

Racial Justice, Restoration, and Inclusion: Human Rights Principles and Local Practice

May 1, 2020

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ivelyse Andino is an Afro-Latina health equity innovator born and raised in The Bronx. She is the founder and CEO of Radical Health and a Commissioner on the New York City Commission on Gender Equity. Ivelyse enjoyed a fledgling career in health tech, pioneering some of its first digital health solutions, including bringing the first mobile app prescribing platform to market and working with global clients such as National Health Service (NHS London) and Kaiser Permanente. While she routinely trained oncologists on new drugs, she found herself unprepared when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. This forced her to directly and intimately confront the systemic healthcare disparities she knew that existed. In founding Radical Health — the first Latina-owned and operated Benefit Corp in NYC — she has sought to combine her expertise in healthcare and her passion as a community organizer. Coming from an historically marginalized community herself, it was important for Ivelyse to initially build Radical Health by bringing together her neighbors around her kitchen table and hearing first-hand from voices — including the undocumented, women of color, elderly, young people, and LGBTQ — who are otherwise (figuratively and) literally never given a seat at the table to have a say in their own healthcare destiny. Through Radical Health, Ivelyse is committed to the task of transforming healthcare by facilitating health literacy and self-advocacy, as well as forging a relationship between meaningful face-to-face conversations with cutting-edge technology.

Monifa Bandele is Senior Vice President for MomsRising.org and has more than a decade of experience in policy analysis, communications, civic engagement organizing, and project management working with groups like the Brennan Center for Justice, Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund, and the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

At MomsRising.org she manages the health kids and maternal justice campaigns, helping to successfully increase children's access to healthy food, stem junk food marketing, and end the school-to-prison pipeline. Through maternal justice, she is working to end the rising tide of maternal mortality in the United States. During her tenure at the Brennan Center as national field director for the Right to Vote Campaign, the coalition successfully changed laws in five states expanding the franchise to more than 250,000 formerly incarcerated people.

Finally, Monifa sits on the steering committee for Communities United for Police Reform representing the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and is an activist with the Movement for Black Lives. She helped launch two successful legal cases against police misconduct (*Daniels v. NYC* and *Floyd v. NYC*); conducted Know Your Right workshops for thousands of community members; and worked to pass landmark police reform legislation in New York City (Community Safety Act 2013).

Nadia Ben-Youssef is the Advocacy Director at the Center for Constitutional Rights, focused on the promotion of civil and human rights. Together with the legal, advocacy, and communication teams, Nadia identifies opportunities for the Center for Constitutional Rights to make strategic cultural and political interventions that shift public narrative and policy on these issues. She has expertise in international human rights fora and mechanisms, and extensive experience developing advocacy strategies to influence U.S. decision-makers. Her work often centers at the intersection of art and advocacy, and she curates exhibits and artistic programming that document key human rights concerns, celebrate social movements, and allow creatives the space to chart the future. Prior to coming to the Center for Constitutional Rights, she co-founded the Adalah Justice Project (AJP), a U.S.-based Palestinian advocacy organization that works to transform American discourse and policy on Palestine/Israel. AJP is an outgrowth of her work with Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel where, from 2010, she led international advocacy efforts from Adalah’s field office in the Naqab (Negev) in southern Israel before coming back to the U.S. to develop an American advocacy strategy. Nadia holds a B.A. in Sociology from Princeton University, and a J.D. from Boston College Law School. In 2018, Nadia received the National Lawyers Guild Rob Doyle Lawyer Award for commitment to social and political justice.

Margaret A. Burnham is a University Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at the Northeastern University School of Law. Her fields of expertise are civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights, and international criminal law. She is the founder of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), which conducts research and supports policy initiatives on anti-civil rights violence in the United States and other miscarriages of justice during the period 1930-1970. CRRJ serves as a resource for scholars, policymakers and organizers involved in various initiatives seeking justice for these crimes. In 2010, Professor Burnham headed a team of outside counsel and law students in a landmark case that settled a federal lawsuit: Professor Burnham’s team accused Franklin County Mississippi law enforcement officials of assisting Klansmen in the kidnapping, torture and murder of two 19-year-olds, Henry Dee and Charles Eddie Moore. The case and settlement were widely covered in the national press. In 2016, Professor Burnham was selected for the Carnegie Fellows Program and is using the funding to deepen and extend CRRJ’s work and research dedicated to seeking justice for crimes of the civil rights era.

