UT. They are the human to two rescue dogs, Sofi Pata Grande Peligrosa and Lola Peligrosa.

Amber Garcia

Amber Garcia is a Community Organizer with the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR). Amber was born and raised in Colorado. She is an alumna of the University of Colorado Denver. Amber helps to lead a statewide leadership council dedicated to combatting abortion stigma. She also works with the Latinas Increasing Political Strength and the Latinas of Vision programs providing political education and opportunities to young people. Amber is passionate about working with young people to ensure access to information and services to manage their sexual health and empower them to challenges systems that impacts their lives.

Kelli Garcia

Kelli Garcia is Director of Reproductive Justice Initiatives and Senior Counsel at the National Women's Law Center. She works on a range of issues to advance reproductive justice and ensure that all people are able to make decisions about their bodies, health, sexuality, and families with dignity and autonomy. As a native Texan currently living and working in Washington, D.C. Kelli seeks to promote the voices of and center women of color and women to struggling to make ends meet in her advocacy work, which focuses on supporting state and local advocates and legislatures.

Michelle Gilley

Michelle Gilley (ASM, CPM) is a Certified Professional Midwife and co-owner of Mosaic Midwifery. She works with midwifery students as a clinical preceptor with Midwives' College of Utah and as Education Director for the Oklahoma Midwives' Alliance. In all sectors of her work, Michelle is committed to reduction of inequities for marginalized populations and believes this requires intentionality. In her practice, Michelle is committed to client centered care and evidence based practice.

Jessica Goldberg

Jessica is the Attorney & Pro Bono Programs Coordinator at If/When/How. She manages attorney programs focused on reproductive justice lawyering and is working to build out If/When/How's attorney network. As part of that work, she oversees If/When/How's Judicial Bypass Project, which involves landscape research and stakeholder interviews in the 37 states with parental involvement laws. Jessica works closely with members of the If/When/How network to support community building and develop programming. She has also co-lead a white co-conspirator working group as part of the Supporting and Centering People of Color Initiative, developed by our Director of Campus and Community Programs.

Alison Goldsmith

Alison (Ali) Goldsmith is an advocate, doula, and researcher with over 15 years of experience in reproductive health and justice organizing and policy. She is a founder of Full Spectrum Doulas, the go-to abortion doula collective in the Pacific Northwest since 2010, and currently serves as Co-Director of the sibling organization SPIRAL Collective in Minnesota. She holds research positions at the University of Washington, Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the newly formed I-ACCESS (Innovations in Abortion Care through Community Education, Support, and Services). Her work focuses on alternative, community-based reproductive health services, including peer-to-peer provision and abortion self-care.

Dr. Nikia Grayson

Dr. Nikia Grayson, DNP, MPH, CNM, FNP, CHOICES-Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, is a public health activist, anthropologist and nurse midwife who has devoted her life to serving and empowering people in underserved and marginalized communities. Nikia has more than 10 years experience working in public health, with her more recent work focusing on reproductive rights, birth justice, and midwifery. She is passionate about ensuring all persons have the rights and means to make decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

Naa Hammond

Naa Hammond is a Black, immigrant, queer, femme and a Program Officer with Groundswell Fund – the largest national funder of the U.S. Reproductive Justice movement. Groundswell Fund supports bold organizing by women of color, low-income women, and transgender people to protect and advance reproductive freedom. Naa has a long history in development, funder organizing, and grassroots fundraising with organizations committed to gender, racial and economic justice, including FIERCE, Queers for Economic Justice, Sylvia Rivera Law Project, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, and Third Wave Fund. She is passionate about art and transformative healing, and lives in NYC with her sweetie.

Lakeesha Harris

Lakeesha J. Harris is the Reproductive Justice and Sexual Health Program Manager at Women With A Vision, Inc. Previous positions held by Lakeesha include being a Health Educator, Community Health Worker, and Alternative Insemination Coordinator at Chicago Women's Health Center, one of the last remaining feminist health centers in the country. As a community healer Lakeesha's primary focus is on centering the complete health and health care access for Black people, specifically queer and trans Black people, who are often shut out of services that are culturally affirming, financially accessible, and whole being centered.

