

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**NEJAC Member Biographical Summaries**  
**February 2018**

**CHAIR**

**Moore, Richard**

*Los Jardines Institute*

Mr. Moore served as the Executive Director of Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 1993 to 2010. He came to Southwest Network after 12 years with the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) where he was the lead organizer and primary trainer of SWOP's organizing model. As a widely respected national leader in the area of environmental justice, Mr. Moore has served on numerous government and nongovernmental committees and panels, including chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), member of the National Council of Churches EcoJustice Task Force, and member of the Congressional Black Caucus National Environmental Policy Commission. In 2010, Mr. Moore transitioned from Director of SNEEJ to Senior Advisor. He currently is the Program Director for Los Jardines Institute in Albuquerque New Mexico. Los Jardines is a member of the Environmental Justice & Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform. Through this alliance, Los Jardines advocates for stronger, safer, and just chemical policies. Mr. Moore is a recipient of the 2005 Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World.

**VICE CHAIR**

**Heaps, Jill Witkowski**

*Vermont Law School*

Ms. Heaps currently serves as the director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and Assistant Professor of Law at Vermont Law School. Jill formerly served as Director of Choose Clean Water Coalition, which brings together more than 200 groups across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to work collaboratively towards clean water. Prior to her time in Maryland, Professor Heaps was the Deputy Director of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic and the Waterkeeper at San Diego Coastkeeper. Ms. Heaps was 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.

**OTHER MEMBERS**

**Chase, Charles**

*University of Colorado*

For the last 10 years, Mr. Chase 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 also works as a teacher and manager for the Denver Housing Authority's Osage Café and Youth Culinary Academy. This program provides at-risk youth with training in culinary and restaurateur skill as well as developing life and work skills to enter the job market. He has worked with communities to address issues including post-disaster work in New Orleans and redevelopment and environmental health in Colorado, and has provided facilitation and

mentoring to CARE community projects across the United States. 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.

**Drew, Ellen E.**

*Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC)*

For the past fourteen years, Ms. Drew has supervised RCAC's environmental rural development specialists in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. She has more than 34 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.

**Edwards, Jabari O.**

*J5 GBL, LLC*

Jabari O. Edwards, Sr. is a native of Columbus, Ms. He is the owner of J5 GBL, LLC, a project management firm, majority owner of The Bridge Group, LLC, an insurance brokerage firm, BH Properties, and North Atlantic Security Company. Having established personal and professional relationships throughout the United States, Jabari's focus is growing his organizational brand on a national and global level.

Jabari began his entrepreneurial career in January 2000, with the opening of an insurance agency. He was co-owner of H&E Construction, a minority owned company that focused on residential and small commercial projects. He has a proven track record of managing people and the timely delivery of projects. Upon the formation of The Bridge Group (larger clients include MGM Mirage, United States Secretary of State Global Embassy Arts, Southern Company) in 2007 (purchased from Wells Fargo), Jabari worked to build a relationship with Aon (the largest insurance brokerage and consulting firm in the world), and from there worked with management a team in Chicago to build Cornerstone Innovative Solutions (a division that partners and mentors minority firms). In 2010, Jabari worked with the CEO's of Wells Fargo global brokerage Dave Zuercher and Neal Aton, along with Anne Doss (head of banking relationships) to create a business model for Wells Fargo diversity initiative. In 2012, Jabari worked with Willis executives Kim Waller and Phil Styles to create Willis' business model, Willis Open. Jabari has testified in State of Mississippi hearings about ways to improve minority participation on state funded contracts.

In 2010, Jabari saw the need for a minority firm with scalability in the construction sector, and therefore he started J5 GBL. J5 has served as construction/project managers on many complex projects for many global companies around the country. J5 serves as the ground and building maintenance contract for Southern Company on their Kemper county MS Project, served civil contractor for Kior (bio fuel plant located in Columbus, MS). J5, in a contract assignment, serving as the project management firm, has been the first minority contractor in the history of Columbus MS. Ironically Jabari's father, Joe Edwards was the first African American elected official in the history of the city. Jabari's mission is to build a project

management firm which combines unparalleled expertise with a commitment to real diversity. Working for the Greenfield Environmental Trust, J5 is now known around the country as one of the premier environmental management and environmental Justice firms in the South-East Region of the United States.

Jabari also served as a director on various boards, including Mississippi Health Trust Fund (appointed by Governor Haley Barbour this board managed and set the budget of the billions in funds received from the tobacco lawsuit), Vice-Chairman of Columbus Housing Authority and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Columbus Utility Board. article was written about this program, in a national utility magazine, and duplicated by other energy providers. Currently Jabari serves on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club, Small Business Capitol Loan Fund Board (formerly the Minority Loan Fund Board), The North Mississippi Board for Regions bank, The Mississippi Business Finance Corporation/ Mississippi Development Bank (appointed by Governor Phil Bryant), and The United States EPA's The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) (Appointed by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in December 2017).

