



### ***Adeem Ismaeil***

Adeem Ismaeil is the Employment Training Supervisor for the International Rescue Committee- San Diego, California. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in International Relations with a focus on “American Strategy Post-Cold War” from Baghdad University, Iraq. She joined the International Rescue Committee in January of 2013, working in the departments of Early Employment, Refugee resettlement, Career Development, and Employer Relations, before moving to her role as the Employment Training Supervisor in March of 2018. In her current role, she ensures delivery of high-quality employment and vocational training programs to clients receiving employment services. When not working, she’s attending hockey games and learning new languages.



### ***Alex Villafuerte***

Alex Villafuerte is the Director of Communications and Membership of the Asian Business Association San Diego (ABASD).

In the five years with San Diego Pride, Alex has spearheaded a number of new programs and events including the Youth Art Show. With several other LGBTQ Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and Desi folks, Alex helped in the creation of the San Diego Queer APIMEDA Coalition in 2018 with the goal of creating a safe and welcoming space designed to foster meaningful discussions and capacity for those living at that intersection. In 2020, with the help of Pacific Arts Movement Executive Director Kent Lee, Alex helped organize a joint statement with over 70+ API-serving organizations denouncing the xenophobia, racism, and increasing acts of violence towards Asian and Pacific Islander communities. From that response

and collaboration organizations and their members worked together during the pandemic to form the San Diego API Coalition whose mission is to facilitate conversations with API communities and advocate for representation by amplifying and cultivating leadership, acting as a hub for API organizations to collaborate, and building a more inclusive and equitable San Diego. Alex currently serves as the co-chair of the coalition.

In addition to these roles, Alex also serves in the ABC 10News Community Advisory Board, Public Relations Society of America San Diego/Imperial County Diversity Advisory Board, and Social Media Team for InterPride and World Pride. During Alex’s free time, he enjoys spending time with his niece and nephew and staying active with some of his favorite hobbies including yoga, rock climbing, snowboarding, hiking, and surfing (terribly).



**Angela Elliott-Santos**  
**Chairwoman, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation**

Ms. Angela-Elliott Santos has been the Manzanita Tribal Chairwoman since March 2015, filling the position vacated by the death of Leroy J. Elliott, Manzanita Tribal Chairman for 17 years. Chairwoman Santos had served the same 17 years on the Manzanita Executive Committee, advising the Chairman and serving as Fiscal Officer for the Tribe. She directs all Tribal Departments including Public Works, Education, Library Services, Telecommunications, Natural Resource Management, Tribal Historic Preservation, Renewable Energy, Housing, Cultural Programs, and Language Revitalization. She also provides guidance for federal funding that supports many of the tribal government programs such as U.S. EPA, BIA, HUD, and USDA.

She has fought for many years for cultural and heritage resource protection within the Kumeyaay Homelands from the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River and over 75 miles north and south of the international Boarder with Baja California, Mexico. Chairwoman Santos has battled to protect the inherent sovereignty of the Manzanita Band as a federally recognized Tribe and to protect those that cannot speak for themselves but are protected by the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Chairwoman Angela Elliott-Santos serves on the Board of Directors for many organizations including the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA), Southern Indian Health Council (SIHC), Intertribal Court of Southern California, Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (KCRC), and the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Council (KHPC).

Ms. Elliott-Santos is celebrating 30 years of marriage to Santiago de los Santos and is the proud mother of four children, and four grandchildren.



***Caroline (Cara) Dessert, Esq. Chief Executive Officer San Diego LGBT Community Center***

Caroline (Cara) Dessert, Esq. is the Chief Executive Officer of The San Diego LGBT Community Center. Prior to being named CEO, she served as the organization's Chief Development and Community Engagement Officer.

A queer Latina, Dessert is an attorney and non-profit executive with 15 years in social justice leadership. Dessert was previously the executive director of Immigration Equality, a national organization focused on LGBT immigrant rights. She worked closely with the Obama Administration, as well as local, state, and national organizations working at the intersection of LGBT rights as well as immigrant rights. She served in the California Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General in the Public Rights

Division, where she also worked with then-California Attorney General (now U.S. Senator) Kamala Harris' executive team.