Taylor Harrison

Taylor was born in Chillicothe, Ohio and moved to Bowling Green to attend Bowling Green State University. She graduated with a BA in English Literature, with specialties in Queer Literature and Women in Literature and a minor in Marketing. In college, she was a member of a national service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, where she encouraged her brothers to do service for the local women's shelter, the Cocoon. She also distributed 1,000 external condoms across BGSU's campus. In her free time, Taylor enjoys attending music festivals, spending time in nature, and destroying the white heteropatriarchy.

Lillian Hewko

Lillian Hewko is co-founder of the Incarcerated Parents Project at the Washington Defenders Association, a project assisting public defense attorneys who represent incarcerated parents and developing policies to reduce the chances of family separation and parental incarceration. A graduate of the University of Washington School of Law, she identifies as a queer, mixed-Latinx. Reproductive justice and prison abolition ideals are integral to her life and led to her desire to use the law to create social change. She is co-founder of the Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project, an alumna of the If/When/How fellowship program and founding board member of Surge Northwest.

Kwajelyn Jackson

Kwajelyn Jackson serves as the Co-Director at the Feminist Women's Health Center, where she manages volunteer engagement, leadership development, community outreach & education, and legislative advocacy to improve reproductive health, rights and justice in Georgia. Kwajelyn also sits on the board of directors for All-Options, Abortion Care Network, Soul Food Cypher, ProGeorgia, and the steering committees for the Black Mamas Matter Alliance and the Mife Coalition.

Patrice James

Patrice graduated from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 2011. While in law school, she was the President of the Black Law Students Association, participated in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition, and practiced in the Indigent Defense Clinic. Patrice interned as a law clerk in Mas on Municipal court after her 1L year and with the Georgia Capital Defenders in Atlanta, Georgia after her 2L year. She graduated from Charleston Southern University in 2007. Prior to joining Still She Rises, Tulsa, Patrice was a criminal defense attorney at The Bronx Defenders.

Kenlissa Jones

Kenlissa Jones lives in Albany, GA. She experienced being criminally charged in relationship to pregnancy. All charges were eventually dismissed.

Jennie Joseph

Jennie Joseph is a British-trained midwife, women's health advocate, the founder and executive director of Commonsense Childbirth Inc. and the creator of [The JJ Way®](#). She moved to the United States in 1989 and began a journey that has culminated in the formation of an innovative maternal child healthcare system, **markedly improving** birth outcomes for women in Central Florida. Due to the high prematurity rates experienced by low income and uninsured women she established an outreach clinic for pregnant women who are at risk of not receiving prenatal care. Her '[Easy Access](#)' Prenatal Care Clinics offer quality maternity care for *all*, regardless of their choice of delivery-site or ability to pay, and have successfully reduced both maternal and infant morbidity and mortality in Central Florida. She also founded the National Perinatal Task Force, a grassroots movement to address materno-toxic areas in the USA by providing support for perinatal birth workers. Jennie has developed and administers perinatal professional training and certification programs to address the health care provider shortage, diversify the maternal child health (MCH) workforce and address the persistent racial and class disparities in birth outcomes. There are both quantitative and qualitative studies underway regarding Jennie's work as well as continuous reviews of the impact of her clinical and educational programs. Jennie's model of health care, [The JJ Way®](#), provides an evidence-based system to deliver MCH services which improve health, reduce costs and produce better outcomes all round.

Kimán Kaur

Kimán is a first-generation Punjabi Sikh woman born and raised in Taylorsville, Utah. Kimán believes in practicing Sikh values by uplifting Kaur voices and narratives to reclaim their human right to autonomy, especially post 9-11. Kimán enjoys queering ecology and eating spicy, flavorful food. She is actively showing up to fight for justice while also self caring with her shih zhu puppy, Niki Kaur. Kimán daydreams about a world where individuals can exist just for the sake of existing without having a definite purpose or reason to survive.

Kebé

Kebé is the Program Coordinator for the SIA Legal Team. She has used both advocacy and grassroots organizing as tools to realize reproductive justice. Working with legal advocates to oppose the punishment and surveillance of marginalized pregnant and parenting people, she sees organizing as a powerful tool to increase access to abortion and oppose state violence in her communities. She hails from the Lowcountry of South Carolina and is a wanderer at heart.

