

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
NEJAC Member Biographical Summaries
September 2013

CHAIR

May, Margaret J.

Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council

Ms. May has been the Executive Director of the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council since October 2001. Organized in 1967, Ivanhoe is one of the oldest and largest organized neighborhoods in Kansas City facing the challenge of vacant lots, illegal dumping and criminal activity. Under Ms. May's leadership, Ivanhoe initiated several community projects, including the Ivanhoe Land Trust Lots Maintenance Program, to improve the appearance and safety of the neighborhood and provide neighborhood youth with jobs; as well as the Ivanhoe Rehab Program to reclaim vacant abandoned houses, rehab the houses, and sell them to home owners. Currently, Ivanhoe is one of five neighborhoods participating in Congressman Emanuel Cleaver's innovative Green Impact Zone project. Additionally, Ivanhoe is one of seven neighborhoods selected by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to participate in the new Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI), created to revitalize Kansas City's urban core neighborhoods. In 2008, the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council expanded its capacity to improve the neighborhood by becoming a community development corporation. In 2011, Ms. May was appointed to serve on the City Plan Commission. Ms. May holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Park University and holds a National Development Council's Housing Development Financial Professional (HDFP) certification.

OTHER MEMBERS

Blanton, Teri E.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

In August 2007, Ms. Blanton became a Canary Leadership Project Fellow with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) in London, Kentucky. In that capacity, she is cultivating grassroots leaders by helping affected citizens develop their communications and analytical skills so they may better confront the challenges they face. She provides training in public speaking, lobbying, government relations and media relations. She represents KFTC and residents impacted by the coal industry at regional and national conferences and events, and engages in direct lobbying of public officials at the state and federal levels. Ms. Blanton also serves on the Board of The Alliance for Appalachia. She was formerly the Vice President of Kentucky Riverkeepers.

Captain, Peter M., Sr.

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Mr. Captain is the former Vice President of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (42 United Interior Tribes) (2007-2010) and serves as an Elder Advisor to the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (70 United Tribes), a group he also helped found. As Vice President of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Mr. Captain worked to develop a strong collaboration and provide a forum for open communication among Alaskan Native Tribes. Additionally, Mr. Captain has been a member of the Loudon Tribal Council for over 15 years, serving various posts including First Chief. There, he strived to build awareness of the unique environmental issues facing tribal communities. Throughout his career, he has worked to remediate the Yukon River by reducing pollution runoff and building community capacity to address the issues. Mr. Captain was one of the original signatories to the Accord, an inter-tribal agreement drafted among 60 tribes along the Yukon River, to coordinate the cleanup of the Yukon River and its tributaries.

Chase, Charles

University of Colorado – Denver

For the last 7 years, Mr. Chase has used his position at the University of Colorado and working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program to develop a stronger link between environmental justice communities and the students, faculty and resources at the university. Mr. Chase serves as Advisor of the University's Designers Without Boundaries program and as the Science Advisor for Earth Force, which works to bring together partners to transform how communities educate and engage young people around environmental issues, such as water quality and environmental pollution. He has worked with communities to address issues including post-disaster work in New Orleans and redevelopment and environmental health in Colorado, and to provide facilitation and mentoring to CARE community projects across the U.S. Mr. Chase worked on his doctorate in biology at Florida State University, and received the Master of Arts from University of Colorado and Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University.

Doi, Kerry N.

Pacific Asian Consortium in Empowerment (PACE)

Mr. Doi has long been an advocate for grassroots, environmental justice for low-income ethnic minorities in the Los Angeles area. Through PACE, a community organization he founded and has led for the past 37 years, he has helped more than 800,000 low-income families in Los Angeles improve their quality of life by reducing energy use. PACE successfully implements a variety of economic development and social service programs for low-income, ethnic minority residents in the Los Angeles area. PACE programs serve more than 60,000 low-income residents annually with an operating budget in excess of \$36 million and 450 staff. Mr. Doi also is a board member of the Los Angeles Housing Partnership, the California Community Economic Development Association (CCEDA) and founding member and National Co-Chair of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. In 2009, Mr. Doi was the NeighborWorks Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from California State University, Long Beach.

Drew, Ellen E.

Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

For the past seven years, Ms. Drew has supervised RCAC's environmental rural development specialists in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. She has more than 25 years of experience in the environmental arena with expertise in sustainable communities, pollution prevention, environmental justice, solid waste, water, wastewater, whole systems thinking, principle-based strategies, capacity and process development. Previously, she worked as the operations director for an environmental analytical laboratory, reviewing data and developing site cleanup strategies in conjunction with environmental engineering firms. Ms. Drew was the founder and Executive Director of the Strategic Environmental Project Pipeline Foundation, Inc., an innovative national project database matchmaking funders with local community projects, and the Colorado Environmental Business Alliance (CEBA), a business association working internationally to expand market opportunities for Colorado's environmental products, services and technologies. She has a Bachelor of Science in biological agriculture from Colorado State University.

Ellerbrock, Michael J.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

Dr. Ellerbrock is a professor of environmental economics and ethics at Virginia Tech. In 1998, he founded the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI). The VNRLI has served as a force for building collaborative problem-solving and consensus building skills in Virginia's difficult environmental arena. Now in its 13th year, VNRLI has trained 360 federal, state, industry, academic and community activists in environmental conflict resolution that includes a core theme of environmental justice and racism. Dr. Ellerbrock has published on environmental justice. For example, his work, "Environmental Justice and the Big Flush," is about Hurricane Katrina. He also teaches about environmental justice in his courses and incorporates environmental justice into his Catholic ministry outreach. He received his doctorate in applied economics and a master's degree in recreation and parks administration from Clemson University as well as Bachelor of Science in recreation and parks from Texas A&M University.

Guajardo, Andrea T.

Conejos County Clean Water, Inc.

Ms. Guajardo is the founding board member of Conejos County Clean Water, Inc. (CCCW). She has been the Executive Director of CCCW since August of 2011. Organized in 2010, CCCW is based in one of the oldest Hispanic communities in the U.S., Conejos County. Under Ms. Guajardo's leadership CCCW was formed to promote awareness environmental health issues in Conejos County in order to protect public health and responsibly manage natural resources. Ms. Guajardo is an eighth generation resident of Conejos County and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado School of Mines. Throughout her career, Ms. Guajardo has been an influential advocate for fair public process specifically during collaborative cross-functional work groups. Through her work, this collaboration has resulted in legal settlements to ensure that Conejos County has a fair public National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process prior to radioactive, hazardous and toxic waste transfer through the county, fair public process for federal agency actions, and the Conejos County community is engaged in decision-making processes.

Hall, Stephanie

Valero Energy Corporation

Ms. Hall is Managing Counsel for the Environmental Safety and Regulatory Affairs/Litigation at Valero. In this position, she manages environmental litigation, some environmental regulatory and agency matters and other types of general and commercial litigation. She also handles various company-related environmental justice initiatives and community programs and was featured in Valero's 2009 Social Responsibility Report. Prior to Valero, she was an attorney with the law firm of Strasburger where she handled various commercial and general litigation matters. She has been named Rising Star Super Lawyer by Law & Politics and publishers of Texas Monthly in their Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars Edition. In 2008, she was recognized in San Antonio Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list of distinguished professionals and in 2012, was featured in the *Journal's Women's Leadership and Minority Enterprise Awards* edition. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin University and a Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University School of Law.

Henderson, Effenus

Weyerhaeuser Company

Mr. Henderson is currently the Chief Diversity Officer for Weyerhaeuser Company, where he has been employed for the past 38 years. His work at Weyerhaeuser includes advising the Chief Executive Officer and other senior management on diversity, inclusion and affirmative action. He is an internationally recognized diversity thought leader and has been invited by numerous companies and organizations to share his expertise. He recently led the development of a company-wide "Inclusive Leadership Learning Series" for the top 1,500. Additionally he has provided advisory support on diversity to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal Office of Personnel Management. Further he also has provided support to the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology on diversity and inclusion culminating in an advice letter to the EPA Administrator in 2011. He also serves as the National Co-Chair for the Society of Human Resources' Diversity Standards Taskforce. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees for the National Urban League and serves an advisory board member of the Western Region, Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Henderson holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from North Carolina Central Durham and is a graduate of the Stanford University Executive Program.