He is married to the former Jewel Sherrod, and they have three children: Tori, Jabari Jr., and Joe. They are active members of Vibrant Church in Columbus, MS. He is active in his community, a Diamond Lifetime Member of the NAACP. He and Jewel started their non-profit Bubba's Hope to further their commitment to honor Jabari's father, Joe, by serving and help the less fortunate around the country.

### **Ellerbrock, Reverend Michael J.**

*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 14th 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. Dr. Ellerbrock has been just recently appointed by the Governor to Virginia's first Advisory Council on Environmental Justice.

### **Finley-Deville, Lisa**

*Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation Tomorrow*

Lisa is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation also known as Three Affiliated Tribes. Lisa has lived her whole life in Mandaree, ND with her husband Walter Sr., five children and two grandbabies.

Lisa has won many awards such as the 2015 Gillette/Baker Achievement Award to receiving the 2015 North Dakota Human Rights Arc of Justice Award. Currently Lisa serves on the Vision West ND Project Consortium. Lisa assisted in creating grassroots group and president to Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER), a board member of the Dakota Resource Council (DRC) and of the Western Organization of Resource Council (WORC) and, DRC Oil and Gas Task Force. Lisa is mentor/advisor to the Modern Day Warriors Youth Group.

Lisa conducted the Mandaree Needs Assessment in 2012 after saving the Mandaree Post Office of permanent closure and seeing surrounding communities prosper economically from Oil boom. Lisa has given presentations on “Living with Oil and Gas” to DUKE University, the Minnesota State University Science Department’s, and Nueta, Hidatsa & Sahnish College Leadership class and at the Annual Anthropology Conference in Pennsylvania. Lisa has testified on pipeline spills and its environmental destruction to the North Dakota and South Dakota Public Utilities Commission’s. Lisa testified on behalf of the White Earth band of Ojibwe per Winona Laduke request on the pipeline spills and environmental destruction with brief on Living with Oil and Gas in Minnesota. Lisa testified in Washington D.C. that Native American student’s need the \$8,000 federal government allocated which students receive \$5,800 and with federal lawmakers to lobby for tribal colleges need. Lisa Also testified in Washington D.C. on the Methane Rule, Pollution Standards. Also Lisa has written many letters for Public Hearings on Oil and Gas Development. Lisa work will be published in an education journal with Dr. Mikulak, UND.

Lisa discovered her passion for helping the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation communities and its enrolled members in 1999 with housing by taken part in creating in Native American Country homeownership programs. In the winter of 2010 Lisa realized the impact the oil and gas development has taken on Mandaree and the other Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara communities. Lisa says “The Bakken oil and gas development has brought much environmental and health impacts and has changed our way of life. We must protect our water, land, air that is life but also to educate. Also not to do away with oil and gas but hold industry accountable for cleanup by creating laws/codes (environmental justice) and enforcement, policy and procedures.” In 2011 and to better understand the pursuing of her advocacy Lisa enrolled in the Ft. Berthold Community College B.S. Degree Program in Environmental Science which she received May 2015. Currently Lisa is enrolled in the Nueta, Hidatsa, and Sanish College (also known as Fort Berthold Community College) Native American Program.

### **Harris, Rita**

#### *Sierra Club*

Ms. Harris is a long-time social justice activist/advocate. She has worked over the years with a wide variety of organizations including the Mid-South Peace & Justice Center, Mississippi River Basin Alliance, Tennessee Clean Water Network, Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and is a founding member of the Public Issues Forum. She has worked professionally with community groups and church groups on issues related to air toxics, solid waste, and environmental justice for over 25+ years. Appointed by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner to serve on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) from 1997-2001, she served on the Enforcement Sub-Committee and the Federal Facilities Workgroup. Most recently, Ms. Harris was appointed to participate in EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) School Air Toxics Monitoring Workgroup in 2009-10. She has also participated on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Serving Communities Workgroup (2010).