Amber Khan

Amber Khan, JD, Senior Staff Attorney, has represented clients in a variety of civil matters including family law and immigration law. She has also worked in the field of international human rights. Ms. Khan received her undergraduate degree from American University, her Master's degree from Columbia University, and graduated from George Washington University Law School. Most recently, she served as a Senior Staff Attorney at the Center for Family Representation in New York City.

Pam Kingfisher

Pam Kingfisher is a Cherokee woman born to the bird clan, who lives and works on her grandmother's allotment land in N.E. Oklahoma, growing organic food, bees and medicinal plants. Born and raised in the shadow and secrecy of nuclear bomb building, her anti-nuclear community organizing stopped production of 23% of the world's uranium supply at the notoriously contaminated Kerr-McGee "Sequoyah Fuels" plant in Gore, Oklahoma. As the Director for the Indigenous Women's Network she led two delegations of eight Indigenous women to the United Nations meetings in Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Steph Kraft Sheley

Steph Kraft Sheley is an attorney working in Missouri to establish a judicial bypass project to assist Missouri teens. She received her J.D. and MHA from the University of Iowa. She has experience in anti-human trafficking advocacy, medical law, and reproductive health law. Steph will be able to speak about the challenges of coalition building while setting up a judicial bypass project, and how when it comes to judicial bypass, nothing works the way the law says it should.

Darcy Kues

Darcy Kues lives in Austin, TX, where she works to promote recovery-oriented mental health strategies in healthcare settings across the state. Originally from Texas, Darcy went to law school in Seattle, WA, where she focused on reproductive and queer justice. After law school, Texas called her back home, and she has spent the past three years engaged in anti-violence work and mental health policy. When she's not snuggling with her pup or flying through the sky on a lyra, Darcy is busy sharing her passion for how mental health that centers lived experience makes Texas a better place!

Jes La Bleu

Jes La Bleu (BA.ed, ASM, CPM) is a Certified Professional Midwife focused on increasing access to quality care & facilitating informed decision making. Passionate about reproductive justice for all birthing people, Jes is especially committed to the expansion of midwifery - both in actuality & diversity. Jes teaches for Midwives College of Utah (MCU) and serves on MCU's Diversity Committee. She is a registered clinical preceptor for MCU and for the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM). Jes is the co-owner of Mosaic Midwifery (Oklahoma), a home birth practice dedicated to intentional, inclusive, client-focused, midwifery care.

Liz Langthorn

Liz Langthorn has her Master of International Maternal Child Health from Tulane University with a focus on maternal mortality reduction. Prior to receiving her master's degree, Liz was a certified birth doula. After returning to Oklahoma, she worked for the Oklahoma State Department of Health as the director for three Injury Prevention programs. She currently serves as a co-admin for several tongue tie support groups. She is a student member of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine and is currently attending medical school with an intention to become a breastfeeding medicine doctor.

Ireri Lora

Ireri Lora is a youth Organizer at Youth Together, a non-profit organization dedicated to address the root causes of educational inequities by developing multiracial youth leaders to promote positive social change. Born in Mexico City, Ireri migrated to the United States with her family when she was eight years old. She was raised in Oakland, CA and attended UCSD where she majored in Political Science and Ethnic Studies. She began working with ACCESS as a headline intern and continues to work as an advocate for the undocumented community with the East Bay Immigrant Youth Coalition.

Alainna Marincic

Alainna was raised in Brecksville, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University in Athens and graduated with a BA in Integrated Media and a minor in Interdisciplinary Arts. She was a leader of the campus URGE chapter, Feminist Equality Movement. With FEM, Alainna organized one of the first stops of the #AbortionPositive tour in 2016 and led FEM's voter registration work. She also worked with the anti-sexual assault group FuckRapeCulture and the media activism group REACT to FILM. During her free time, Alainna loves spoiling her dog, Sligo, watching reality TV, and hiking.

Mackenzie Masion

Mackenzie Masion is the Statewide Prevention Coordinator for the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, where she provides training and technical assistance to the Rape Prevention Education programs to prevent the first time perpetration of sexual assault. She has worked with OCADVSA for over a year and part-time for the YWCA-OKC as a Sexual Assault Hospital Advocate for nearly 2 years. She draws on her expertise in both prevention and intervention services to provide comprehensive programs throughout the state to prevent sexual assault before it occurs.