Horne, Savonala "Savi"

Land Loss Prevention Project

Since 2005, Ms. Horne has served as Executive Director of the Land Loss Prevention Project. She coordinates the provision of free comprehensive legal and technical assistance to more than 1,200 financially distressed farmers and limited resource landowners per year, seeing to preserve their farms, homes, land and rural livelihoods. She directs the work of the nonprofit law firm of 10 persons, including eight attorneys, and provides strategic guidance in litigation involving discrimination in the agricultural and environmental arenas. As co-Team Leader of the Diversity Initiative of the Farm and Food Policy Project, funded by the Kellogg Foundation, Ms. Horne was involved in the development and coordination of minority and limited-resource farmers' and farmworkers' interests in the 2007-08 U.S. Farm Bill Process and is a present participant in the 2013 Farm Bill process. She earned a Juris Doctor from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts in urban legal studies from City College of the City University of New York.

Kitto, Felix F.

Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska

As the Tribal Environmental Director for the Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, Mr. Kitto works with multiple federal, tribal and state agencies to advocate environmental justice issues on the reservation. His current projects include tribal regulatory code development for the prevention of brownfields, fish tissue assessment for mercury concentrations, wetlands delineation and restoration, water quality assessment and restoration, and atmospheric deposition of mercury on tribal lands. Mr. Kitto serves as a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Tribal Caucus, Vice-Chair of the EPA Region 7 Regional Tribal Operations Committee and a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee. He has served as his Nation's representative with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to advocate for the conveyance of safe drinking water to residents, as well as for the protection and restoration of the Missouri River through the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee. Mr. Kitto has a Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security Program and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration, both from the University of Phoenix.

LaPier, Rosalyn R.

Piegan Institute

Ms. LaPier is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe. Since 1999, she has worked with the Piegan Institute, a private nonprofit on the Blackfeet reservation in Montana, whose mission is to research, preserve and promote Native culture. During her time with the Piegan Institute she has incorporated research projects and programs within the school (summer programs and school programs), which focused on traditional ecological knowledge and worked to increase the environmental literacy of the reservation community. In addition to working at Piegan Institute, she also holds a tenure-track position in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana, where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses on Native peoples and the environment. Most recently she was a graduate fellow for The Newberry Consortium in American Studies at The Newberry Library in Chicago. She was appointed by Montana's governor to serve on the State of Montana Historic Preservation Board. Ms. LaPier currently is a doctoral candidate at the University of Montana and has a Master of Arts in liberal studies from DePaul University and a Bachelor of Arts in physics from The Colorado College.

Miller-Travis, Vernice

Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

Ms. Miller-Travis is Vice Chair of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. She has served as a policy consultant to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and is a principal co-author of their recently released report entitled *Now is the Time: Implementation of Environmental Justice Policy by the Obama Administration*. She is the principal consultant in Miller-Travis & Associates, an environmental consulting firm. Ms. Miller-Travis is an urban planner focusing on the interrelationship between racial segregation, land use and environmental protection, as well as on environmental policy and civil rights advocacy. She is a graduate of Columbia University, a published author of numerous articles and chapters on race and land use, and contributed to the landmark report, "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States."

Moore, Michelle M.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Ms. Moore is an Environmental Analyst with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Environmental Permits in the New York City Office. She serves as the Regional Coordinator for Environmental Justice, an adjunct to the Office of Environmental Justice. Ms. Moore's responsibilities encompass environmental justice concerns related to regional permitting, environmental analysis and review, enforcement, environmental benefit programs and policy. She assists with the coordination, development and implementation of DEC's statewide environmental justice policy and acts as a liaison between the DEC and local community groups in proposed project areas and areas subject to enforcement actions. She presently is assisting with the development of New York State regulations on energy and environmental justice required by the Power NY Act and serves as the coordinator for the development of the NYS Environmental Justice Report to the 2013 State Energy Plan. Ms. Moore also delivered training on environmental justice to the DEC staff after training with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. From 2000-2005, she was an adjunct professor at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. She has a Master of Science in environmental science from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey and a Bachelor of Science in environmental health science from York College, The City University of New York in Queens.

Mossett, Kandi L.