Ms. Harris is in her 18th year of work as an Environmental Justice Organizer with the Sierra Club working out of Memphis, TN. She works with community groups and interested citizens concerned about the health impacts of toxic air & water pollution, effective emergency planning for neighborhoods near large chemical plants, and the cleanup of contaminated properties. Ms. Harris regularly stands toe-

to-toe with industry officials and polluting industries, challenging environmental permits and enforcement decisions. To assist in raising awareness, she offers Toxic Tours and designs easy-to-read community education fliers and brochures, such as publishing annual editions of the *Shelby County Terrible Ten Report*. In addition, "*Communities at Risk*", an air pollution video she conceived and produced with the help of a Memphis filmmaker, is added to her toolbox of items she uses to do outreach to community groups and individuals who desire to become activists. She believes that average citizens, regardless of their race or class, must be empowered to speak for themselves and to be included in decision-making that impacts their lives and their communities. Annually, she coordinates and co-hosts community environmental conferences where people from low-income neighborhoods, as well as the city at-large, come to network and gain knowledge on a variety of subjects. Ms. Harris promotes effective citizen participation in all areas of decision-making, and uses creative organizing techniques, networking, and collaborations to ensure successful campaigns. She promotes diversity, anti-racism, and cultural competency among environmental and social justice organizations by facilitating workshops for groups throughout the activist community. Her diversity-related website can be found at - [www.openheartsminds.com](http://www.openheartsminds.com)

### **Holloman, Erica**

#### *Southeast CARE Coalition*

Ms. Holloman began pursuing her scientific dreams at Hampton University where she earned a B.S. in marine and environmental science and an M.S. in biology with a concentration in environmental science. In January 2012, she became the first African American woman to obtain a doctoral degree from the School of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Her area of expertise lies in the field of environmental risk assessments (human and ecological), community-based participatory research (CBPR), and environmental justice.

Currently, Ms. Holloman is serving as Coalition Coordinator for the Southeast CARE Coalition, a broad, grassroots, community-based partnership consisting of community residents, organizations, businesses, academic institutions, and government. She has worked on numerous project aimed at: 1) fulfilling an informational void regarding community specific impacts of toxic pollutant exposure on the environment and the health of the residents in the Southeast Community of Newport News, Virginia, and 2) generating action that improves local environmental quality and reduces associated risks and impacts. Ms. Holloman's goal is to provide communities affected by environmental injustices with scientifically sound, community- specific, environmental information. She currently serves on the advisory board for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, in the Washington DC, Federal Policy Office.

### **Sprayberry, Karen**

#### *South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control*

Mrs. Sprayberry has worked with environmental justice communities for approximately 22 years; she began working at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) in the Superfund and Voluntary Cleanup Program/Brownfield program as a public participation coordinator. She initially began to work with the ReGenesis and its communities in Spartanburg, South Carolina, shortly after coming to SC DHEC; ReGenesis would later win environmental justice and redevelopment awards because of the over \$250 million revitalization effort conducted within these communities. She attended many community and public meetings and slowly began to build trust with that community and its leaders. When it was time for SC DHEC to oversee work specifically within this

community, a foundation of trust and understanding had been instilled so as there was more of a collaborative, problem-solving method instilled between the various parties as the issues were address.

In 2002, Mrs. Sprayberry went to work for the Environmental Community Liaison for SC DHEC. In this role, she worked with all the media (land, water, and air programs) on community involvement and environmental justice concerns. During this time, we also strived to enhance our culture within our agency on these items. In 2009, SC DHEC was awarded a cooperative agreement from the EPA. Mrs. Sprayberry oversaw that project called “Leaders in Environmental Action Pilots – LEAP”. We were allowed to provide \$25,000 to four environmental communities. These communities built capacity (leadership and partnerships) while identifying and addressing their environmental and social justice needs. After that project ended (three years later), SC DHEC held an SC Environmental Leadership Forum. We partnered with the University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, to develop our curriculum. The 19 students who were selected came from various walks of life. They were citizens, students, or represented environmental organizations, non-profit organizations, local governments, and industry. The participants came together during 4 1 ½ day workshops to learn about 1) Effective Leadership and Engagement, 2) Understanding Government and our Environment 3) Community Organization and Development 4) Strategies for Sustaining Your Initiatives. During the Forum, participants gained knowledge and insight, but they also developed a stronger understanding among one-another, even if they did not see things eye-to-eye. The EPA-Region 4 Office has since used this as a model. SC DHEC values public participation and environmental justice and continues to work closely with our communities across the state using the knowledge gained from experiences and our various partners along the way to conduct more meaningful involvement for all our stakeholders.

Mrs. Sprayberry now serves as the Special Advisor to the Director of Environmental Affairs at SC DHEC, with her specialty being environmental justice and community involvement; she retired in 2015 and now is a part-time employee. As well as working with the Director, she continues to work closely with the Environmental Justice and Community Involvement Liaisons and other public participation staff within SC DHEC. She has received both internal and external awards for her work at SC DHEC, including receiving a House Resolution from the S. C. House of Representatives in 2015. Another award she is proud of is from 2008, when SC DHEC was awarded the “U. S. EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award” due to the public participation and environmental justice work conducted both internally and externally by her and her peers. In 2011, Mrs. Sprayberry conducted the “Fundamentals of Public Participation” training during the EPA’s Community Involvement and Training Conference. Mrs. Sprayberry has a BA degree in Political Science from Columbia College.

