

Racial Justice Training Institute Advisory Committee

The [Racial Justice Training Institute](#) Advisory Committee helps shape and guide the development of course curriculum, selection of cohort members, and evaluation of the training institute as well as its expanding alumni network.



Aneel Chablani

As Director of Advocacy at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) in Toledo, Ohio, Aneel oversees impact litigation and broad based advocacy in ABLE's practice groups covering Housing and Community Economic Development, Healthcare and Public Benefits, Migrant Farmworker Rights, and Education. Prior to joining ABLE, Aneel worked with the Capital Appeals Project in New Orleans representing inmates on Louisiana's death row. Aneel began his legal career with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. He is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the University of Notre Dame.

[Read more here.](#)



Anita Earls

is the founder and Executive Director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a non-profit organization in Durham, North Carolina. A civil rights attorney with over 25 years' experience, her work has involved addressing structural racism, protecting minority voting rights and furthering community empowerment.

[Read more here.](#)



Caitlin Borgmann

is the Executive Director of the ACLU of Montana, where she leads the organization's legal, policy, communications, fundraising, and administrative operations and programs. Before joining the ACLU-MT, Caitlin was a law professor at CUNY School of Law from 2004-2015 and a Senior Fellow at the Columbia University Center for Gender & Sexuality Law from 2012-2013. Caitlin's scholarship has focused on the respective roles and authority of the courts and the legislatures in protecting constitutional rights and about the role of fact-finding in constitutional rights cases. Caitlin received her B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from New York University. [Read more here.](#)



Dorcas R. Gilmore

is a founding principal of Gilmore Khandhar, LLC and a founding board member of Baltimore Activating Solidarity Economies (BASE). She is an advocate and consultant on issues of leadership, racial equity, and community lawyering. Previously, Dorcas was a Visiting Practitioner-in-Residence in the Community & Economic Development Law Clinic at American University Washington College of Law. She has represented a range of local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and coalitions to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice through transactional strategies, administrative advocacy, and litigation. [Read more here.](#)



Ellen Hemley,

Shriver Center Vice President of Advocate Resources and Training, oversees the Center's Training Department which provides a full range of education, training and leadership development that support legal aid and public interest advocates capacity to obtain justice for the clients and communities they serve. Prior to joining the Shriver Center, Ellen served as executive director of the Center for Legal Aid Education (CLAE). Previously, Ellen was Director of Training at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. She also served for many years as an independent consultant serving legal aid networks, bar foundations and justice-related programs across the country. [Read more here.](#)



Luz Maria Henriquez

is a staff attorney at the Children's Legal Alliance Unit at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM), a nonprofit law firm. She handles educational law matters within the City of Saint Louis and St. Louis County. Through her practice, Luz works to combat the systemic issues that underlie punitive disciplinary practices, which have racially disparate effects, and to tackle the barriers which prevent children from receiving the appropriate educational services. Luz advocates for children and youth seeking access to special education services and represents children and youth facing school disciplinary proceedings, as well as those who have already been suspended or expelled. [Read more here.](#)



Alvaro M. Huerta

As a staff attorney at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), Alvaro M. Huerta works to defend and advance the rights of low-income immigrants and their family members through litigation, administrative advocacy, and community education. His practice includes litigation on due process, equal protection, and other civil rights, and he is currently co-counsel on cases challenging anti-immigrant state legislation. Mr. Huerta holds a B.S. from Yale College and a J.D. from Stanford Law School. He is the son and grandson of Mexican immigrants to the United States. [Read more here.](#)



Terry Keleher

is the Thought Leadership and Practice Specialist at Race Forward. With over 30 years of experience in leadership development, community organizing, popular education, and strategic coaching, he provides racial justice training and consulting to organizations around the country. He has authored several reports and resources on racial equity, including Leadership & Race, the Racial Equity Impact Assessment Toolkit, Facing the Consequences: An Examination of Racial Discrimination in the U.S. Public Schools, and the Illinois Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity. [Read more here.](#)



Bill Kennedy

is a litigator and has tried cases in 23 county courts, federal courts, and state and federal appellate courts. His legal work has focused primarily on civil rights, housing policy, and the nexus between the two. Mr. Kennedy is also one of the architects of the Race Equity Project, which seeks to put the tools of race conscious advocacy into the hands of community-level activists.



