

CALIFORNIA WORKING FAMILIES POLICY SUMMIT 2009
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Catherine Atkin
Executive Director
Preschool California
www.preschoolcalifornia.org

Ms. Atkin is an attorney with legal and policy expertise in the area of early care and education. She was the principal of a consulting firm, specializing in strategic research, analysis and policy development, and has more than a decade of professional legislative and advocacy experience on domestic policy issues. From 1998-2002, she was a Directing Attorney at Public Counsel Law Center in Los Angeles. Prior to that, she was Minority Subcommittee Counsel for the Banking and Financial Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, where she focused on urban development and housing. She graduated from Stanford University and holds a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at U.C. Berkeley and a master's degree in Urban Planning from U.C.L.A.

Jim Beall, Jr.
Assembly Member
California State Legislature
www.asm.ca.gov

Assemblyman Beall was elected to the Assembly in November 2006. As chair of the Committee on Human Services since 2007, he has focused on combating hunger and bolstering the safety net for our elderly, poor and physically and developmentally disabled. He is the chair of the Foster Care Select Committee and the chair of the Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Assemblyman Beall, a San Jose native, is a graduate of San Jose State University, where he studied urban planning and public finance and earned a degree in political science.

Nancy Berlin
Director
California Partnership
www.communitychange.org

The California Partnership is a statewide coalition of grassroots community groups fighting poverty. Ms. Berlin has worked on poverty, homeless and welfare rights issues for 30 years. Her work has included advocacy, organizing and direct service work. Her direct service work includes working in family shelters and on Los Angeles' Skid Row. Her policy work spans work on welfare rights, as well as extensive experience in grassroots leadership development, education and organizing.

Camille Bussette
Vice President
Earned Assets Resource Network (EARN)
www.sfearn.org

Ms. Bussette leads EARN's policy arm, the Asset Policy Initiative of California, and manages EARN's research work. Prior to joining EARN, she served as deputy director of Government Relations for PayPal, where she managed PayPal's advocacy efforts for the Americas. In addition to state and federal legislative advocacy, she worked closely with national central banks and U.S. Federal regulators on financial services issues. Previously, she headed the privacy function at Intuit and the consumer and market research division at NextCard. Ms. Bussette is a former Ford Foundation Post-doctoral Research Fellow and holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago.

Alice Bussiere
Staff Attorney
Youth Law Center
www.ylc.org

Ms. Bussiere has been with the Youth Law Center, a public interest law firm that advocates for children in the nation's foster care and justice systems, since September 2000. Previously, she was managing attorney for the Child Care Law Center; a staff attorney at the National Center for Youth Law; litigation director for Texas Legal Services Center; supervising attorney and lecturer in clinical studies at Yale Law School; and a staff attorney at legal aid programs in New Haven and Waterbury, Connecticut.

Olivia Calderon
Legislative Director
New America Foundation
www.newamerica.net

As the California Legislative Director of the Asset Building Program, Ms. Calderon educates legislators, government officials and interest groups about broadening asset ownership in America; develops related policy proposals; provides expert testimony on pending legislation; identifies partnerships to build a broad coalition in support of asset building policies; and manages the Asset Policy Forum. Before joining the New America Foundation, she served in the California Legislature as a consultant to the Assembly Transportation Committee, as a legislative assistant to Senator Jenny Oropeza and as a Jesse Unruh Assembly Fellow. Ms. Calderon is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the U.C.L.A., where she was a NSEP Scholar, McNair Scholar, Wasserman Scholar, and U.C.L.A. Law fellow.

Jason Campbell
Staff Director
SEIU-United Healthcare Workers
www.seiu-uhw.org

Mr. Campbell is a staff director for SEIU-UHW, where he leads and mobilizes UHW members employed by Kaiser Permanente through contract negotiations, contract enforcement, and labor-management partnership activities. Prior to joining UHW, Mr. Campbell worked in Washington, D.C., as a policy analyst for the Government Accountability Office, an international trade research fellow for the AFL-CIO and a research assistant for Congressman John F. Tierney. He also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine. Mr. Campbell received a master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in economic and political science from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota.