Dessert has deep roots in the San Diego area. A native of El Centro, she previously served as The Center's public policy and community organizing coordinator, and as San Diego's field director for the No on 8/Equality for All campaign. She also worked for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest.

She completed her Juris Doctorate at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, where she was the editor-in-chief of the Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review and earned degree specializations from the Epstein Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies programs. She earned her BA at the University of California, San Diego.

*Christina Griffin-Jones- More information to follow.*



### ***Cinnamon Clark***

Cinnamon Clark is a native of a small desert community in northwestern Arizona, Bullhead City, and enlisted in the US Navy in 1997 as an Aviation Electrician's Mate, retiring in after 20 years in 2017. While on active duty, she graduated from Chapman University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and went on to earn a Master of Science in Psychology specializing in Organizational Leadership and Human Behavior in 2012.

Following 14 years of active-duty career in the Navy, she accepted a position with the Navy as a Diversity & Inclusion Consultant, at Commander Naval Air Forces (CNAF) and it was there that her passion for inclusion and the importance of diverse representation was born. For over a decade, she has been an Inclusion and Diversity Practitioner. As Diversity and Inclusion Outreach Consultant at Commander Naval Air Forces she built a robust outreach program from the ground up boasting over 20,000 contacts annually, leveraging national relationships with affinity organizations in aviation, and STEM developing opportunities to connect with and recruit future aviators nationwide. She has also help positions with the County of San Diego as an Inclusion & Diversity Trainer. She took on the role as Force Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), managing a diversity portfolio that included: a portfolio that developed policy, initiatives and cleared the way for the very first woman to complete the special operations training pipeline in HERstory following the Combat Exclusion ruling in 2015. Also managing the Women In Special Operations Forces (WISOF), Culture of Excellence (COE) Initiatives at NSW, and all Inclusion and Diversity programs.

Currently, Ms. Clark is the Practice Lead for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Services at McLean & Company where she leads the DEI practice. Where she leads the development and delivery of client-facing services such as DEI strategy, diagnostics, change management, and workshops. She also advises our corporate HR team on DEI strategy and initiatives across Info-Tech Research Group's companies

Ms. Clark is a committed advocacy and allyship personally and professionally lending her voice and advocacy throughout the South San Diego area. She is a Commissioner on the City of San Diego Citizen's Equal Opportunity Commission (CEOC), Board Member on the San Ysidro Planning Group (SYPG), San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and commissioner on the Human Rights Commission for the County of San Diego (HRC) and a number of advocacy and community entities serving south San Diego.





## ***David Garcias***

### ***A Union Leader, Activist for Workers Rights, Immigrant Families, and Veterans Issues***

David Garcias is a native of Chula Vista and grew up in the South Bay community neighborhoods of Chula Vista, National City, and Imperial Beach. David attended and graduated from Chula Vista High School and was also a member of the School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA).

David attended Southwestern Community College in Chula Vista, and Central Texas College in Killeen Texas.

In 1983, David enlisted in the United States Army as a Military Policeman and completed his training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. David next served with the First Cavalry Division, 545th Military Police Company, in Fort Hood, Texas. In 1984, David served as a Military Police Narcotics Investigator with the US Army Europe (USARUR) in Heidelberg, Germany. In 1986, David's final Army assignment was at Fort Irwin, California as a Military Police Investigator in the Fort Irwin Military Community. During his service David received three Army Achievement Medals.

In December 1987, David began work as a non-sworn officer at the University of California, San Diego Police Department. David worked at UCSD for 14-years. In addition, David was an active union member with AFSCME Local 3299. David was a union leader, a Steward, and a Bargaining Team member.

In January 2002, David began work at the City of Imperial Beach serving 10-years as a Code Compliance Officer. David became a member of SEIU Local 2028 and was elected and served two terms as the Imperial Beach Chapter President representing the City employees of Imperial Beach. In addition, David was elected to the SEIU Local 2028 Executive Board as the Cities Division Chair. In September 2010, while still working at the City of Imperial Beach, David was elected Treasurer of SEIU Local 221.

