

# Sun-Reporter

A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA

(USPS 526-500)

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**.30¢**  
BEST BUY IN THE WEST

## THE TALENTED 25



Alicia Garza



Coach Alonzo  
Carter



Congresswoman  
Barbara Lee



D'wayne  
Wiggins



Nadia  
Sesay



Dr. Willieford  
Moses



Colin  
Kaepernick



Danny Glover



Tyra  
Fennell



Addisu  
Demissie



Attorney  
Douglas E. Love



Dr. Kyla  
Johnson-Trammell



Regina V.  
Evans, Esq.



Randal  
Seriguchi



Tyra  
Fennell



Flynn  
Bradley



Maisha  
Everhart



Cathy  
Adams



Lisa  
Williams



Ken  
McNeely



Flynn  
Bradley



Dr. Jacqueline A.  
Thompson



Takija T  
Gardner



Gail  
Berkley



Beverly  
Greene



Ken  
McNeely



Captain Valerie  
Matthews



Dr. Jacqueline A.  
Thompson



Mawuli  
Tugbenyoh

# Until Victory Is Won

By Amelia Ashley-Ward  
Sun-Reporter Publisher

**Congratulations to the 2017 Sun-Reporter Talented 25 honorees. This is our fourth year and Special Edition of celebrating some of the Bay Area's caretakers of our various communities in Northern California.**

2017 was a rough year. We held our breath and coated our stomachs as Number 45 was sworn in as President of the not so United States.

We knew the already hostile environment we live in was

about to explode. It has.

We watched as Peace and Goodwill for all ascended high in the sky for their final Presidential helicopter ride. We waved and saluted them for we knew that racism will now troll about trying to erase eight years of work and sacrifice.

Time again for singing "We shall overcome." Time, after years of moving forward, to now going back to dusting off old battle garb of years past, to suit up once again for the war on racism, sexism, classism and Trumpism.

It's ALL bad, again!

But I believe help is on the way.

Our honorees this year are freedom fighters, healers, fixers, strategists, educators, coaches, philanthropists, storytellers and activists. They have given up millions to take a knee against injustice.

They coined phrases telling the world that Black Lives have and always will matter. Protesting, marching and advocating, they are back to leading, until victory is won. They act on the silver screen by day but find time in the morning to change their outfits and hit the pave-

ment in protest with the common folk. They fight to get top notch degrees then return home to help our children. They sit high on the throne in corporate America but also hang low to bless our community. They rescue and train our future so that they can rule the world.

This city of St. Francis now has the opportunity to keep its first African American female Mayor in place until June 5, 2018, when she can win it all. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by.

I'm now stepping back and taking a deep breath. If I am

blessed to see 2018, I will lift my head to acknowledge my help. I will then exhale because I still can. I will once again prepare for battle, because it's on y'all, and forge on until victory is won.

Will you join me?

**"We are the world, we are the children...we are the ones who make a brighter day so let's start giving. There's a choice we're making, we're saving our own lives...it's true we make a brighter day for you me." - Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson**

## Colin Kaepernick

**Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the playing of the National Anthem during the entire 2016 NFL season has gained him a place among the nation's most revered and reviled athletes.**

Kaepernick has been compared to Muhammad Ali, who refused to be drafted into the Army to fight in Vietnam. The similarities are real, because like Ali, who was stripped of his license to box, Kaepernick was not signed to play football by any NFL team this season.

And, like Ali, Kaepernick's kneeling during the National Anthem has drawn angry protests from the President of the United States and others who see his actions as a sign of disrespect for the flag and veterans.

Ironically, Kaepernick originally sat during the playing of the anthem, but after conferring with a veteran, who suggested it, he

decided to kneel instead.

Kaepernick said his action was his response to the treatment of African Americans and other people of color who are oppressed in this nation. "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL Media last year. "To me it's bigger than football, and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people are getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

In later conversations with the press, he said he was appalled that it takes longer to get a cosmetologist license in the State of California than it does to be trained as a police officer. He said he and his roommates personally were the victims of racial profiling while he was in college and his stance is not a "one off." He also last year said, somewhat prophetically, that he was not looking for approval, and could live with himself if football

was taken away from him or if he lost his endorsements.

Kaepernick's protest has also been compared to the black-gloved clinched fist salute given on the medal podium by African Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Both Carlos and Smith have applauded Kaepernick's actions.

Although he has not played football this season, his action has been carried on by former teammates and other NFL players. Kaepernick has decided not to comment on the protests and pushback against players this season.

Rather, Kaepernick has been busy keeping a pledge he made to donate \$1 million and all the proceeds from his jersey sales from the 2016 season to organizations working in oppressed communities - \$100K a month for 10 months. Kaepernick has formed the Colin Kaepernick Foundation with the mission "to fight oppression of all



Colin Kaepernick

kinds globally through education and social activism. "

As of early December, the foundation has given away \$900,000 of the \$1 million pledged. One of the foundation's programs is the Know Your Rights Camp for young people. The Camp is "a free campaign for youth fully funded by Colin Kaepernick to raise awareness on higher education, self-empowerment, and instruction to properly interact with law enforcement in various scenarios," according to the Foundation website.

Kaepernick said recently, "No matter what I have to sacrifice, if you see wrong in this world, you must say it is wrong."

He has received several prestigious awards for his activism this year including the Muhammad Ali Legacy Award from Sports Illustrated and the Eason Monroe Courageous Action Award from the ACLU. He also appeared on the cover of GQ Magazine as Man of the Year, and he was a finalist for Time magazine's Person of the Year.

Accepting the ACLU Award, Kaepernick said, "We all have an obligation no matter the risks and regardless of reward to stand up for our fellow men and women who are being oppressed with the understanding that human rights cannot be compromised."

**Reportedly Kaepernick is considering buying the NFL's Carolina Panthers along with Sean "Diddy" Combs.**

# Dr. Kyla Johnson Trammell

**A** native of Oakland, Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell is in her first school year as Superinten-

dent of the Oakland Unified School District(OUSD), and has spent her entire professional career at OUSD serving the students in several capacities.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead OUSD educators in service of young people right here in my hometown,” said Dr. Johnson-Trammell.

As Superintendent Dr. Johnson-Trammell leads a district of 50,119 students in both district-run and charter schools. The staff at OUSD includes 2,317 teachers, 1,845 other staff and central office staff of 719. She is responsible for the education of a district-wide student population that includes 50.3% of whom speak a non-English language at home. OUSD is one of the nation’s

most diverse with over 50 languages spoken in students’ homes.

Dr. Johnson-Trammell recently had the difficult task of presenting to the OUSD board and community members, \$9 million in mid-year budget cuts to the 2017-2018 \$762.8 million budget.

Born and raised in East Oakland, she attended Montclair Elementary and Montera Middle schools. Dr. Johnson-Trammell received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Pennsylvania and her EdD in Educational Leadership, from the University of California, Berkeley.

For the last eighteen years, she has developed her skills as both an educator and adminis-



**Dr. Kyla Johnson Trammell**

trator and has held positions including: elementary school teacher; middle school assistant principal; elementary school principal; Director of Talent Development; Associate Superintendent for Leadership, Curriculum, and Instruction; Network Superintendent and, most recently, as Interim Deputy Superintendent.

Her goal is that every student across the district reaches their full potential. “As an Oakland native, I have seen firsthand the strength of this community and the dedication of our educators. The time is now to turn our good intentions into strong results. Together, we can transform OUSD from a school district showing areas of improvement and pockets of success to one that is known for consistent excellence and equity, transparent and honest communication, and quality schools in every neighborhood,” she said.

**Dr. Johnson-Trammell is married to Rev. Floyd Trammell and the couple has two children.**

# Dr. Willieford Moses

**D**r. Willieford Moses is a young physician to watch, and has already made notable contributions to the medical field. Dr. Moses is a Chief Resident in the Department of Surgery at the University of California San Francisco medical school(UCSF).

Born and raised in the Bayview neighborhood of San Francisco, Dr. Moses is the youngest of four children. He is the son of Drs. Toye and Alma Moses. His father is from

Nigeria and his mother from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Moses attended grade school at Cathedral School for Boys and then high school at the Urban School of San Francisco prior to attending Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He received a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Chemistry.