### **Johnson, Cheryl**

#### *People for Community Recovery*

As an environmental activist Ms. Johnson has been an effective community organizer across issues of the environment, health, housing, and safety. In her community, she has conducted workshops on these issues and has increased resident participation in civic education around policies and procedures of governmental entities. She has also provided training for environmental assessment and risk prevention. Ms. Johnson has been involved in EJ issues for over 30 years, working under the leadership of her mother, the late Hazel Johnson, who was one of the first members of NEJAC and known as “the mother of the environmental justice movement”.

**LaPier, Rosalyn R.***Piegan Institute and Saokio Heritage*

Rosalyn is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana and Red River Métis. Her career has been devoted to engendering positive change and development in Indigenous communities. She is the founder of Saokio Heritage (pronounced like Tokyo), a community-based organization developed by Indigenous women interested in revitalizing Native American languages and traditional ecological knowledge.

Rosalyn is an award winning Indigenous writer, ethnobotanist, and environmental historian. She is working on her third book project "Plants That Purify: The Natural and Supernatural History of Smudging," as a visiting Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Environmental Studies and Native American Religion at the Harvard Divinity School for 2016-2017. Rosalyn has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Montana.

**McClain, Mildred***Harambee House*

Dr. Mildred McClain co-founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice, a community based organization whose mission is to build the capacity of communities to solve their problems and to engage in positive growth and development. The organization was created in 1990, is located in Savannah, GA, and serves communities at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

Dr. McClain has been a human rights activists and teacher for over 40 years. She has served on numerous committees, commissions, working groups and boards. She created major partnerships with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Centers for Disease Control, and many community based organizations, with the goals of addressing public health and environmental justice issues and concerns. Under Dr. McClain's leadership for the past 27 years, the Black Youth Leadership Development Institute has trained over 3000 young people to serve as leaders in their communities. The goal of the work is to develop the capacity of communities to create lifestyles that promote health, wellness, and environmental sustainability through community gardens, health fairs, testing children for lead poison, and soil testing in contaminated communities.

**McGee-Collier, Melissa***Mississippi Department of Environmental Equality*

Melissa McGee-Collier commenced a career in state government in 1995, joining Mississippi's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) as a Title V permit writer. From 2002-2010, Melissa assisted in the implementation of the agency's internal data management system, which led to the online electronic search system that allows for the public to view permitting and compliance information associated with permitted facilities.

In 2010, Melissa accepted the position of Director for MDEQ's Office of Community Engagement where she is responsible for overseeing the agency's overall community engagement and environmental justice strategy for addressing environmental justice and public involvement issues. She has worked to enhance individual and community participation in environmental decision-making and to increase community knowledge of programs and processes through educational outreach materials and

activities. Her duties include ensuring that community engagement is fully integrated across the agency's functions. In 2014, the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program was placed within the Office of Community Engagement and Melissa currently serves as MDEQ Title V Small Business Ombudsman.

Melissa earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master of Public Policy and Administration both from Mississippi State University. Melissa is a Board Certified Environmental Engineering Member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists, a member of the Academy of Certified Public Managers and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers (MSCPM).

### **Orduño, Sylvia Marie**

#### *Michigan Welfare Rights Organization*

Ms. Orduño has served on several formal and informal advisory committees through the City of Detroit, The University of Michigan, and alongside local and national issue groups. In May, 2015, she helped organize the International Social Movement Gathering on Affordable Water and Housing – a three-day event that included over 300 participants from 18 U.S. states (including DC), plus Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Italy. Prior to this, Ms. Orduño was the National Co-Coordinator of the U.S. Social Forum in 2010 that brought over 18,000 activists from almost all 50 states and several nations to Detroit for a week-long series of panels, presentations, and strategy sessions on various social and economic issues.

Currently, Ms. Orduño splits her time between working at a non-profit agency for blind persons and being an active member of the National Coalition on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (NCHRWS), representing issues from the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO) and the People's Water Board (PWB). Over the past decade, her volunteer work at MWRO has been focused largely on unaffordable utilities and housing problems, with a special focus on water-based issues. At MWRO, the members and community residents are informed and empowered on their rights and strategies to gain the assistance they need, including filing for hearings. Ms. Orduño works at the state and national level alongside many grassroots groups, organizations and dedicated community professionals to address and lobby on issues of poverty.

### **Orr, Jeremy F.**

#### *Michigan State Conference NAACP*

Mr. Orr is the State Chairperson of Environmental & Climate Justice for the Michigan State Conference NAACP. In this role, Mr. Orr works with the NAACP's National ECJ Program and local units to address environmental injustices, including climate change, that disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income communities throughout Michigan and the U.S. The objectives of this work are to: reduce harmful emissions, advance energy efficiency and clean energy, and strengthen community resilience and livability.