In July 2012, David was elected President of SEIU Local 221. SEIU 221 represents about 13,000 San Diego & Imperial County public sector workers, working in the County, cities, schools, courts, Red Cross, health clinics, and Headstarts. In 2016, David was elected to the Service Employees International Union Executive Board as a board member. David also served as the Board chair at Partners for Progress San Diego.

Under David's leadership, SEIU 221 was a leader in the National Fight for \$15 campaign, the successful state campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and the Raise up San Diego campaign. SEIU 221 has broadened its struggles beyond "traditional" union issues, by fighting for racial justice, common sense immigration reform, the return of deported veterans, and spearheading the development of the Invest in San Diego Families coalition. David also partnered with other community groups founding the San Diego Rapid Response Network.

In 2021, after serving nine years as President of SEIU Local 221 David stepped down from his position. David now continues volunteering his time representing the San Diego Rapid Response network, serving as the board chair of the City of Chula Vista Measure P Citizens' Oversight Committee, and as Secretary of the Veterans Democratic Club of San Diego County. David continues to work as labor negotiator fighting for workers' rights, advocating for social and economic justice in our communities, equal rights for all, and speaking up on veteran's issues. He continues to be active in his church and in his community, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion.



## ***Pastor Dennis Hodges***

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Pastor Hodges grew in his faith early by attending Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church. Pastor Hodges received his formal education at Morgan Park High School, Southern Illinois University, and the International Theological Seminary at Bradenton, Florida. Pastor Hodges is a graduate from Ashford University, BS Degree in Criminal Justice. Honorary Doctorate Degree, Dyer Times Ministries Bible Training Center.

A former Law Enforcement Officer for thirty-two years, Pastor Hodges worked his way up through the California Department of Corrections holding progressively more responsible positions such as Investigator and he retired as a Special Agent/Captain with the Special Service Unit-Office of Correctional Safety on September 1, 2008.

Member of the Citizen's Advisory Board on Police / Community Relations.

Pastor Hodges' burning desire to be taught the uncompromising Word Of God, in a church without denominational restrictions, led him to New Creation Church. Upon joining New Creation in September 1993, Pastor Hodges' heart to serve caused him to become a member of the Usher Board where he was then elected president from 1994 through 1996. Pastor Hodges was appointed Chaplain of the city of San Diego Police Department.

On May 16, 1999, Pastor Hodges was licensed as a minister of the Gospel.

Resolved to leave an imprint on a generation of men, the Holy Spirit spoke to this desire and on September 7, 2001, "Living Hope for Hurting Men" ministry was birthed. This ministry has effectively changed the lives of men who seek to place themselves under the authority of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Hodges was ordained a Pastor on September 25, 2005.

For nearly 26 years, Pastor Hodges and his wife Deborah have set out to live the God-given dream of a Kingdom marriage. Together they share five children and two grandchildren.

Pastor Hodges' motto is " Look up, Look within, Look ahead, Look around, as you go to serve the Lord with Gladness. He believes that there are no "secret service" Christians; we are to live, walk, and talk the gospel daily.

What we do for Yeshua is all that matters.



***Eleanor Evans  
Educator, Leader, Activist, Human Rights  
Advocate***

Eleanor Evans is a member of the Oceanside Unified School Board of Education/Trustee. Eleanor is a dedicated educator and a committed advocate of human rights for everyone. As a youth, she marched through the streets in San Diego encouraging fair hiring practices by major corporations and utilities. A student at San Diego State University and Co-Chair for the Student Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Eleanor Evans worked with former University President Malcolm Love and his Committee to Involve Black Students into College Life. Some of the successes were to invite Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to speak on justice at SDUSD; to enable the Student CORE to become an on-campus organization. She was appointed as a liaison to help

pilot the California Educational Opportunities Program (EOPS) and to help establish the position for an effective SDSU campus ombudsman.

As a former executive officer for the County of San Diego Urban League, Eleanor was the Committee Chairperson and Treasurer to help collaborate and establish the Market Street Gateway (COSTCO) Industrial Park which has provided thousands of sustainable quality jobs.