Samantha Master

Samantha Master is a black, queer, feminist activist, advocate, and educator. She is the African American Leadership and Engagement Specialist at Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She has worked extensively within communities of color to organize and build analyses around LGBT and gender justice issues. She is also a SMYAL youth alumna.

Erin Matson

Erin Matson is co-founder and co-director of Reproaction. She is an organizer and writer committed to expanding abortion rights. She won't rest until women are equal under the law and treated with dignity in society. Erin lives in Virginia and has a young daughter. Follow her on Twitter: @erintothemax.

Maggie Mayhem

Maggie Mayhem is a former sex worker and current birth worker who has served on the Board of Directors for the Sex Worker Outreach Project-USA, a national social justice network dedicated to the fundamental human rights of people involved in the sex trade and their communities, focusing on ending violence and stigma through education and advocacy. Maggie is also involved with the Bay Area Doula Project and is the founder of a harm reduction project dedicated to providing health and hygiene items to homeless and marginally housed individuals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kelsea McLain

Kelsea McLain is an abortion story teller with We Testify, a leadership program of the National Network Abortion Funds. Based in Durham, North Carolina, she works for a local independent abortion care provider and serves as the chair of the Carolina Abortion Fund. In her spare time she loves crafting, enjoying all of the outdoors North Carolina has to offer, and cuddling her beloved dog Moose and cat Bunny.

Morgan Meneses-Sheets

Morgan Meneses-Sheets is a queer activist committed to living a life of purpose while raising her kiddos in Baltimore, MD. Morgan is a communications consultant who puts her passion for words and innovative strategies to work to push for policy and culture change in order to achieve justice in all its forms. She is proud to collaborate with groups like SisterSong, COLOR, WV FREE, We Are Family, WREN, Lady Parts Justice League, and many other fantastic organizations committed to ending oppression and ensuring that we can all be safe, healthy, and liberated.

Pamela Merritt

Pamela Merritt is co-founder and co-director of Reproaction. She is an activist and writer committed to empowering individuals and communities through reproductive justice. A proud Midwesterner, Merritt is dedicated to protecting and expanding access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare. Follow her on Twitter: @SharkFu.

Joy Messinger

Joy Messinger is the Program Officer for Third Wave Fund, a national feminist foundation that resources and supports youth-led gender justice activism to advance the political power, well-being, and self-determination of communities of color and low-income communities. Joy brings with her more than a decade of experience with reproductive justice, health, education, and social service groups in the Northeast, South, and Midwest, staying committed to centering the experiences of LGBTQ people, women and femmes, young people, people of color, disabled people, and immigrants and adoptees.

D'Marria Monday

D'Marria Monday is devoted to pursuing social/reproductive justice and creating meaningful and lasting change. She is a mother to two boys and is a Senior at OSU Tulsa. D'Marria is passionate about empowering the disadvantaged and changing broken systems. Her passion is derived from being a formerly incarcerated woman and witnessing injustice first hand. She is a member of the National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. She also serves on the National Anti-shackling Advisory Board. D'Marria is currently working with Representative Regina Goodwin to pass legislation to end the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women.

Dawn Moore Schriver

Dawn Schriver, a Deaf activist, is a staff educator and event planner for the Planned Parenthood of Maryland. She is also a clinical escort for Women's Health and Reproductive Health in Hagerstown, Maryland. She is the 4th generation of a Deaf family, and her four children are the 5th generation, two in high school and two in college. She has a BA in sociology and criminology, and a MA in Deaf education. She is very involved in the athletic community at the Maryland School for the Deaf, and advocates for intersectionality awareness across the school.

Ezra Morales

Ezra Morales is a queer, trans, gender non-conforming youth activist hailing from the great state of Texas. His work in activism started his freshman year in high school through his work with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and has since expanded on both the national and local level by working with organizations such as TSER, Take My Hand Texas and Out Youth. Ezra is completing his senior year of high school and he hopes to become a professor of gender and sexuality studies post-graduation. Ezra also has a great deal of experience in public speaking, workshop facilitation, and PR through working with his school's newspaper and participating in both local and national conferences such as SXSWedu and Creating Change.