Formerly, Mr. Orr worked as the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic at Wayne State University Law School. In that role, Mr. Orr also served as the Coordinator for the historic Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. Before joining Wayne Law, Mr. Orr was the Executive Director of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council where he led regional efforts to improve environmental and public health through river protection and restoration, stream monitoring, storm water management, food justice, and environmental justice programming. Additionally, Mr. Orr



spent three years as a Community Organizer with the Gamaliel Foundation where he organized around numerous social justice issues including the cleanup of a PCB-contaminated landfill.

Mr. Orr currently serves a Vice-Chair of the Environmental Justice Committee for the American Bar Association's Civil Rights and Social Justice Section. Mr. Orr sits on the Boards of Directors for two local nonprofits: East Michigan Environmental Action Council and Soulardarity. Mr. Orr earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Juris Doctor from Michigan State University. Mr. Orr is also an attorney for the Detroit-based law firm Pierson McNichols, PLLC and is licensed to practice in Michigan State Courts and the U.S. District Court.

### **Osborne Jelks, Na'Taki**

*West Atlanta Watershed Alliance and Proctor Creek Stewardship Council*

Mrs. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks is an environmental scientist, social change engineer, and educator working for a healthy, just, and sustainable future. She has been advancing equity and social justice at the local level for nearly 20 years---using her expertise and passion to address environmental challenges facing underserved communities in the Atlanta Region. She has made contributions through government, non-profit, and community-based organizations, as both a professional and community leader, to advance environmental justice in low-income and communities of color and to elevate marginalized community voices so that those most affected by changes in the region gain access to the decision-making tables where strategies are being planned and developed.

Eighteen years ago, she co-founded the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), a community-based organization comprised of residents living in the Proctor, Utoy, and Sandy Creek Watersheds, in Northwest and Southwest Atlanta, who are overburdened with environmental stressors and pollution but are often least represented at environmental decision-making tables. WAWA was established from community efforts to halt perceived discriminatory wastewater treatment practices in West Atlanta and has grown to become an impactful force in community-centered sustainable development. Mrs. Jelks is the organization's board chairperson. Under Mrs. Jelks' leadership, WAWA has led community-based efforts, for over a decade, to clean up, protect, and restore Northwest Atlanta's Proctor Creek Watershed. Once a source of pride for Northwest Atlanta communities, Proctor Creek is one of the most impaired waterways in Metro Atlanta. Historically, the creek was a place where kids played, people fished, and people were baptized. Today, the creek and the neighborhoods through which it flows are affected by 29+ documented pollution sources, and the watershed is plagued by social, economic, and health disparities. In part because of Mrs. Jelks' and WAWA's persistent advocacy and community engagement efforts, Proctor Creek is now the focus of federal attention and investments through the EPA's Urban Waters Federal Partnership. Mrs. Jelks was also heavily involved in WAWA's establishment of the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council (PCSC), a grassroots organization that engages Proctor Creek residents in community-driven, collaborative problem solving processes, along with government, academia, and other stakeholders, to identify innovative, community-engaged approaches for environmental restoration of the watershed. Since its formation, the PCSC has dramatically changed the dialogue on meaningful citizen engagement in the revitalization of the Proctor Creek Watershed. It now leans more toward respect for community leadership, local knowledge, and community needs than was previously experienced. Jelks is Co-Chair of the PCSC.

### **Randolph, Dennis**

*City of Grandview, Missouri*

Mr. Randolph has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering as well as a Masters of Public Administration. As an engineer he has held responsible positions in city and county government in

Michigan, Missouri, and Virginia, responsible for transportation, water and wastewater, environmental, community planning, parks, and public works activities. Mr. Randolph has many years of instructional experience at the adult level including instructor positions in the U.S. Army, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University, and currently at the University of Missouri – Kansas City where he teaches courses in civil and construction engineering. Mr. Randolph has nearly 100 published papers, many peer reviewed. He serves as a project panel member for the National Academy of Sciences National Cooperative Highway Research Program. He also is a Peer Reviewer for the American Society of Civil Engineers, a member of the Board of Directors for the Transportation Professionals Certification Board, and a Public Works Leadership Fellow for the American Public Works Association. In 2015 he was recognized as a Top 10 Public Works Official.

### **Rezentes, Cynthia Kim Len**

*Mohala I Ka Wai (People Thrive Where Conditions Are Good)*

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

Previously, Ms. Rezentes served as director for two land trusts. As a member of two neighborhood boards, Ms. Rezentes 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. Currently, she is a member of the local Board of Water Supply (BWS) Stakeholder Advisory Group which has guided the development of a 2030 Water Master Plan for infrastructure and water conveyance. The Advisory Group will now discuss financing policies to ensure implementation of the Master Water Plan while balancing the needs of all residents from low-income and up. 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**

*East Bay Community Energy*

Dr. Sanders is currently the Director of Government and Community Affairs at East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) in San Francisco, California. She leads EBCE's commitment to develop, manage, and implement programs and initiatives' that promote EBCE and its interest in Alameda County and the greater Bay Area through outreach and interface with key stakeholders and community groups.