Dr. Moses then spent a year teaching English and economics to 7th and 9th graders in the Dominican Republic prior to attending UCSF for medical



**Dr. Willieford Moses**

school. He graduated in 2011 and since that time has been a general surgery resident in the Department of Surgery.

“During this seven-year general surgery training program, I had the opportunity to spend two years helping to research and develop an artificial kidney in a biodesign lab. Now in my final year of residency training I am currently one of the Chief Residents,” said Dr. Moses.

**“Starting in August after I complete residency, I will be moving to Los Angeles to complete a two-year fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles,” he added.**

All Talented 25 stories written or edited by Gail Berkley

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Editor/Publisher  
1945-1997

**Amelia Ashley-Ward**  
Editor/Publisher

## Gail Berkley

**G**ail Berkley is a veteran journalist committed to the mission of the Black Press of America - "Too long have others spoken for us... we wish to plead our own cause." Currently Editor at the Sun-Reporter, she has spent over 40 years as an editor and reporter in the Black Press.

"I truly enjoy my work at the Sun-Reporter helping to be sure the news and information important to the African American community is available to our readers each week," she said. "It is critical that the voices, perspectives and opinions of our community, the leaders and citizens working for change have an outlet in the Bay Area. It is equally important to highlight the milestones and contributions of those too often left unrecognized in other media."

Prior to joining the staff at

the Sun-Reporter, she was the longtime Executive Editor and Assistant to the Publisher of the Post Newspaper Group in Oakland. The Post Newspaper Group was founded by her late father Attorney Thomas L. Berkley.

She is also committed to giving her time and talent to community organizations and currently serves as President of the African Sister City Cultural Center, Inc. As President she leads the non-profit organization in its mission to support the City of Oakland's Sister City relationship with the twin cities Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana.

She is also presently Secretary of the Board of Directors of her church Lakeside Temple of Practical Christianity in Oakland.

Berkley is co-founder of Cacao Branch Children's Hospital, Oakland. She has served on several Boards of Directors of community based organizations in the San

Francisco Bay Area, including, Bay Area Urban League, Inc., Bay Area Black United Fund, Dimensions Dance Theater, Inc. and Black Adoption Placement and Research Center. She is a founding member of New California Media (now New America Media). She also previously was a member of the Patrons of the Arts and Humanities of the Bay Area, The African American Museum and Library Coalition and the Oakland Museum Cultural and Ethnic Affairs Guild's Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame committee.

She has also served as a Public Relations and Marketing Consultant and Editor for private clients.

She has received many awards for her community work over the years, including the Pioneer Award from New America Media, and recognition for community service by: State of California Legislature, City and County of



**Gail Berkley**

San Francisco, Alameda County, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Allen Temple Baptist Church, East Bay Women's Political Action Committee, Ebony Museum of California, Today's Women, Inc., College Bounders Committee, and East Bay Area Club National Council of Negro Women.

As a child she was exposed to the diversity of cultures within the Bay Area and beyond by her mother the late Etta Jordan Hill,

an educator and artist.

"Both of my parents were trailblazers, and courageous individuals who did not take 'no' for an answer. They were both role models for me. They taught by example how to meet challenges, and my mother made sure that my two sisters and I knew the importance of belief and faith in God," Berkley said.

Berkley has a passion for travel and meeting people of other cultures and nations. She has toured Europe, Ghana, South America, Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba and other Caribbean nations. She has also visited Ivory Coast, Malaysia, the Fiji Islands and Morocco.

**A native of Berkeley, she attended Berkeley public schools and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. She lives in Oakland with her husband Ray Armstrong.**

## Attorney Douglas E. Love

**A**ttorney Douglas E. Love joined Annexon Biosciences as first President and Chief Executive Officer in May 2014 with extensive business and legal leadership experience in biotech. Annexon is a South San Francisco biotech company advancing a novel neuro-immunology approach for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Huntington's disease. It is pioneering the development of first-in-class therapeutic products that halt the progression of complement-mediated neurodegeneration (CMND). Backed by a team of experts in CMND, Annexon's mission is to rapidly advance



**Douglas E. Love**

**disease-modifying therapies for patients with acute and chronic neurodegenerative disorders.**

Annexon's leadership under President Love has an extensive and successful track-record of discovering, developing and commercializing breakthrough therapies for

debilitating diseases. Using a closely integrated approach, they are bound by their passion and commitment to translate the company's platform science into break-through therapeutics for patients and their families impacted by neurodegenerative diseases. As Americans are living longer and presenting a range of health challenges in their golden years, Attorney Love and Annexon's cutting edge research is vital for improving the quality of life for the elderly not only from the African American community but from all communities across the nation.

Love previously served as Head of Operations for Elan Pharmaceuticals where he led the Tysabri® multiple sclerosis franchise, helping to propel

it to nearly \$2 billion in annual sales. He also led Elan's Alzheimer's Immunotherapy Program, which was licensed to Johnson & Johnson for \$1 billion in addition to milestones and royalties. Love is a corporate attorney by training, and prior to joining Elan served as an associate at the law firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, Corporate Counsel at Amgen, Inc. and as Section Corporate Counsel at Genentech Inc., where he led the BioOncology Healthcare Law Group and launched several blockbuster programs. He holds a J.D. with great distinction from McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, and a B.S. in business administration from the University of Southern California.

Asked what inspired him to pursue law and the biosciences, Love responded, "With respect to my pursuit of the law, I think I have always been moved and inspired to help people. I thought early on that the law was a direct and effective path to learning how the country and systems work in order to develop tools and learning to positively impact things.

**"With respect to my pursuit of biotech, I could say I had a grand master plan; but, in truth, the Lord has led me here, step by step, by opening and closing doors and lining my work up with my love of problem solving and trying to make lives better. For both career paths, I am very grateful," he said.**

HONORING  
THE BAY AREA'S  
TALENTED

25

LEADERS &  
ACHIEVERS  
IN OUR AFRICAN  
AMERICAN COMMUNITY



San Francisco  
Water Power Sewer  
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“As an agency committed to nurturing civic and environmental stewards, we appreciate your leadership and service across the Bay Area.”

Harlan L. Kelly, Jr., General Manager  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THIS YEARS RECIPIENTS

- Danny Glover
- Maisha Everhart
- D'wayne Wiggins
- Alicia Garza
- Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
- Nadia Sesay
- Dr. Willieford Moses
- Colin Kaepernick
- Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson
- Gail Berkley
- Congresswoman Barbara Lee
- Mawuli Tugbenyoh
- Coach Alonzo Carter
- Cathy Adams
- Addisu Demisse
- Attorney Douglas Love
- Tyra Fennell
- Randi Seriguchi
- Takija Gardner
- Lisa Williams
- Ken McNeely
- Beverly Greene
- Flynn Bradley
- Attorney Regina Evans
- Captain Valerie Matthews



# Congratulations to the 2017 “Talented 25”

The Sun-Reporter Special Edition



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# SFPD Captain Valerie Matthews

**D**uring her 16-plus year career with the San Francisco Police Department Captain Valerie Matthews rose through the ranks, and along the way she has been a role model and was the first African American woman Inspector in the Homicide unit.

She was promoted to Captain in October and is currently in charge of the Major Crimes Unit, which includes Homicide, Robbery, and Gang Task Force.

Capt. Matthews said, "I was motivated to go into law enforcement because I enjoyed helping people and thought it was a job I would be good at. As a child I always looked up to the police, since we were taught the police were our friends, and that they were there to help us.

Unfortunately, they never looked like me growing up and

were not overly friendly, but that didn't detour me."

She attributes her successful career to hard work, overcoming adversity, and surrounding herself with good role models. "I have worked in several units of investigation and patrol which I attribute to helping me to become well-rounded. I work hard to be a good example to young officers and go out of my way to encourage, and assist them since they are the future of the police department," she said.

"I recruit whenever I see a young person that I feel would make a good police officer, and support women since there are so few women police officers and we have such a vital role in the community," she added.

Capt. Matthews was born in Berkeley and attended public school in Pacifica. After graduating from Oceana High School, she attended San Francisco State University.

She joined the SFPD in February 1991. After completing the Police Academy, she worked as a police officer, and in various specialized units. She was promoted in June 1996 to the rank of Police Sergeant. Matthews was then transferred from patrol and began working in the Hit & Run Detail as a Police Inspector.

In July 1997 she was transferred to the General Work Detail (violent crimes unit), where she continued to work as a Police Inspector. She is known for investigating the "Tiger Case" at the San Francisco Zoo.

In June 2000 Matthews was promoted to the rank of Police Inspector. In January 2008 she was transferred to the Homicide Detail as the first African American female Inspector.

In June 2012 she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, where she worked in patrol and Investigations.



**Captain Valerie Matthews**

Matthews has been an exemplary officer and role model with SFPD, showing compassion for the community she serves. She has served as the Vice President of the Officers for Justice (OFJ) of the San Francisco Police Officer Association, a founding member of the African American Police Relation Board of San Francisco, a member of the National Black Police Officer Association, and a member of the National Organization of

Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Matthews is very active in the African American community working with the Healing Circle, Mothers of Murdered Children, Survivors Speak, and organizing clothing drives with the police department for the homeless and less fortunate. She has volunteered her time at Bret Hart School reading to children and volunteered with the OFJ Toy Drive and feeding the elderly, and with the Bayview Rotary.

**She has received several awards for her work and community service including, an award from the OFJ as the first African American female In Homicide, Officer of the Year from the Bayview Lions Club and commendations from the SF Board of Supervisors, and awards from SFPD.**

## Nadia Sesay

**N**adia Sesay was appointed by the Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure as Executive Director of the Successor Agency to the former San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, also known as Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), in October 2017. Prior to that, she was appointed by Mayor Edwin M. Lee to serve as interim Executive Director in January 2017.

In this role, Sesay is responsible for the economic development of the new Transbay, Mission Bay and Hunters Point Shipyard neighborhoods, which collectively provide over 20,000 new housing units,

including approximately 7,000 affordable housing units, and 10 million square feet of commercial space. She also oversees the management of various properties in existing and expired project areas.

Sesay was appointed the Director of the Controller's Office of Public Finance for the City & County of San Francisco by Mayor Gavin Newsom in March 2005. The Office of Public Finance manages the City's \$3.2 billion municipal debt portfolio, oversees the issuance of all new debt secured by property taxes and general fund sources, initiates the City's debt policies and procedures, and performs planning, management and coordination of public financ-

ing including, but not limited to the monitoring, budgeting and forecasting related to the Ten-Year Capital Plan. In addition, she conducts financial analysis for the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Commissioners and department heads relating to debt financing.

Sesay has been involved in the financing of significant capital investments for the City, including the construction and improvement of the Transbay Transit Center project, San Francisco General Hospital, various public safety buildings, parks and open space, Moscone Expansion and the acquisition of office buildings.

She has worked in the Office of Public Finance for nearly

19 years, serving as Financial Administrator and Bond Associate prior to her appointment as Director. Before joining the City, Sesay worked for Union Bank of California, N.A. in the Corporate Trust Department as Trust Administrator.

She also sits on the San Francisco Community Investment Board and served as Chair of the Oversight Board of the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco prior to her appointment as Interim Executive Director. In 2015, Sesay served on the State Treasurer's Task Force on Bond Accountability, whose Final Report in December 2015 prompted the State of Cali-



**Nadia Sesay**

fornia to adopt several of its recommended reforms.

**Sesay was awarded San Francisco's Public Managerial Excellence Award for exemplary leadership, fiscal ingenuity and vision in 2010.**

# Maisha Everhart

**M**aisha Everhart has charted an impressive career in public service at the local, state and national levels.

Everhart currently serves as the Manager of Local Government and Community Relations for the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART).

She recently led BART's public education campaign, Better BART, that resulted in overwhelming support for a \$3.5 billion bond to rebuild BART's 45-year-old infrastructure.

Prior to joining BART, Everhart served as Senior Advisor of Intergovernmental Affairs to Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. In that role, she was responsible for managing Oakland's

lobbying efforts and served as the primary liaison to the county, state, and federal governments. She also managed the city's international protocol by working closely with the U.S. Department of State to build international cooperation and promote Oakland as a world class city for tourism and trade.

"I decided to go into public service because I wanted to see more women and people of color get into elected office," said Everhart. She added, "Contributors to my success have been resilience, hard work, and determination."

Before joining the Oakland Mayor's Office, she worked for Assemblymember Sandré Swanson on state housing and education issues. Prior to working for the state, Everhart

worked as the Partnerships and Grants Director for The Alliance for Climate Protection, the national environmental organization founded by former Vice-President Al Gore. While working at the Alliance, she managed a multi-million-dollar portfolio of grants and worked closely with Congress and the Obama Administration to advance climate issues. She also helped build a diverse coalition that included faith, labor, business, youth and social justice organizations dedicated to fighting the climate crisis. Prior to joining the Alliance, she served as the Northern California Director and Delegate Selection Specialist for Hillary Clinton's 2008 Presidential Campaign. Everhart was responsible for managing the field, press and political



**Maisha Everhart**

operations for Northern California.

Everhart is an Oakland native and graduate of Skyline High School. As a student leader, she served as a Student Representative on the Oakland Board of Education.

After high school, she attended Spelman College in Atlanta, graduating with a degree in political science. She went on

to earn a juris doctorate degree from Rutgers University School of Law. While in law school, Everhart worked as a student attorney in the Rutgers Urban Legal Clinic representing indigent clients in criminal court and as an extern for the Honorable Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. in the U.S. District Court.

**Committed to public service, she has volunteered for numerous organizations including the East Bay Community Law Center's Criminal Records Clinic. In addition, she counseled at Oakland's Needle Exchange Program, and tutored in Oakland public schools. In her leisure time she enjoys travel to experience new locales and cultures.**

# Addisu Demissie

**A**ddisu Demissie's expertise in political advocacy and campaign strategy has been recognized and tapped into at the highest levels in the national, state and local political arenas. He is currently the Campaign Manager for Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom's campaign for Governor of California.



**Addisu Demissie**

A founding Principal of Bay Area based political consultancy 50+1 Strategies, over the last 15 years Demissie has led campaigns at the national, state, and local level for elec-

toral, nonprofit, and corporate clients.

Demissie says his first love is developing and implementing sophisticated community

organizing programs, which he did during three presidential campaign cycles in 2004, 2008, and 2016. Following President Barack Obama's first inauguration in 2009, Demissie was selected as the first National Political Director for President Obama's political organization Organizing for America (OFA). Later that year, the Washington Post named Demissie one of the "Ten Young Black Aides To Watch" in the Obama Administration. At OFA, Demissie played a key role in mobilizing and coordinating grassroots support for the passage of the American Recovery and Rein-

vestment Act, federal student loan reform, and the Affordable Care Act.

In the years since, he served as Senior Advisor to California Assemblymember David Chiu's 2011 mayoral campaign; as the general consultant for several California municipal, initiative, and independent expenditure campaigns during the 2012 campaign cycle, and as Campaign Manager for Senator Cory Booker's (D-NJ) successful special election campaign in 2013. As the National Voter Outreach and Mobilization Director on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign,

Demissie oversaw the development of organizing programs for Democratic base communities and state operations for 37 states.

He is a 2001 graduate of Yale University, 2008 graduate of Yale Law School, and a member of the state Bar of California. In his spare time, he likes to run in the California sun and watch sports of any and every kind, especially his hometown Atlanta Braves and adopted hometown Golden State Warriors.

**He lives in Oakland with his wife Jill.**

## Tyra Fennell

**T**yra Fennell is founding director of Imprint.City, a San Francisco organization seeking to activate industrial, underutilized spaces with art projects, encouraging community and economic development. Imprint.City produces BayviewLIVE, the only urban arts and music festival in San Francisco that also provides technology education resources to address the digital divide.

Prior to launching Imprint.City, Fennell spent over five years developing and implementing programs for the San Francisco Arts Commission and is also credited with starting then-SF49ers Vernon Da-

vis' Visual Arts Scholarship Fund, now the Vernon Davis Foundation for the Arts. She also created and "3rd on Third," an activity which continues to occur every third Friday in Bayview.

Speaking about the motivation for her work Fennell said, "Neighborhoods in San Francisco with volumes of foot traffic, vibrant corridors and robust tourism are appealing because they have a clear brand identity that attract patrons. The question that inspires my work as arts producer and resident of the Bayview is, 'what is its identity?'"

"In 2015, I co-founded Imprint.City with Laughing Monk Brewery owner, An-

drew Casteel to advocate and develop programming, promoting Bayview as the next cultural district in San Francisco," she continued. "Imprint.City also began acutely focusing on the Egbert Avenue area to demonstrate how, in a typically desolate area of the neighborhood, with culturally responsive events and strategic marketing, foot traffic will significantly increase to support local businesses and improve public safety. Imprint.City to date has attracted over 5,000 eventgoers, 30 participating neighborhood retail and food merchants, 30 youth employees, 10 community-based organization partnerships and 50 performing and visual artists.



Tyra Fennell

"The concept of reshaping Bayview as the next big arts district is not new, but codifies what has already been burgeoning in the community. There have been robust arts activities happening in the Bayview long before I moved and began working there including programming facilitated by the Bayview Opera House, Zach Dance, the Shipyard Trust for the Arts

(STAR) and Public Glass, who have all been working to encourage arts activities in the neighborhood. My vision for Imprint.City's is to build systematic collaboration amongst arts stakeholders in the Bayview to market and cross promote existing programming to support the success of our commercial corridor and local businesses," Fennell said.

**In addition to her work with Imprint.City, Fennell currently serves on the board of the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) and Bayview Community Legal. She is a Howard University graduate.**

## Mawuli Tugbenyoh

**M**awuli Tugbenyoh currently serves as Legislative Director and Liaison to the Board of Supervisors in the Office of the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco. In this role, he managed all local government affairs on behalf of the late Mayor Edwin Lee, and Tugbenyoh continues in that role for Acting Mayor London Breed. He has crafted legislation to address homelessness and quality of life issues, create more middle-income housing opportunities



Mawuli Tugbenyoh

**for residents, and prohibit a Muslim registry.**

Before his appointment to the Lee administration, Tugbenyoh

served for three and one-half years as a legislative aide to San Francisco Supervisor Malia Cohen where he focused on the issues of transportation and public safety and worked to create policies to address environmental justice, small business development, food security, police and criminal justice reform.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, he is the son of an immigrant father from Accra, Ghana and a mother from Tyler, Texas.

Prior to his work in San Fran-

cisco government, Tugbenyoh was the administrator of an Oakland housing non-profit for adults that struggle with both mental illness and substance abuse, also known as dual diagnoses.

He graduated from San Francisco State University where he studied Political Science and Biology.

Outside of his duties in the Mayor's office he is active in several state and local political and community organizations.

He serves as a delegate to the California Democratic Party,

appointed by Assemblymember David Chiu and serves on the Bar Association of San Francisco, Criminal Justice Task Force. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Bayview Hunters Point Multi-Purpose Senior Services which houses and supports thousands of San Francisco's seniors each year.

**In all his efforts, Tugbenyoh demonstrates a strong commitment to working on behalf of underserved communities and promoting equity in access to opportunities.**



# Alicia Garza

**A**licia Garza is an Oakland-based organizer, writer, public speaker and self-proclaimed “freedom dreamer.” She is currently the Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the nation’s leading voice for dignity and fairness for the millions of domestic workers in the United States.

Garza is also one of three women activists who created a three-word hashtag that has grown into a movement for justice for African Americans and a chant heard around the

world - “Black Lives Matter.”

Garza, along with Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors, co-founded the Black Lives Matter network. BLM is “a globally recognized organizing project that focuses on combatting anti-Black state-sanctioned violence and the oppression of all Black people,” according to its website. The network currently has over 40-member led chapters in 40 global communities.

In 2013 Garza, Cullors, and Tometi—created the Black-centered “political will and movement building project” called #BlackLivesMatter. It

was created in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman of murder in the death of Trayvon Martin.

The Black Lives Matter global network was an outgrowth of the coming together of #BlackLivesMatter activists, other activists from around the nation and Ferguson and St. Louis residents who protested after Michael Brown was shot to death by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in 2014.

When asked what inspires her activism, Garza said, “The potential that all of us can live in a world where we have what we need.”



**Alicia Garza**

Since the rise of the BLM movement, Garza has become a powerful voice in the media. Her articles and interviews

have been featured in Time, Mic, The Guardian, Elle.com, Essence, Democracy Now!, and The New York Times.

**In addition, her work has received numerous recognitions including being named on The Root’s 2016 list of 100 African American achievers and influencers, the 2016 Glamour Women of the Year Award, the 2016 Marie Claire New Guard Award, and as a Community Change Agent at the 2016 BET’s Black Girls Rock Awards.**

# Danny Glover

**S**an Francisco native Danny Glover has acquired legions of fans throughout his over 30 years in the public spotlight as an acclaimed actor, producer, activist, philanthropist and humanitarian.

Glover grew up in San Francisco, the son of Carrie (Hunley) and James Glover, postal workers who were also active in civil rights. Glover’s acting career began in the Bay Area, and his activism also has its roots in San Francisco. He was active in the Black Students Union and participated in the successful Student’s Strike at San Francisco State in 1968, that was held to establish a Black Studies Department. Following his student days at SF State, Glover worked in the San Francisco Mayor’s office as a researcher and in the Model Cities Program as an evaluator.

He left public service to pursue acting, and trained at the Black Actors’ Workshop of the American Conservatory Theater. It was his Broadway debut in Athol Fugard’s “Master Harold...and the Boys,” which brought him to national recognition and led

director Robert Benton to cast Glover in his first leading role in 1984’s Oscar-nominated Best Picture “Places in the Heart.”

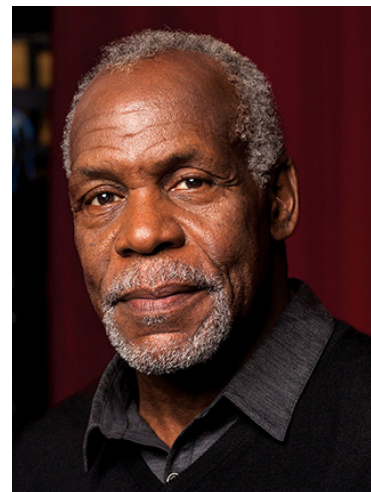
The following year, Glover starred in two more Best Picture nominees: Peter Weir’s “Witness” and Steven Spielberg’s “The Color Purple.” In 1987, Glover partnered with Mel Gibson in the first “Lethal Weapon” film and went on to star in three hugely successful Lethal Weapon sequels. His latest film “Proud Mary” will open in theaters in January.

Glover has also invested his talents in more personal projects, including the award-winning “To Sleep With Anger,” which he executive produced and for which he won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Actor; “Bopha!”; “Manderlay”; “Missing in America”; and the film version of Athol Fugard’s play “Boesman and Lena”. On the small screen, Glover won an Image Award and a Cable ACE Award and earned an Emmy nomination for his performance in the title role of the HBO movie “Mandela”. He has also received Emmy nominations for his work in the acclaimed miniseries

“Lonesome Dove” and the telefilm “Freedom Song.” As a director, he earned a Daytime Emmy nomination for Showtime’s “Just a Dream.”

Glover’s film credits range from the blockbuster Lethal Weapon franchise to smaller independent features, some of which Glover also produced. He co-starred in the critically acclaimed feature “Dreamgirls” directed by Bill Condon and in “Po’ Boy’s Game” for director Clement Virgo. He appeared in the hit feature “Shooter” for director Antoine Fuqua, “Honeydrinker” for director John Sayles, and “Be Kind, Rewind” for director Michel Gondry. His work on film and television has garnered him many awards including honors from BET and SAG.

Glover has also gained respect for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts, with an emphasis on advocacy for economic justice, and access to health care and education programs in the United States and Africa. For these efforts, Glover received a 2006 DGA Honor. Internationally, Glover has served as a Goodwill Ambassador



**Danny Glover**

for the United Nations Development Program from 1998-2004, focusing on issues of poverty, disease, and economic development in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and serves as UNICEF Ambassador.

In 2005, Glover co-founded Louverture Films dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. The New York based company has a slate of progressive features and documentaries including “Trouble the Water,” which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

“Africa Unite,” award winning feature “Bamako,” “Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives,” “The Disappearance of McKinley Nolan,” Cemetery of Splendour, Göran Hugo Olsson’s The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975 and Concerning Violence, and Lucrecia Martel’s “Zama”.

He is also a board member of the Project, an emeritus member of the board of the Black AIDS Institute, Walden House and [Cheryl Byron](#)’s Something Positive Dance Group.

Glover is a sought after public speaker, delivering inspiring addresses and moving performances on social justice, diversity, activism and global citizenship to audiences of various sizes at college campuses, business conventions and annual conferences. Drawing from expertise, Glover can contextualize contemporary issues, and offer practical wisdom to new generations on building peace, unity and democracy across racial, ethnic, and gender lines.

**He is married to Eliane Cavaleiro, and is the father of daughter Mandisa Glover.**



*Congratulations from Kimberly Smith*

*Congratulations  
Lisa!*

**FROM THE WILLIAMS FAMILY**

# Lisa Williams

**F**or over 25 years Lisa Williams has served her native San Francisco in a variety of roles as a leader in politics, government relations and community organizations.

Currently Williams is President of One Source Consulting, a firm that specializes in management of state, local and national political campaigns and strategic programs. In this capacity, she has worked on many local campaigns including, Ed Lee for Mayor, Gavin Newsom for Lieutenant Gov-

ernor, Kamala Harris for District Attorney, Mark Leno for State Senate, Willie Brown for Mayor and Marriage Equality.

She has served on the SF Pride Board since 2006 and has fulfilled roles as President and Executive Director. She currently manages the SF Pride Sponsorship campaign, raising over \$1 million annually for the Pride celebration.

Her experience spans 25 years managing political campaigns and Government Relations, including her current work with Gray, Greer, Shelby



Lisa Williams

and Vaughn.

“I’ve held many positions in the political arena including Director of the Regional Offices of the Governor as well as

a stint in Senator Mark Leno’s office. My work in the LGBT community is an extension of work begun by people like Bayard Rustin and Brandy Moore who were integral players in the politics of their time,” said Williams.

She holds leadership positions in multiple community organizations including, the Black Women Organized for Political Action (State Political Director), Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition (Co-Chair), Willie B. Kennedy (Pac Co-Chair), Rafiki Wellness (Board

Treasurer) and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club (Emeritus Board Member).

She previously served as Executive Director of the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, served on the Westside Community Center Board and Homeless Children’s Network Board.

**As a native San Franciscan, she has a large family presence in San Francisco and the Bay Area and deep ties to the community. She is a graduate of the University of California, Davis.**

San Francisco Pride  
congratulates  
**Lisa Williams**  
on her recognition as one of the  
*Sun-Reporter’s Talented 25.*

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# Cathy D. Adams

**S**ince fulfilling a childhood dream and moving to the Bay Area, Cathy D. Adams has had a successful career as a businesswoman while also creating opportunities for others to serve.

For over 25 years Adams, president of CDA Consulting Group, has produced memorable signature events for Bay Area organizations through her event management and marketing company.

Adams' CDA Consulting Group prides itself on providing quality solutions and producing extremely successful events, while seamlessly blending marketing, community outreach, messaging and design. With Adams at the helm, CDA has developed strong contacts with Bay Area leaders in media and major corporations as well as elected officials, community and non-profit organization leaders.

In addition, Adams is the Founding President Emeritus of the Oakland Bay Chapter of National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

A native of Meridian, Mississippi, Adams relocated to the Bay Area after graduation from Jackson State University. She served as a Public Relations Intern for the Northern California Black Chamber of Commerce and Oakland African American Convention and Visitors Center, founded by the late business leaders Oscar J. Coffey Jr. and C.J. Patterson.

Adams credits the mentorship of Coffey and LaVerda Allen, founder of Bay Cities Beauty Supply, as helping to build the foundation for her success. She says Allen, with whom she continues to be extremely close, "taught me a lot and helped to grow my entrepreneurial spirit." She said Allen stressed the importance of always doing her best.

Brenda Wright, an executive with Wells Fargo and a founding member of the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of 100 Black Women, is also one of Adams' greatest mentors. "Brenda has pushed me to the limit to be a better me and understand clearly, 'It's not about me,'" said Adams.



Cathy D. Adams

Adams has produced over 19 successful Madam C.J. Walker Business Community and Recognition Awards Luncheons for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, one of the largest premier professional events in the Bay Area. She was also instrumental in co-founding the concept for "Sistahs Getting Real about HIV/AIDS" initiative to decrease the rising number of HIV infections among African American women.

Adams also is the founder of "The Powerful Women of the Bay Awards," an annual event held in March in recognition of Women's History Month to celebrate the accomplishments of a diverse group of women. Partial proceeds from the event benefit the BWOPA TILE Leadership program for young women.

A recent highlight of her career was serving as event coordinator for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala of the Black Panther Party.

Adams has received many awards for her business and community work including, the Jefferson Award from KPIX-TV, Channel 5, the In The Spirit Award, Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame Women and Service Award, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Living the Dream Award from Miracles of Faith Community Church, the World AIDS Day Community Service Award, the Vanguard Award from Get Screened Oakland, and a Community Service award from Lend A Hand Foundation. Additional awards include the 2012 Bob Geddins Lifetime Achievement Award, West Coast Blues Hall of

Fame Inductee. She was also a recipient of the 2013 ChurchGurls Rock Award.

She is a founding member of the Museum of the African Diaspora and former member of the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

She is a faithful member of the Greeters committee and President of the Missionary Society at Beebe Memorial Cathedral church in Oakland.

**Both of Adams' parents are deceased, and she said the "love of her life" is her older sister Patricia James, who resides in Meridian and has sickle cell anemia. "My sister is my rock, because she is positive and continues to live her best life. She is 58 years strong," Adams said. In the future Adams plans to raise her voice to bring more national awareness to individuals currently suffering with sickle cell.**



## KAZAN MCCLAIN SATTERLEY & GREENWOOD

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## Regina V. Evans, Esq.

**R**egina V. Evans, an attorney, is a visionary, strategic and respected executive leader with approximately three decades of professional experience in building and leading organizations and teams in the private, government, political and non-profit sectors.

Evans currently serves as the Senior Director, Government Affairs for Comcast NBC Universal. She is responsible for the vision, strategic direction and leadership of the California (CA) Government Affairs team while overseeing local government affairs and public policy matters for all municipalities in Comcast CA's geographic area. She also collaborates on cross-functional leadership teams to develop company business policies and strategies for growing the business while maneuvering in a rapidly evolving competitive environment.

She formally served as Senior Vice President, Business Development with Information Management Resources, Incorporated (IMRI), an information technology and engineering company that has delivered over



Regina V. Evans, Esq.

\$115 million in technology and engineering services to government and private industry clients. In this capacity, Evans expanded IMRI's technology and engineering services and solutions into the utility sector and state and local governments as well as developed strategic business alliances with large integrators and solution providers.

Prior to joining IMRI, she served as Chief of Staff to the Honorable Jerome E. Horton, Chairman of the California State Board of Equalization. In that position Evans served as Chairman Horton's chief legal advi-

sor. She also assisted Horton in collaboratively establishing policy for the effective and efficient administration of the Board of Equalization, the world's largest and most respected tax agency, which collects over \$53 billion for education, public safety, transportation, and other essential services for the State of California. She provided day-to-day leadership to Horton's district and headquarters offices. She served as the Board's liaison to the Board of Equalization's Executive Director in addressing Board, media and organizational wide issues.

From 2007-2009, Evans served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger where she was responsible for three of California's most powerful and significant State Agencies, the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, the State and Consumer Services Agency, and the Chief Information Office, overseeing \$22 billion of the state's budget and approximately 61,000 team members. In addition, Evans served as the Governor's Representative and lead policy advisor for the Border Governors' Conference, one of the world's most influential bi-national convenings with

an emphasis on Mexico-United States relations. She also managed the African American portfolio in the Governor's office facilitating key relationships with statewide African American organizations as well as African American clergy. As a member of the Governor's Cabinet team, Evans developed a reputation for being pro-business while simultaneously being a strong advocate for workers' rights, a voice for small and emerging businesses, and a "friend" to women and communities of color.

From 1998-2006, Evans had a successful executive level tenure at one of the country's largest non-profit corporations, the Neighborhood House Association (NHA) in San Diego. She was initially recruited as a "change agent" responsible for initiating the transformation of the organization into a first in class not-for-profit business. During her tenure at NHA, she served as Vice President of Planning, Chief Operating Officer, and Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. She was recognized for bringing solid business principles and compassionate leadership to NHA.

With the exception of taking a

sabbatical to attend law school, Evans served as a Principal Policy Consultant for various policy committees in the California State Legislature from 1987-1996 and had the distinction of joining the Legislative team as a Senate Fellow in 1987. Evans's experience in the Legislature was under the leadership of the Honorable David Roberti, the Honorable Willie L. Brown, Jr., and the Honorable Bill Lockyer and she worked for members representing southern California districts such as the Honorable Diane E. Watson, the Honorable Steve Peace, the late Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald, the Honorable Lucy Killea, and the Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa.

Evans has received numerous local, state, and national awards for her leadership abilities and many contributions to the community. She has served on national, state, and local boards of directors and community advisory boards.

**Attorney Evans, a native of Brawley, California, is a graduate of the University of California San Diego, San Diego State University and University of California Hastings College of the Law.**

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# The Talented 25



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## Beverly D. Greene

**B**everly Greene is the Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing & Communications at the Alameda – Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit).

She is responsible for Legislative Affairs, Community Relations, Marketing, Communications, and Customer Service. She manages state and federal legislative programs and relationships with policy makers, and key stakeholders in support of AC Transit's service development and long-term capital projects. These projects are vital to AC Transit's future growth and include the \$213 million East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project which is currently underway.

Greene developed and implemented the 2016 public education and information campaign to inform voters about the

parcel tax reauthorization that will generate more than \$600 million over 20 years for AC Transit. The successful ballot measure passed with over 82% voter approval.

She has over 25 years of experience in Public Policy, External Affairs, Marketing, and Communications. She joined AC Transit in 2007 and served in the roles of Senior Marketing Representative, External Affairs Representative, Public Affairs & Communications Manager, and Assistant General Manager, External Affairs & Communication before assuming the role of Director of Legislative Affairs and Community Relations.

Greene is a lifelong learner and is a graduate of Leadership APTA, a national transportation professional development program, the ENO Transit Senior Executive Program, Leadership Oakland, the WTS

Executive Women's Leadership Seminar, and Emerge California, the women's political training program.

She was elected President of the Northern California Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). She is also a member of California Transit Association and formerly served on the Executive Committee. She currently serves on two CTA Federal and State Legislative Committees- Finance & Management and Conference Planning. She is also active in the American Public Transportation Association where she serves on the Membership Services Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Bus & Paratransit Conference Planning Subcommittee, and is a former member of the Leadership APTA Committee.

Greene is also a member of the National Coalition of 100



**Beverly D. Greene**

Black Women's Oakland / East Bay Chapter. She served for many years as an elected member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and the California Democratic Party State Central Committee.

Her early career includes serving as a Special Legislative Assistant to former California

Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr. and private sector marketing positions at Clorox; NetNoir.com, an internet startup; and The Learning Company, a consumer software company located in Silicon Valley where she won "The New Generation Award" for successfully ushering in a new product type for young girls.

She grew up riding AC Transit in Berkeley, where she currently resides and serves on the Berkeley Transportation Commission.

**She received a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, a M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and was the recipient of a Dow Company Corporate Fellowship to study the intersection of commerce and government at The Washington Campus Consortium.**

## Flynn Bradley

**F**or over 20 years Flynn H. Bradley has worked to uplift and improve the lives of thousands of residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, including those who are historically underserved and marginalized.

Currently Bradley is the Director of the San Francisco Airport Commission's Office of Economic and Community Development (ECD). In his tenure with the Airport Commission, Bradley has been unflagging in his efforts to ensure the diverse surrounding communities benefit from the significant economic impact the San Francisco Airport (SFO) has on the Bay Area.

Under his leadership, his office has been responsible



**Flynn Bradley**

for placing thousands of Bay Area residents into jobs at SFO. Last year alone a thousand disadvantaged residents of San Francisco were placed into jobs at SFO. Over 80% of these jobseekers represent women and the racial/ethnic minority groups that make up the Bay Area. In an extremely competitive job market, these outcomes show how the of-

fice excels at recruitment and placement practices that promote true diversity and inclusion across the Airport. This year Small Business outreach has been moved under the auspices of ECD and Bradley's goal is to bring that same type of success to the business community.

In addition to employment, his office manages fourteen different intern programs from high school, transitional age youth, college to post graduate. The transitional aged youth programs target historically underserved youth facing various barriers such as foster care, young parenthood, a criminal record, abuse and homelessness. Through these programs, SFO has hired thousands of youth from diverse

socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and trained them to succeed in the formal workplace.

Bradley has created a family atmosphere with the intern programs and said he regularly hears from former interns, even those who graduated over ten years ago.

Bradley's career has been informed by a dedication to public service. "I always had a desire to serve and fight for the community, for the underserved- to me that is public service," he said.

He attributes his success to traits learned early in life. "My father, a blue-collar worker from Alabama, taught me to have pride in my work and no matter what job or task I had

to perform, no matter if it was trivial or very important, to give it my very best effort," he said.

Bradley has a BA from Occidental College and a Juris Doctor from Hastings College of the Law. Prior to his position at SF Airport, he was a criminal defense attorney in the Bay Area, including seven years at the Bayview Hunters Point Community Defender. He also served on the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council and was the Assistant Director of Jail Health Services in San Francisco.

**Originally from Los Angeles, Bradley lived in San Francisco over twenty years and currently resides in Oakland with his wife, San Francisco native Elicia Phillips.**

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# D'Wayne Wiggins

**S**ince the 1990s Oakland's D'Wayne Wiggins has earned a place among the most popular and respected luminaries in the entertainment industry.

Wiggins is a Blues Guitarist, Producer, Composer, Philanthropist and Founding member of the 1990s soul/R&B group Tony! Toni! Toné! The group had 14 Billboard-charting R&B singles, including five number one hits, three Top Ten pop singles, one gold album, two

platinum albums and one double platinum album. Wiggins has received recognition with a Grammy Award, American Music Award, NAACP Image Award, ASCAP Award and most recently a Heroes and Legends (HAL) Award.

Since Tony! Toni! Toné!'s last album, Wiggins has had success with producing and developing documentaries, independent films, and the release of a solo album that features collaborations with Carlos Santana, Darius Rucker,

and Jamie Foxx.

In 1996, Wiggins established Grass Roots Entertainment, which signed and produced Destiny's Child. His other producing credits include artists such as Jody Watley, Too Short, India Arie, Keyshia Cole, Jamie Foxx, Alicia Keys and Kehlani.

Wiggins is credited with developing and nurturing the early careers of Beyoncé, Kehlani, Alicia Keys and Keyshia Cole; all of whom spent sig-



**D'Wayne Wiggins**

nificant time in his Oakland recording studio, making music and learning the ins and outs of

the music industry.

It is through his love of developing young artists along with his involvement with community outreach that he founded Youth Aid Nonprofit which supports after school and summer programs like the Tony's School of Music (TSM) and Poplyfe, a group of young artists who have been featured on the hit television show "America's Got Talent."

**Wiggins is the father of two sons and a daughter.**

# Alonzo Carter

**D**uring his over 18 years as a coach at the high school, junior college and university level, Alonzo Carter has guided his teams to championships and propelled over a dozen players to National Football League careers.

Coach Carter, as he is known, joined the San Jose State University football coaching staff in January 2017 as the running backs coach. He brought to the Spartans coaching staff a coaching resume filled with success.

He also brought some impressive dance moves learned during his days as a rapper and dancer with rap icon MC Hammer. Carter's moves were featured in a surprise appearance on the nationally-syndicated "The Ellen Show" last September. Carter, many players and Spartans head coach Brent Brennan were praised on the show for the team's Beyond Football Program that seeks to enhance the lives of the student-athletes on the

team through volunteerism in the community.

Carter is known for instilling in the young men he coaches skills that will lead to success on and off the field. Some of the pros whom he has trained or coached are: Oakland Raiders running backs Marshawn Lynch and Taiwan Jones; Atlanta Falcons, 2017 1st round draft choice, Takkarist McKinley; Keenan Allen wide receiver with the Los Angeles Rams; Josh Johnson, quarterback, New York Giants and Nnamdi Asomuga, now retired.

Prior to joining the Spartans, Carter's teams compiled a 129-69-3 win-loss record, won 11 league championships, three California Interscholastic Federation (C.I.F.) Oakland Section titles, and six post-season bowl games. He was named a league or conference coach of the year in seven of those seasons.

Before becoming an assistant coach at San José State, Carter was a coach at Contra Costa College for seven seasons. He took over a program in 2010 that won just 11



**Alonzo Carter**

games the five previous seasons and turned it into an immediate winner. The Comets posted a 47-27 win-loss mark, captured four conference championships and won two bowl games. He was named a conference Coach of the Year in 2012, 2014 and 2015 and was a California Community College Regional Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2014.

His first football head coaching position was at McClymonds High school in Oakland. With Carter's leadership McClymonds won four league championships and three

Oakland Section titles in eight seasons. Carter was named the East Bay Coach of the Year in 2001, 2005 and 2006.

In 2007, Carter took over a floundering Berkeley High school program and produced a league championship season in each of his three seasons at the helm. To cap off his high school head-coaching

career, he picked up his fourth league coach of the year honors of the decade as the 2009 Alameda Contra Costa Area League Coach of the Year.

Carter's coaching career began as McClymonds High's track and field coach in February 1993. In his three years as the track and field head coach, McClymonds produced eight league and section champions. He also had responsibilities as a varsity assistant football coach.

The 2016 California State University East Bay graduate majored in African American Studies. When the school was known as Cal State Hayward, he was a member of the

Pioneers' football and track and field teams.

At Cal State Hayward, he and a group of friends answered an audition call, became backup dancers and rap artists, and toured extensively with MC Hammer. Carter was awarded a multi-platinum record signifying at least 10 million albums sold for "Please Hammer Don't Hurt Em."

Carter was inducted into the African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. He holds coaching certifications from the American Football Coaches Association, the California Interscholastic Federation and the California Community College Athletic Association. Carter was selected to participate in the Bill Walsh NFL Diversity Coaching Fellowship program in 2017 with the San Francisco 49ers.

**Carter is an Oakland native and lives in his hometown with his Rozell and their six children -- Alonzo II, Isaiah, Alona, Maliki, Anthony and Kennedie.**

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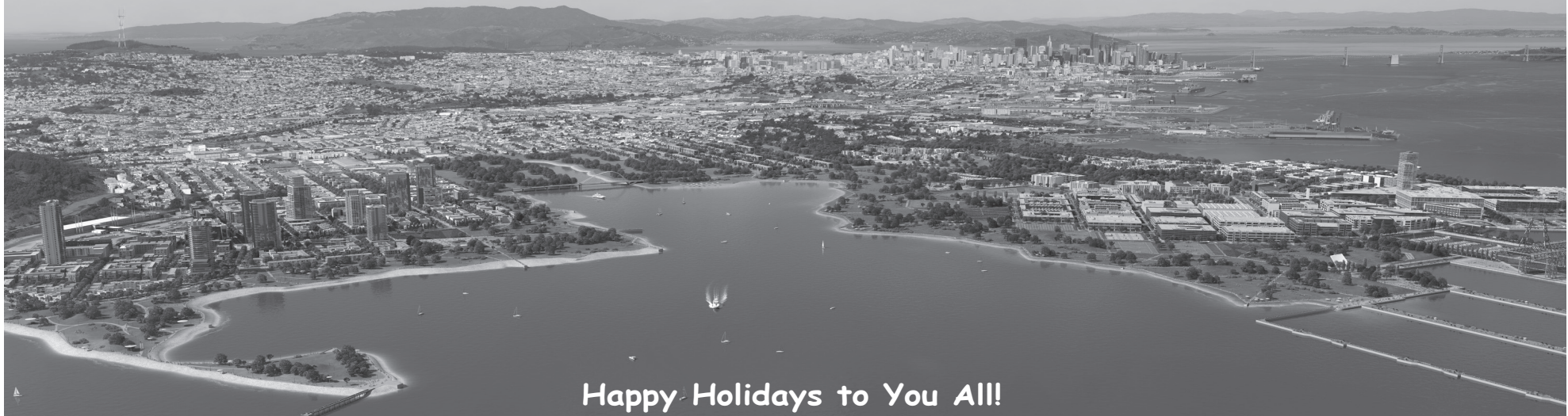
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*Artist rendering, conceptual only; there is no assurance this project will be approved or developed as shown.*

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Hon. London Breed, Acting Mayor and President of the Board of Supervisors

# Takija T. Gardner

**A**s an executive with the YMCA of San Francisco, Takija T. Gardner positively impacts the lives of countless youth and adults. Gardner is currently the District Executive Director of the Bayview Hunters Point and Buchanan YMCAs. She also serves as the Executive Sponsor to the Diversity, Inclusion and Global Engagement Steering Committee.

During her 15-year career with the SF YMCA, Gardner has worked on youth & community development and international initiatives for

the 160-year old non-profit organization. Some of her accomplishments include representing the YMCA of San Francisco and the United States at the 16th World Council of YMCAs in Durban, South Africa. She is also recipient of the New Perspectives/Character Development Award, and has been recognized by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for outstanding service to the community. In addition to her work at the YMCA, Gardner lends support to community development through her active volunteer involvement with various boards, professional leadership organi-

zations and social movements. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated. She also currently serves on the Handful Players board of directors.

“My motivation for youth and community work stem from the desire to give back in a way that creates access and opportunity for marginalized communities. I truly see myself as a bridge builder between the community and available resources,” she said.

Through her volunteer experience and work history, she said she has worked hard to ensure that services provide



**Takija T. Gardner**

opportunities that support the community in developing a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and empowerment. She realizes that, “it is about viewing people in terms of their power and potential, instead of their risk factors.”

Gardner credits her success to being spiritually grounded, strong family ties, and a host of mentors who have uplifted and supported her along the way.

A native of New Orleans, Gardner currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, James Gardner and her three children.

**She is a graduate of California State University, East Bay with Bachelor of Science degrees in Criminal Justice Administration and Sociology. She also holds a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Public Management from CSU East Bay.**

# Reverend Doctor Jacqueline Thompson

**T**he Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson is making history as the Assistant Pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in her native Oakland.

Having been raised, licensed and ordained at Allen Temple, her ministry came full circle when in 2010, she was installed as the Assistant Pastor, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr. She is the first woman to serve in this leadership capacity in the church’s nearly 100-year history. She has been described as “a transformational preacher, dynamic leader and ministry trailblazer.”

Dr. Thompson graduated from the University of California,

Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Economy of Industrial Societies. She graduated with honors from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, DC with a Masters of Divinity Degree. In 2013, she received her Doctorate in Ministry with an emphasis in African American Church Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

During her time at Howard, she served as Youth Minister at the historic Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D. C. under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith. Under her leadership, the Youth Ministry at Shiloh flourished and served as a



**Jacqueline Thompson**

model ministry for churches nationwide.

Dr. Thompson also served as Executive Director of the Shiloh Family Life Center Foundation, Inc. During her tenure, she succeeded in raising over five million dollars in funding to help support the community outreach programs of the foundation.

Dr. Thompson is also a

celebrated author. Her work has appeared in such influential publications as “The Women of Color Study Bible” and “Promises for Women of Color,” where she also served as the editorial assistant. She was also featured in “What We Love About the Black Church” by William H. Crouch, Jr. and Joel C. Gregory and most recently her sermon was among those featured from North America in “Baptist Preaching: A Global Anthology,” Dr. Joel C. Gregory, editor.

Dr. Thompson has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including, being selected one of the “20 Ministers to Watch” by the African American Pulpit. BET.com also

featured her as one of the “Next Spiritual Leaders to Make History.”

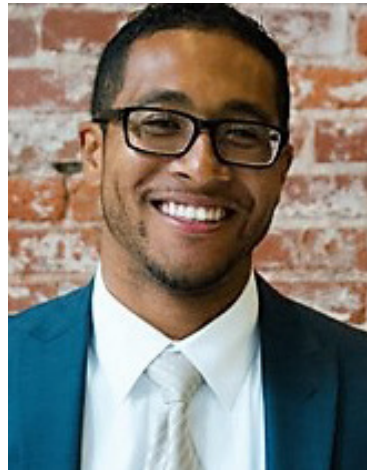
Dr. Thompson is sought after nationally and internationally to minister as a preacher, lecturer, and revivalist at churches, conferences, retreats, and seminaries. She is often the first woman to serve in that capacity.

**Her mission is to see transformation in the lives of others by elevating, enlightening, and expounding upon the Word of God. She understands that man cannot live on food only. “People need every word that God has spoken, and I am humbled by every opportunity to serve,” she said.**

# Randy Seriguchi, Jr.

**R**andy Seriguchi, Jr. is the Executive Director of Urban Ed Academy (UEA), a non-profit based in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point community, that serves elementary school age boys of color. In his two years at UEA, Seriguchi has created a strong web of public, private, and philanthropic partnerships that has resulted in a more diverse portfolio of funders, deeper relationships with the school district, and the pending transformation of a liquor store into a technology learning center.

Prior to moving to San Francisco, he spent five years working to lift up social justice through educa-



Randy Seriguchi, Jr.

tion in D.C. and California.

Seriguchi believes that every child can learn at high levels when given the right tools, adult leadership, and environment to thrive. His motivation stems from his days of teaching constitutional law as a law student at Dunbar Senior High

School in Washington, D.C., where he saw the challenges of teaching moot court practices to students who were multiple years behind in reading proficiency.

"We had to keep presenting the material and it's very difficult to teach basic principles behind 4th Amendment cases when our teaching team is doing all of the reading for the class. We obviously weren't going to quit on the students, but my experience showed me how difficult teaching really is and how important it is to start serving students as early as possible."

After graduating from law school, clerking at D.C. Superior Court, and then working at an education policy non-profit in Sacramento, Seriguchi joined Sacramento Mayor Kev-

in Johnson's education team to help lead a project dedicated to increasing participation amongst African American businesses, faith-based leaders, and civic leaders in local education decision-making. Under Mayor Johnson's mentorship, Seriguchi also supported My Brother's Keeper work for him in Sacramento and with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which gave him a national vantage point of various local program implementation efforts in cities across the U.S. around the issue of improving outcomes for boys and men of color.

Seriguchi said that joining Urban Ed Academy was the next best step for him. With mentors like Dwayne Jones, Shamann Walton, and Robert Phillips encouraging him, Seriguchi

brought his experiences to Bayview Hunter's Point to lead an organization dedicated to early interventions for a student population most in need. "You won't see any instant or magic turnaround from students in this work. It takes time--that's why it's so important to give ourselves more time by starting sooner--but when we invest enough time with the student in partnership with the family, any progress we do see feels magical," he said.

A native of Asbury Park, New Jersey, Seriguchi is committed to serving the Bay Area community. He graduated from the University of Michigan and received his Juris Doctor degree from the American University Washington College of Law.

## URBAN ED ACADEMY



## URBAN ED ACADEMY

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**"IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN."**

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

# Congresswoman Barbara Lee

**F**or almost a decade Congresswoman Barbara Lee has been a progressive voice for her constituents and all other Americans, fighting for the issues too often ignored by many of her peers.

Congresswoman Lee was elected to serve California's 9th congressional district (now the 13th) in a special election in 1998. In 2001, she received national attention as the only Member of Congress to oppose the authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) in the wake of the horrific events on September 11th. Lee believed this AUMF would become a blank check for endless war. As of 2013, this authorization had been used more than 30 times to engage in military action without Congressional oversight. Congresswoman Lee is working to repeal this blank check and restore Congress's constitutional oversight to matters of war and peace. She was also an outspoken opponent of the Iraq War, and many of her East Bay constituents proudly placed bumper stickers on their cars reading "Barbara Lee Speaks for Me." Lee has long advocated for legislative action to end poverty. She worked



**Congresswoman  
Barbara Lee**

with a diverse coalition of Members to create the Out of Poverty Caucus. In 2013, she became chair of the Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality and Opportunity

Lee is also a longtime advocate for ending HIV and ensuring an AIDS-free generation. Since entering Congress, she has authored or co-authored every major piece of HIV/AIDS legislation including the legislative frameworks for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Congresswoman Lee's legislation establishing a USAID special advisor for orphans and vulnerable children was enacted into law in 2009. In 2011, Congresswoman Lee formed the bipartisan and bicameral Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, which she co-chairs.

Currently, Lee serves on the Budget Committee and the powerful Appropriations Committee, which oversees

all federal government spending. She serves on three subcommittees (State and Foreign Operations; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education; and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs) of the Appropriations Committee. She is the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (111th Congress) and co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (109th & 110th Congresses).

Lee's path to the Halls of Congress began in segregated El Paso, Texas where she was born. She attended St. Joseph's Catholic School, where she was taught by the Sisters of Loretto, an order dedicated to promoting justice and peace. Her father was a veteran of two wars and her mother broke many glass ceilings and racial barriers. After grammar school, Lee moved to San Fernando, and worked with the local NAACP to integrate her high school cheerleading squad.

As a single mother raising two sons, Lee attended Mills College and received public assistance while building a better life for her family. As president of Mills College's Black Student Union, she invited Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first

African American woman elected to Congress, to speak on campus. Because of this meeting, Lee registered to vote for the first time and worked on Congresswoman Chisholm's historic presidential campaign, including serving as her delegate at the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami.

Lee received her Masters of Social Work from the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in psychiatric social work. During her graduate work, she founded the Community Health Alliance for Neighborhood Growth and Education (CHANGE, Inc.) which provided mental health services to many of the East Bay's most vulnerable individuals.

In 1975, Lee joined the staff of Congressman Ron Dellums, where she eventually rose from an intern to chief of staff. During the eleven years she worked for Congressman Dellums, Lee was one of only a few women and persons of color to hold a senior position on Capitol Hill.

After leaving Dellums' office in 1987, Lee founded a facilities management company that grew to employ over 500 people.

In 1990, Lee was elected to the California State Assembly, where she served until 1996 when she was elected to the State Senate. As a California legislator, she authored 67 bills and resolutions that were signed into law by Republican Governor Pete Wilson. This legislation addressed a wide spectrum of issues, including public safety, education, healthcare, and environmental protections. In the legislature, Congresswoman Lee was an early champion of LGBT issues and authored the 1995 California Schools Hate Crimes Reduction Act.

**As the first African American woman elected to the State Senate from Northern California, she created and presided over the California Commission on the Status of African American Males and the California Legislative Black Caucus, while working to defeat the punitive "three strikes law." Lee also served as a strong advocate for women in the legislature, where she authored and passed the first California Violence Against Women Act and served as a member of the California Commission on the Status of Women.**

## Ken McNeely

**K**en McNeely serves as President of AT&T California, a position he has held for over a decade. In this role, McNeely oversees all AT&T government affairs, public policy, philanthropic, and social engagement initiatives in the state of California. He leads AT&T's workforce in the state—more than 33,000 current California employees and close to 50,000 retirees.



**Ken McNeely**

McNeely is the longest-serving AT&T President of California. He was appointed to his current position in November 2005, following the close of the historic merger between SBC Communications Inc. and AT&T Corp.

As an officer for AT&T, McNeely serves on the Officer Advisory Board for LEAGUE – AT&T's LGBT and allied Employee Resource Group. Established in 1987, LEAGUE

at AT&T is the oldest LGBT employee resource group in the nation.

In 2013, McNeely received the Black Business Association's Chairman's Award for Community Service.

He serves as a board member for the California Chamber of Commerce, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the Bay Area Council, and the CSU (California State University) Foundation Board of Govern-

nors.

McNeely earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. from Howard University School of Law. He has been with AT&T since 1991.

**He lives in San Francisco, with his husband and their two children.**

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