

## Youth Reinvestment Grant Program

### Executive Steering Committee Member Bios

*(This list will be updated as bios are received. ... indicates bio is pending)*

**David Steinhart, Co-Chair** is the Director of the Commonwealth Juvenile Justice Program and is the Senate's appointee to the Board of State and Community Corrections. He is an attorney-advocate with a long track record of advising California legislators on juvenile justice law and policy. He was principal drafter of California laws removing children from adult jails, creating homeless youth programs and widening children's access to mental health care. In 2007, he had a key role in the design of SB 81—the landmark juvenile justice reform that realigned non-violent youth from the state Division of Juvenile Justice to local control with \$100 million per year in state funds. He served two terms as a California State Juvenile Justice Commissioner. He is a lead trainer for the Annie Casey Foundation's national Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. He is the author of multiple reports and publications on juvenile justice system issues

**Mark Varela, Co-Chair** is a Board of State and Community Corrections Board member and the Chief Probation Officer of Ventura County Probation Department. Mr. Varela earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in the field of Law and Society. He began his career in community service in 1988 as a Deputy Probation Officer for the Ventura County Probation Agency. He rose through the agency's ranks to his current assignment as Director/Chief Probation Officer. Mr. Varela and his staff of nearly 430 dedicated deputy probation officers, corrections services officers, and specialized support personnel are responsible for the community supervision of over 9,000 Ventura County adults and juveniles on probation; supervision duties of offenders in juvenile custodial facilities; direct investigative report services to the Ventura County Superior Court and delivery of specialized services to hundreds of individuals participating in enhanced community-based and Court partnership programs. During his lengthy career, Mark has played a key leadership role in the design, development, implementation and oversight of many innovative and successful delinquency programs including, but not limited to: Oxnard/Ventura's Gang Violence Suppression Programs, Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard/Port Hueneme's Targeted ReEntry Program; the California Endowment's Healthy Returns Initiative; the Juvenile Facilities' Commitment Services Program; Oxnard's Evening Reporting Center and the Ventura County Adult Reporting and Resource Center. In addition, Mark played an important role in the Juvenile Justice Center's construction oversight and policy development team and he was instrumental in establishing California's first Boys and Girls Club facility within a juvenile detention center. Mark plays an active role within the local criminal justice and social services field. He is currently the Chair of the Ventura County Community Corrections Partnership and he co-Chairs the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Executive Steering Committee, and the Reducing Ethnic Disparities Task Force. Mark has been an active member of the Ventura County Executive Committee, Ventura County Management Council, and the Community Commission of Ventura County. Mark is a past President (2015) of the Chief Probation Officers of California Association. Mark is the Coordinator of the County of Ventura's Annual United Way Giving Campaign and is currently a member of United Way of Ventura County's Board of Directors and Ventura Police Community Foundation's Executive Committee.

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**Jessica Chandler** is Social Worker for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. ....

**Amy J. Cohen, MD**, Dr. Cohen is a Harvard-trained child and adolescent psychiatrist with 30 years of experience working with trauma in vulnerable populations in the inner city, in rural areas and in South Sudan. She previously served as Lead Psychiatrist to children and youth at the Alameda County Juvenile Hall, where she established and ran a clinical consult service for Superior Court judges. In addition to her concern with Juvenile Justice issues, she is actively involved in addressing the trauma of asylum seeking populations and is serving as medical expert to Flores counsel and other civil rights attorney organizations.

**Paul Espinosa** is a Captain at the Los Angeles Police Department .....

**Judge Donna Quigley Groman** is a Superior Court Judge assigned to the Mental Health Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court. She previously served as Supervising Judge of the Youth Justice (“Juvenile Delinquency”) Division of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court. She served as faculty to the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) in California, teaching delinquency law to judges statewide. She is a member of the CJER Juvenile Law Curriculum Committee and the co-chair of the California Chief Justice’s Keeping Kids in School Initiative. In 2018, Judge Groman was awarded the California Judicial Council’s highest honor – the Distinguished Service Award for her work in Juvenile Court. Judge Groman received her J.D. from the Washington College of Law, American University, in 1979.

**Frankie Guzman**. Attorney Francis (“Frankie”) V. Guzman is a juvenile justice attorney at the National Center for Youth Law. He is working to eliminate the practice of prosecuting and incarcerating children in California’s adult criminal justice system and advocates for alternative sentencing and local treatment for youth charged with serious offenses statewide.

Raised in a poor, mostly immigrant community plagued by crime and drugs, Guzman experienced his parents’ divorce and his family’s subsequent homelessness at age 3, the life-imprisonment of his 16-year-old brother at age 5, and lost numerous friends to violence. At age 15, he was arrested for armed robbery and, on his first offense, was sentenced to serve 15 years in the California Youth Authority. Released on parole after six years, Frankie attended law school and became an expert in juvenile law and policy with a focus on ending the prosecution of youth as adults.

Through partnerships with community organizations and advocacy groups, Guzman has helped lead the effort to reduce the number of youth prosecuted as adults and serving time in adult prisons. Recent successes include SB 260 (2013) & SB 261 (2015) Youth Offender Parole Hearings, and SB 382 (2015) Juvenile Fitness Hearings. Even more recently, Guzman played a significant role in developing the youth justice portion of the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016 in partnership with the Office of California Gov. Jerry Brown.