Indigenous Environmental Network

In February 2007, Ms. Mossett began working for the Indigenous Environmental Network as the Tribal Campus Climate Challenge (TCCC) Organizer. Over the years, her work has expanded to include international efforts to create awareness about international decision making and its effect at the local level. Ms. Mossett continues to work primarily at the grassroots level, bridging generational gaps in tribal communities while connecting the local to the national and the national to the international in an effort to raise awareness about sustainability and continue the fight towards just climate and energy solutions for all. Her current focus is on creating awareness about the dangers of hydraulic fracturing while working to push for regulations and protections, particularly on Native lands. Ms. Mossett has a Master of Environmental Management with a focus on environmental management, earth systems science and policy and a Bachelor of Science, both from the University of North Dakota.

Pestana, Edith M.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Pestana is the Environmental Justice Program Administrator at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford, Connecticut. Her responsibilities include incorporating environmental justice into agency programs, policy making and regulatory activities; interpreting and administering pertinent laws and consulting on related enforcement activities and decisions that impact minority and economically distressed communities; and collaborating with health, social and enforcement agencies to investigate environmental health complaints resulting from exposures to sewage, lead-based paint, asbestos and other environmental concerns. In 2009, Ms. Pestana collaborated with numerous advocacy organizations, including the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, and successfully passed environmental justice legislation, "An Act Concerning Environmental Justice Communities." She received the Environmental Justice Government Leadership Award from the Hartford Environmental Justice Network in December of 2010. Ms. Pestana earned a Master in Public Health from Yale University Medical School and Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in geology from Rutgers University. She has served on numerous government and nongovernmental advisory boards and commissions, including the Forum for State and Tribal Toxic Action, Office of Pollution Prevention, EPA.

Rezentes, Cynthia Kim Len

Mohala I Ka Wai

Ms. Rezentes currently serves as president of Mohala I Ka Wai (People Thrive Where Conditions Are Good), a nonprofit that seeks to steward Wai`anae Coast and Hawaii watersheds, with the goal of building a cultural learning center for traditional agricultural practices. In addition, she serves on the advisory committee for Ka Wai Ola O Wai`anae (The Living Waters of Wai`anae) project, which is pursuing a community-driven process to mitigate pollutants related to illegal dumping and nonpoint source pollution. Previously, Ms. Rezentes had served as director for two land trusts. As a member of two neighborhood boards, Ms. Rezentes has chaired committees related to planning and zoning, transportation and housing in addition to chairing each board at various times. Working as an electrical engineer for many years, Ms. Rezentes' professional background qualifies her to understand technical aspects related to development or infrastructure-type projects. Living in a primarily Native Hawaiian and low-income community that faces many environmental justice issues, Ms. Rezentes has fought for over 10 years for the closure of Oahu's only solid waste landfill, which is located on the border of her community. She is recognized by various organizations as a community leader with a concern for the environment, and involves herself with legislative issues by advocating for various environmental and social justice issues. Ms. Rezentes received her

Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Gonzaga University and her Master of Science in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico.

Sanders, Deidre

Pacific Gas & Electric

Ms. Sanders is currently the Environmental Justice Program Manager at Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) in San Francisco, California. In this role, Ms. Sanders serves as a subject matter expert on environmental justice where she has been a part of PG&E's Environmental Policy Group since September 2007. Her primary responsibilities include leading the effort to advance the implementation and institutionalization of PG&E's Environmental Justice Policy. She also provides direct project support by helping PG&E manage non-permit risks associated with new facility siting and ongoing operations, particularly those related to communities. Additionally, she is the lead for the identification and development of company response strategies associated with environmental justice and new laws and regulations, such as California's landmark climate change legislation, Assembly Bill 32, as well as other emerging issues. In addition to her work for PG&E she is on the board of the Coalition for Clean Air, a state-wide environmental organization that seeks to ensure clean air for all Californians. She is also the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) lead on environmental justice concerns through its Legislative Issues and Public Policy section. In 2009 she worked on the EPA National Advisory Committee for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) Subcommittee for Promoting Environmental Stewardship.

