

Bios for Deliberate Resistance

Elizabeth Alexander has litigated a number of important prisoner rights cases including Farmer v. Brennan, one of three cases that she argued in the United States Supreme Court. Another case she litigated, Hadix v. Caruso, was featured on “60 Minutes” in 2007. In 2009, Ms. Alexander argued Nelson v. Corrections Medical Services in the en banc United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, resulting in the first appellate decision holding that shackling women prisoners during active labor and delivery can violate the Eighth Amendment. She is the former Director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. Ms. Alexander is currently in private practice in Washington, D.C.

John Barkley began working for the South Carolina Department of Corrections in 1994 in the Public Affairs office and was the spokesperson for the Agency under 3 Agency Directors and 2 Governors. Mr. Barkley had the desire to work inside the prisons and began working at Manning Correctional Institution, an 800 bed male facility, as the Program Coordinator. In 2008 Mr. Barkley was promoted to Associate Warden of Programs at Broad River Correctional Institution a maximum security prison that can house over 1500 male inmates. In August of 2012 Mr. Barkley was hired as the first full time PREA Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Corrections and has been working to have the agency be in compliance with all of the PREA standards. Mr. Barkley is a Certified Department of Justice PREA auditor for prisons and jails. He is originally from Virginia and is a graduate of Carson -Newman University in the state of Tennessee.

Gladys Carrión is Commissioner of the New York City Administration for Children’s Services. Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Carrión served for seven years as Commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), a \$4 billion agency charged with overseeing New York State’s child welfare services, including foster care, adoption and juvenile delinquency. She began her career on behalf of low-income youth and families in New York at Bronx Legal Services, where she represented families in the nation’s poorest congressional district in cases ranging from family law to social welfare. She later served as executive director of the Inwood House, one of the oldest youth serving organizations in the City, which provided home, schooling, and parenting classes to approximately 150 pregnant girls a year who came through the foster system. Carrión’s non-profit sector experience also includes the United Way; Carrión directed the organization’s Community Action strategy, which allocated resources within high poverty areas and collaborated with community-based organizations. As Commissioner of New York City’s Community Development Agency under Mayor David Dinkins, Carrión led antipoverty efforts by restructuring the Community Action Programs to increase the number of communities and residents eligible to receive aid. Carrión is a graduate of Fordham University and New York University School of Law.

Cecilia Chung is Senior Strategist of the Transgender Law Center and is nationally recognized as an advocate for human rights, social justice, health equity, and LGBT equality. She was the former Chair of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and is currently serving on the Health Commission. Cecilia has been working tirelessly on the local, national and international levels to improve access to treatment for transgender people and people living with HIV, and to

erase stigma and discrimination through education, policy, advocacy, and visibility. Cecilia is a member of the Board of Just Detention International and has broken ground in a number of ways including: being the first transgender woman and first Asian person to be elected to lead the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration; the first transgender woman and first person living openly with HIV to Chair the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; and, an architect of the nation's most ambitious publicly funded program addressing economic justice within the transgender community. In 1994, she was a member of San Francisco's Transgender Discrimination Taskforce which documented widespread discrimination against transgender people through a groundbreaking report.

Chris Daley is Deputy Executive Director of Just Detention International. Chris works on federal and state policy issues, advocating for effective government action to end the crisis of sexual abuse in detention. Chris works with survivors, other advocates, elected officials, the White House, and executive agencies to implement the Prison Rape Elimination Act across the country. He also works with state elected officials and local advocates to plan and pass meaningful reform at the state level. Chris is an attorney and a founder of the Transgender Law Center. He has also worked in private practice in California and Indiana.

Amy Fettig serves as Senior Staff Counsel for the ACLU's National Prison Project (NPP). At NPP, she litigates federal class action prison conditions cases under the Eighth Amendment. Her practice focuses on claims regarding medical and mental health care in prison, solitary confinement, prison rape, and comprehensive reform in juvenile facilities. Ms. Fettig also directs the ACLU's *Stop Solitary* campaign seeking to end the practice of long-term isolation in our nation's prisons, jails and juvenile detention centers through public policy reform, legislation, litigation and public education. Ms. Fettig is a leading member of the national coalition seeking to end the practice of shackling pregnant women prisoners and works with a wide range of ACLU affiliates on both anti-shackling campaigns and their advocacy strategies around women's health in prison. A national expert on prisoner rights law, she provides technical legal assistance and advice to advocacy groups and lawyers around the country and has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, where she teaches courses on public interest advocacy. Prior to law school, Ms. Fettig worked with women prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families in New York City. She holds a B.A., with distinction, Carleton College; a Master's from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs; and a J.D. from Georgetown University. Ms. Fettig is a member of the New York State Bar (2002) and the Bar for the District of Columbia (2006).

Reina Gossett was the membership director at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project from 2010 to 2014 as well as the 2014-2015 Activist-In-Residence at Barnard College's Center for Research on Women. Prior to joining the Sylvia Rivera Law Project Reina worked at Queers for Economic Justice where she directed the Welfare Organizing Project and produced *A Fabulous Attitude*, which documents low-income LGBT New Yorkers surviving inequality and thriving despite enormous obstacles. Prior to her work at Queers for Economic Justice Reina was awarded the George Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship by the Open Society Foundation to work with LGBT people navigating criminalization. During her fellowship she partnered with Critical Resistance to curtailing the prison industrial complex by organizing low income LGBTGNC New Yorkers

in a campaign that successfully stopped NYC's Department of Corrections from building a \$375 million new jail in the Bronx. Reina is a 2009 Stonewall Community Foundation Honoree as well as a filmmaker collaborating with Sasha Wortzel to write, direct and produce STAR PEOPLE ARE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, a film detailing the lives of Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P Johnson and Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries. The film builds upon the archival research and published writing she has done over the past decade about Sylvia Rivera and STAR, published on various print and online platforms such as Captive Genders in 2011 (AK Press), The Scholar and The Feminist Online and her personal blog on reinagossett.com

Courtney Gray is the Transgender Programs Manager at the LGBT Center of Colorado, a program she founded in 2010. In this role, she oversees transgender programming for both the Denver and Fort Collins Locations which includes 13 monthly support groups. She worked with the Denver Sheriff to write and implement one of the best policies on trans arrestees and prisoners. She has worked with the Department of Justice on Transgender Law enforcement Training, advocated for recent changes to Colorado Division of Insurance health care policies, which lifted exclusions to transition related care, and developed the first state level Transgender Behavioral Health Survey. She volunteers on One Colorado's Kitchen Cabinet and Health Advisory Committee.

Troy Eric Isaac is a human rights advocate with Troy's Project for Humanity where he works on solving pressing issues in collaboration with government officials, other advocates, and affected communities. Troy also serves on a number of advisory boards including the Los Angeles Police Department's first-ever jail community advisory board and Just Detention International's Survivor Council. Troy speaks to audiences around the country, including to corrections officials about the urgent need to end sexual abuse in detention and member with just Detention International. Troy served 24 years in and out of juvenile hall and state prison. Troy's story has been in numerous publications such as the New York book review and the Huffington post.

Valerie Jenness is Dean of the School of Social Ecology, and Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society and in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. Her research has focused on prostitution, hate crime, and prison violence and grievances to explore the links between deviance and social control, the politics of crime control, social movements and social change, and corrections and public policy. She is the author of four books, including: *Appealing to Justice: Prisoner Grievances, Rights, and Carceral Logic* (with Kitty Calavita); *Making Hate a Crime: From Social Movement to Law Enforcement Practice* (with Ryken Grattet); *Hate Crimes: New Social Movements and the Politics of Violence* (with Kendal Broad); and *Making it Work: The Prostitutes' Rights Movement in Perspective*. She is also the co-editor of *Routing the Opposition: Social Movements, Public Policy, and Democracy* (with David Meyer and Helen Ingram) and the author of many articles published in sociology, law, and criminology journals. Professor Jenness has served as an elected member of various professional committees and councils and she has served as an expert witness in civil litigation related to conditions of confinement in government run detention facilities.

Clem Lee is Staff Attorney at Immigration Equality where he directly represents individual clients and advocates for detention policy reform for LGBT and HIV positive immigrants. Clem

obtained his undergraduate degree from Brown University and his J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. As a law student, he represented LGBT asylum seekers at Immigration Equality and through the Cardozo Immigration Justice Clinic. He also worked with incarcerated LGBT immigrants at the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center, and researched resettlement issues facing LGBT refugees at the Organization For Refuge, Asylum, and Migration. Prior to that, Clem was a legal intern at Lambda Legal where he worked on same-sex marriage recognition in Maryland, as well as issues facing homeless LGBT youth in Minnesota.

Dori Lewis is a Senior Supervising Attorney at the Prisoners' Rights Project of The New York City Legal Aid Society. She has brought litigation challenging the sexual abuse of women in New York State prisons, has served on the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's Standards Development Expert Committee, and has submitted congressional testimony concerning the proposed PREA standards. She has also pursued litigation leading to improved provision of general and special education to young prisoners on Rikers Island, improved medical services to women prisoners, and the substantial limitation on shackling of hospitalized prisoners including a bar on the shackling of women admitted for delivery. She graduated from Barnard College and the Columbia University School of Law.

Rev. Jason M. Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist community minister and the founding director of Black and Pink, an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and 'free world' allies who support each other. Jason started Black and Pink in 2005 after his own incarceration. Black and Pink is now a nationwide volunteer organization that reaches over 6,000 LGBTQ prisoners with a monthly newspaper of majority prisoner generated content. Black and Pink also provides opportunities for pen pal relationships between prisoners and 'free world' people, with over 2,000 current matches. Jason has published numerous articles on prison abolition, the specific impacts of prisons on LGBTQ people, and the role of faith communities in the movement to abolish the prison industrial complex.

CeCe McDonald was a political prisoner incarcerated for defending herself against a racist, transphobic assault in July, 2010. Due to her willingness to fight, supporters and activists in Minneapolis and across the U.S. built up a solidarity campaign to demand her freedom, and were able to win her a reduced sentence. After serving a 17-month term, she was released in January 2014. After being released CeCe quickly became a leading and outspoken fighter in the movements for LGBTQ liberation, prison abolition, and racial justice. She is currently working on a forthcoming documentary with actress Laverne Cox on her case entitled "Free CeCe". CeCe has made several speaking appearances across the nation since being released; she served as the Grand Marshall of Seattle Pride, she recently received the Bayard Rustin Civil Rights award, she was featured in an article published by Rolling Stone Magazine, and has spoken on Democracy Now!, MSNBC, and various other media outlets. CeCe currently resides in Minneapolis and continues to work on stabilizing her everyday life, which includes trying to secure employment, re-enroll in college, and land stable, independent housing.

Russell Robinson is a Professor of Law at Berkeley Law and for 2014-15, he is the Samuel Rubin Visiting Professor of Law at Columbia Law School and a Fellow at the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law. Prior to joining UC Berkeley, Robinson was Professor of Law at UCLA. Robinson graduated with honors from Harvard Law School (1998), after receiving his B.A.

summa cum laude from Hampton University (1995). Robinson clerked for Judge Dorothy Nelson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (1998-99) and for Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court (2000-01). He has also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel (1999-2000) and the firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld in Los Angeles, practicing entertainment law (2001-02). Robinson's scholarly and teaching interests include antidiscrimination law, race and sexuality, law and psychology, constitutional law, and media and entertainment law. His publications include, among others: "Unequal Protection," *67 Stan. L. Rev.* (2015); "Diverging Identities," in *After Marriage: The Future of LGBT Rights*, NYU Press (2015); "The Uncomfortable Relationship between Sexual Liberty and Sexual Oppression," in *Rewriting Homosexuality*, Cambridge University Press (2015); "Marriage Equality and Postracialism," *61 UCLA L. Rev. 1010* (2014); and "Masculinity as Prison: Sexual Identity, Race, and Incarceration," *99 Calif. L. Rev. 1309* (2011).

Margo Schlanger is Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School where she brings her expertise in civil rights, prison reform, torts, and empirical legal studies. She heads the [Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse](#). In 2010 and 2011, she was on leave, serving as the presidentially appointed Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Previously, she was a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, and an assistant professor at Harvard Law School. Prof. Schlanger earned her JD from Yale. She served as law clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1993 to 1995. From 1995 to 1998, she was a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, where she worked to remedy civil rights abuses by prison and police departments and earned two Division Special Achievement awards. Prof. Schlanger, a leading authority on civil rights issues and civil and criminal detention, served on the Vera Institute's blue ribbon Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons; she worked as an advisor on the *development of proposed national standards implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act*, and testified before the Prison Rape Elimination Commission.

Brenda V. Smith is a professor at the Washington College of Law at American University where she teaches in the Community Economic Development Law Clinic. She is the Project Director for the United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections Cooperative Agreement on Addressing Prison Rape. In November 2003, Professor Smith was appointed to the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission by the United States House of Representatives Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi (D- Calif.). Prior to her faculty appointment at the Washington College of Law, Smith was the Senior Counsel for Economic Security at the National Women's Law Center and Director of the Center's Women in Prison Project and Child and Family Support Project. Professor Smith is an expert on issues affecting women in prison, and has published and spoken widely on those issues. Recent publications include, among others: "Rethinking Prison Sex: Self-Expression and Safety," *15 Colum. J. Gender & L.* 185 (2006); "Sexual Abuse of Women in Prison: A Modern Corollary of Slavery," *33 Fordham Urb. L. J.* 571 (2006); "Battering, Forgiveness and Redemption: Exploring Alternative Models for Addressing Domestic Violence in Communities of Color," in *Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, Gender, and Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 2004); "Watching You, Watching Me," *15 Yale J.L. & Feminism* 225 (2003); *An End to Silence: Prisoners' Handbook on Identifying and Addressing Sexual Misconduct*, (2d ed., Washington College of Law, 2002); and "Sexual Abuse Against Women in Prison," *ABA Criminal Justice Magazine*,

Vol. 16. No. 1, Spring, 2001. Smith is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and a magna cum laude graduate of Spelman College.

Chase Strangio is a Staff Attorney with the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project. Chase's work includes impact litigation, as well as legislative and administrative advocacy, on behalf of LGBTQ people and people living with HIV across the United States. Chase has particular expertise on the treatment of transgender and gender non-conforming people in police custody, jails, prisons and other forms of detention. Prior to joining the ACLU, Chase was an Equal Justice Works fellow and the Director of Prisoner Justice Initiatives at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, where he represented transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in confinement settings. In 2012, Chase founded the Lorena Borjas Community Fund, an organization that provides direct bail/bond assistance to LGBTQ immigrants in criminal and immigration cases. Chase is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and Grinnell College.

Carl Takei is a Staff Attorney at the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. He litigates prison and jail conditions class action lawsuits in federal court and performs advocacy on issues of mass incarceration, prison privatization, and immigration detention. His current advocacy projects include fighting the private prison industry, the intersection of immigration enforcement with the federal criminal justice system, poor conditions in ICE detention, unnecessary jail expansion projects, and modern-day debtors' prison practices in local courts and jails. He is co-counsel on a case challenging inadequate telephone access in ICE detention and a case challenging conditions in the Monterey County Jail, and was a member of the trial team in *Henderson v. Thomas*, a class action lawsuit that successfully challenged the Alabama Department of Corrections' policy of categorically segregating prisoners with HIV from other prisoners. Before joining NPP, Carl served as a Staff Attorney/Tony Dunn Foundation Law Fellow at the ACLU of the Nation's Capital. Carl holds an A.B. from Brown University and a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Boston College Law School, and served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

Harper Jean Tobin is Director of Policy for the National Center for Transgender Equality and coordinates all aspects of advocacy on federal administrative policies and regulations for NCTE. When she is not engaging with federal agencies and the current administration, she works to provide information for the public about laws and policies that affect transgender people. She also serves on the board of HIPS, a Washington D.C. organization that promotes the health, rights, and dignity of those impacted by sex work, sex trade and/or drug use due to choice, circumstance, or coercion. Harper Jean previously worked at the National Senior Citizens Law Center's Federal Rights Project, where she maintained a large attorney listserv, provided training and technical assistance to public interest lawyers, and wrote about court access issues for legal, policy and general audiences. Harper Jean's writing on transgender equality and other issues has appeared in numerous academic and general publications. A Kentucky native, she received degrees in law and social work from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and is an alumna of Oberlin College.

Urvashi Vaid is Senior Fellow at the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law, Columbia Law School where she focuses on policy responses to race, gender, and poverty-based disparities in the LGBT community. Vaid served as Executive Director of the Arcus Foundation, and was Deputy Director of the Governance and Civil Society Unit of the Ford Foundation. She is former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and started her legal career as a Staff Attorney at the National Prison Project of the ACLU. She is author of *Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class & the Assumptions of LGBT Politics* and *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation*. She serves on the Board of Planned Parenthood Action Fund and LPAC, the lesbian Super PAC. Vaid is a graduate of Vassar College and Northeastern University School of Law.

Homer Venters, MD, MS, is the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Correctional Health Services (CHS) for the NYC DOHMH. In this capacity, Dr. Venters directs all aspects of healthcare in the NYC jail system, including Medical Services, Mental Health Services and Discharge Planning. Dr. Venters received his M.D. from the University of Illinois, completed his residency in Social Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and a fellowship in Public Health Research at the New York University Langone Medical Center. Dr. Venters is also a faculty member at the NYU Center for Survivors of Torture and co-chair of the ICE-NGO health advisory group which advises U.S. Department of Homeland Security on medical care for detainees. Dr. Venters most recent publications focus on health care for the incarcerated and the health consequences of solitary confinement.

Amy Whelan joined the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) as a Senior Staff Attorney in February 2011 and works on NCLR's full range of litigation, policy, and public education work. Amy litigates complex civil cases around the country regarding marriage equality, employment discrimination, Title IX, family law, access to healthcare, prisoners' civil rights, the First Amendment, and other constitutional matters. Before joining NCLR, Amy was an associate in the San Francisco firm of Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld LLP (RBGG). There, she represented individuals, organizations, and classes of people in litigation before federal and state courts and administrative agencies, principally in the area of prisoners' civil rights. In 2008 and 2009, Amy was a member of the trial team in *Coleman/Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, a combined lawsuit challenging the California prison system's unconstitutional provision of medical and mental healthcare. A unanimous three-judge panel ruled in favor of the prisoners in that case and the United States Supreme Court affirmed that decision on May 23, 2011. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Princeton University and her Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law.

Alisha Williams is a Staff Attorney with the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and the Director of SRLP's Prisoner Justice Project. After graduating from Cardozo Law School, Alisha moved to Philadelphia where she remained committed to performing prisoner justice work and community organizing before returning to NYC to join the SRLP staff. Alisha's work allows her to engage in community organizing for prison abolition while seeking immediate institutional changes to provide access to safer correctional housing for trans* community members. Through her own writing and speaking engagements she seeks to center the voices of trans* community members who are incarcerated. Please check out writings from incarcerated members of SRLP's Prisoner

Advisory Committee at <http://srlp.org/category/pac/> . Follow SRLP on Facebook and on Twitter @SRLP!