

Symposium Speakers

Patrick Burns, Senior Researcher, Economic Roundtable



Patrick is a senior researcher at the Economic Roundtable, carrying out applied social science research into urban problems. This includes investigations and policy recommendations about labor market dynamics, social service and public assistance delivery, affordable housing, poverty, homelessness, residential displacement, and the environmental footprint of regional economies. He has extensive experience analyzing labor market outcomes for targeted groups of workers, and many years' experience compiling, merging and analyzing large demographic and socioeconomic datasets, including deterministic and probabilistic matching of confidential administrative datasets from public agencies. He was trained as an economic geographer at Clark University, Kent State University and UCLA.

Arturo Carmona, Head of Community Engagement and Public Affairs, mitú



Arturo brings people together on important challenges impacting communities from across the nation. He is a coalition builder, political strategist, policy analyst, public spokesperson, and community organizer with an established expertise in the evolving political, cultural, and demographic trends of the US. Recent experience includes serving as the Deputy Political Director for the Bernie Sanders for President campaign and Executive Director of Presente.org.

His leadership and management skills have made him a spokesperson on behalf of the Latino community and working families across the US. He has appeared in many news stories, interviews, and political discussions through outlets such as MSNBC, ABC, CNN, Time Magazine, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Univision, Telemundo, USA Today, NPR, and La Opinion.

Veronica Carrizales, Policy and Campaign Director, California Calls



Veronica is the Policy and Campaign Development Director of California Calls, a powerful alliance of 31 organizations in 12 counties around the state. The centerpiece of California Calls is to achieve progressive, long-term tax and fiscal policy reform by engaging underrepresented, low-income voters in state public policy decision-making. At CA Calls, she oversees policy related programs for major revenue reform, develops alliances with key statewide partners and has led the expansion of the alliance into new regions of the state. Previously, she worked as a labor specialist with the UC Berkeley Labor Center and as program director with ENLACE (U.S. – Mexico), where she led capacity-building training and a workers' rights program for Mexican maquiladora workers.

Veronica is a first generation Chicana who was raised in the Coachella Valley with nine siblings in a farmworker family.

Nancy L. Cohen, Historian, Author and Expert on Women in Politics



Nancy L. Cohen is a historian, national expert on women and American politics, and author of *Breakthrough: The Making of America's First Woman President*, *Delirium: The Politics of Sex in America*, and *The Reconstruction of American Liberalism, 1865-1914*. She has written for the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, the New Republic, and appeared on MSNBC, NPR, PRI, and many other national and international broadcasts. Currently Dr. Cohen serves as Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women and the Southern California Representative on the Association of California Commissions for Women. Previously she worked as a senior policy analyst at

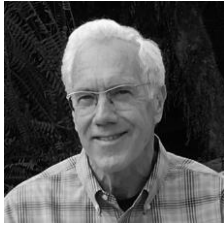
LAANE, a nonprofit dedicated to creating a fair economy for all, and held teaching and research positions in U.S. politics and history at UCLA, Occidental College, Cal State Long Beach.

Danny Feingold, Publisher, Capital & Main



Danny Feingold is the publisher and founder of Capital & Main, which reports from California on the most pressing economic, environmental and social issues shaping one of the world's most influential centers of commerce, culture and technology. He previously wrote for such publications as the *L.A. Times*, the *LA Weekly* and *Salon*, and was the managing editor for the progressive weekly publication *Los Angeles View*. Danny served as the founding communications director at one of the nation's leading advocacy organizations, the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, overseeing media and publicity for many landmark public policy campaigns including LAANE's living wage campaigns and its

community benefits agreements, which have been replicated across the country.



Daniel Flaming, President, Economic Roundtable

Dan was born on a small farm in what is now Montclair, California. He worked in county delinquency prevention, housing and employment programs for 21 years before the Board of Supervisors endorsed converting the Economic Roundtable into an independent research organization to work on social and economic problems. All of the Roundtable’s work focuses on building more inclusive and sustaining communities. Dan has led more than 50 major research projects at the Roundtable.



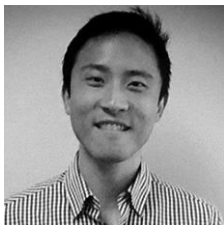
Rusty Hicks, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

He is one of the youngest—and the first post-9/11 war veteran—to lead one of the nation’s largest labor federations. The Federation is comprised of 300 local unions representing 800,000 hardworking women and men across the County of Los Angeles.



