Ali Ammoura
Assistant Public Defender, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

Since 2013, Ali has represented indigent individuals in the Circuit Court of Cook County who have been charged with crimes or whose children have been removed for allegations of abuse or neglect. Ali is passionate about criminal justice reform and combating the school-to-prison pipeline, which impacts the future of entire generations of young people. Prior to his work as an attorney, Ali taught middle and high school students in Chicago and the Bronx.

Ali received his JD from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and a BA in History and Rhetoric from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Sol Anderson
Executive Director, LIFT-Chicago

As the Executive Director of LIFT-Chicago, Sol leads a dedicated team, builds dynamic external relationships, and implements an innovative strategic plan with the regional board. Sol has worked with underserved communities for two decades. From directly serving community members, managing programs, building community-wide strategic initiatives, and directing funding where it’s most needed, he has impacted individuals and families, and guided communities to unlock their own power.

Sol earned a BA in Social Relations in 2001 and an MBA in 2005 from Michigan State University.

Darius Ballinger
Executive Director, Chasing23 Youth Empowerment Group

Darius is the founder and president of Chasing23, a nonprofit focused on building unity, developing and nurturing life skills, and providing a network of support for Chicago’s youth. Darius founded Chasing23 to be a vehicle for positive change, and his impact has been highlighted by President Barack Obama, who via Instagram applauded his work in communities and jails to get citizens civically involved through voter registration, as well as by Get In Chicago, which awarded the Star Award to Darius for his work with acutely at-risk youth.

Darius is earning his BA in Urban Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Darius serves on the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Advisory Board, and as an advisory board member for Chicago Learning Exchange and NBC 5.
Theodore Donald Berger
Interim Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle

In his current role, Ted supports Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and her chief of staff with strategy, oversight, and coordination of bureaus, departments, and offices under the jurisdiction of the County Board President. In addition to his new assignment, Ted serves as the Chief Deputy Director for the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. His previous responsibilities included positions with the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois.

Ted holds an MA in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School and a BA in Political Science from Bradley University.

Lorraine Dimun
COO & General Manager, Harris Theater for Music and Dance

As a member of the senior executive team, Lori Dimun oversees the daily operations of the Theater including production, operations, facility management, and artistic administration. In collaboration with the CEO and CFO of the organization, she is responsible for implementing the vision of the Harris Theater’s mission to support resident local music and dance companies, to present national and international artists, and to deepen the relationship of our mission within our community through artist engagement activities and educational outreach programs. She proudly serves on the board of directors of The Gift Theatre, Jefferson Park’s visionary ensemble theater company.

Lori holds a BA in Theatre and Global Studies and an MEd in Secondary Education from Drury University.

Bryan Esenberg
Deputy Commissioner, Multifamily Financing, City of Chicago Department of Housing

Bryan Esenberg is the Deputy Commissioner, Multifamily Financing for the City’s Department of Housing, where he allocates over $100M per year to create and preserve affordable housing. Prior to joining the City in 2013, Bryan managed real estate development programs for the nonprofit housing agency Neighborhood Housing Services. While at NHS, Bryan helped build and sell over 100 affordable homes to working families and through his leadership, NHS preserved over 1,000 units of housing while growing the City’s receivership program.

Bryan holds a BA in Economics from Indiana University and an MA in Real Estate from University of Illinois at Chicago.

Adrian Esquivel
Deputy Director, Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance

Adrian works to advance the Funder Alliance’s mission of increasing employment, earnings, and racial equity for underserved workers in the Chicagoland region. Before joining the Funder Alliance, he worked for Enlace Chicago, a community-based organization located in Chicago’s Little Village neighborhood, working on community and economic development issues.

Adrian holds a BA in Social Science from the University of Michigan and an MA in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
**David Feinberg**  
**Managing Director, Regional Real Estate Solutions of IFF**

David Feinberg has worked in the fields of community development and education for more than 15 years. Starting his career as a public school teacher in South Phoenix, he has positioned educational equity at the center of community redevelopment in various roles, such as the founder of a non-profit developer; a Regional Director of a California-based double bottom line developer; and most recently with IFF, the leading non-profit CDFI in the Midwest.

David is originally from the Chicagoland area, and has worked in Massachusetts, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and San Francisco before returning to his Chicago roots in 2012. He holds a BA in Creative Non-fiction from Hampshire College, an MEd from Arizona State University, and an MA in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California.

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**Joselynne Joy Gardner**  
**Chief Attorney, Corporate Law & Litigation, Chicago Transit Agency**

Joselynne works on complex litigation matters for the Chicago Transit Authority in both state and federal court. Before working at the CTA she worked for the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, where she supervised the department’s Federal grant compliance, and coordinated economic development projects and affordable housing strategies and other legal issues the department encountered. Prior to her career as an attorney, Joselynne worked as a consultant for corporations.

She currently serves on the board of Minority Legal Education Resources, Inc., whose mission is to increase diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Joselynne co-leads the Bar Process Management Program for MLER California in San Diego. She has a BA in French and Pre-Medicine from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a JD from the John Marshall Law School.

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**Dessa Gypalo**  
**Chief Data Officer, Cook County Government**

Dessa Gypalo currently serves as the inaugural Chief Data Officer for Cook County, IL. There, her focus is to bring a culture of data to the county while leveraging data to make informed decisions. Previously, she led data teams and initiatives at NGP VAN/EveryAction, Enroll America, and Obama for America. Over the last decade, Dessa has worked with local and national political campaigns, as well as provided data support for numerous nonprofit organizations.

Dessa holds a BA in History and Business Administration from Roanoke College.

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**Jermaine Harris**  
**Sergeant of Police, Chicago Police Department**

Jermaine is a 16-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department. He currently serves as the Community Policing Sergeant in the 15th District, where he develops community-based strategies involving law enforcement and nonprofit partners. Jermaine is a Chicago native and was born on the city’s West Side. He is a graduate of Whitney Young High School and a United States Marine Corps veteran.

Jermaine holds a BA in Criminal Justice from Calumet College and an MA in Public Safety Administration from Kaplan University.
Sarah (Sadie) Stockdale Jefferson  
**Director of Strategy, Chicago Public Schools**  
Sadie leads major components of Chicago Public Schools’ work to develop and implement policies aimed at creating sustainable schools. Sadie has spent her career working to improve student outcomes and recently served as the Director of Education and Youth Policy for the City of Chicago. She began her career as a ninth-grade English teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
Sadie has served as an Education Pioneer and as a Leaders for Educational Equity Public Leader Fellow. She sits on the Board for Working on Womanhood and is currently completing a PhD focused in Educational Policy from Loyola University Chicago.

Yvonne (Eve) Jennings  
**Deputy Budget Director, City of Chicago**  
A lifelong Chicagoan, Eve has enjoyed various roles in city government management. Eve is currently responsible for data analytics for the City of Chicago's Office of Budget and Management. She and her team focus on trend analysis, pattern recognition, and forecasting to identify inefficiencies and create recommendations. Her areas of expertise include workforce management, tax increment finance (TIF), and property taxation.

Eve holds an MA in Public Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a certificate in Applied Data Analytics from the Coleridge Initiative at the University of Chicago.

Jennifer “Sis” Killen  
**Assistant Superintendent of Transportation and Highways, Cook County**  
Jennifer “Sis” Killen joined Cook County in 2012 and serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Transportation and Highways. Her role has evolved significantly to become a key orchestrator in the transformation of the 270-person department from a roads-centric environment to a culture with a focus on a broader range of transportation projects. Prior to the County, she spent 13 years in the private sector, with a focus on Preliminary and Design Engineering studies.

Jennifer received a BA in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is a licensed Professional Engineer and Professional Traffic Operations Engineer.

Sybil Madison  
**Research Associate at Northwestern University’s School of Education and Social Policy, and the Director of Chicago City of Learning**  
Sybil Madison-Boyd is a Research Associate at Northwestern University’s School of Education and Social Policy, and the Director of Chicago City of Learning, a city-wide initiative designed to connect youth to out-of-school learning opportunities. Her work addresses barriers to equitable educational outcomes for urban youth through system changes in partnership with school district administrators, principals, teachers, social workers, youth, and parents, as well as with government and civic institutions and leaders.

Sybil received her BA in Psychology with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her PhD in Clinical Psychology, with a focus on Community Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley.
**Jacqueline Menoni**  
Chicago Public School Principal,  
Jose de Diego Community Academy

Jacqueline is a dedicated instructional leader with five years of principal experience leading Chicago’s schools and six years of teaching experience across a variety of instructional models such as: neighborhood, magnet, gifted, and International Baccalaureate (both elementary and high school levels).

Jacqueline holds a PhD in urban educational leadership from UIC, an MA in educational leadership, a leadership fellowship at Columbia University, and a literacy fellowship at UIC. Currently, she is teaching within the PhD program at DePaul University. Jacqueline is an active, life-long learner.

**Mark Mesle**  
Midwest Senior Outreach Coordinator,  
National Parks Conservation Association

Mark Mesle is the new Midwest Senior Outreach Coordinator for the National Parks Conservation Association. Mark took this position after several years of spending his days working to empower community members to fight for a healthy democracy, and his nights and weekends volunteering to empower people to fight for a healthy planet.

As the Outreach Director for the Cook County Clerk’s office, Mark worked with groups and schools throughout the county to promote voter registration and civic engagement.

As a climate advocate he also organized dozens of presentations, professional development trainings, and other civic actions in support of climate action.

Mark holds a BA from the University of Iowa.

**Alyson Miller**  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx

Alyson Miller is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx, where she serves as an advisor to the State’s Attorney and assists the Chief of Staff with operations for the office. She is a graduate of Yale University and Loyola University School of Law. Prior to joining the State’s Attorney’s Office, Alyson worked as a management and operations consultant to technology startups and emerging businesses, and was an associate at Chicago-based law firm Chapman and Cutler, representing financial institutions and strategic investors in connection with secured and unsecured private placements of senior debt.

Alyson holds a BA from Yale University and a JD from Loyola University.

**Tovah McCord**  
Director, Chicago Blackhawks Foundation

Tovah led the Foundation’s transition to becoming an operating foundation, and oversees grant-making, program development, communication, and fundraising. Tovah previously worked for The Kitchen Community as Regional Director and led all fundraising and programming operations in Chicago. Prior to that, Tovah worked for the Young Women’s Leadership Charter School in the classroom and then as an administrator for nine years.

Tovah has previously volunteered with the Taproot Foundation, the Night Ministry, and Pacific Garden Mission. Tovah holds a BA from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Southern California.
Cosette Nazon-Wilburn
Executive Director, Love, Unity and Values (LUV) Institute

Cosette Nazon-Wilburn is a humanitarian, teacher, marketing entrepreneur, and executive director of the Love, Unity and Values (LUV) Institute. A strong foundation of caring for others led her to set aside her growing marketing communications company to establish the LUV Institute in 2012, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that actively works to reduce poverty and trauma among at-risk youth, ages 11 to 24, at critical stages in their lives. Today the organization serves nearly 500 youth annually. She is also the recipient of the BlackDoctor.org Champion of Change Award, the Phenomenal Woman Award's Inspire Youth Voices Award, and the Bronzeville Mayor’s Ball 2017 Pillar of the Community Award.

Cosette holds a BA from Knox College.

Michael Neal
Lead Pastor, Glorious Light Church
CEO, Timothy Community Corporation

Pastor Neal launched Glorious Light Church in Bronzeville in July 2008, which administered a Real Men Read program (renamed Leading with Literacy). Pastor Neal is a voting member of the Bronzeville Community Action Council and served as a Parent Representative for the local school council of Kenwood Academy High School. In 2012, Pastor Neal founded the “Timothy Community Corporation NFP,” a Community Development Corporation aimed at strengthening the community by connecting, sharing, and serving, and providing individual opportunities to grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Pastor Neal is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, and has served faithfully as an associate minister at Salem Baptist Church of Chicago from 1995-2008.

Katie Olson
Director of Operations & Services, City Tech Collaborative

Katie Olson is an urban technologist passionate about reimagining the future of cities. She is the Director of Operations and Services at City Tech Collaborative, which she launched in 2014 after serving Mayor Emanuel’s administration at World Business Chicago and as a Mayoral Fellow. She is a Back on My Feet Board Member and volunteer at Erie Neighborhood House. She was a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Malawi and a founding member of Chicago Global Shapers.

Katie has a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies from American University.
Kimberly Ramirez-Mercado
Program Manager, Sinai Health System

Kimberly Ramirez-Mercado is a first-generation queer Salvadoran Mexican American from Los Angeles. Five years ago, she moved to Chicago to continue empowering her community through education and awareness of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities. She is the Program Manager at Sinai Health System, helping coordinate HIV, Hepatitis C, and PrEP community initiatives. In addition, she’s a member of the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council, and the Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council. Kimberly earned her MA at Northwestern University, and her BA from Whittier College.

Logan Quan
Assistant Director of Social Enterprise, Bright Endeavors/New Moms

Logan Quan has been a full-time member of the Bright Endeavors/New Moms team since 2015, serving as Assistant Director of Social Enterprise since January 2017. He has over 13 years of experience in various Chicago social enterprises and nonprofits, handling a variety of challenges, including social enterprise sales, operations, grant and contract management, volunteer management, fundraising and events, and (of course) candle making.

Logan holds a BA in History and Political Science from Wheaton College.

Rosa Ortiz
Senior Program Director, Enterprise Community Partners

Rosa Ortiz is a certified planner and a LEED accredited professional with over fifteen years of government, corporate and nonprofit experience. Her skills in urban planning, architecture, and real estate development are coupled with the valuable knowledge of implementation of projects in communities throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Rosa serves as a Senior Program Director for Enterprise Community Partners, where she oversees transit-oriented developments and community development projects throughout the region. Rosa earned an MA in Urban Planning and Policy and a BA in Architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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Paul Robinson
Director of Service Strategy, Chicago CRED

Paul Robinson is the Director of Service Strategy for Chicago CRED, a gun violence prevention initiative spearheaded by former US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Chicago CRED works with those who are acutely in-risk for exposure to gun violence, offering robust support services and career pathway opportunities. His previous experience includes working for violence prevention programs within Chicago Public Schools, including B.A.M. (Becoming a Man), an evidence-based mentorship program. Paul earned a graduate degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago.
Alice Setrini  
**Supervising Attorney, LAF’s Medical Legal Partnership Project**

Alice Setrini is the supervisor for LAF’s Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) Project. She works with providers at Erie Family Health Centers and Cook County Health to address social determinants of health through legal interventions. She has presented locally and nationally on the value of using the law as a strategy for addressing social determinants and lectured about how addressing health disparities is a mechanism for combating structural racialization. Before working in MLP, Alice was a staff attorney at LAF’s Westside office. She later worked on immigrant’s and worker’s rights and ran LAF’s Federal Court Pro Se Assistance Program. Alice focuses on MLPs as an interdisciplinary model for legal service delivery that can have an impact on the structures that keep people in poverty.

Alice is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and Northwestern University College of Arts and Science.

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Gabriella Shemash  
**Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department**

Gabriella joined the Chicago Police Department in 2002 and currently holds the rank of Lieutenant. Early in her career, she assisted in the development of the Chicago Police Departments’ Forensic DNA Unit and the current Evidence Coordinator Program within the Bureau of Investigative Services. She went on to become the Commanding Officer of the DNA Unit after being promoted to Sergeant. Gabriella holds a BA in Human Biology and a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from the National University of Health Sciences. She also holds an MA in Public Administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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Dominic Tocci  
**Deputy Director, Cook County Department of Planning and Development**

Dominic joined Cook County in 2012 to manage its community development efforts, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. In addition to this work, he is now helping to implement the County’s Disaster Recovery Grant (CDRG) to address flooding in suburban Cook County. Prior to joining Cook County, Dominic worked at the Metropolitan Planning Council, a policy research and technical assistance organization, and at Deloitte Consulting.

Dominic received a Master in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a BS from the University of Notre Dame.