Professor Burnham began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In the 1970s, she represented civil rights and political activists. In 1977, she became the first African American woman to serve in the Massachusetts judiciary, when she joined the Boston Municipal Court bench as an associate justice. In 1982, she became partner in a Boston civil rights firm with an international human rights practice. In 1993, South African president Nelson Mandela appointed Professor Burnham to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress. The commission was a precursor to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

A former fellow of the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College and Harvard University's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Studies, Professor Burnham has written extensively on contemporary legal and political issues.

Ruben Carranza is a Senior Expert and Director of the Reparative Justice Program at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). He oversees ICTJ’s work with national policymakers, victims’ groups and transitional justice institutions involved in the design and implementation of reparations policies. He has worked in a broad range of global South countries, including Tunisia, Nepal, Colombia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Iraq, Palestine, Liberia, South Africa, Armenia and Kenya. He provides advice on reparations issues to different international

tribunals and UN agencies including the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the International Criminal Court (ICC) and UN missions in Libya and South Sudan.

Previously, he led investigative work in the Philippines commission that successfully recovered \$680 Million in ill-gotten assets of the Ferdinand Marcos family from Swiss and other foreign banks. He helped draft the 2013 Philippines reparations law that provided compensation to and funding for memorializing victims of the Marcos dictatorship. Originally from the Philippines, he obtained his B.A. and LL.B. degrees from the University of the Philippines and an LL.M. from New York University (NYU) in 2005 as a Global Public Service Law Program scholar.

Erin Miles Cloud is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Movement for Family Power. For nearly a decade, she was a family defense attorney at the Bronx Defenders where she worked to defend parents from one of our most violent carceral systems, child protective services. Often exempted from our analysis of structural violence, she came to learn that our foster system is one of the most profoundly racist institutions in America.

As a supervising attorney and then team leader at Bronx Defenders, she met children who grew up in the foster system, only to be later judged as parents by the institutions that “raised” them. She tried to fight the civil death penalty-- termination of parental rights-- but for Black and Latinx families this seemed an impossible battle to win. The challenges Erin’s client’s families faced were ones that many of our own families face: substance use, intimate partner violence, and mental illness etc., however because of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, the response to these social issues was always punishment. Erin recalls a student in her externship class at Columbia quickly making this connection after one day in family court. She said, “families everywhere struggle, but only the low-income, Brown, and Black find themselves at the mercy of the child welfare system.”

Like many others, CPS has become involved with my family. Also, like many others, Erin has not seen this system heal or protect family members. She believes that movement theory is an integral component to radical shifts in thinking and policy, that may give us the possibility to be better, do better, and end the punishment and policing of families.

Justin Hansford is an associate professor of Law and executive director of the new Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center. Professor Hansford was previously a Democracy Project Fellow at Harvard University, a visiting professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, and an associate professor of Law at Saint Louis University. He has a B.A. from Howard University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was a founder of the Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives. Hansford also has received a Fulbright Scholar award to study the legal career of Nelson Mandela, and served as a clerk for Judge Damon J. Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Hansford is a leading scholar and activist in the areas of critical race theory, human rights, and law and social movements. He is a co-author of the forthcoming Seventh Edition of “Race, Racism and American Law,” the celebrated legal textbook that was the first casebook published specifically for teaching race-related law courses. His interdisciplinary scholarship has appeared in academic journals at various universities, including Harvard, Georgetown, Fordham, and the University of California at Hastings.

In the wake of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Hansford worked to empower the Ferguson community through community-based legal advocacy. He co-authored the Ferguson to Geneva human rights

shadow report and accompanied the Ferguson protesters and Mike Brown's family to Geneva, Switzerland, to testify at the United Nations. He has served as a policy advisor for proposed post-Ferguson reforms at the local, state, and federal level, testifying before the Ferguson Commission, the Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Wade Henderson is the former President of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights ("The Leadership Conference"), where he served for 20 years, from 1996 to 2016, as the head of The Leadership Conference and as counsel to The Leadership Conference Education Fund.

Mr. Henderson joined The Leadership Conference—then known as "The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights"—in 1996. Under his leadership, the coalition grew from 170 to more than 230 member organizations (including its first Muslim and Sikh civil rights groups)—and from a staff of seven to 50—adding development, field, and communications departments, as well as the Americans for Financial Reform project.

Since 1998, Mr. Henderson has also acted as the Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., Professor of Public Interest Law at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. Prior to his role with The Leadership Conference, from 1991 to 1996, Mr. Henderson was the Washington Bureau Director of the NAACP, where he directed the organization's government affairs and national legislative program. From 1982 to 1991, Mr. Henderson was the Associate Director of the Washington national office of the ACLU.

Mr. Henderson holds a Bachelor of Arts from Howard University and a Juris Doctorate from the Rutgers University School of Law. He is a member of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court and the District of Columbia. He presently serves on the Board of the Center for Responsible Lending, which focuses on student loan debt. He is also a consultant who remains actively involved in civil/human rights.

