

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.

Ben Beltrano is a Deputy District Attorney for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

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

Rima Chaudry is the Senior Program Manager for Restorative Justice at Impact Justice.

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

Miguel Garcia is a Policy Associate with Human Rights Watch/Youth Promise Policy Fellowship.

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 is the Director of the California Youth Justice Initiative at the National Center for Youth Law.

Jane Halladay Goldman is the Director of the Service Systems Program at the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

Brooke Harris is an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School and a Supervising Clinical Attorney at the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy.

Patricia Lee is the Chief Juvenile Public Defender for the City and County of San Francisco.

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.