Ronald E. Coleman
Legislative and Policy Director
California Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
www.acorn.org

Mr. Coleman joined ACORN as the Legislative and Policy Director in 2007. Prior to that, he worked as State Legislative Campaign Coordinator for ACORN's National Office. During his time at ACORN, he has worked to push legislation and develop policy on a variety of issues affecting low- and moderate-income families, with a special focus on work-family, health and housing issues. Mr. Coleman received a B.A. from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans in 2003 and a J.D. from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge in 2006.

Denise Moreno Ducheny
Senator
California State Senate
www.sen.ca.gov

Senator Ducheny has served in the California State Senate since November 5, 2002, representing the 40th District which includes portions of San Diego and Riverside Counties and all of Imperial County. Senator Ducheny chairs the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. She is a member of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and also chairs the Select Committees on California-Mexico Cooperation and Oversight of the U.C. Energy Labs. Prior to her election to the California State Senate, Senator Ducheny served in the California State Assembly from 1994-2000 and on the San Diego Community College Board from 1990-94. Ms. Ducheny holds a BA in history from Pomona College and a J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law.

Netsy Firestein
Executive Director
Labor Project for Working Families
www.working-families.org

Ms. Firestein is the founder and director of the Labor Project for Working Families. The Labor Project is a national nonprofit organization working with labor unions and community organizations to negotiate and advocate for better work/family policies including child care, paid family leave, eldercare and flexible work hours. It maintains the only database of contract language on work/family issues and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Labor Family News*. In 2002, the Labor Project played a key organizing role in the campaign that passed the nation's first paid family leave legislation here in California. Over the past few years, the Labor Project has led the Work and Family Coalition working on legislation for paid sick days and to expand family leave. Ms. Firestein has over 20 years experience working with labor on work/family issues.

Lenny Goldberg
Executive Director
California Tax Reform Association
www.caltaxreform.org

Mr. Goldberg is the owner of Lenny Goldberg and Associates, a public interest consulting and lobbying firm in Sacramento. He has been involved with major tax legislation and tax initiative campaigns in California for the past 20 years. He is on the board of Citizens for Tax Justice in Washington, D.C., writes a weekly tax report for State Tax Notes, and is on the advisory committee of the Franchise Tax Board. He also advocates on energy, consumer and housing issues. Mr. Goldberg has degrees in economics from Williams College and U.C. Berkeley.

Scott Graves
Senior Policy Analyst
California Budget Project
www.cpb.org

Mr. Graves is a senior policy analyst with the California Budget Project. He has analyzed health, human services, child care and housing issues for the CBP since 2002. Previously, Mr. Graves worked as a researcher in Austin, Texas for a number of organizations, including the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute. In addition, Mr. Graves was a California executive fellow and worked as a reporter for newspapers in Arizona and California. Mr. Graves received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in government and journalism from C.S.U., Sacramento.

Stefan Harvey
Assistant Director
California Center for Public Health Advocacy
www.publichealthadvocacy.org

CCPHA, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, addresses the childhood obesity epidemic through policy reform. The organization sponsored bills establishing nutrition standards for California schools and, more recently, sponsored a menu-labeling bill signed by the Governor last fall. Ms. Harvey oversees the Center's research projects and works with its Healthy Eating Active Communities (HEAC) project in Baldwin Park and its Campaign for California Cities. Prior to joining CCPHA, Ms. Harvey was a national WIC advocate at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C.

Kenneth Hecht
Executive Director
California Food Policy Advocates
www.cfpa.org

Mr. Hecht is the executive director and one of the co-founders of California Food Policy Advocates. Begun in 1992, CFPA is California's statewide nutrition policy and advocacy organization, whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. The chief focus of CFPA's work is expansion and improvement of the federal food programs in order to prevent obesity, hunger and food insecurity.

Mike Herald
Legislative Advocate
Western Center on Law and Poverty
www.wclp.org

Mr. Herald's areas of expertise include CalWORKs, SSI/SSP and other cash assistance programs. Previously, he was an appointee of Governor Davis at the Department of Housing and Community Development. He served as both legislative and external affairs director and played an active role in the development of recommendations to Governor Davis on homelessness and integrating the developmentally disabled into community settings. Mr. Herald was formerly the executive director and lobbyist for Housing California, the statewide coalition of affordable housing advocates. He is a native Californian, a graduate of U.C.S.B. and has a law degree from the Golden Gate University School of Law.