Dr. Sanders is the former Environmental Justice Program Manager at Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) in San Francisco, California. In this role, she served 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 included leading the effort to advance the implementation and institutionalization of PG&E's Environmental Justice Policy, and providing 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 was 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 Green Advisory Council of the California League of Conservation Voters, a state-wide environmental organization that seeks to ensure good environmental policy development and implementation. She is also the American Association of Blacks in Energy lead on environmental justice concerns through its Legislative Issues and Public Policy section. Prior to joining NEJAC in 2012, she worked on the EPA National Advisory Committee for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) Subcommittee for Promoting Environmental Stewardship (2009-2010). Dr. Sanders earned her doctorate degree in public policy and politics from Claremont Graduate University and also a bachelor's degree in history and international relations from the University of Southern California.

### **Shabazz, Jerome**

#### *JASTECH Development Services and Overbrook Environmental Education Center*

Jerome Shabazz is the founder and Executive Director of JASTECH (Juveniles Active in Science and Technology) Development Services, Inc. A not-for-profit organization developed in 1998, to promote environmental justice; encourage sustainable community development and to promote public health in urban communities. In 2002, JASTECH applied for and received a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant under the Clean Water Act to establish the Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC), a community-based center dedicated to preserving our built and natural environments.

Under Mr. Shabazz's direction, the OEEC completed a Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBA) and remediated environmental hazards from a Brownfield site in Western Philadelphia. The OEEC has trained thousands of students on the Clean Water Act and Toxic Substances Control Act, and other topics that reduces human exposure to toxic substances at home and school. The OEEC is nationally known for its Environmental Justice and project-based learning programs.

Prior to working in the non-profit sector, Mr. Shabazz worked for 25 years in Water and Gas utilities. He served as Safety & Training Manager at the Philadelphia Gas Works - LNG Processing Division and was responsible for 49 CFR §193.2713 training in operations and maintenance; trained personnel and contractors on safety issues, codes, regulations, departmental standards, corporate policies and procedures. He also worked in the training, engineering and operations divisions at the Philadelphia Water Department. Mr. Shabazz is an adjunct professor and educator at both Community College of Philadelphia and Penn State University. In 2017, he was appointed to the PA Department of Environmental Protection's - Citizen Advisory Council and Environmental Justice Advisory Board. He is also a board member on Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

Shabazz earned his Masters of Science in Environmental Protection & Safety Management from St. Joseph's University and Bachelors of Arts in Organization Management from Eastern University. He has received numerous citations and award, most recently from the PA House of Representatives and City Council of Philadelphia for his commitment to Environmental Justice and Community Development.

**Shafiei, Fatemeh**

*Spelman College*

Fatemeh Shafiei, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and also serves as Co-Chair of Sustainable Spelman Committee. Dr. Shafiei is a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). She has served as an environmental justice consultant for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Bates College. She was a member of the Academic Advisory Board for the *Annual Editions: Sustainability*, which was published by McGraw-Hill Higher Education Contemporary Learning Series. She was an Environmental Fellow at Associated Colleges of the South. Dr. Shafiei has served as an invited speaker, panelist, chair, section chair, panel organizer, moderator, and discussant in numerous conferences and forums. Dr. Shafiei has also served as project director, co-project director, and partnership leader on numerous federal grants from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Energy (DOE). In addition, she has served as project director for grants from UNCF/Mellon.

Dr. Shafiei has been an expert and a leader in advancing integration of sustainability into college, university, high school, and middle school curricula for more than two decades. To advance education for sustainability, she has planned, developed and conducted numerous workshops and institutes for college and university faculty; and for high school and middle school teachers. In addition, Dr. Shafiei has received funding for her research in the environmental policy area from US Environmental Protection Agency for "Environmental Policy an Innovation Grant: Emergency Planning and Preparedness".

Dr. Shafiei is very passionate about addressing environmental justice and has organized and led a broad spectrum of advocacy and educational projects. She has hosted and directed many projects such as, "Toxics Release Inventory Regional Workshop"; "Reimagining the Twenty-First Century through Advancing Education for Sustainability"; "Environmental Justice Summit"; "Environmental Lecture Series;" and "The Atlanta Environmental Summit: Linking Priorities from a Minority Perspective."

Dr. Shafiei received her B.A and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside. Her research and teaching interests are in environmental policy, environmental justice, climate justice, environmental education, environmental determinants of health disparity, and international relations. Dr. Shafiei's publications are in the areas of environmental policy, 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 Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Environmental and Climate Justice Advisory Panel.