As a highly effective educator who believes in the academic achievement and the social-emotional development of her students, she has taught grades K-12, Community Colleges, and Universities. Eleanor was a member of the San Diego Unified School District Race/Human Relations Corps. Eleanor Evans was one of the Commissioners for the California State Department of Education Common Core Academic State Standards. She is a member of the California State Board of Education Credential Proficiency Commission, Teaching Credentialing. Eleanor Evans has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences/Economics and a Master of Science in Counseling and a master's in governance.

Eleanor Evans is honored to have received the North San Diego County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NSDC-NAACP) Lifetime Achievement Award and the California Teachers Association State Human Rights Award.





### ***Elena Perez***

Elena Perez, Board Member is a native of San Diego County, born and raised in South Bay Chula Vista. She attended the University of San Diego and received her B.A. in Business Administration. Elena is a retiree from the City of San Diego where she worked as Deputy Director for the Department of Finance. Elena was one of the highest-ranking Latinas in the City's infrastructure where she retired after 34 years of service. Most recently, Elena was the Interim Executive Director for MANA de San Diego, where she led the organization during the peak of the COVID pandemic. Elena has previously served as Advisor of the Latino City Employees Association, Board Member and Treasurer of MANA de San Diego and is a current Board Member of Casa Cornelia Law Center, where she also volunteers as an interpreter and translator.

Elena is a member of the HRC representing MANA de San Diego. She is looking to bring the Latina voice to this Commission to help address and resolve issues of the under-represented communities.



### ***Ellen Nash***

#### ***Board Member, Helix Charter School and Chair, BAPACSD***

Ellen Nash is a native of Southeast San Diego and graduated from San Diego State University with a B. S. in Public Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management. Ms. Nash subsequently pursued graduate studies in Educational Leadership and was instrumental in forming the first Black Gospel Choir at SDSU.

Over a 28-year period, Ellen worked her way up from student assistant to Manager of SDSU's Human Resources Department. She then served as Manager of Human Resources at UCSD's Health System for 5 years before retiring. Her extensive volunteer work includes San Diego Urban League, NAACP, and Up for Ed Board





***Estela De Los Rios***  
***Executive Director, CSA San Diego County***

With over 30 years of management experience, Estela De Los Rios has built and sustained community relationships on a bi-national level, and established networks for oppressed populations who were victims of human trafficking, hate crimes and Fair Housing violations. Ms. De Los Rios sits on the board of members of some of the most prestigious progressive community organizations and executive committees. She serves on a National Executive Council for human trafficking with World Without Exploitation. In March of 2014, she attended the United Nations for human trafficking on behalf of the Commission of the Status of Women. She plays an important role on the board of directors for the following organizations: President

of the San Diego Fair Housing Regional Alliance Board, Secretary for Latinos y Latinas En Acción, Board member of Justice Overcoming Boundaries, East County Justice Coalition and a member of the National Fair Housing Alliance. She proudly serves on a State committee addressing immigrant issues with the Rockwood Fellowship for a New California. She is the Chair for the Welcome Newcomer Network of El Cajon, an organization addressing Immigrant and Refugee communities.

Ms. De Los Rios believes in respect, dignity, and human rights for all people regardless of their racial background, language, national origin, religious practice, sexual orientation, gender, age or disability is what makes her the humanitarian she is today.



***George Khoury***

Graduated from UC Berkeley with a MSCE in Civil/Environmental Engineering in 1972, and more than 48 years experience in Project/Program Management in Design, Engineering, Construction and Construction Management. Is a registered Professional Engineer in California. Worked for the County of San Diego's Public Works Dept. Liquid Waste Division (1988-end of 1989). Started Brown and Caldwell Environmental Engineering Consultants (BC)'s San Diego office as BC's Office Manager (1990-1993), as Vice President (1993-1995) and as Senior Vice President, Business Unit Manager for California and Hawaii, and National Federal Program Director (1995-2009). Opened an engineering and construction management consulting business, GMK Consulting Inc. in 2015.