Ed Howard
Senior Counsel
Children's Advocacy Institute
www.caichildlaw.org

Mr. Howard spent years as special counsel and chief policy advisor to a state senator and chief consultant of two standing California legislative committees. During his years as a staffer in the Legislature, he spearheaded the enactment of numerous nationally trend-setting laws in the areas of privacy, technology, IT procurement, the regulation of licensed professions, health care and consumer rights. Mr. Howard is a recognized expert in regulatory and administrative law, stemming from his ten-plus years of experience litigating against or appearing before a myriad of administrative agencies in high-profile matters, including the State Board of Education, the California Insurance Commissioner, the Public Utilities Commission and the California Coastal Commission. He received his B.A. from George Washington University's political science program and received his J.D. from Loyola Law School.

Mary Ignatius
Statewide Organizer
Parent Voices
www.rrnetwork.org

Ms. Ignatius has been the statewide organizer since 2005 and led a successful campaign in 2006 and 2007 to preserve child care subsidies for families who had transitioned from welfare to work, and forged an alliance between Parent Voices and the California Department of Education. These campaigns have built Parent Voices into a powerful representative of low-income working families. Mary is committed to ensuring that access to affordable child care is recognized as critical to ensuring the economic security of working families. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Rutgers University and a master's in social work from Temple University.

Dave Jones
Assembly Member
California State Assembly
www.asm.ca.gov

Assemblyman Jones represents the 9th District (Sacramento) in the California State Assembly. Assemblyman Jones chairs the Assembly Health Committee and serves on the following committees of the Assembly: Budget, Judiciary (former Chair), Agriculture and Utilities and Commerce. He has had many significant legislative accomplishments in his four years in the Assembly, including passing over seventy bills. These bills demonstrate his commitment to children and families, affordable housing, education, consumer and environmental protection, health care, privacy rights, civil rights, equal access to the courts, economic development and privacy protection.

Kate Karpilow
Executive Director
California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF)
www.ccrwf.org

Ms. Karpilow is the executive director of the California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF), a program of the Public Health Institute. For over 25 years, she has managed policy projects and conducted research in the areas of child welfare, welfare reform, child care, working families and health care. At CCRWF, Ms. Karpilow directs the California Working Families Policy Project and the Primer Project, both of which she founded. Ms. Karpilow has worked in a variety of positions in local and state government and as a consultant to philanthropic foundations. From 1988-1996, she served as the executive director of the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER), now known as California Women Lead. She received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in psychology and social relations.

Fran Kipnis
Principal Policy Analyst
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California at Berkeley
www.berkeley.edu

Ms. Kipnis joined the CSCCE staff in January 2007. Previously, she served for 13 years as research director for the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. In this role, she managed the Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers and the California Child Care Portfolio project, and also led the Network's collaboration with CSCCE on the California Early Care and Education Workforce Study. Ms. Kipnis has also served as a Program Officer for the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Elizabeth Landsberg
Legislative Advocate
Western Center on Law and Poverty
www.wclp.org

Ms. Landsberg joined the Western Center in 2006 as a legislative advocate on health care issues. Previously, she was the supervising attorney for the Health Rights Hotline, a project of Legal Services of Northern California. Ms. Landsberg was the Ruth Chance Law Fellow at Equal Rights Advocates, a public interest women's law center in San Francisco, and served as a law clerk to Federal District Court Judge Martha Vázquez. She graduated from the Boalt Hall School of Law where she was the editor-in-chief of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal.

Amy Lemley
Policy Director
John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes
www.johnburtonfoundation.org

The John Burton Foundation, founded by former California State Senator John Burton, is dedicated to improving the quality of life for California's homeless children and developing policy solutions to prevent homelessness. Ms. Lemley develops and implements the legislative, regulatory and administrative strategies to achieve the goals of the Foundation. Prior to joining the John Burton Foundation, she was the executive director and co-founder of The First Place Fund for Youth, a nationally recognized program providing affordable housing and supportive services to former foster youth.