Dr. Sheats received his doctorate 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 & Occupational Health Division 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. In working with community partners, academic researchers, and other governmental agencies, Mr. Shoemaker strives to bring environmental justice and health equity concerns to the table as guiding principles for policy and program development.

Among his 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 as President of the Board of Directors of ESAC ([www.esacboston.org](http://www.esacboston.org)), a multi-service community stabilization organization providing GED education programming to at-risk youth, foreclosure prevention counseling, and free/low-cost home repair services to low income seniors. Mr. Shoemaker holds a Masters of public health from the George Washington University, a Master's in business administration from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in biology from The Johns Hopkins University.

**Tilchin, Michael***Jacobs Engineering*

Mike Tilchin is a Vice President at Jacobs Engineering, which recently acquired CH2M, where Mike has worked since 1983. Mike serves as Jacobs' Client Executive for the company's EPA Portfolio. Mike has 36 years' experience in environmental science and engineering, project and program management. His work for EPA includes support for Superfund, water security, water infrastructure finance, and for the Office of Sustainable Communities. Under Mike's leadership, his company has had a major role in the clean up several hundred Superfund sites in multiple EPA Regions. Mike was appointed by EPA to serve on the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) Superfund Subcommittee in 2002- 2004, developing policy recommendations for the Superfund program. He has been active in EPA's national and regional environmental justice and equitable development forums for several years. Mike also serves on the Board of Directors of the CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company at the Department of Energy site in Hanford, Washington.

Mike is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and serves on ASCE's Committee on America's Infrastructure. For ASCE's 2017 Report Card on America's Infrastructure, Mike was a lead author on the assessment of the nation's Hazardous Waste Infrastructure. He is also an active member of the American Council of Engineering Companies' Superfund Work Group.

Mike served on the Board of Directors of the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) from 2005 through 2017, and was Board Chair from 2010 - 2013. The AWS is an environmental group dedicated to cleaning up the Anacostia River and improving the quality of life for communities in the watershed through stewardship, advocacy, recreation, and education programs. Mike received a B.S. in geology from the University of Michigan, and an M.S. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from North Carolina State University. He is a professional engineer licensed in the State of Virginia, certified as a LEED Green Associate, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island.

**Trevino-Sauceda, Hermila "Mily"***Arlianza Nacional de Campesinas*

Ms. Trevino-Sauceda is the third of ten children, born in Bellingham, Washington, to a migrant farmworker family. Since the age of eight, she was a farmworker in Idaho and California, and eventually became a union farmworker and organizer with the UFW in the 1970s and early 1980s. She co-founded "Mujeres Mexicanas" (Mexican Women), in the Coachella Valley – a campesinas' advocacy group. In 1991, Ms. Trevino-Saucedo returned to school and obtained her Associate of Arts in chicano studies. She went on to earn credits for a minor in women studies at Cal State Fullerton in 1997. She then earned her Master's Degree in social sciences, with focuses on rural development, women's leadership, and oral history at Antioch, Ohio.

Ms. Trevino-Sauceda worked for 12 years as the Executive Director of Líderes Campesinas. In addition, she worked with California Rural Legal Assistance Migrant Project for 10 years; representing farmworkers as a community worker/advocate. In 2011, she co-founded and is the current President of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas – a national farmworker women's alliance. As a consultant, she provides technical assistance to Pequeños Agricultores de California – a group of Latino organic small farmers and ranchers in San Benito County. She also provides technical assistance to the National Hmong American Farmers, ensuring their small farmers are trained in business regulations and labor laws, including prevention of pesticides poisoning. She sits on numerous state and national boards and

task forces representing Latinas, farmworker community & immigrant women in general on health, violence against women, labor, education, environmental and gender issues.

Throughout her activism, Ms. Trevino-Sauceda has received numerous recognitions & awards, including “100 Heroines of the World” in 1998; the Alston/Bannerman Fellow in 2002; and the Ford Foundation and NYU “Leadership for a Changing World” award in 2004. She was recognized twice in 2006, by People Magazine. In 2009, she was honored by Líderes Campesinas in California for her 30+ years of distinguished leadership, and in 2011 was recognized by the US EEOC.

### **Whitehead, Sandra F.**

#### *National Environmental Health Association*

Sandra Whitehead, PhD, MPA, is responsible for capacity building project and program development from grant writing through final implementation and reporting at the National Environmental Health Association. Dr. Whitehead has been involved in environmental justice efforts since the late 1980's while working in Florida, assisting high-need residents with contaminated wells connect to city water. She has worked with communities on their environmental and social justice issues through the Florida Brownfields Association's Environmental Justice Committee. Dr. Whitehead has created opportunities for communities to participate in decisions affecting their health by training more than 400 public health professionals about how to perform health impact assessments (HIAs), and leading 15 HIAs to empower community members with information and tools to advocate for solutions that positively impact their wellbeing and long-term health.