Vanessa Morrison

Vanessa Morrison is a certified Domestic Sexual Violence Response Professional. As Operations Manager at the Oklahoma City Family Justice Center she has several years of experience supporting and advocating on the behalf of individuals and families who have experienced violence. Vanessa received her B.A in Human Relations with a minor in Women and Gender Studies in 2011 from the University of Oklahoma. She earned her master's in Regional and City Planning with an emphasis on Community and Economic Development from the OU College of Architecture. Vanessa is an activist, community advocate, and social entrepreneur who is dedicated to empowering communities.

Liz Owens

Liz is a womanist, feminist, multi-racial, multi-cultural, woman of color living in Lehi, Utah. They serve as a community organizer, gender justice, and racial justice activist. Her multi-issue work is firmly rooted within a human rights and intersectional framework. Liz grew up in Provo, Utah; and loves to travel, talk, read, crossfit, eat and laugh. Liz once walked 70 miles in 4 days through Spain just for fun and is the proud and devoted pet-parent to two doggies, Flynn & Fia.

Lynn Paltrow

Lynn M. Paltrow, JD, Executive Director, founded National Advocates for Pregnant Women in 2001. Ms. Paltrow is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law. She has worked on numerous cases challenging restrictions on the right to choose abortion as well cases opposing the prosecution and punishment of pregnant women seeking to continue their pregnancies to term. Ms. Paltrow has served as a senior staff attorney at the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project, as Director of Special Litigation at the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, and as Vice President for Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of New York City. Ms. Paltrow is the recipient of the Justice Gerald Le Dain Award for Achievement in the Field of Law and the National Women's Health Network's Barbara Seaman Award for Activism in Women's Health. She is a frequent guest lecturer and writer for popular press, law reviews, and peer-reviewed journals. She is a Gemini and mother of twins.

Blake Patton

Blake Patton is an Oklahoma City based attorney who not only represents minors in judicial bypass proceedings, but has also represented numerous plaintiffs, including the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice, in constitutional challenges to Oklahoma legislation. He has a JD from the University of Oklahoma. In addition to his private practice and reproductive rights work, Mr. Patton has also provided testimony before the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board regarding death row inmate clemency issues, and the propriety of execution by lethal injection. Mr. Patton also serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Oklahoma Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Zoraima Pelaez

Zoraima Pelaez is a first generation American and abortion storyteller with We Testify. After a successful career as a hair and makeup artist, she returned to college to pursue her passion for public service. Zoraima earned her degree in Humanities with a concentration in public policy, communication advocacy, and women's rights. She has worked on statewide electoral campaigns with Battleground Texas, served as the student chapter president of the Texas Freedom Network, and interned for the Texas Policy Evaluation Project. As a 2017 Bill Archer Fellow in Washington, D.C., Zoraima worked for the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union researching immigration detention centers and as an office fellow for She Should Run, where she helped to increase the number of women in public leadership. After completing her fellowship, Zoraima returned to the Texas Freedom Network where she is currently serving as the Deputy Development Director coordinating organization fundraising, special events and stewardship for donor opportunities and support. Zoraima is a college graduate from the University of Texas at Austin.

Bethany Pollock

Bethany Pollock is the Collective Coordinator for CHOICES Full Spectrum Doula Collective, has volunteered with the group since March 2015, aside from her full-time job and support for her teenage son as a single mother. Bethany believes that bodily autonomy, freedom in reproductive choices and access to safe abortion should be an inherent human right. She has worked closely with Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region and CHOICES - Memphis Center for Reproductive Health to make sure each patient has a doula waiting for them! She has been a panelist with Mid-South Reproductive Rights Coalition and a facilitator at Take Root.

Takeallah Rivera

Takeallah Rivera is a Full Spectrum Doula, Certified WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Certified Mental Health Peer Counselor, Certified Community Health Worker and mother who is working to provide nurturing doula support to Black mamas and to reduce breastfeeding, homebirth, and abortion stigma within the Black community. She is passionate about reproductive justice and how it intersects with mental health, gender-based violence, education, food access, and homelessness within the African American community.

Violet Rush

Violet Rush (Cherokee Nation) is a reproductive justice activist and JD Candidate at TU Law. She co-founded her university's If/When/How chapter. Prior to law school, she built capacity for Oklahoma's grassroots reproductive rights organizations. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology with a specialization in Native North American languages and Modern Hebrew from UT Austin. Post-graduation, she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Southwest Youth Services in New Mexico. She coordinated the construction of an on-campus food and clothing bank at the Native American Community Academy and helped implement Native youth wellness programs at Zuni Pueblo and Santo Domingo Pueblo.