Ted Lempert
President
Children Now
www.childrennow.org

Mr. Lempert is the president of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization. He is also a lecturer in the Political Science Department at U.C. Berkeley. Previously, Mr. Lempert was the founding CEO and co-founder of EdVoice, a California grassroots organization advocating for education reform and support for public education. Mr. Lempert was a California State Assembly Member representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1996-2000 and 1988-1992. He had more than 75 bills signed by Governors Deukmejian, Wilson and Davis, including major laws in the areas of education, health care, children and families, tax policy and the environment. He graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University.

Paul A. Leonard
California Director
California Office of the Center for Responsible Lending
www.responsiblelending.org

The Center for Responsible Lending is a national, nonpartisan research and policy organization dedicated to protecting family wealth by working to eliminate abusive financial practices. Prior to joining the center, Mr. Leonard served as an assistant agency director for Workforce and Human Services at the Alameda County Social Services Agency. From 1994-1998, he served as the acting assistant secretary/deputy assistant secretary for Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of HUD. Previously, he was a senior research analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonprofit policy and research organization in Washington, D.C.

Carol Liu
Senator
California State Legislature
www.sen.ca.gov

Senator Liu was elected to the Senate in 2008. She represented the 44th Assembly District from 2000-2006. Senator Liu served eight years as a city councilmember, including two terms as mayor of La Canada Flintridge. She graduated from San Jose State College and earned a lifetime teaching credential and administrative credential from U.C. Berkeley. Her priorities are improving public education, protecting the disadvantaged, protecting women and children, improving public transportation and preserving the environment. She is chair of the Senate Human Services Committee.

Fiona Ma
Assembly Member
California State Assembly
www.asm.ca.gov

Assemblywoman Ma represents the 12th Assembly District, which includes San Francisco, Daly City, Colma and Broadmoor. She is the Assembly Majority Whip and is responsible for ensuring the passage of crucial legislation to improve public education, expand health care access and protect our environment. Assemblywoman Ma was appointed to key committees including Appropriations, Health, Revenue and Taxation and Public Safety. She was also named chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Domestic Violence. As a certified public accountant, Assemblywoman Ma is also focused on improving California's bottom line. She has authored legislation to keep jobs in California and grow the state's economy. Assemblywoman Ma received her B.S. from the Rochester Institute of Technology (NY), her M.S. in Taxation from Golden Gate University (SF), and an MBA from Pepperdine University.

George Manalo-LeClair
Senior Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates
www.cfpa.net

Mr. Manalo-LeClair has been working in the area of welfare and food policy since 1990. He has worked directly with low-income people as a social worker and on their behalf as a lobbyist. He has won victories for low-income people in legislatures of Minnesota, Missouri, Washington and California. Having previously worked on homelessness, child abuse, juvenile crime and other social issues, Mr. Manalo-LeClair is now focusing his efforts on ending hunger and on preventing obesity in California. He is currently senior director of legislation for California Food Policy Advocates

Matthew Marsom
Director of Public Policy
Public Health Institute
www.phi.org

As director of public policy, Mr. Marsom is responsible for designing and implementing PHI's strategy for monitoring and influencing public policy, legislation and regulations affecting PHI projects and public health policy relevant to PHI's interests. He was previously chief of the Policy, Partnerships and Planning Unit within the Cancer Prevention and Nutrition Section of the California Department of Public Health. Mr. Marsom provided support for policy development, legislative analysis and government relations, and oversaw the policy and partnership activities of the Network for a Healthy California. He is originally from London, England, where he worked as an advocate for community-based child care organizations and as adviser for Policy and Strategy within the Early Years and Childcare Unit of the Department of Education and Skills.

Marty Martinez
Policy Director
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
www.cpehn.org

Mr. Martinez earned his master's in Public Policy from U.C. Berkeley, and worked in AIDS policy before joining CPEHN. He has served on numerous statewide taskforces, and advocates for policy changes to ensure all people, regardless of race or culture, receive quality care and live healthy lives. CPEHN and Mr. Martinez spearheaded legislation that requires health insurers to provide interpreters (SB 853) and policies to create healthy communities that have access to spaces for physical activity and nutritious food.