Shafaei, Fatemah

Spelman College

Dr. Shafaei is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Co-Chair of Sustainability Committee at Spelman College. She has served as environmental justice consultant for Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Bates College. Dr. Shafaei has served as an invited speaker, panelist, chair, section chair, panel organizer, moderator and discussant in numerous conferences and forums. She received federal funding for her research in environmental policy area from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for "Environmental Policy and Innovation Grant: Emergency Planning and Preparedness." In addition, Dr. Shafaei served as project director for the Spelman College/EPA Teachers' Environmental Institutes (2000, 2001 and 2004), an EPA funded project. These institutes were designed to inform, promote, facilitate and expand middle and high school teachers' knowledge in environmental areas. She was also the principal investigator for the United Negro College Fund/Mellon Program funded project "Education for Sustainability: Greening the College Curriculum Institute." As project director she planned, developed and conducted a curriculum development workshop for faculty from several historically black colleges and universities. She was also the project director for the Environmental Justice Summit, an EPA funded project. She was a Partnership Leader in the Education for Sustainability Project, a U.S. Department of Energy funded project (1994-1997), where she planned, developed and conducted curriculum development workshops for Clark Atlanta University faculty. She served as the project director for the Environmental Lecture Series (1994-1996), an EPA funded project. She was also co-principal investigator who participated in planning, and made presentations at the 1994 and 1995 EPA-Clark Atlanta University Teachers' Environmental Summer Institute that was funded by EPA Region 4. She planned, developed, invited speakers and organized The Atlanta Environmental Summit: Linking Priorities from a Minority Perspective held on June 15, 1996. She received her doctorate from the University of California, Riverside. Her research and teaching interests are in environmental policy, environmental justice, environmental education, environmental determinants of health disparity and international relations. Dr. Shafaei's work on environmental policy, particularly within the state of Georgia resulted in her extensive analysis of environmental laws passed by the Georgia Legislature, documented in nine chapters on

environmental policy in *Georgia Legislative Review*. In addition, she also has published in the area of environmental determinants of health disparities and environmental education.

Sheats, Nicky

Thomas Edison State College

Dr. Sheats is currently the director of the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College where he has defined the primary mission of the Center as providing support for New Jersey's environmental justice community. He has also been a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, New Jersey's only statewide environmental organization that focuses solely on environmental justice (EJ) issues, since its inception in 2003. Dr. Sheats has also been appointed to New Jersey's Clean Air Council and in recent years has expanded his work to a national level where he is currently a member of the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change and the EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. He also served as a member of the NEJAC's School Air Toxics Working Group and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice's New Orleans and Delta Area Environmental Justice Policy Task Force at Dillard University. He is also serving as a lead author on the public health chapter of the National Climate Assessment and will serve on the national National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Environmental and Climate Justice Advisory Panel. Dr. Sheats received his doctorate from in earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University where his field of study was biological oceanography and his specialty was stable isotope biogeochemistry. He also has an undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. He worked as a public interest attorney for almost eight years after graduating from law school. During that time, Dr. Sheats served as a law clerk for the Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, as a landlord-tenant and housing attorney at Camden Regional Legal Services, as a public defender in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and as a legal instructor at a community legal education and college preparatory program in Harlem.

Shoemaker, Paul

Boston Public Health Commission

Mr. Shoemaker is currently the Associate Director of the Environmental Health Office of the Boston Public Health Commission. He is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the broad range of the office's activities including direct inspector response to potential environmental health hazards and enforcement of local and state public health regulations relating to indoor and outdoor air pollution, lead paint, asbestos, solid waste and other noxious industries chemical releases and exposures of all kinds. Mr. Shoemaker represents the office in collaborative efforts with community partners, academic institutions and governmental agencies around such topics as climate change mitigation and adaptation planning, community planning policy and health impact assessment of developments, and the creation or modification of regulations. Among his recent achievements are a successful effort in 2007 to introduce hybrid taxi cabs to Boston to reduce vehicle emissions and save drivers fuel costs; regulations passed in 2011 governing the operation of nail salons in Boston to promote worker and client health and safety; and the Boston Safe Shops Program, which provides education and technical assistance to help small businesses implement the use of alternative products and best practices to reduce pollution and protect the health of their workers. The program was recognized by the EPA with an Environmental Merit Award and by the National Association of County and City Health Officials as a Model Practice. Mr. Shoemaker also serves on ESAC's Board of Directors (www.esacboston.org), a multi-service community stabilization organization providing GED education programming to at-risk youth, foreclosure prevention counseling, senior home repair services and in-home asthma education in addition to advocacy work. Mr. Shoemaker holds a Masters of Public Health from the George Washington University, a

Master in Business Administration from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in biology from The Johns Hopkins University.

