

**CALIFORNIA WORKING FAMILIES POLICY SUMMIT 2005**  
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Elmy Bermejo**

**Chair**

**California Commission on the Status of Women**

**[www.statusofwomen.ca.gov](http://www.statusofwomen.ca.gov)**

Elmy Bermejo is Chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women, appointed in 1999 by Governor Gray Davis. Elmy also serves as Special Assistant to President pro Tempore Senator Don Perata, working on issues that impact women and children, conducting outreach to the Latino/Latina community, and working with the ethnic media. As a board member of HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality), Ms. Bermejo will this year chair Latina Action Day in Sacramento, which will convene more than 700 Latinas for a statewide conference focusing on the Latina agenda. Ms. Bermejo also serves on the boards of The Women's Foundation and the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC). She was also recently re-appointed by Senator Barbara Boxer as a delegate to the State Democratic Party. She has a B.A. in Psychology and a graduate degree in Bilingual Vocational Counseling.

**Senator Liz Figueroa**

**Chair**

**Legislative Women's Caucus**

**[www.sen.ca.gov/womenscaucus](http://www.sen.ca.gov/womenscaucus)**

Liz Figueroa was re-elected to the California State Senate in November of 2002 to represent the 10th Senate District. Prior to her election, she served two terms in the California State Assembly. She is the first Northern California Latina to be elected to the Legislature. Her parents are both from El Salvador. Senator Figueroa is the Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus and the Senate Committee on Business and Professions. In her first year with the Assembly, Figueroa delivered nine bills to the Governor's desk, all of which were signed into law – the highest percentage of any freshman legislator. She has consistently carried legislation that demonstrates her dedication to serving the needs of her constituents, improving access to, and the quality of, health care, streamlining business regulations, and protecting consumers.

**Suzanne Flint**

**Director**

**California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness**

**[www.wellnesstaskforce.org](http://www.wellnesstaskforce.org)**

Suzanne Flint, Director of the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness, is a health educator with a master's degree in Health Arts and Sciences. She has over 18 years of clinical experience working with children and families, helping them manage a full array of health care issues. She also has created and managed a number of wellness-related non-profit programs, including a workshop curriculum for the Stanford Center for Integrative Medicine on coping with stress, a statewide pediatric literacy organization, and one of the country's first Family Health Resource Centers. As a health educator, she has a longstanding interest in and commitment to health and wellness issues. As Director of the Wellness Task Force, she represents this bipartisan, public/private, multidisciplinary Task Force created by the State Legislature to develop policies and promote practices aimed at addressing the critical issues of physical fitness and nutritional health in California's schools and workplaces.

**Angela Gilliard**  
**Legislative Advocate**  
**Western Center on Law & Poverty**  
**[www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org)**

Angela Gilliard is a health care policy expert and legislative advocate with the Western Center on Law and Poverty. As the legislative advocate for Western Center, Ms. Gilliard provides expert analysis of health care issues to the national, state and local media, both houses of the Legislature, the Governor's office, and the Health Consumer Alliance that provides direct legal services to California's low-income consumers.

Ms. Gilliard was formerly a Senior Policy Consultant to the California State Assembly, where she advised members of the Health Committee and other Assembly leadership offices on various health care issues. She also worked as a policy analyst with the Department of Health Services and was a consultant in private practice for health care providers. Ms. Gilliard graduated from McGeorge School of Law in 1992.

**Kenneth Hecht**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Food Policy Advocates**  
**[www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net)**

Kenneth 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 eliminate hunger and food insecurity and to prevent childhood obesity. CFPA's headquarters are in San Francisco, with field offices located in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Fresno. Upon completion of law school, Ken worked for fifteen years as a public interest attorney, first at San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation and then as Executive Director of the San Francisco Legal Aid Society. At the Legal Aid Society, he played a leading role in establishing the Youth Law Center and the Employment Law Center, two specialized, test-case, law-reform offices.

**Mike Herald**  
**Legislative Advocate**  
**Western Center on Law & Poverty**  
**[www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org)**

Mike Herald, who joined the Western Center on Law & Poverty in December 2003, has been an advocate for the poor and for affordable housing for more than 20 years. As the former Executive Director of Housing California, Mike championed such issues as affordable housing, homelessness, community reinvestment and adequate public benefits and services for the poor. In February, 2002, Mike was appointed by Governor Davis as Deputy Director for External Affairs and Innovations at the state Department of Housing and Community Development. His official duties included interagency liaison, public speaking, and federal advocacy. He co-authored reports by Governor Davis' Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, played an active role in creating the state's Olmstead plan, and staffed HCD's Farm Labor Housing Assistance Plan. In 2003, he served as HCD's Acting Deputy Director for Legislation before joining the Western Center. Mr. Herald is a lawyer and a native Californian who graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Kate Karpilow**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF)**  
**[www.ccrwf.org](http://www.ccrwf.org)**

Kate 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 20 years, Ms. Karpilow 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 Summit and the Primer Project, both of which she founded. She also serves as the Project Director of the CalWORKs/Child Welfare Partnership Project. Ms. Karpilow has worked in a variety of positions in local and state government and as a consultant to philanthropic foundations. From 1988-1996, Ms. Karpilow served as the Executive Director of the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER). Ms. Karpilow received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Psychology and Social Relations.

**Ted Lempert**

**President**

**Children Now**

**[www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org)**

Ted Lempert is the President of Children Now, a national research and action organization based in Oakland, California. Previously, Ted was the founding CEO and co-founder of EdVoice, a statewide, grassroots organization advocating for education reform and support for public education. Mr. Lempert also serves on the San Mateo County Board of Education. Mr. Lempert was a State Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1988 to 1992 and from 1996 to 2000. Mr. Lempert had over 70 other 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. Mr. Lempert also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he was President of the Board in 1995. Mr. Lempert graduated from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University.

**Carol Liu**

**Assemblywoman**

**California State Assembly**

**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Assemblywoman Carol Liu represents the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. Her number one priority is restoring California's public education system to be among the best in the nation. As Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, she is working to ensure that all Californians have access to higher education. Assemblywoman Liu also sits on the Assembly Education Committee and on the Budget Committee and its Education Finance Subcommittee. In 2004, Liu served as Vice Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus. In 2005, she will be sworn in as Chair of the Caucus. A fifth generation Californian and the child of an immigrant, Liu was born in Berkeley and raised in Oakland. She attended public schools and graduated from San Jose State College in 1963. She earned a lifetime teaching credential and an administrative credential from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Education. Assemblywoman Liu taught public school for seven years before becoming a school administrator.

**Jamie Morgan**

**Legislative Director**

**American Heart Association**

**[www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)**

Jamie Morgan has worked as an advocate for legislative issues for over seven years. In October of 2002, she joined the American Heart Association (AHA) as Legislative Director to develop and implement the AHA's legislative program for California. She lobbies for issues in the Legislature and the community related to the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Her focus is on policies that promote nutrition, physical activity, tobacco control, access to care, and other issues related to the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Prior to joining the AHA, Ms. Morgan worked in the State Capitol as Senior Consultant for Assemblyman Howard Wayne, where she effectively advised and supported the Assemblyman by researching, analyzing, drafting and staffing bills on health and consumer protection issues. Ms. Morgan also served on the district staff for two state Assemblymembers.

**Carmen Rita Nevarez**  
**Medical Director and Vice President of External Relations**  
**Public Health Institute**  
**[www.phi.org](http://www.phi.org)**

Carmen Rita Nevarez, M.D., M.P.H., is currently Medical Director and Vice President of External Relations at the Public Health Institute. Dr. Nevarez has worked over 24 years as a physician and 20 years as a public health practitioner. She is a former Health Officer and Department Director with the Department of Health and Human Services, City of Berkeley. As a physician, she provided medical services to multicultural, multi-ethnic communities in a diverse array of settings. Recognized as a long-standing voice for the public's health, Dr. Nevarez's commentary has appeared in a wide range of media outlets. Dr. Nevarez is an Executive Board Member of APHA, a member of the Board of Directors of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, past President of CPHA-North, and former Chair of the Board of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. She was named one of 2004 Top Latinas in the June issue of Hispanic Magazine.

**Amanda Purcell**  
**Policy Director**  
**California Center for Public Health Advocacy**  
**[www.publichealthadvocacy.org](http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org)**

Amanda Purcell is the Policy Director for the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. As Policy Director, she manages the Center's state-level advocacy and legislative efforts. Previously, Ms. Purcell served as an Evaluation Specialist with California Project LEAN during which time she managed school-based nutrition and physical activity policy efforts throughout California. Ms. Purcell received her Master of Public Health from San Diego State University with an emphasis in health promotion. In addition to working for close to a decade on nutrition and physical activity policy issues, Ms. Purcell has worked in the areas of adolescent HIV prevention and school-based asthma education.

**Jean Ross**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Budget Project**  
**[www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)**

Jean M. Ross is the founding Executive Director of the California Budget Project. Her prior professional experience includes serving as Principal Consultant to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee; Senior Consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee, where she staffed the California Legislature's Joint Select Committee on the Changing Family; and Assistant Research Director of the Service Employees International Union in Washington, DC, where she was responsible for coordinating the union's research on tax, budget, and employment policy issues. Jean serves on the Board of the Washington, DC-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the Advisory Committee of California's Franchise Tax Board, and the Board of the California Tax Reform Association. Ms. Ross is a frequent speaker on workforce and fiscal policy issues and has published numerous reports and articles on fiscal and economic policy issues. Ms. Ross graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz and has a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Darci Smith**  
**Executive Director**  
**California School-Age Consortium**  
**[www.calsac.org](http://www.calsac.org)**

Darci Smith has served as the California School-Age Consortium's Executive Director since 1993. CalSAC, the nation's oldest and largest statewide association for after-school and school-age care, champions the cause of quality, affordable programs for children statewide. During her tenure, Ms. Smith has developed and directed initiatives to foster CalSAC's growth, bringing new resources – both talent and funding – into the

organization and the after-school field. She is a 25-year veteran of community organizing and has worked with agencies such as the Tucson Indian Center, American Red Cross, Bread & Roses, and On Lok Senior Health Services.

**Nancy Strohl**  
**Executive Director**  
**Child Care Law Center**  
**[www.childcarelaw.org](http://www.childcarelaw.org)**

Nancy Strohl is Executive Director of the Child Care Law Center that uses legal tools to make high quality child care accessible to every child, family, and community. CCLC works in California and other states with local legal services, parents, child care and community advocates. Previously, she served as the Director of the Public Interest Clearinghouse, Contra Costa Legal Services and the Alameda Volunteer Lawyer Program. A working parent who raised three children, she has personal experience with high quality family child care providers and centers and the challenges of the child care system.

**Catherine Teare**  
**Director of Policy**  
**Children Now**  
**[www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org)**

Catherine Teare, Director of Policy, oversees Children Now's work on California policy and leads the organization's work on health insurance and health access for children. From 1991 to 1999, Catherine was Health Policy Analyst at the National Center for Youth Law. Ms. Teare has published extensively in the areas of health insurance, adolescent health, legal rights of children and youth, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and has conducted numerous trainings on these issues for audiences in California and nationwide. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. in English from Yale University.

**Tom Torlakson**  
**Senator**  
**California State Senate**  
**[www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov)**

Tom Torlakson represents the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes most of Contra Costa County. He is Chair of the Senate Housing and Transportation Committee and Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Infrastructure. Senator Torlakson also chairs the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness. He has been a leader in improving the transportation system, preventing drunken driving, strongly supporting public education, promoting consumer protection and safety, improving fitness and nutrition, and protecting the environment. Senator Torlakson was first elected to the Senate in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. Prior to this service, he was elected to the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in 1996 and re-elected in 1998. He earned a B.A. in History in 1971, a Life Secondary Teaching Credential, and an M.A. in Education in 1977 from University of California, Berkeley. He served in the merchant marine during the Vietnam War.

**Diane Woloshin**  
**Acting Director**  
**California WIC Association**  
**[www.calwic.org](http://www.calwic.org)**

Diane Woloshin, MS, RD, is Acting Director of the California WIC Association. While relatively new to the advocacy world four years ago, she has over 15 years of WIC experience, working in various capacities for three different programs, most recently as the WIC Program Director in San Mateo County. Ms. Woloshin has acted as manager of numerous large-scale public health programs and special projects. She received her BS-RD from University of Wisconsin, and a master's degree in Health Care Administration from California State University at Long Beach.

**Anthony Wright**  
**Executive Director**  
**Health Access**

**[www.health-access.org](http://www.health-access.org)**

Anthony Wright serves as Executive Director of Health Access, the statewide health care consumer advocacy organization, which is a coalition of over 200 constituency groups working for quality, affordable health care for all. He is currently working to prevent severe health care budget cuts, provide consumer protections for self-pay hospital patients, address rising health care costs, and advance comprehensive health care reform. Mr. Wright came to Health Access with consumer policy expertise in health care, education, media, telecommunications and utilities, community reinvestment, and insurance, and has been widely quoted in local and national media on these issues. He previously served as Program Director for New Jersey Citizen Action. Mr. Wright has also worked at the Center for Media Education, The Nation magazine, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House. Born and raised in the Bronx, Mr. Wright graduated from Amherst College with honors in English and Sociology.

## **PROVOCATEURS**

**Jane Adams**

Executive Director, California Park and Recreation Society

**Maria Boyle**

Associate, Samuels & Associates

**Jane Henderson**

Executive Director, First 5 California/California Children & Families Commission

**Arnell Hinkle**

Executive Director, California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program (CANFit)

**Agnes Lee**

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**Stuart Oppenheim**

Executive Director, Child & Family Institute

**Rachel Otte-Michelin**

Executive Director, CEWAER

**S. Alecia Sanchez**

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Executive Director, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network