James Mayer
Executive Director
California Forward
www.caforward.org

California Forward is a bipartisan public interest effort committed to bolstering democracy and the performance of government in California. Previously Mr. Mayer was founding executive director of the New California Network, a nonpartisan project to improve the state's fiscal decision-making. He was also the executive director of the Little Hoover Commission, an independent state agency and bipartisan panel that reviews state programs and policies for efficiency and effectiveness. Mr. Mayer has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a master's degree from the graduate program in public policy administration at California State University, Sacramento.

Beth McGovern
Legislative Director
California Commission on the Status of Women
www.women.ca.gov

The California Commission on the Status of Women is a nonpartisan state agency that has advocated for women and girls for more than 40 years. Prior to her work with the commission, Ms. McGovern was the legislative director for the California National Organization for Women (NOW). She graduated from U.C. Irvine in 1977 with a B.A. degree in social ecology. She received her law degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1984. She is a member of the State Bars of Wisconsin and California.

Frank Mecca
Executive Director
County Welfare Directors Association
www.cwda.org

Mr. Mecca is currently the executive director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California. Mr. Mecca has helped establish CWDA as the leading advocacy organization in the field of public human services. Prior to joining CWDA, he served as a fiscal and policy analyst for the Legislative Analyst's Office, where he had oversight responsibility for most child welfare programs, including Child Welfare Services, Foster Care and Adoptions. Mr. Mecca holds a master's degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in social welfare policy from the Lynden B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin.

Holly Mitchell**CEO****Crystal Stairs, Inc.****www.crystalstairs.org**

Since 2004, Ms. Mitchell has led Crystal Stairs, the largest child care development agency serving 25,000 children in South Los Angeles county. She serves on various governing boards, including the Liberty Hill Foundation, Verbum Dei High School, the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, and the Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth & their Families. Throughout her career, she has advocated on behalf of California families, the working poor and children. She served in various capacities with the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the California Black Women's Health Project, CEWEAR (now California Women Lead), and the California State Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Gloria Negrete McLeod**Senator****California State Senate****www.sen.ca.gov**

Senator Negrete McLeod was first elected on November 2006 to represent the 32nd Senate District, representing the cities of Pomona, Montclair, Ontario, Fontana, Rialto, Colton, San Bernardino and the communities of Bloomington and Muscoy. She chairs the California Legislative Women's Caucus, the Committee on Local Government and the Select Committees on the Alameda Corridor and Perchlorate Contamination. She serves on the Governmental Organization, Health, Public Employment, Retirement and Veterans Affairs committees. Ms. Negrete McLeod also served three terms in the 61st Assembly District. Improving the affordability of and access to higher education, enhancing the quality of health care, improving our current transportation system to reduce traffic congestion, and promoting the growth of quality employment opportunities for Californians are among her legislative priorities.

Dr. Carmen Rita Nevarez**Vice President of External Relations****Public Health Institute****www.phi.org**

Public Health Institute (PHI) is one of the largest and most comprehensive public health organizations in the nation. Ms. Nevarez has 30 years of experience as a physician and 20 years as a public health practitioner, having served as the director of the Department of Health and Human Services, City of Berkeley, California, as well as in various clinical settings, including serving as medical director at La Clinica de la Raza in Oakland. She is currently president-elect of the American Public Health Association (APHA), chair of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California Board and a member of the Partnership for Prevention Advisory Board. In addition, she has served state government as a member of advisory committees on Primary Care Clinics, Binational and Border Health and Multicultural Health.

Sherry Novick**Executive Director****First 5 Association of California****www.f5ac.org**

The First 5 Association of California represents California's 58 First 5 County Commissions. Ms. Novick worked for 15 years in the California Legislature where she served as Chief Consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee, specializing in issues related to child and family services, early care and education, income-support programs, disability and long-term care. She helped to negotiate the CalWORKs program, in response to the passage of the federal TANF legislation, and worked closely with the Legislative Women's Caucus on its child care agenda. She holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government.

Ann O'Leary

Executive Director

Berkeley Center for Health, Economic & Family Security at U.C. Berkeley School of Law

law.berkeley.edu

Prior to her current position, Ms. O'Leary served as a deputy city attorney for the City of San Francisco, and she clerked for the Honorable John T. Noonan, Jr. on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. From 1994 through 2001, she served in a number of positions in the Clinton Administration, including special assistant to the president in the Domestic Policy Council and senior policy advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Education. From 2001 to 2003, she served as legislative director for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Ms. O'Leary received her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College, her master's degree from Stanford University and her law degree from the U.C. Berkeley School of Law (formerly Boalt Hall).