**Jane Halladay Goldman** is the Director of the Service Systems program at the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS), the coordinating site of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). In this role she is responsible for supporting diverse local, state and national, cross-disciplinary, and collaborative efforts to make child- and

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family- service systems (juvenile justice, child welfare, schools, healthcare and mental health) more trauma-informed. Dr. Halladay Goldman developed the NCTSN Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment. Recently she worked with the BSCC to revise the minimum standards for juvenile detention facilities (Titles 15 and 24). She also consults with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts Judges on the OVC Linking Systems of Care grant and is on the Advisory Board of a number of programs related to child trauma and trauma-informed systems.

**Brooke Harris** is an Adjunct Professor and Clinical Supervising Attorney at Loyola Law School's Center for Juvenile Law and Policy (CJLP). At the CJLP, she supervises and trains clinical law students in the representation of Los Angeles' most vulnerable youth in juvenile delinquency court and co-teaches Advanced Criminal Litigation Skills. Prior to her work at the CJLP, she was a Juvenile Post-Disposition Reentry Attorney through a fellowship with the National Juvenile Defender Center. She also served as a felony trial attorney at the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office. Brooke is currently on the Leadership Council of A Place Called Home in South Central LA, and previously served as the Board Chair at YES Nature to Neighborhoods in Richmond, CA. Brooke is a graduate of UC Davis King Hall School of Law and Colby College.

**Olin C. Jones** has over forty years of experience in the field of criminal justice and founded the Olin C. Jones Consulting firm to offer a unique blend of tribal and state relationship building expertise. The scope of his background highlights a lifelong commitment to public safety service, criminal justice policy, planning, program development and addressing the concerns of underserved communities. Prior to his retirement from state service in August 2017, Olin served four of California's Attorneys Generals over the last eighteen years as the first Director of the California Attorney General's Office of Native American Affairs. During his time at the Attorney General's Office he framed the mission of the Office of Native American Affairs and developed goals that would address the justice-related needs of California's Reservations, Rancherias, and other federal and state justice agencies that serve Indian lands. As the Director, he structured solutions for some of the most challenging of Native American justice issues in California such as improving collaboration between tribal governments and local law enforcement, clarifying tribal policing authority, enforcing tribal court domestic violence protection orders and promoted compliance of the federal/state Indian Child Welfare Act.

Olin began his criminal justice career in 1973 with local law enforcement and accepted a position at the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning in 1989, and in 1996, went on to the California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center, and was appointed as the first Director of the Attorney General's Office of Native American Affairs in 2000. In addition to addressing tribal issues, Olin's expertise includes community-based corrections, gang violence suppression, crime/violence prevention, policy, legislative solutions, federal and state grants administration and cultural familiarity instruction.

Olin is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and holds a bachelor's degree from Minot State University in North Dakota. He has been honored with numerous awards and certificates for his work in Indian Country. Olin has been married to Debra for 39 years, has three adult children and six grandchildren.

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**Patricia Lee** has been the Chief Juvenile Public Defender for the City and County of San Francisco since 1978, and has been practicing in the Juvenile Courts since 1981. She is currently the managing attorney for the Juvenile Division of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office. She is the President of the Pacific Regional Juvenile Defender Center, a nonprofit established to preserve the integrity of the juvenile justice system by ensuring that each child in California receives a vigorous defense that affords all the statutory and constitutional protections guaranteed by state and federal law.

Ms. Lee is on the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council, Center for Families Children and the Courts. In 2016, she received the National Juvenile Defender Center *Robert E. Shepherd Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense*. She is a graduate of University of California, Berkeley, and Lincoln Law School.

**Julio Marcial** is the Director of Youth Justice at the Liberty Hill Foundation. His responsibilities include reviewing letters of interest, requesting and evaluating grant proposals, conducting site visits, making funding recommendations, and tracking policy and research. Prior to joining Liberty Hill, he was a program director at The California Wellness Foundation, where he managed a combined grants portfolio of more than \$60 million focused on criminal justice, public safety and other public health issue areas. In total, Marcial has been in the field of philanthropy for 20 years.

**Laura John Ridolfi** of Berkeley is the Law and Policy Analyst for the W. Haywood Burns Institute. Ms. Ridolfi provides technical assistance to Burns Institute sites in analyzing whether and to what extent policies and practices contribute to disparities in juvenile justice systems. She also assists in developing local strategies to reduce disparities. Prior to the Burns Institute, Laura worked for several juvenile and criminal justice organizations and was a Fulbright Fellow in Kenya, where she conducted original research on the juvenile justice system. Laura is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley School of Law. There, she coordinated the Boalt Hall Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and the Youth and Education Law Society, where she created and implemented a street law program for youth in San Francisco and Alameda County juvenile detention facilities. She also clerked for East Bay Community Law, representing youth and adult ex-offenders in sealing or expunging their criminal records, and the San Francisco Public Defender, Juvenile Division.

**Patricia Soung** is the Director of Youth Justice Policy and Senior Staff Attorney at the Children's Defense Fund-California, leading its work to reform juvenile and criminal justice systems, and increase investments in youth development and communities. Previously, Patricia worked at the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School, the National Center for Youth Law, and the Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern University of Law as a Soros Justice Fellow. Throughout, she has represented youth in juvenile trial, appellate and post-conviction matters, and taught college and law students. Patricia earned her JD from Northwestern University School of Law and B.A. from Stanford University.