Smith, Kenneth

City of Kingsland, Georgia

Mr. Smith is currently the Mayor of Kingsland, Georgia. Mayor Smith's city has been designated as a Signature Community and a Downtown Main Street Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He has been responsible for various development projects that include affording housing communities, re-adaptive use of old schools and school bus barnyard to municipal office buildings, wastewater treatment facility upgrades, government building retrofit of energy efficient lighting, historical preservation of railroad depot and Kingsland Memorial Veterans Park, and the renovations of Kingsland Historic Downtown District. Mayor Smith has completed hours of training on Sustainable Growth and Rural Development, Economic and Smart Growth, and the EPA Brownfields program all of which are reflected in several development projects within the City of Kingsland. He has continuously attended training conferences and served on panels with organizations such as, Sustainable Development Group, Georgia Municipal Association, National League of Cities, Georgia Conference of Black Mayors, just to name a few. Mayor Smith attended Brunswick College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in business management.

Strand, Horace

Chester Environmental Partnership

Reverend Dr. Strand is currently the Director of the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) in Chester, Pennsylvania. Dr. Strand developed the CEP out of his work founding the Faith Temple Environmental Initiative (FTEI) in 2005. FTEI's purpose is to address worsening conditions in Chester due to Agencies and regulations inaction and the lack of community cohesiveness. Under the umbrella of FTEI and an Environmental Support Center (ESC) grant, the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) was developed. The CEP hosted a leadership seminar for the purpose of educating and training Chester leadership about environmental health risks and promoting a healthier environment while attracting economic development and fostering jobs for Chester residents. The CEP consists of a coalition of local, state and federal government officials, academia and student representation profit and nonprofit organizations, and community and faith-based leadership. The CEP addresses zoning, land use, permitting, environmental health and environmental health risk intervention, smart growth, and partnerships to improve the quality of life and safety of the resident. Previously, in 1979, Dr. Strand founded the Faith Temple Holy Church and awarded Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity at Jameson College, Philadelphia. In 1992, he became the founder and 1st Chair of Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL) to address the clustering of environmentally unsafe facilities within the community.

Torres, Javier Francisco

Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Mr. Torres is currently the Technical Assistance Manager for the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) in El Paso, Texas. In this role, he coordinates technical assistance funding for border communities and manages BECC's funded and EPA funded technical assistance programs. Prior to his work with BECC, he was a field archaeologist and ethnographer for SWCA, Inc. Environmental Consultants, where he assisted project sponsors with compliance of cultural resource laws to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act for environmental infrastructure projects on Native American reservations and in minority communities in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. The primary focus of Mr. Torres' professional work has been in public involvement in civic education (grassroots organizing for voter registration) in Nicaragua and El Salvador with the Southwest Voter Research Institute, and in

public participation in environmental infrastructure projects along the U.S.-Mexico border with the BECC. Mr. Torres received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree in applied anthropology from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Wasserman, Kimberly

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

Ms. Wasserman is a Senior Advisor at the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) in the Chicago neighborhood of Little Village, where she grew up and currently lives and works. After six years as a Community Organizer and eight years as Executive Director at LVEJO, she now serves as a Senior Advisory. She currently is responsible for assisting LVEJO with their strategic planning process. Ms. Wasserman credits her parents, community members and leaders of the environmental justice movement as important mentors. She also makes an effort to mentor others through formal and informal mechanisms, including her own children and other youth through LVEJO's youth leadership group. She has raised three children through the organization, taking advantage of the organization's flexibility and willingness to allow and encourage parents to bring their children to work.

Witkowski, Jill M.

San Diego Coastkeeper

Joining San Diego Coastkeeper in January 2010, Ms. Witkowski currently serves as the organization's Waterkeeper. She leads Coastkeeper's policy, legal and programs work to ensure that Coastkeeper achieves its mission. During her time at Coastkeeper, she has worked collaboratively with other local environmental groups to secure a cleanup of San Diego Bay, the closure of the South Bay Power Plant, and the adoption of a groundbreaking storm water permit. Before joining Coastkeeper, Ms. Witkowski served as Deputy Director of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic and was a Professor of Practice at Tulane Law School. At Tulane, she represented individuals and community groups in actions under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and Louisiana state law. Ms. Witkowski was recently selected by Harvard Law School to serve as a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow for the 2012-2013 academic year. She received her Juris Doctor from Washington University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame.