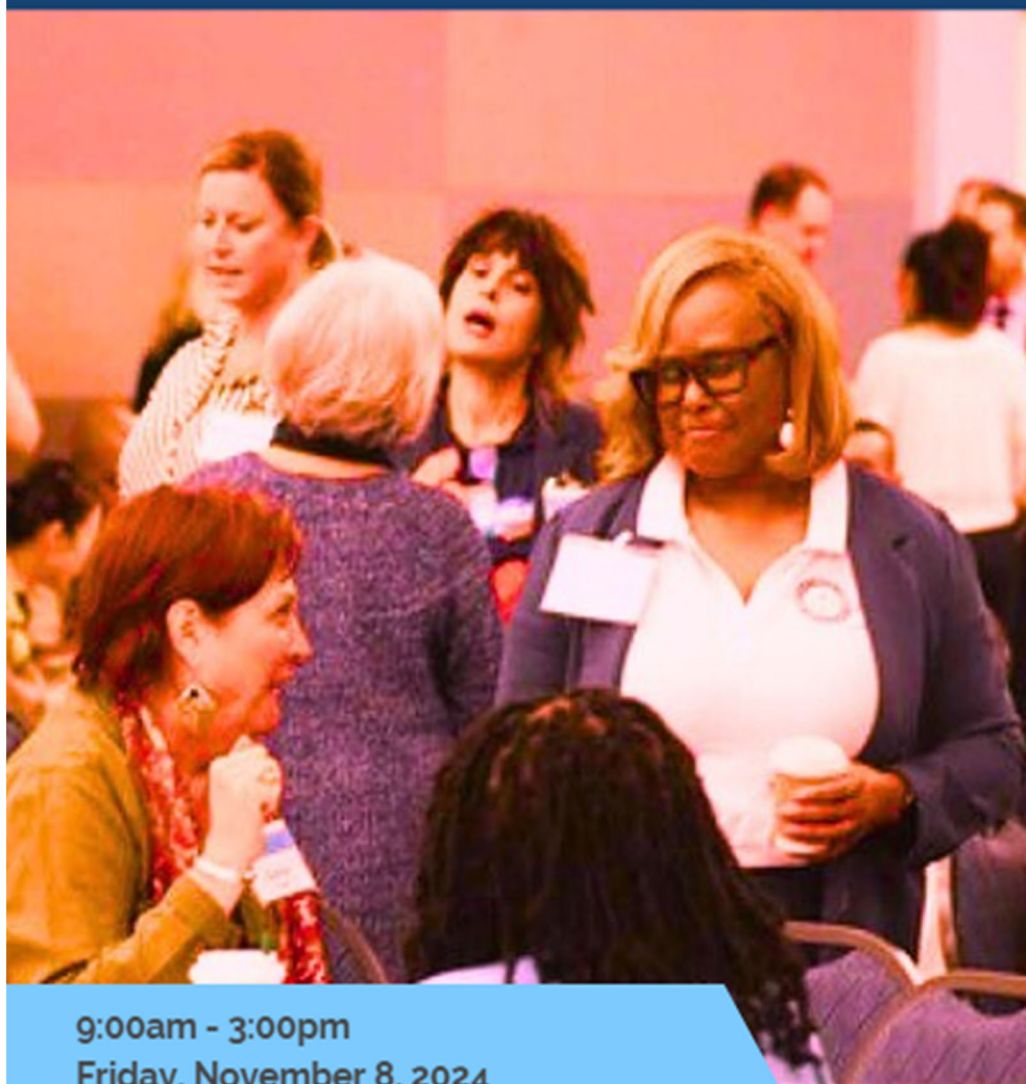


4th Annual

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE

**Partnering for Progress: Innovative and Effective
Approaches to Civilian Oversight**



9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday, November 8, 2024

Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area

Conference Hall

Schedule of Events

8:00 - 9:00 am

Registration & Breakfast

9:00 - 9:20 am

Opening Remarks

- Chair Robert C. Bonner, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
- John Sweeney, Esq., Experienced Trial Lawyer

9:20 - 9:40 am

Session 1a: Expert Lecture

Introduction to Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement

All too often, we hear general information about a topic, but don't understand its key details. This session will provide an overview of civilian oversight of law enforcement, the 13 principals of oversight and the details of different models of civilian oversight. The Executive Director of NACOLE, the Country's preeminent organization on civilian oversight of law enforcement, will introduce us to NACOLE's vision for oversight of law enforcement, its challenges, and strategies for success.

Special Guest Speaker:

- Cameron "Cammie" McElhiney, Executive Director of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE)

9:40 - 9:55 am

Break

Different Oversight Models in California

California has over 500 law enforcement agencies with more than 116,000 full-time employees and over 250 civilian oversight entities. This session will provide an overview of different models of civilian oversight that exist in California. We will discuss some challenges to and effective practices in civilian oversight.

Moderator: Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

Panel Participants:

- Paul Henderson, Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability
- John Alden, Director of Sonoma County's Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review & Outreach
- Paul Parker, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Commission on Police Practices
- Florence Yu, Acting Inspector General of the Los Angeles Police Commission's Office of Inspector General

10:45 - 10:55 am

Break

10:55 - 11:05 am

Session 2a: Expert Lecture

Introduction to Legal Obstacles and Strategies to Strengthening Oversight

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for maintaining public safety, enforcing laws, and maintaining public order. Civilian oversight bodies monitor and review law enforcement agency policies and practices to promote accountability and transparency, but they often face legal obstacles. This session will highlight L.A. County Sheriff Civilian Oversight model and legal obstacles to civilian oversight of law enforcement and strategies to strengthen oversight.

Special Guest Speaker:

- Liliana Campos, Assistant County Counsel for the Los Angeles County Office of the County Counsel

11:05 - 12:15 pm

Session 2b: Panel Discussion

Breaking Barriers: Legal Obstacles and Strategies to Strengthening Oversight

Oversight agencies play a critical role in improving public transparency and accountability with respect to law enforcement agencies. This session will address legal obstacles to civilian oversight and strategies that can help overcome these obstacles.

Moderator: Dara Williams, Chief Deputy of the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Panel Participants:

- Robert C. Bonner, Chair, Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
- Duane Bennett, Esq., Outside Counsel for the City & County of San Diego Civilian Oversight Board and Commission
- Anne Trembly, Constitutional Policing Advisor for LASD's Office of Constitutional Policing
- Melissa Camacho, Senior Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California

12:15 - 12:25 pm

Break & Grab Lunchbox

12:25 - 12:55 pm

Keynote Speaker

Introduction of Keynote Speaker:

- Andrea Welsing, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention

Keynote Speaker: Honorable Mike A. Gipson

- Assemblymember 65th District

Voices for Change in Oversight

Community voice is a driving force in shaping effective law enforcement oversight. This session will focus on community's vision for civilian oversight of law enforcement.

Moderator: Robert Sowell, Assistant Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (HRC)

Panel Participants:

- Esprit Loren Jones, Chair, City of Pasadena Police Oversight Commission
- John Davis, President of the Avalon Gardens Community Association
- Captain Nicole Palomino, LASD South Los Angeles Station
- Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Youth Commission

Looking Ahead: Where do we go from here?

Community must be involved in building the County's vision for oversight of law enforcement as law enforcement agencies provide public safety services in communities throughout California. In the final session of the day, attendees will gather for a facilitated conversation to dialogue about what the next steps should be to improve oversight efforts and help build trust between the community & law enforcement.

Moderated by HRC staff.

Table Facilitators:

- Pierre Arreola, Human Relations Commission
- Aneisa Bolton, Human Relations Commission
- Megan Brownlee, Office of Inspector General

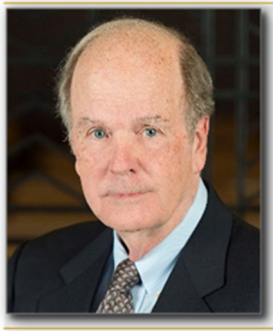
- Arthur Calloway, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
- Helen Chin, Human Relations Commission
- Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Human Relations Commission
- James P. Harris, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
- April Johnson, Human Relations Commission
- Elliott Kase, Office of Inspector General
- Amara Kirby, Office of Inspector General
- Guadalupe Montano, Human Relations Commission
- Josh Parr, Human Relations Commission
- Raymond Regalado, Sybil Brand Commission
- Paul Smith, Human Relations Commission
- Daisy Ramirez, Office of Inspector General
- Fredrick Sykes, Human Relations Commission
- Gay Yuen, Human Relations Commission

2:45 - 3:00 pm

Closing Remarks

- David Carroll, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development

Panelist Bios



Robert C. Bonner

Chair, L.A. County Civilian Oversight Commission

Robert C. Bonner is a former United States federal District Court Judge and a former United States Attorney for the Central District of California. He served on the seven-member Citizens Commission on Jail Violence (CCJV) that examined the use of unnecessary and excessive force within the Los Angeles County Jail System, and he is the former Chair of the California Commission on Judicial Performance. Aside from his

public service, Bonner was a practicing lawyer in Los Angeles, engaged in both civil litigation and criminal defense.

Judge Bonner is currently engaged in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and serves as both a neutral mediator and arbitrator of disputes. Judge Bonner is affiliated with Phillips ADR's distinguished panel of neutrals, is a member of the American Arbitration Association's Master Mediation Panel, and is a member of FedArb, a panel of former federal judges who function as arbitrators and mediators. Judge Bonner is a retired former partner of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Besides serving as a federal judge, Bonner's government service includes heading several federal agencies, including his service as the Commissioner of U.S. Customs Service and, following the homeland security reorganization, as the first Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), an agency of the Department of Homeland Security. Earlier in his career, Bonner was the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Judge Bonner is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of Caltech's Board of Trustees and Chair of its Audit and Compliance Committee. He has served on several committees of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, including the CBP Integrity Advisory Panel that evaluated use of force, transparency, and other issues.

Judge Bonner received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from the University of Maryland and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.



John Sweeney

Experienced Trial Lawyer

John Sweeney is one of the best trial lawyers of his time and is known for his work on groundbreaking police excessive force cases. Mr. Sweeney has tried death penalty cases, and achieved extremely rare not guilty verdicts, police excessive force cases that have exposed massive corruption and have changed policies within law enforcement, complex catastrophic injury accident cases and received numerous multimillion dollar jury verdicts, as well as other types of cases. Mr. Sweeney has had over 200 jury trials over the course of his career, many resulting in multimillion dollar verdicts for injured individuals. Mr. Sweeney's career was recently profiled in New York Magazine in a story that made international headlines.

Mr. Sweeney has received many awards including:

- 2022 – *Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame* presented by State Bar of California (now administered by California Lawyers Association)
- 2022 – *Community Impact Award* presented by the Los Angeles Business Journal

- 2021 – *Street Fighter of the Year Award* presented by Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC)
- 2021 – *California Lawyer of the Year Award* presented by the *San Francisco/Los Angeles Daily Journal* newspapers.
- 2017 – *National Bar Association Trial Master Award*. This was the inaugural award given by this organization which has been in existence since 1925.
- 2012– *Leadership Award* given by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition civil rights organization.

Roundtable Panel: Oversight Models in California



Sharmaine Moseley

Executive Director, Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

After a national search, Sharmaine Moseley was appointed as the Executive Director for the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission in November 2023. Ms. Moseley has more than two decades of expertise managing and leading civilian oversight of law enforcement boards and commissions as well as building relationships with community members.

Ms. Moseley previously served almost nine years at the City of San Diego, first as the Executive Director of the Community Review Board on Police Practices, and then as Interim Executive Director of the newly chartered Commission on Police Practices and Director of the Office of the Commission on Police Practices. An expert in police oversight and community relations, Ms. Moseley played an influential role as the San Diego Police Department implemented positive changes, such as ensuring motorists are timely informed of the reason for their contact; modifying procedures regarding citizen complaints, officer shootings, and in-custody deaths; and impacting other policies related to internal investigations, pursuits, use of force, money handling, and shooting at moving vehicles.

Ms. Moseley began her career in civilian oversight of law enforcement in Albany, New York where she was actively involved in the development and managing of the Citizens' Police Review Board for several years. It was here that Ms. Moseley honed her strong leadership skills in the political and governmental areas, which contributed to her ability to help build consensus, promote transparency, and achieve credibility in police oversight within the community. Earlier in her career, Ms. Moseley served for several years as a Legislative Assistant in the New York State Assembly.

An active member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), Ms. Moseley serves on various committees, and she is a

Certified Practitioner of Oversight. Ms. Moseley has participated as a guest speaker on numerous discussions relating to law enforcement and the community worldwide, and she continues to provide consultation to many government agencies and stakeholders creating oversight of law enforcement entities.

Ms. Moseley attended the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, where she earned an Executive Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Africana Studies. She is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.



Cameron “Camme” McElhiney **NACOLE**

Cameron McElhiney is the newly appointed and first Executive Director of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). As such, she works to provide the support and training necessary to establish and sustain robust, effective oversight of police, jails, and prisons.

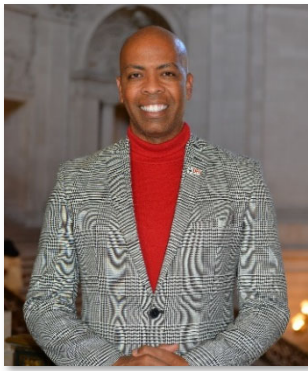
Since 1998 she has been a dedicated member of NACOLE and taken on many roles as the organization has grown. As the Director of Training and Education, she played a leading role in developing, coordinating, delivering, and evaluating local, national, and international training programs. She also has and continues to provide support to oversight practitioners and advocates. Cameron’s work has led her to assist those wishing to establish or enhance civilian oversight mechanisms whether through training or consultation. She has been able to assist communities throughout the United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean in this capacity.

Cameron recently served as the project manager and secondary author on a NACOLE project exploring the state of the field, the development of thirteen principles of civilian oversight, and effective practices for civilian oversight of law enforcement entitled *Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement: Report on the State of the Field and Effective Oversight Practices*. This work continues to serve as guide for those interested in or currently working in the field of civilian oversight.

She first became involved with civilian oversight in 1998 when she was appointed to the Indianapolis Citizens’ Police Complaint Board where she served for six years.

Beyond her work with NACOLE, Cameron is the proud mother of two and volunteers with local civic organizations where she assists with governance issues, succession planning, budgeting, fundraising and membership drives, and special events.

Cameron received her undergraduate degree in political science from DePauw University.



Paul Henderson

Executive Director, San Francisco Department of Police Accountability

Paul Henderson is an American lawyer, prosecutor, and civil rights leader, currently serving as the Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (DPA). He also acts as a senior policy advisor to the White House. Henderson leads DPA, one of the largest civilian police oversight agencies in the U.S., focusing on law enforcement accountability and criminal justice reform. Under his leadership, DPA investigates citizen complaints of misconduct against

the San Francisco Police Department and officer-involved shootings.

Prior to his role at DPA, Henderson served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Public Safety Director for former San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee, and earlier as Chief of Administration for then-District Attorney Kamala Harris. He has played a key role in justice reform, advocating for reintegration of ex-offenders and diversity in law enforcement. His leadership led to significant increases in diversity within the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

Henderson is also a prominent legal expert and political analyst, frequently appearing on national television networks such as CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. He has received numerous accolades for his work, including being named California Lawyer of the Year in 2016. A native of San Francisco, Henderson earned his BA from UCLA and JD from Tulane University.



John Alden

Director, Sonoma County Independent Office Law Enforcement Review & Outreach

John Alden has over fifteen years of deep experience in police accountability. He currently serves as the Director of the Independent Office Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) in Sonoma County, California. There, he oversees the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office as an Inspector General, including oversight of both its patrol and jail functions.

Mr. Alden was the Executive Director of the Community Police Review Agency (CPRA) in the City of Oakland for nearly three years. There, he oversaw investigations of police misconduct and engaged the community in police reform efforts led by the Oakland Police Commission. Mr. Alden previously worked for the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (DPA), formerly known as the Office of Citizen Complaints, and for the Internal Affairs Division of the San Francisco Police Department. In those offices, he managed the investigation of complaints of excessive force, litigated disciplinary hearings, and advocated for

changes in police policies and procedures. Mr. Alden also served as the Managing Attorney of the Independent Investigations Bureau ("IIB") in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, a unit specializing in the investigation and prosecution of Officer Involved Shootings, In Custody Deaths, and other forms of potentially criminal officer misconduct.

Before working in police accountability, Mr. Alden began his career as a prosecutor, working in Sonoma and Marin Counties, and then transitioned to private practice litigating employment law matters. Early in his career, he worked in the California State Legislature as an Unruh Fellow.

Mr. Alden received both his law degree and bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.



Paul R. Parker III

Executive Director, San Diego Commission on Police Practices

Paul Parker was appointed Executive Director of the San Diego Commission on Police Practices (CPP) in June 2024. Prior to joining the CPP, Paul served as the Executive Officer of the San Diego County Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) for almost five years, making numerous recommendations to reduce in-custody deaths, increase transparency of law enforcement operations, reduce racially disparate policing practices,

and increase communications with family members of persons impacted by in-custody deaths and deaths associated with law enforcement activities.

Paul was previously the Chief Deputy Director at the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner, Assistant Coroner at the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner, Director of the Pinal County (AZ) Medical Examiner's Office and held Chief Investigator roles at the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office and Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office (Phoenix, AZ).

Paul has participated in several thousand on-scene medicolegal death investigations, conducted at least 13,000 solo telephonic/electronically reported medicolegal death investigations, and reviewed and approved reports and circumstances in more than 20,000 medicolegal additional death investigations. He has also conducted several hundred death notifications.

Paul was a member of the California Coroner Curriculum Development Committee, an instructor at the California Coroner Academy, an American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board Medicolegal Death Investigation Consensus Body Member, and an Executive Board Member of the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME). He has authored hundreds of policies and procedures pertaining to medicolegal death.

Prior to entering the field of death investigation, Paul had a 10-year law enforcement career during which he progressively held the ranks of police aide, police officer,

detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and acting police chief at the Youngtown Police Department (AZ). He was an AZPOST general instructor, physical fitness instructor, field training officer, and hostage negotiator. He has received two lifesaving awards, one for his role as the negotiator in the peaceful resolution of a hostage situation and the other for his efforts during a medical emergency. Paul was accepted to the FBI National Academy and was the Town Council's first choice for Police Chief in the late-1990's but turned down both opportunities to pursue his passion for death investigation after being involved in an on-duty shooting.

Paul's memoir, "In the Shadows of Death: Writing Life's Final Chapter" will be published in late 2024.



Florence Yu

**Acting Inspector General, Los Angeles Police
Commission Office of Inspector General**

Florence Yu is currently serving as the Acting Inspector General. Normally, she serves as the Assistant Inspector General over the OIG's Complaint Section. The OIG's Complaint Section oversees the Los Angeles Police Department's investigation and adjudication of internal affairs investigations, conducts investigations into allegations of misconduct by the Chief of Police, and other

areas relevant to police discipline.

Prior to joining the OIG, Ms. Yu was the recipient of an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps fellowship. In her former role as a direct services attorney, Ms. Yu's practice areas involved housing issues, immigration, and public benefits.

Ms. Yu holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Southern California and a Juris Doctor from the University of California Law San Francisco (aka UC Hastings College of the Law).

Panel Discussion: Breaking Barriers Legal Obstacles & Strategies to Strengthening Oversight



Dara Williams

**Chief Deputy, L.A. County Office of Inspector
General**

Dara Williams joined the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in July 2019 as an Assistant Inspector General and was promoted to Chief Deputy, Inspector General in May 2021. While at the OIG, Ms. Williams contributed to over 80 public reports on the Sheriff's Department. Before shifting to her role in oversight, Ms. Williams was a deputy district attorney with the

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for 25 years, with her last assignment there as the Assistant Head Deputy of the Airport Court. Ms. Williams served in a variety of assignments as a prosecutor, including 5 years as the deputy-in-charge of the Inglewood Juvenile Office and 7 years in the Hardcore Gang Division prosecuting the crimes of murder and attempted murder.



Liliana Campos

**Assistant County Counsel, Los Angeles County
Office of the County Counsel**

Lili Campos is an Assistant County Counsel with the Los Angeles County, Office of the County Counsel. She began her career with the County Counsel's Office in 2010 as an attorney with its General Litigation Division handling dangerous condition of public property and auto liability litigation. In 2016, she transferred to the Board Liaison Division where she advised on Ralph M. Brown Act, California Public Records Act, and other relevant matters. She currently serves as the Division Chief for the Board

Liaison Division whose attorneys provide advice and representation to each of the Board of Supervisors' offices, County agencies and commissions on Board initiatives, ethics and transparency laws, and other significant legal issues. Ms. Campos is a graduate of the University of California Law, San Francisco.



Duane Bennett

**Outside Counsel, City & County of San Diego
Oversight**

Mr. Bennett has been a practicing Attorney for 39 years. Mr. Bennett has extensive experience in governmental law, employment, contracts, land use, insurance, civil rights, and civil litigation. He was the former Oceanside City Attorney and Port Attorney/General Counsel for the Port of San Diego. Mr. Bennett was the first African American appointed as City Attorney in the County of San Diego. He also served as an Assistant City Attorney, Police Legal

Advisor and Deputy District Attorney. Commission Chair Brandon Hilpert was excited about the appointment of Mr. Bennett. "After an exhaustive search, the Commission enthusiastically selected Mr. Bennett to serve as our new outside legal counsel. Not only does Duane bring a wealth of knowledge to the Commission, but also invaluable personal experience to community-based police oversight. We are delighted to have him on our team and look forward to working with him as we continue to develop

our roles and responsibilities for the community.” The selection and appointment of the Commission’s outside legal counsel was made possible by the passage of Measure B by voters in 2020 and the City fully funding the Commission’s budget requests. Outside Legal Counsel Duane E. Bennett stated, “I am honored to be able to assist the Commission on Police Practices in its investigatory and oversight role. I believe that the goal is the same for the Commission and Police Department - to ensure appropriate investigations into critical incidents, while maintaining public safety, accountability, due process, equal protection, and the civil rights of all citizens.” Mr. Bennett has been actively involved in litigation and consultant related to civil rights, due process, and equal protection involving law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. He has conducted workplace investigations in the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego as well as numerous internal investigations for governmental agencies. Mr. Bennett served many years for the Riverside County Sheriffs’ Association and County of Riverside deciding disciplinary matters and grievances. He has also taught law enforcement courses in the states of Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana. Even though retired, Mr. Bennett has expanded his private law practice as an experienced arbitrator, mediator and litigator handling employment and commercial disputes involving governmental agencies, financial institutions, and more. He arbitrates and mediates for the American Arbitration Association and serves on the arbitration panel for the San Bernardino Civil Service Commission. Mr. Bennett serves as outside counsel to the City of San Diego’s Commission on Police Practices and the San Diego County Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB).



Anne Tremblay

Constitutional Policing Advisor, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Anne is an innovative leader with over 28 years of experience in criminal prosecution, public safety training and policing making, community-centered problem solving, and data-informed, culturally responsive program development. Anne currently serves as a constitutional policing advisor in the Office of Constitutional Policing at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Anne began her career as deputy district for the County of Orange and later joined the Los

Angeles City Attorney's Office as a community-based prosecutor assigned to LAPD's Newton Division in South Los Angeles. Anne also led the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development for over seven years and served as chief legal counsel to then-Mayor Eric Garcetti. Anne earned her law degree from Emory University School of Law and her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley. She is a past-president of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and was a 2017-18 Wasserstein Fellow at Harvard Law School.



Melissa Camacho

Senior Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union Southern California

Melissa Camacho is a Senior Staff Attorney with the Criminal Justice Project at the ACLU of Southern California. Her work includes monitoring conditions in the LA County jails related to four lawsuits filed against LASD and the County of Los Angeles. Before joining ACLU SoCal, Melissa was a staff attorney with the California Appellate Project – Los Angeles where she represented people whose criminal cases were on

appeal before the Second District Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court. She graduated from UCLA Law in 2007 and lives in Culver City with her teenage daughters.

Introduction to Keynote Speaker



Andrea Welsing

Director, L.A. County Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention

Andrea Welsing is a public health leader with over 25 years of experience working collaboratively with multiple sectors & community partners to develop, implement & evaluate public health programs.

Her work has addressed violence in all forms, starting with oversight of a hospital-based sexual assault & domestic violence program & leading to her role as

Director of the Injury & Violence Prevention Program for the L.A. County Department of Public Health, where she provided oversight & strategic direction for participation in the Violent Death Reporting System & the Trauma Prevention Initiative.

In 2019, she was appointed to serve as the Director of the County Office of Violence Prevention where she is responsible for coordinating a comprehensive approach to violence prevention across multiple sectors & government agencies to ensure an effective countywide response to violence & trauma. Ms. Welsing received her master's degree in public health from UCLA & a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California Berkeley.



Mike A. Gipson

Assemblymember, 65th District

Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson was proudly born and raised in the Watts community of Los Angeles.

Assemblymember Gipson always knew that he wanted to make a positive difference in the lives of those he encountered. He understands that his "why" is to serve. It was his upbringing and the foundation provided by his parents that inspired Assemblymember Gipson's dedication to leading and serving others. His father, a

truck driver and union President, and mother, who cleaned the homes of wealthy families, provided lessons early in Gipson's life that led him to believe that "I am my brothers'/sisters' keeper." His parents taught him to trust and believe in God and that hard work will always pay off; this led him to become the first person in his family to graduate from college.

Assemblymember Gipson's undeniable passion for public service propelled him to run and get elected to the Carson City Council in 2005. He served as Mayor Pro Tempore before running for the California State Assembly in 2014, where he has served since. Today, Assemblymember Gipson represents the new 65th Assembly District which includes the areas of Watts, Willowbrook, Compton, Carson, North Long Beach, Harbor Gateway North & South, Harbor City, Wilmington, and San Pedro.

Since joining the Legislature, Assemblymember Gipson has been a true leader for his community and among his peers. In 2015, Assembly Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon appointed Assemblymember Gipson to serve as his right hand in the role of Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair. He served until July 2023, making him the longest-serving Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair in California State history. Assemblymember Gipson was responsible for setting the agenda for the largest Democratic Caucus in the history of the California State Assembly. Assemblymember Gipson has now been appointed to Chair the Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism committee by Speaker Robert Rivas. Assemblymember Gipson also Chairs the Select Committees on Police Reform and Ports and Goods Movement. He also serves on the select Committees on Domestic Violence; Automation and Workforce Development; California-Mexico Bi-National Affairs; Los Angeles County Homelessness; Nonprofit Sector; Restorative Justice; Social Determinants of Health; State Parks; Status of Boys and Men of Color; and the California Creative Economy Workgroup. Assemblymember Gipson is also an active member of the California Legislative Black Caucus as well as Chair of the 76th Council of State Governments West (CSG West), which currently represents 13 states. Assemblymember Gipson, is now serving as Vice-Chair for the Council of State Government National (CSG).

Assemblymember Gipson also serves on the Standing Committees of Governmental Organizations; Insurance; Revenue and Taxation; and Human Services. He has championed groundbreaking legislation to ban "ghost guns" in the state of California,

expand access to mobile stroke units, reduce barriers to employment, significant police reform bills that now prohibit chokeholds, and ban restraints that lead to "positional asphyxiation" and eradicate "police gangs."

Assemblymember Gipson is a diligent champion for his district in providing resources and funding for important programs in communities that have been historically underserved. In 2022, Assemblymember Gipson secured nearly \$4 billion in state funding. Services for youth and culture were prioritized in Watts as Assemblymember Gipson secured \$5.5 million for the community in the form of increased recreational opportunities and a 4-acre arts and culture campus. A new Pathways in Technology Early College High School educational institution in Compton will serve as a place for the community to get Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics jobs and skills that were only made possible by a \$3.5 million budget allocation which Assemblymember Gipson also secured. An additional \$1 million was awarded to the Wilmington Boys & Girls Club to help this essential community asset continue to run and make improvements to safety and transportation. Assemblymember Gipson also championed \$110 million to fund a state-of-the-art art Goods Movement Workforce Training Campus in the Los Angeles Harbor Region, which will deliver an increased supply of well-paid, trained workers to the industry. To address the pressing mental health issues faced by many young adults, Assemblymember Gipson also successfully spearheaded \$10 million to fund peer-to-peer mental health services in K-12 schools throughout California.

Most notably, Assemblymember Gipson's work in the areas of police reform, education, social justice, health, and housing has resulted in several awards that include "Legislator of the Year" by the California Association of Black Lawyers; the "2021 Champions for Adults with Sickle Cell Disease" by the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation; the "Outstanding Legislator" award by the Community College League of California; and "Legislator of the Year" again by the Children's Law Center, among many others.

Assemblymember Gipson currently resides in Carson with his wife, LeCresha Gipson. They have three sons, Devon, and Jordan, as well as 5 beautiful grandchildren: Faafetai Ole Alofa, Cataleya Acevedo, Amore, and two twins Kaaleo & Kayhlanii. Their third son, D'Ancee, was killed at 3 years old as a victim of a hit-and-run motorist that has never been captured.



Robert Sowell

Assistant Executive Director, L.A. County Commission on Human Relations

Robert is the Assistant Executive Director of the LA County Commission on Human Relations. In this role, he provides administrative oversight to the Branch's staff and operations. He also helps to lead planning and implementation of countywide equity initiatives and is a member of the Department of Public Health's Office of

Violence Prevention's countywide leadership team. Previously his primary responsibility was coordination of a department-wide Culture Transformation

Initiative to significantly improve leadership, trust, and productivity. He also is an experienced mediator and dialogue facilitator. Prior to his current position, Robert served as a member of the Leadership Team of Human Relations Commission staff, and supervised staff working on improving the equity and fairness of criminal justice systems in LA County. He also directed coordination of the county's Dispute Resolution Program and supervised the Commission's initiative addressing the needs and treatment of commercially sexually exploited minors. Before becoming a manager, he served with the Schools Team and as a member of the Hate Crime Report Team. He continues to develop and deliver customized training with all kinds of groups, including public safety professionals, community interventionists, housing managers, government workers, young adults, and human services volunteers. His trainings cover a variety of topics, including cultural competence, diversity, prejudice (including racism and implicit bias), conflict resolution, mediation, communication, equity impact assessment, organizational culture and climate, peacebuilding, leadership, and collaboration. Robert's prior experience includes working as a child neglect and abuse investigator with the county's Department of Children and Family Services. He has earned graduate degrees in social work and in education and completed post-graduate work in public and urban affairs.



Esprit Loren Jones

Chair, City of Pasadena Police Oversight Commission

I am a dedicated mother who has taken on a role in community leadership to drive meaningful change as it pertains to relations between local law enforcement and residents of Pasadena. As the Chair of the community Police Oversight Commission (City of Pasadena), I am passionate about using my voice to advocate for restorative justice and accountability within our community. My work focuses on ensuring that

community care and wellness are prioritized in this work. My background in service to my community includes certified peer crisis counsel, domestic violence advocacy and social justice advocacy. I enjoy volunteering at local schools and churches in the heart of service, as instilled by my family. My hobbies include reading, creating art in various forms, and karaoke!



John Davis

President, Avalon Gardens Community Association

John Davis is a dedicated community leader of Avalon Gardens Community Association, that he fervently supports. John's commitment of service to the community and advocacy began early in his life. He notably served as Avalon Gardens Elementary School Site Council President from 2014 to 2018, demonstrating his passion for educational excellence and community involvement.

In 2018, John assumed leadership as the President of the Avalon Gardens Community Association, a role he continues to uphold with unwavering dedication to this day. Under his guidance, the association has flourished into a beacon of community engagement and empowerment.

John Davis is recognized for his tireless efforts in disseminating vital information to his community and fostering collaborative relationships with neighboring neighborhoods. His visionary approach has brought various communities together to amplify awareness of their rights, facilitated partnerships with local schools, law enforcement agencies, board members, senators, and other community stakeholders. Through his strategic initiatives, John has significantly improved communication and mutual understanding among these entities, creating a more cohesive and supportive environment for all.

John's remarkable leadership, advocacy, and commitment to community welfare have not gone unnoticed, earning him accolades and respect from residents and officials alike. He continues to be a driving force in promoting unity, empowerment, and progress within Avalon Gardens and beyond.



Nicole Palomino

Captain, LA County Sheriff's Department South Los Angeles Station

In 1998, Captain Palomino graduated from the Custody Assistant Academy and began her LASD career at Pitchess Detention Center – South Facility. In 2000, she graduated from the Sheriff's Academy and continued her career at Pitchess Detention Center – South Facility, where she served as a line deputy and Custody Training Officer before transferring to Century Station in 2006. There, Palomino worked

patrol and served as a Field Training Officer and station Detective.

In 2010, Palomino was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to Men's Central Jail (MCJ), where she served as a line supervisor. In 2012, Palomino transferred to South Los Angeles Station (SLA), where she served as a field Supervisor and Operations Sergeant. She promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2018 and transferred to Compton Station (CPT). There, Palomino worked as a Watch Commander and

Operations Lieutenant.

In 2021, Palomino transferred to the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau (ICIB), where she served as a team Lieutenant. In 2023, she transferred to Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) and served as a team Lieutenant for eleven months, until she promoted to Captain of South Los Angeles Station in November 2023.

Palomino is a lifetime resident of Los Angeles County. She received her Associate of Science degree in Administration of Justice from College of the Canyons and studied Molecular Cell Biology at California State University – Northridge. Palomino has been married to her husband for seven years and has a stepson and stepdaughter. Her stepdaughter also attended California State University Northridge, her stepson is a Deputy Sheriff at Pitchess Detention Center – North Facility, and her husband is a Deputy Sheriff at the Special Enforcement Bureau's Emergency Services Detail. In her off-duty time, Palomino enjoys spending time with family, doing CrossFit, and traveling.



Brittianna Robinson

Commissioner, LA County Youth Commission

Brittianna is a resilient and outgoing survivor youth advocate with a powerful story that can connect with diverse communities. Through her involvement in programs like Saving Innocence, Two Wings Qualified Academy, UCLA's Healing Youth Justice Reimagined Fellowship, National Center for Youth Law plus more. She's currently fulfilling her purpose by using her lived expertise, voice, and faith to aid in the process of

improving systems for youth across Los Angeles County. As a member of the Child Trafficking Leadership Team, Brittianna has a clear vision of ways to improve the child welfare and juvenile justice system, while also empowering current and former CSEC youth. Brittianna is passionate about her purpose and excited to further her philanthropist endeavors.

In addition to her advocacy and county employment, she is also a Chef! She has recently graduated from Los Angeles Trade Technical College with Associates Degrees in Restaurant Management, Professional Baking, and Culinary Arts. Brittianna's culinary career centers around her LLC, Nana's Secret. Her way of giving back to her community is by offering life skills culinary classes to systematically impacted youth in various shared living spaces, as well as previously mentioned non-profits. Nonetheless, Brittianna is a powerhouse, a true pillar of LA County.



David Carroll

Director, L.A. County Department of Youth Development

David J. Carroll serves as the Director for the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD).

David brings decades of experience in youth development through his work with community-based organizations in Los Angeles and across the country.

He holds a deep personal commitment to youth development and has dedicated his career to creating opportunities for youth to thrive. At an early age, he was part of the foster care and adoption systems, and he was later impacted by the criminal legal system. As a young Black man growing up in a single parent home, David, and young people like him were considered more likely to drop out of school, become incarcerated, or become a victim of violent crime than to graduate from college. But with the help of caring teachers, committed mentors, and countless youth development programs and opportunities along the way, David graduated from college with honors and embarked on a corporate career. Years later, following his experience with a violent crime committed by teenagers, he made the decision to leave the corporate sector and serve youth.

He has remained steadfast in his mission to provide high-quality developmental and learning opportunities for youth – the same types of opportunities that profoundly impacted his own life. He has served thousands of children and families through the creation of award-winning non-profit programs and has worked tirelessly to improve resource access for nonprofits. He has served in executive roles with direct service organizations and in policy and capacity building roles supporting community-based organizations and philanthropy.

David is a member of the prestigious White-Riley-Peterson Fellowship on Public Policy, a two-time winner of the Washington University Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition and was named a Distinguished Alumnus by Harris-Stowe State University. He holds a Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Accounting from Harris-Stowe State University.

In his time away from work David is a Volunteer Board Member and Officer for his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, and coaches youth sports. David lives in South Los Angeles; he is the proud father of two children and two dogs.

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This conference has been designed by a joint planning committee of the L.A. County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, the Human Relations Commission, the Department of Youth Development, the Department of Public Health & Justice, Care and Opportunities Department.