He and his spouse, Haifa, have three children. Lana who is an Immigration Lawyer in San Diego, Afif, who is a Corporate Lawyer/capital venture and CEO of SOCI, Inc., a San Diego based Corporation, and Jenna who is a Pediatric Dentist/Owner of the Brush Stop Pediatric Dentistry in Carlsbad. They are blessed with eight grandchildren, all of whom are in San Diego County. Involved in serving and supporting the communities he has lived in, since 1987, active members of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) where he is presently serving as an elected Member of the National Board.



## ***Regina Roberts***

Ms. Roberts is a native San Diegan who has lived in the county for most of her life. She attended a local high school and the University of California, San Diego graduating with a degree in Chemistry and minor in Economics. She also pursued some graduate work in accounting and business administration.

She worked for in the local defense industry in manufacturing development for numerous critical programs for national security. With the closure of the local defense industry, she moved into the commercial sector and supported building equipment for the semiconductor industry and installing systems around the world. She then formed her own engineering consulting firm and provided engineering design and field level equipment support to many companies around the world. She recently retired from the active pursuit of her career but remains involved in assisting previous customers maintain their equipment.

Ms. Roberts has been a lifelong advocate for the basic human rights guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights for all people, being a proponent of both personal rights and thereby, the personal responsibility inherent in those rights.

Ms. Roberts is involved in many community service organizations and has held leadership positions in nearly every group she is part of. She is the next Lt. Governor for the Kiwanis Division for North County, and is the President of Valley Center Western Days, Inc. which is responsible for presenting the local parade and country fair in the town of Valley Center.

She is married but separated and is the proud parent of three grown children and two grandchildren and shares that pride with her spouse. She is transgendered and transitioned late in life. She has been the "first" transgender barrier breaker in many mainstream activities and has tried to put a positive image of the Transgender and LGBT communities in many organizations and with people that traditionally have not been supportive of this community.



### ***Julia Legaspi***

Born in Cavite City, Philippines, Julia or “Jhigs” as she is fondly called, is the 5<sup>th</sup> of 11 siblings born to Cerefino Legaspi and Juliana de los Santos.

With a degree in Business and a passion for beauty, Julia opened JHIGS Hair Studio in 1982, a favorite spot for locals and many celebrities.

Equality has been Julia’s advocacy, and she’s a prominent leader in the LGBT community and the Fil-Am community. Julia received recognition from different civic organizations and political leaders, such as Mayor Susan Golding, who proclaimed Nov. 19, 1991 as “Julia Legaspi Day” in the city of San Diego.

In 2004, Julia was bestowed the honor of being the first transgender person appointed to public office in the city of San Diego and only the third in the country. She was also appointed by then-Mayor Dick Murphy to The Equal Opportunity Commission and later to The Human Relations Commission.

Julia was a former president of The Los Chabacanos of Cavite City, and is also a current member of the mayor’s and the sheriff’s LGBT advisory boards.

Julia firmly believes, “Discrimination against any of us is discrimination against all of us!” Race, culture, religious beliefs nor sexual orientation should not be a hinderance for equality and freedom.



**Kate Clark, Esq.**  
**Senior Director of Immigration Service &  
Lead Immigration Attorney Jewish Family  
Service of San Diego**

Kate Clark is the senior director of immigration services and lead immigration attorney at Jewish Family Service San Diego (JFS), one of San Diego's oldest and most impactful nonprofits. In these roles, she advocates on behalf of San Diego's refugees and asylees and assists the immigrant community-at-large in applying for various immigration benefits.

Clark is also a founding member and sits on the steering committee of the San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN), a coalition of more than 40 nonprofits and faith-based organizations formed in response to increased immigration enforcement activity in the region. The network operates a 24-hour hotline for emergency assistance related to checkpoints, raids, arrests, and harassment, and connects affected people with resources in an effort to carry out SDRRN's mission of ensuring *no one in our community stands alone*.

Aligned with this mission, Clark led JFS and SDRRN's effort to create an emergency shelter for asylum-seeking families who have been released from federal custody as they wait to make their case in immigration court. Since late November 2018, the shelter has welcomed more than 23,000 individuals (all families with young children), providing medical screenings, warm meals and new clothes, legal guidance, and transportation assistance to help families get to their loved ones or sponsors elsewhere in the U.S. As lead immigration attorney for JFS, Clark supervises JFS's immigration legal services program for individuals in need of legal representation. JFS aids individuals in need of affirmative immigration assistance, removal defense – detained, non-detained, and representation to vulnerable families and individuals placed in the "Remain in Mexico" program known as Migrant Protection Protocols.

Clark holds a law degree from California Western School of Law and a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University. She remains involved with California Western as an adjunct professor.



**Nicole Murray Ramirez**  
**LGBTQ Activist, Civil & Human Rights Leader**

Commissioner Ramirez has been a long time Latino and LGBTQ activist for now over half a century and has served and advised 7 mayors of San Diego. Ramirez is the only San Diegan to have been elected and served 4 times as Chairman of the City's Human Relations Commission. He has also served on numerous newly elected Mayor's transition teams and Police Chief Selection committees.

In the past, Commissioner Ramirez has worked with Harvey Milk



and Cesar Chavez, now two personal heroes of his, as well as Coretta Scott King. Ramirez is on the National Executive Board of the Harvey Milk Foundation and was the founder and National Chair of the International Letter Writing Campaigns that resulted in the issuing of the Harvey Milk U.S. Postage Stamp with the official unveiling at the White House which he attended as well as spoke at. Ramirez also led the successful campaign to get the U.S. Secretary of the Navy to name a ship (the U.S.N.S. Harvey Milk) which is currently being built in San Diego at the NASSCO Shipping Yard.

Commissioner Ramirez is currently the National Chair of the National GLBT Civil Rights Network/U.S.A. and the International Chair of the International Imperial Council of the U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico (founded in 1965) with now over 70 city chapters in the three aforementioned countries. He is also currently Co-Chair (along with Katherine Stuart Faulconer, 1st Lady of San Diego) of the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force and Chair of the Sheriff's LGBTQ Advisory Council.

Commissioner Ramirez has been elected and served as the State President of Equality California, the National Chair of National Latino Latina LGBTQ Association, National Board member of the National LGBTQ Task Force and Human Rights Campaign (HRC), as well as Co-Chair of the Stonewall 25th March and Celebration in New York City.

He is the only LGBTQ activist to have been elected to all 5 National LGBTQ Marches on Washington National Executive Committees and been elected a National Chair of three of the Marches (in the 1987 March he invited Cesar Chavez to speak at the National Rally which drew over 800,000 people to Washington).

Commissioner Ramirez has received countless honors, awards, and commendations including the Cesar Chavez Social Justice Award presented to him by his wife the late Helen Chavez.

He was made an "Honorary Texan" by then-Governor Ann Richards. Presented "Keys to the City" by the Mayors of Salt Lake City, Utah; Lexington, Kentucky; Portland, Oregon; West Hollywood, California, and San Diego, California. Commissioner Ramirez has been honored by the Government of Mexico for his over 35 years of helping LGBTQ Citizens in Baja, California. Nicole Murray Ramirez has appeared in many historic films/documentaries and books. Currently, a major documentary film on his life is being negotiated.



***Pedro Anaya, Jr.***

Pedro Anaya worked in San Diego's nonprofit sector for nearly a decade before joining Southwest Strategies (SWS) where he now serves as their Director of Binational Affairs and Community Relations. While at SWS, Anaya has leveraged that reputation to ensure clients are strategically connected to stakeholders at all levels and provide SWS with a strong grassroots community presence in the region's Latino and Spanish-speaking communities. As part of the SWS team, Anaya has served on several award-winning project teams, receiving Silver and Bronze Bernay's Award as well as a Golden Quill.

Previously, at the National Conference for Community and Justice, Anaya coordinated programming to address diversity and leadership issues among high school youth. Later he joined the staff of the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA, where he managed its day-to-day operations. He served as Executive Director of the Greater Golden Hill CDC, where he worked to improve the quality of life and business climate. Anaya has expertise in strategic planning,

board development, fiscal management, fundraising, communications, and community outreach.

Anaya is committed to serving his community and currently serves on the City of Chula Vista's Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee and is a former member of their Planning Commission. He has volunteered his time with several organizations including Kaiser Permanente's Patient Advisory Board, The National City Chamber of Commerce and South County EDC. He has served on San Diego's Latino Unity Coalition, the Joan Kroc Center Latino Outreach Task Force, the Neighborhood Unity Foundation's Board of Advisors, and the San Diego Padres Hispanic Community Advisory Board. He is a co-founder of the San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee, which hosted the country's largest series of events in honor of Mr. Chavez during his tenure as Chair. As part of his efforts, Anaya served a critical role in the campaign to establish a paid state holiday in honor of the late labor leader (CA SB984). His experience was captured in print when his reflections on Cesar Chavez were published in San Diego State University's second volume of Raíces Y Mas.

For over two decades, Anaya has developed and published an e-newsletter with over 7,000 subscribers, La Voz de San Diego, dedicated to keeping San Diego connected. Anaya has been recognized locally, statewide and nationally. He has received the Cesar E. Chavez Social Justice Award, the Channel10 Leadership Award, Cox Communications Hispanic Heritage Recognition and, in 2003, was selected as one of five International Reebok Humanitarian Award recipients for his work advocating for farm workers and as a diversity champion. San Diego Metro Magazine named him one of San Diego's Metro Movers and in 2014 named him one of San Diego's 40 under 40. Most recently he was recognized by the San Diego UT as their 2016 Latino Champion for Civic Leadership.

Anaya attended San Diego State University, where he earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and Chicana/o studies. He earned his master's degree in nonprofit management and leadership studies from the University of San Diego as part of the program's inaugural class. In addition to his community and volunteer work, Anaya takes time to educate youth as a cultural dancer for San Diego's oldest Aztec Dance Circle, Danza Mexi'cayotl, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. A dance group with a strong sense of tradition and family, he dances with his wife and two daughters.

*Rodney Fowler Jr. -More informaiton to follow.*



### ***Sarah Farouq***

Sarah Farouq comes from a background of community organizing and advocacy in her various capacities in local and state-wide organizations. As a Muslim woman who came to the U.S. as an Iraqi refugee, Sarah's personal experiences have shaped her passions in her community work and activism. She has been engaged in fighting state-sanctioned violence, specifically advocating against the targeting and exclusion of Black and brown communities.

In her previous capacities as a community organizer at various community organizations, she has helped organize campaigns in issue areas, such as criminal injustice (mass incarceration and gang documentation), youth justice (supporting higher education equity), and most recently around the surveillance of AMEMSA (Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian) communities at the AAAJ-Asian Law Caucus. Sarah is also a recent political science graduate of UC Berkeley. Currently, she is an AMAL (American Muslim Anti-Racism Leadership) fellow at the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative, a Youth Advisory board member of

Borderlands For Equity, and a board member of the Feminist Front. Sarah plans to eventually earn her Juris Doctor and continue to advocate for marginalized communities impacted by systemic injustice from a legal capacity and uplift their issues on a policy level.



### ***Summer Stephan, District Attorney County of San Diego District Attorney's Office***

District Attorney Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families, providing justice to the most vulnerable, and is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Summer is focused on advancing public safety through fair and equal justice, bringing solutions to complex issues with a unique data-driven, commonsense approach that works to address the root causes of certain crimes driven by mental illness and addiction. As District Attorney, she leads the second-largest DA's Office in California, managing a professional staff of 1,000 employees, serving as the People's Prosecutor for San Diego County and its more than three million residents. Summer leverages her extensive courtroom, management, and leadership experience to set clear public safety priorities in collaboration with law enforcement and the community, keeping San Diego County one of

the safest urban regions in the United States.

Summer rose through the ranks to become the elected District Attorney. As a trial prosecutor, she tried more than 100 jury trials, including cases of complex homicides, sexually violent predators, child molestation, sexual assaults, school shooting, and human trafficking-related cases. She served as Chief of the DA's North County Branch and Chief of the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, a special victim's unit she pioneered. In June of 2018, San Diego County voters overwhelmingly elected

## Summer as District Attorney.

DA Stephan holds leadership positions in public safety on the national, state, and local levels, which includes serving as a vice-president of the National District Attorneys Association, co-chair of the California District Attorneys Association Human Trafficking committee, and the National Association of Women Judges Human Trafficking committee. Summer served on the Governor's Task Force for High-Risk Sex Offenders and Sexually Violent Predators. She spearheaded the innovative "*Know the Price*" campaign, which focused on reducing sexual assaults on college campuses. She also led the award-winning "*The Ugly Truth*" human trafficking awareness campaign as well as the "*San Diego Opioid Project*," aimed at reducing opioid overdoses. Summer led a coordinated effort to protect the community from targeted mass violence with a School Threats Task Force that implemented a unified protocol with all 42 school districts in San Diego County.

In addition, she began an effective Veterans Treatment model in North County inspired by a heroic Marine Corps veteran. Summer is the recipient of numerous local, state, and federal awards, including an FBI commendation for organized crime prosecution, outstanding achievement award from the Deputy District Attorneys Association for the complex prosecution for the rape and murder of an elderly woman.

She was named an "Angel of Anti-Human Trafficking" and a "Modern Day Abolitionist." She was selected as the 2017 Southern California District Attorney of the Year by Crime Victims United, was awarded the Pathbreaker Award by Shared Hope International, and received the 2019 Humane Award for her work in fighting animal cruelty.

Summer received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis and her Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.





***Taha Hassane***  
***Imam/Director of the Islamic Center of San Diego***

Imam Taha Hassane is currently serving as the Imam/Director of the Islamic Center of San Diego. He joined ICSD in September 2004 from the Colorado Muslim Youth Foundation where he served as a youth instructor. Imam Taha graduated from Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Algiers, Algeria, and served as a high school teacher and Imam in Algeria for ten years before coming to the United States. Imam Taha also holds a master's degree of theology in Islamic studies from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana.

In addition to his regular duties at ICSD, Imam Taha is a: Preacher & lecturer at different Islamic Centers, schools, and colleges around the US; Religious adviser of the Muslim Students Association at University of California San Diego since 2004; Board member of the Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County; Member of the West-Coast & National Catholic Muslim dialogue since 2006; Member of the Arab American advisory Board of the San Diego Police Department; Member of the Interfaith Advisory Board of the San Diego District Attorney Office; Board member of the National Conflict Resolution Center; Board member of the Interfaith Shelter Network of San Diego County; Volunteer Chaplain at San Diego prisons & hospitals.

Recipient of several awards: A major peace maker in San Diego 2015 by the Rotary Club of La Jolla, Spirit award 2015 by the Somali Family Services, Voices of Justice award 2010 by the Interfaith Center for Worker Justice, 2011 award of community Leadership & Social Justice Advocacy by CAIR San Diego, 2014 Outstanding Contribution Award by the Indian-American Muslim Council, 2018 KPBS & National Conflict Resolution Center "Community Heroes Award" for Civility in Politics, 2018 Islamic Shura Council of Southern California "Change-Maker Award". Also, recipient of Certificate of Recognition from: California Assembly Member Lorena Gonzales, California Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber, San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego Human Relations Commission!



***Warsan Artan***  
***Youth Organizer for Youth Will***

My family immigrated to the USA in 2006 and I have lived in San Diego County since. I went to Helix Charter High School and then to San Diego State University. I graduated in May of 2019 with a bachelor's in political science and a minor in biology. While at SDSU, I served on the College of Sciences Student Council for a year and then on the Associated Students (AS) government for two consecutive years. This activated my passion for political engagement and leadership. Currently, I am the youth organizer for Youth Will.

I am passionate about political engagement, community organizing, prioritizing underrepresented communities, and ensuring that we invest in every aspect of our youth's lives to secure a successful path and future for every child in San Diego Cou