### **Wilson, Sacoby**

#### *Maryland Institute of Applied Environmental Health*

Dr. Sacoby Wilson is an Assistant Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park. Dr. Wilson has over 15 years of experience as environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues and translate research to action.

Dr. Wilson is Director of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) Initiative. CEEJH is focused on providing technical assistance to communities fighting against environmental injustice and environmental health disparities in the DMV region and across the nation. Through CEEJH, Dr. Wilson is engaging communities in the Washington, DC region on environmental health issues including exposure and health risks for individuals who fish and recreate on the Anacostia River; use of best management practices to reduce stormwater inputs in the Chesapeake Bay; built environment, environmental injustice, and vectors in West Baltimore; cumulative impacts of environmental hazards on air quality in Brandywine, MD; goods movement, industrial pollution, and environmental injustice in South Baltimore, MD; environmental justice and health issues in Buzzard Point area of Washington, DC; industrial chicken farming on Maryland's Eastern Shore; health impact of assessment in the Sheriff Road community; and other topics. In addition, he is working with schools in the region on pipeline development efforts in the STEM+H disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Health).

He has worked on environmental justice issues including environmental racism with community-based organizations through long-term community-university environmental health and justice partnerships in South Carolina and North Carolina including the Low Country Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC), in North Charleston, South Carolina; the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in Mebane, NC; and the Graniteville Community Coalition (GCC) in Graniteville, SC. He has provided technical assistance to REACH in Duplin County, NC; RENA in Orange County, NC; and the NC Environmental Justice Network.

Dr. Wilson has been very active professionally as an environmental justice advocate. He is a Co-Founder of the DC/Maryland/Virginia (DMV) Environmental Justice Coalition. He is a member of the USEPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a past Chair of the APHA Environment Section, on the Board of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, a former member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the CDC NCEH/ATSDR, and former Chair of the Alpha Goes Green Initiative, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is also a senior fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program.

Dr. Wilson has received many awards for his contributions and achievements as an environmental justice researcher and advocate. He received the University of the Maryland Council on the Environment Junior Faculty of the Year award in 2016. He received the APHA Environment Section Damu Smith Environmental Justice Award in 2015. From the University of Maryland School of Public Health, he received the George F. Kramer Practitioner of the Year Award (2014-2015) and the Muriel R. Sloan Communitarian Award (2012-2013). He also received the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award from the University of South Carolina in 2011. He received a USEPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award given to Low Country Alliance for Model Communities, North Charleston, SC and Mitigation Agreement Committee. Additionally, Dr. Wilson received the Steve Wing International Environmental Justice Award in 2008.

**Wright, Kelly C.**

*Shoshone Bannock Tribes*

Mr. Wright currently serves as an alternate on the following EPA committees: Regional Tribal Operation Committee for Region 10; National Tribal Caucus; Tribal Science Council, and the National Tribal Toxic Committee. In this position, his work experience (30 years) includes both federal, State, Tribal and private. Mr. Wright obtained a Bachelor's Degree in microbiology and a Master's Degree in environmental science with an emphasis on waste management. Being able to conduct environmental site assessment, he has been able to identify a variety of recognized environmental conditions which put a different perspective on things. Mr. Wright is also a team member of the newly formed Natural Resource Damage Assessment Team for the Southeast Idaho Phosphate Mining where there are 17 mine sites.

**Youngerman III, Dewey F.**

*Continental Maritime of San Diego*

Mr. Youngerman is an environmental, occupational health, safety, and industrial hygiene professional with 32 years of experience identifying, evaluating, and mitigating environmental and occupational health stressors. Currently working for the Huntington Ingalls Industries subsidiary, Continental Maritime of San Diego, he has developed a keen ability to anticipate, recognize, evaluate, communicate



and control stressors arising from the work place that may result in illness or affect the physical and psychological well-being of local residents, employees and the environment. Stressors of particular interest to Mr. Youngerman include biological, chemical, physical, ergonomic, and psychosocial. He has had significant experience exploring these interests working in the San Diego shipyards and previously via emergent and post-emergent spill and hazardous waste disposal site, oil and gas, and military facility EHS management. Through business and community partnerships he has helped complete significant risk assessments and created sustainable, socially equitable solutions. He is seen by the local community planning group as an unbiased industrial information source in the environmental justice community where he works.

When not at work Mr. Youngerman helps his wife raise the most recent six of 70 children (2 biological, 4 adopted and 64 Foster) most of which are medically challenged. He is the first to admit his wife does the heavy lifting as she teaches unconditional love for each other to the next generation.