Fajer Saeed Ebrahim

Fajer Saeed Ebrahim is a Muslim, pansexual Arab woman from Bahrain. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) with joint degrees in law and social work. Her coursework focused on gender advocacy and feminist jurisprudence. Fajer interned at Advocates—the political arm of Planned Parenthood and provided legal and social work assistance at the Legal Advocacy for Adults with Mental Illness Project of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Fajer taught feminist legal theory to undergraduates and served on multiple Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Task Forces. She has also assisted with efforts to comply with Title IX regulations at WUSTL.

Layidua Salazar

Layidua Salazar migrated from Mexico City with her family at age five and planted her Bay Area roots in Oakland. She is a first generation college graduate, with a B.A. in History & Woman's Studies from San Francisco State University. A self-identified movement baby, she has been actively organizing in social justice fields since she was 14. Layidua currently serves as a Program Coordinator at CoreAlign. She also serves on the board for Access Women's Health Justice. When she is not fighting systems of oppression, you can find her cooking and reading to Pretty Girl, her adorable pitbull.

Paula Saldana

Paula Saldana serves as a Field Coordinator for Texas RAL. She works with her team to organize the Latino women and men to raise their voices in Texas. Paula has many years of experience in community/political organizing, and a commitment to reproductive health and rights and/or social justice issues. She is an active member of the South Texas Promotora Association. She is also a Leader with the Latina National Institute, Red de Abogacía.

Meg Sasse Stern

Meg has been active in abortion access and health justice in KY for nearly 20 years. She is a volunteer clinic escort and organizer outside of what is KY's lone abortion clinic. As a volunteer board member, Meg helped create Kentucky Health Justice Network's Support Fund, which is a model Practical Support Abortion Fund providing case management, funding, transport, lodging, and language interpretation for KYians facing barriers to abortion access. Meg is the Support Fund Director. She splits her volunteer time between Racial Justice work, Food Justice, LGBTQ advocacy, and clinic escorting. She blogs alongside other Louisville clinic escorts at everySaturdaymorning.net

Cherisse Scott

Cherisse Scott has been in the RJ movement for over 10 years. Cherisse is the founder and CEO of SisterReach, located in Memphis, Tennessee. Under Scott's leadership, SisterReach released their 2015 report on the need for comprehensive sexuality education for southern youth of color, rolled out their ProWoman Billboard campaign in opposition to anti-abortion billboards erected in Memphis, recently released their Reproductive Justice & Faith training curricula training clergy and advocates on the overlap of RJ & Faith, and presented to the United Nations regarding the impact of the fetal assault law on TN women after support a defeat on the state level regarding the law. Cherisse and the work of SisterReach is featured in the January 2018 edition of O Magazine and she is a sought out national speaker on reproductive justice and other human rights violations experienced by vulnerable Tennesseans.

Casey Shehi Browning

Casey Shehi, lives in her hometown of Gadsden, AL. She graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication and has been working in the healthcare industry for over a decade in sales and marketing. She is the proud mother of two little boys, Lyle 7 and James 3.

Amanda Emily Smith

Amanda Emily Smith is an Administrative Assistant with Women With A Vision, Inc. Born and raised in New Orleans, Amanda is a sex-positive activist, poet, and community organizer. She will receive her Bachelors in English from Dillard University in 2018. She is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Recipient which she wrote "From Mamie to Modern Day: The Evolution of Black Female Sexuality from a Feminist Approach." Her writing appears in "Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia Butler" published by Twelfth Planet Press. Amanda devotes time to liberation through Mothering, community service, and poetry & performance on Motherhood, Black womanhood, and sacred sexuality.

Angela Steinle

Angela Steinle moved to Oklahoma after completing her B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University. After working for a small nonprofit, she decided to shift career paths in order to follow her passion for human rights and began a Masters of Social Work program which she completed in May 2016. Her volunteer work combines an interest in policy with a desire to enhance the lives of women. Angela serves as the treasurer and policy committee chair for the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice and is one of the founders of Oklahomans for Paid Family Leave.

