

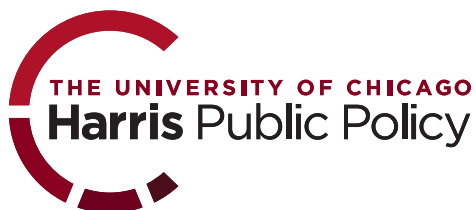


CLA CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ACADEMY FELLOWS

Winter/Spring 2019



cla.uchicago.edu



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 combatting the school-to-prison pipeline, which impacts the futures 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. He has impacted individuals and families, and guided communities to unlock their own power, from directly serving community members, managing programs, building community-wide strategic initiatives, and directing funding where it's most needed.

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.



Ted 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.



Lori Dimun

Chief Operating Officer & General Manager, Harris Theater for Music and Dance

As a member of the senior executive team, Lori oversees the daily operations of the Harris 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 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 N. Esenberg

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

Bryan 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 in Chicago. 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 the 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

Lead Developer, Community Facilities, Regional Real Estate Solutions of IFF

David has worked in the fields of community development and education for more than fifteen 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, including as the founder of a nonprofit developer; as a Regional Director of a California-based double bottom line developer; and most recently with IFF, the leading nonprofit CDFI in the Midwest.

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



Joselynne Joy Gardner

Chief Attorney, Corporate Law & Litigation, Chicago Transit Authority

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.



Dessa Gypalo

Chief Data Officer, Cook County

Dessa currently serves as the inaugural Chief Data Officer for Cook County. 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.



Jermaine Harris

Sergeant of Police, Chicago Police Department

Jermaine is a sixteen-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 is 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.



Sadie Stockdale-Jefferson

Deputy Chief of Staff, 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.



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 her work with the County, she spent thirteen 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, Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy;
Director, Chicago City of Learning**

Sybil is a Research Associate at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy, and the Director of Chicago City of Learning, a citywide 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.



Tovah McCord

Director, Chicago Blackhawks Foundation

Tovah led the Foundation's transition to become 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.



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, including neighborhood, magnet, gifted, and International Baccalaureate (both elementary and high school levels).

Jacqueline holds a EdD 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 at DePaul University. Jacqueline is an active, lifelong learner.



Mark Mesle

Midwest Senior Outreach Coordinator, National Parks Conservation Association

Mark 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 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. 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.



Cynthia J. Miller

Chicago Public School Principal, Fiske Elementary IB World School

Cynthia is principal of Fiske Elementary IB World School, where she has served for fifteen years. In 2009, Cynthia's individual efforts on behalf of Fiske Elementary aligned with a larger community effort for Woodlawn to become a Promise Community. As part of the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community (WCPC), Cynthia was appointed lead principal of five Chicago Public Schools' elementary schools and one high school. Cynthia currently serves as Vice President of Elementary Schools Principals on the Executive Board of the Chicago Principals and Administrators Association (CPAA).

Cynthia holds a BS in Elementary Education from Chicago State University, an MA in Educational Administration from Concordia University Chicago, and an EdD in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.



Cosette Nazon-Wilburn

Executive Director, Love, Unity and Values (LUV) Institute

Cosette 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 Awards' Inspire Youth Voices Award, and the Bronzeville Mayor's Ball 2017 Pillar of the Community Award.

Cosette holds a BA from Knox College.



Michael L. Neal

Lead Pastor, Glorious Light Church; CEO, Timothy Community Corporation

Michael launched Glorious Light Church in Bronzeville in July 2008, which administered a Real Men Read program (renamed Leading with Literacy). He 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, Michael 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.

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



Katie Olson

Director of Operations & Services, City Tech Collaborative

Katie Olson is an urban technologist who is 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 board member for Back on My Feet and a 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.



Rosa Y. 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.



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 thirteen 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.



Kimberly Ramirez-Mercado

Program Manager, Sinai Health System

Kimberly is a first-generation queer Salvadoran Mexican American from Los Angeles. She moved to Chicago in 2014 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, Kimberly is 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.



Paul Robinson, AM'17

Director of Service Strategy, Chicago CRED

Paul 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 at 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

Alice 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 immigrants' and workers' 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.



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 she was 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.



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.