Stuart Oppenheim

Executive Director

Child and Family Policy Institute of California

www.cfpic.org

Mr. Oppenheim began his career as an AFDC eligibility worker in 1973 for the San Francisco County Department of Social Service. During the next 31 years, he worked in a broad range of public social service areas at progressive levels of responsibility. Mr. Oppenheim earned his MSW in 1979 while working for the Department of Social Services and worked at every level and in every phase of the Child Welfare program. He began working for San Mateo County in 1988 and, after 15 years as the Director of Child and Family Services, he retired from county service in March 2004. In September 2004, Mr. Oppenheim was named the founding executive director of the Child and Family Policy Institute of California, where he currently oversees research, training, education and technical assistance activities that are helping to improve the delivery of human services programs throughout California.

Mark Paul

Deputy Director

New American Foundation

newamerica.net

Mr. Paul has been writing about California fiscal issues since 1980. He is formerly editorial page editor of the Oakland Tribune and deputy editorial page editor of the Sacramento Bee, where he won the 2000 Best in the West award for his editorials. He served as deputy treasurer and policy director in the State Treasurer's Office and was policy director for Angelides 2006. His recent work on California budgets and taxes has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Sacramento Bee*.

Jennifer Peck

Executive Director

Bay Area Partnership for Children and Youth

www.bayareapartnership.org

Ms. Peck joined the Partnership in 2001 to lead the organization's efforts to finance and build after school programs in the region's poorest communities. In 2006, she led policy development and advocacy on Senate Bill 638, which reformed state and federal after school funding to better serve the highest need communities. For this work, Senator Tom Torlakson named Ms. Peck "Woman of the Year" in 2008 for his Senate District. Previously, she spent eight years as an appointee of President Bill Clinton at the U.S. Department of Education, working to implement priority initiatives including student loan reform, School-to-Work, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Ms. Peck has a bachelor's degree in sociology and women's studies from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.

Jean Ross
Executive Director
California Budget Project
www.cbp.org

Ms. Ross joined the California Budget Project (CBP) as its first executive director in 1995. The CBP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established to promote a better understanding of state fiscal and economic policy issues and their impact on low- and middle-income Californians. She previously served as Principal Consultant to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, Senior Consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee, and Assistant Research Director of the Service Employees International Union in Washington, D.C., where she was responsible for coordinating the union's research on tax, budget and employment policy issues.

Lori Saldaña
Assembly Member
California State Assembly
www.asm.ca.gov

Assemblywoman Saldaña was re-elected in 2006 to a second term in the California Legislature, representing the state's 76th Assembly District. Her district consists of the central and northern portion of San Diego. Ms. Saldaña has been appointed to Leadership as the Assistant Majority Whip, a position she continues to hold. In 2006, she was appointed chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee and tasked with dispensing voter-approved bonds for the state of California in excess of \$2.85 billion. Assemblywoman Saldaña's additional assignments include the Elections and Redistricting, Local Government, Natural Resources and Veteran's Affairs Committees. These committee assignments reflect her lifelong passions for protecting the environment, improving water quality and providing fair affordable housing in California.

Rusty Selix
Executive Director
California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies
www.cccmha.org

Mr. Selix was the original author and leader of the Proposition 63 Campaign, the November 2004 California ballot measure, which is transforming California's public mental health system. He is the chair of the Public Policy Committee for the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and serves as the executive director of the Mental Health Association in California and the California Association of Councils of Governments. He has been a leading expert in state and local policy and finance for nearly 30 years. He began his career as a deputy city attorney for the City of Sacramento working primarily in land use, environment, housing and public works issues from 1975 to 1978. He then became a lobbyist at the State Capitol for the League of California Cities continuing to focus on land use, environmental, transportation and housing issues.