Jakiera Stewart

Jakiera M. Stewart is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration and Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Memphis. Jakiera has been a community advocate from the tender age of 10 years old serving as a Youth Ambassador for The City of Memphis Office of Youth Services' Memphis Ambassadors Program and Partnership To End AIDS Status, Inc. youth program. Jakiera was an individual grant awardee from the ABC Disney for Change, Metamorphosis, and has represented Memphis as a youth ambassador for National Child Awareness Month in Washington, DC.

Maya Torralba

Maya Torralba is a Kiowa tribal member and resident of Anadarko, Torralba founded and secured grant funding for the Anadarko Community Esteem Project to empower teenage girls and increase youth involvement with both Native culture and community awareness. She is a member of the Protecting Native Youth Coalition for all youth in the Caddo County area and the Native Youth Leadership Alliance. Maya is also a member of the Caddo County Suicide Prevention Task force. She is married and has three children. She enjoys dancing to honor veterans at the annual Kiowa Black Leggings Ceremonial.

LeeAnne Valentine

LeeAnne Valentine, a Deaf activist, sex educator, and she is the sole deaf family member of the Valentine Family. She has a Deaf partner, and together they have two hearing children – one is college age, and the other is high-school age. LeeAnne has BA in Psychology and is currently working on her MA in Marriage and Family Therapy. She loves to read sci-fi and fantasy books, crocheting, and baking chocolate chip cookies whenever she can.

Tina Vasquez

Tina Vasquez is the immigration reporter at the website Rewire. She is originally from Southeast Los Angeles, where she was raised in a bicultural home. A bulk of her work focuses on how immigration policies primarily impact undocumented women. She currently lives and writes from Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Rebecca Wang

Rebecca Wang (She/Her/Hers) is a queer, 2nd generation Taiwanese-American, cis woman from L.A.. She graduated from the University of Iowa law school. She spent her time in school as a board member of Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and Law Students for Reproductive Justice (now If/When/How). She interned with the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence helping undocumented victims of domestic violence apply for citizenship and Lambda Legal working on cases involving anti-LGBT discrimination and violence. Currently, she is working at the Positive Women's Network as the If/When/How Reproductive Justice-HIV fellow.

Nia Weeks

A native of New Orleans, Nia has spent years fighting for the rights of women, children, and families. Nia received her bachelor's degree in Communications with a minor in Women's studies at Indiana State University, where her advocacy training began. After completing her undergraduate education, Nia worked in public relations before beginning law school. She graduated with a law degree from the Loyola School of Law in New Orleans in 2009. Nia then served as a law clerk for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, the Louisiana Public Defender Board, and Essence Music Festival. After passing the Louisiana Bar, Nia served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Angelique Reed in First City Court in Orleans Parish and was the director of a supervised visitation center for victims of domestic violence named Harmony House. Before coming to WWAV, she served as a public defender in Orleans Parish for two years.

Michelle Wiley

Michelle Wiley is the Crossroads Program Manager & Case Manager at Women With A Vision, Inc. Michelle is a Mississippi native who relocated to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Michelle has worked over twenty five years in social services, mental health, and community advocacy. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Social Services and minor in Education from University of Southern Mississippi. Previously, Michelle worked as a Case Manager in the medical field assisting individuals with mental disabilities. Her passion is making sure they have the resources, proper skills that are needed to cope with the streets of New Orleans.

Ash Williams

Ash Williams is a trans non-binary femme from Fayetteville, NC. As a Black Lives Matter organizer, Ash has educated the NC community about state-sanctioned violence as it relates to trans and queer people of color. As campaign manager for a NC Representative, Ash has managed donations and calendars, facilitated trainings, supervised all campaign communications, conducted research, and planned and implemented campaign strategies. Ash is a 2016 Human Rights Advocacy Fellow in Residence and Ignite NC Fellow. They hold a master's in Ethics and Applied Philosophy and a bachelor's in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Mica Williams

Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, Mica Lee Williams earned her J.D. in Social Justice from U.C. Hastings College of the Law, in 2017. There, Mica focused on health law and prisoner welfare. She collaborated on education and journalism projects with current and former prisoners of San Quentin State Prison, and interned with the Vermont Defender General Prisoner Rights Unit. Mica also provided free legal advocacy for seniors and veterans with Hastings' Medical-Legal Partnership clinic, and externed with San Francisco's City Attorney Health and Human Services. Currently, Mica is an If/When/How RJ Fellow at New Voices Pittsburgh and the Women's Law Project.