Carmelyn P. Malalis (KAR-meh-lin mah-LAH-liss) was appointed Chair and Commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights (the Commission) by Mayor Bill de Blasio in November 2014 following more than a decade in private practice as an advocate for employees' rights in the workplace.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Malalis was a partner at Outten & Golden LLP where she co-founded and co-chaired its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Workplace Rights Practice Group and co-chaired its Disability and Family Responsibilities Discrimination Practice Group; and successfully represented employees in negotiations, agency proceedings, and litigation involving claims of sexual harassment, retaliation, and discrimination based on race, national origin, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, disability, and religion.

Throughout her career, Ms. Malalis has demonstrated a fierce commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion, and preventing and prosecuting discrimination and intolerance. Since she assumed her role as Chair and Commissioner in February 2015, Commissioner Malalis has revitalized the agency, making it a recognized venue for justice for all New Yorkers through increased enforcement, novel restorative justice approaches to case and conflict resolution, and robust public education and outreach to prevent discrimination in New York City.

She currently serves on the New York City Bar Association's Executive Committee, and has previously served on Human Rights Watch's Advisory Committee of the LGBT Rights Project, the American Bar Association's Section

on Labor and Employment Law Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession, the New York City Bar's Committee on LGBT Rights, and the board of Queers for Economic Justice.

Commissioner Malalis earned her J.D. from the Northeastern University School of Law and received a B.A. in Women's Studies from Yale University. She and her wife live in Brooklyn with their two children.

Erika Sasson, BCL, LLB, LLM, is the director of restorative practices at the Center for Court Innovation, overseeing the Center's restorative practice initiatives across a broad range of demonstration projects. She is currently directing a multi-year randomized controlled trial of restorative practices in five high schools in Brooklyn with high suspension rates. She recently completed the first federally-funded national survey as well as the first New York City Blueprint of restorative practices in cases of intimate partner violence. She directed the Center's interventions in juvenile justice and gender-based violence as part of a USAID-funded project in Guatemala. Ms. Sasson previously oversaw the planning and implementation of the Red Hook peacemaking program, the first program of its kind in a state court system, and which was awarded the 2015 Innovations in Criminal Justice Award by the Association for Prosecuting Attorneys. She also participated as a site coordinator for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, assisting jurisdictions in finding ways to reduce the over-reliance on jail and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in its use. Prior to joining the Center, she worked in Toronto as a federal prosecutor, where she handled drug, gun, and gang cases. She completed fellowships in human rights law in Sri Lanka, Ecuador, and Israel. Ms. Sasson moved to New York in 2009 to attend New York University School of Law, where she received an L.L.M. in criminal justice. She is raising a family with her husband Misha in Brooklyn, NY.

Brett Taylor is Senior Advisor for Problem-Solving Justice for the Center for Court Innovation. He formerly was the Center's Deputy Director of National Technical Assistance and the Director of Operations for the Center's Tribal Justice Exchange. Brett currently provides technical assistance to the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge Los Angeles site. He also works with numerous states, cities, and tribes on creating justice system strategic plans and needs assessments. He has been the lead planner on several community courts across the country. Brett was an original planner of the Red Hook Peacemaking Program that launched in 2013. He was an attendance court hearing officer at P.S. 27 in Brooklyn from 2007-2010. Before joining the Center in 2007, Brett was the senior defense attorney for more than six years at the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, NY and was a senior trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn the previous 10 years. From 2000-2015 he was an organizer and coach in the Red Hook Youth Baseball League. He also was a Red Hook Youth Court trainer. Brett holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

JoAnn Kamuf Ward is director of the Institute's Human Rights in the U.S. Project, a lecturer-in-law, and a supervisor in the Human Rights Clinic. Ms. Ward focuses on promoting the use of a human rights framework to address inequality and social injustice within US borders. Her work aims to strengthen awareness of human rights and to build domestic mechanisms to monitor, promote, and implement human rights. This includes research and writing, as well as international and domestic advocacy to improve access to basic rights at the federal, state and local level, working in coalition with a broad range of stakeholders. JoAnn engages in strategic litigation in domestic courts as well as advocacy at the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

(IACHR) to address systemic discrimination and inequality. She also leads the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers' Network, as well as the Institute's efforts to create resources on state and local human rights implementation.

Prior to joining the Human Rights Institute, JoAnn worked in the general litigation group at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, as well as an attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc. She was formerly a fellow with the Leitner Center for Law and Justice at Fordham Law School.