Nancy Skinner
Assembly Member
California State Assembly
www.asm.ca.gov

Ms. Skinner is a new Assembly Member representing the 14th district. She is currently on the East Bay Regional Parks Board, adding acres to our beloved parks and expanding Park District programs for our youth and schools. A champion for our schools, Assemblywoman Skinner has a master's in education from U.C. Berkeley, is a former PTA leader and campaigned to pass a parcel tax that reduced class sizes and funded after-school and enrichment programs. Restoring leadership in education; ensuring a social safety net with accessible, affordable health care; making our communities safe and jumpstarting the green economy were core issues in her run to represent Assembly District 14. In addition to her master's in education, Assembly Member Skinner has a bachelor's degree from the U.C. Berkeley College of Natural Resources.

Julie Snyder
Policy Director
Housing California
www.housingca.org

Ms. Snyder has served as Policy Director for Housing California since 2000. Her major accomplishments in this position include creating the successful strategy to insert homes into the 2005-06 infrastructure bond package; managing the Affordable Home Collaborative's efforts to influence state investment in affordable homes; and effectively influencing land use legislation, such as SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008), to create more opportunities to build affordable homes. From 1993-2000, Ms. Snyder held a variety of positions in the state Assembly, including consultant to the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. She received her bachelor's degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Darrell Steinberg
Senate President pro Tempore
California State Senate
www.sen.ca.gov

Senator Steinberg was elected on November 7, 2006, to the California State Senate, representing the 6th District. Senator Steinberg was voted by his Senate colleagues to be the President pro Tempore of the Senate. Prior to this leadership position, Senator Steinberg served as chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and was a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Health Committee, the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, and Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources. Mr. Steinberg also served three terms in the State Assembly. During his tenure in the Assembly, he chaired the Assembly committees on Budget, Appropriations, Judiciary, Labor and Employment, and the Select Committee on High Priority Schools. He also served as a member of the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committees. He earned a bachelor's in economics from U.C.L.A. and a J.D. from the U.C. Davis Law School.

Nancy Strohl
Executive Director
Child Care Law Center
www.childcarelaw.org

Ms. Strohl is executive director of the Child Care Law Center, which uses legal tools to make high quality child care accessible to every child, family, and community with a focus on the lowest income children and families and others facing barriers. CCLC works in California with local legal services programs, parents, child care and community advocates. A grandmother and working parent who raised three children, she has personal experience with high quality child care providers and the challenges of the child care system.

Laurie True
Executive Director
California WIC Association
www.calwic.org

Ms. True is a public health nutritionist with many years experience in research, community organizing and legislative advocacy. In her professional capacity, she has overseen numerous community-based applied research and evaluation projects on federal nutrition policy, including a ground-breaking hunger survey of children in California's Central Valley. Ms. True serves on many statewide advisory boards and was a reviewer of the Institute of Medicine's report, "WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change." She recently spent seven months working for the government of Scotland, advising them on obesity prevention and child nutrition reforms.

Anthony Wright
Executive Director
Health Access California
www.health-access.org

Health Access California is the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition. Health Access has been a leader in efforts to fight health care budget cuts, expand both employer-based coverage and public insurance programs, advance consumer protections and address the causes of medical debt. Mr. Wright served as co-chair and campaign manager for the No on 78/Yes on 79 initiative effort, facing the prescription drug industry and the most expensive ballot campaign in the nation's history. He previously served as program director for New Jersey Citizen Action. As coordinator of New Jersey's health care consumer coalition, he ran successful campaigns to win HMO patient protections, defeat for-profit takeovers of nonprofit hospitals, pass a law to govern hospital conversions and acquisitions, and expand coverage for low- and moderate-income children and parents. Mr. Wright graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and Sociology.

Christopher Wu
Supervising Attorney
Center for Families, Children & the Courts in the
California Administrative Office of the Courts.
www.jud.ca.gov

Mr. Wu currently serves as the executive director of the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Before joining the AOC in 1995, he was executive director and managing attorney at Legal Services for Children, a nonprofit law office in San Francisco. He is a 1984 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and has a bachelor's degree from Shimer College. Mr. Wu is the author of "Making Families and Children a High Priority in the Courts: California's Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 40 Family Court Review 417 (2002)" and a contributing author to "California Juvenile Dependency Practice, (CEB 2008)." He is a member of the boards of directors of the National Association of Counsel for Children, the National Center for Youth Law and Legal Services for Children.