Chinh Q. Le

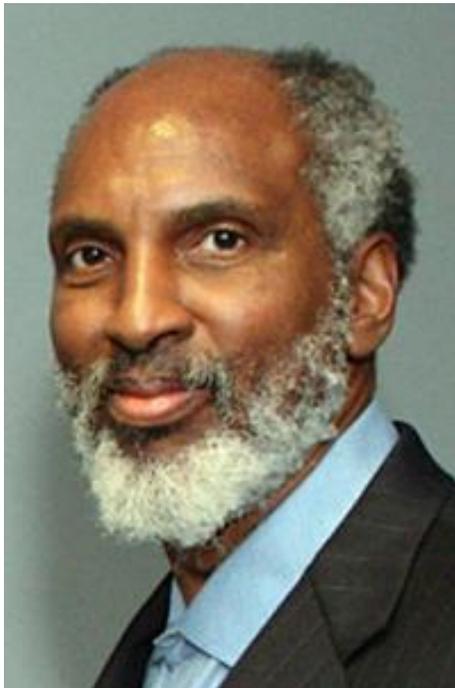
is the Legal Director of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and currently serves as Co-Chair of the D.C. Consortium of Legal Services Providers, a coalition of roughly 30 D.C.-based legal services programs. Immediately prior to joining Legal Aid in 2011, he was the Director of the Division on Civil Rights in the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, where he led the state's enforcement of state and federal civil rights and family leave laws. [Read more here.](#)



Kimberly Merchant

is the Racial Justice Network Director at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, where she provides strategic oversight and guidance for the RJTI and other advocacy and training initiatives. Before joining the Shriver Center in May 2017, she was the Managing Attorney and Education Opportunities Director at the Mississippi Center for Justice's Delta office for 6 years. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi where she received a Bachelor of Science in English, and the University of Mississippi School Law where she received her JD. Merchant was recently selected as a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Fellow.

[Read more here.](#)



john a. powell

is Director of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society and Robert D. Haas Chancellor's Chair in Equity and Inclusion at the University of California. From 2003-2011 he was executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University and Gregory H. Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at Ohio State's Moritz College of Law. Professor Powell is an internationally recognized authority in the areas of civil rights and civil liberties and the intersection of race with a wide range of issues. [Read more here.](#)



Ada Shen-Jaffe

is a race equity & leadership development consultant specializing in mission-driven organizational and systems change and strategic planning. She currently serves as faculty & coach for the Shriver Center's Racial Justice Training Institute, co-faculty for Washington's Equity & Justice Community Leadership Academy and as a Commissioner on the ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty. [Read more here.](#)



Mona Tawatao

is a Senior Litigator at the Western Center on Law & Poverty with 23 years of legal services experience pursuing health, housing, land use and civil rights litigation and advocacy throughout California. She was a regional counsel for housing and land use for 12 years with LSNC where she also co-founded its Race Equity Project. Mona received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law after which she clerked for the Honorable Consuelo B. Marshall in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. She serves on the boards of the Equal Justice Society and the Advisory Editorial Board of the Clearinghouse Review, among others. [Read more here.](#)



Maria Martinez Sanchez is a staff attorney at the ACLU of New Mexico. Her work focuses on protecting the civil and constitutional rights of New Mexicans. Before becoming an attorney for the ACLU, Maria was a staff attorney for the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty where she used systemic advocacy to improve the living and working conditions of New Mexico's agricultural workers. Maria is the board president of Encuentro, a non-profit organization in Albuquerque that serves central New Mexico's immigrant population. [Read more here.](#)