Gale Holland, Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times

Gale Holland covers homelessness and poverty for the Los Angeles Times. For three years, she oversaw law enforcement and court coverage at the paper then went back to writing, first as a columnist and a higher education reporter and then on the homelessness beat. A series about college construction abuses that she wrote with her colleague Michael Finnegan won the Worth Bingham Prize for Investigative Journalism in 2012. A Los Angeles native, she has also written for USA TODAY and the LA Weekly.



Chris Ko, Director of Systems and Innovations, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Chris Ko leads Home For Good and works across its leadership network to eliminate systematic barriers and innovate long-term solutions to homelessness. Previously, Chris oversaw the development and operation of the Coordinated Entry System, which works to scale more broadly in his present position. He has approached social change as an officer at a mentoring and tutoring program in west Philadelphia, a student at the University of Ghana, a volunteer at a Liberian Refugee Camp, and an economic development policy aide for LA Mayor Villaraigosa. The Coro Foundation named him a Public Affairs Leadership fellow. He grew up in Richmond, Virginia.



Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, Third District, Los Angeles County

Supervisor Kuehl has undertaken or collaborated in initiatives to increase the minimum wage, create a Sheriff’s Oversight Commission, increase funding and services for homeless residents, increase services and support for relative caregivers for foster children, create the Office of Child Protection, create oversight of the Probation Department, reform the adult and juvenile justice systems to emphasize “second chance” and anti-recidivism programs, create a Women and Girls Initiative build County-wide collaboration on needed changes and programs in all County departments, bring together three County health departments into a new Agency model to break down barriers to physical health, mental health and substance abuse services, and establish a position focused on

LGBT foster youth who comprise almost 20 percent of youth in foster care.

Supervisor Kuehl graduated from Harvard Law School in 1978. She served eight years in the State Senate and six years in the State Assembly. She is the Founding Director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College and, in 2012, was Regents’ Professor in Public Policy at UCLA.

She was the first woman in California history to be named Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly, and the first openly gay or lesbian person to be elected to the California Legislature. She authored 171 bills that were signed into law, including legislation to establish paid family leave.



Joan Ling, Real Estate Advisor and Urban Planning Policy Analyst

Joan Ling has 30 years of experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors as an affordable housing developer, property manager, real estate financial analyst, government loan underwriter, and community planner. She was executive director of Community Corporation of Santa Monica for 20 years and treasurer of Los Angeles’ Community Redevelopment Agency for six years.

She has helped reform California’s Environmental Quality Act to streamline affordable and urban in-fill housing, led a voter initiative authorizing affordable housing development, championed local ordinances giving land use incentives and protections for affordable housing, and advocated for more and better targeted tax credit and bond-funded housing programs. She is currently promoting a range of housing choices in Los Angeles transit station areas, land use incentives for affordable housing, and a dedicated funding source in California.



Bill Pitkin, Director, Domestic Programs, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Bill Pitkin oversees the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation’s domestic priority areas. Prior to joining the Foundation, Bill was director of research and planning at United Way of Greater Los Angeles, where he oversaw the publication of research reports and led a strategic planning process resulting in that organization’s 10-year action plan to fight poverty in Los Angeles. Other past positions Bill has held include executive director at the Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation and research director at the Advanced Policy Institute in the University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Affairs. He has published research

articles and reports on topics including community and nonprofit technology, middle school education, homelessness, housing affordability, mortgage lending discrimination, participatory planning in Latin America, and urban planning history. Bill has taught in the UCLA Urban Planning Department and the Urban Studies and Planning Program at California State University, Northridge.



Alberto Retana, President and CEO, Community Coalition

Alberto leads Community Coalition, a nonprofit organization based in South Los Angeles that empowers residents to transform the social and economic conditions that foster addiction, crime, violence and poverty. From 2009 to 2011, Alberto worked for the Obama administration as Director of Community Outreach in the Department of Education. During his time in D.C., he organized the Department’s first National Youth Summit bringing attention to the school to prison pipeline.

In 2011, Alberto returned to Community Coalition to lead its civic engagement strategy, engaging 40,000 African American and Latino voters in statewide ballot initiatives. Alberto also helped to build Community Coalition’s cultural arm by launching Power Fest—South Los Angeles’ premier political concert drawing thousands of South Los Angeles residents to a day of celebration and empowerment.



Julie A. Su, California Labor Commissioner

Julie is a nationally recognized expert on workers' rights and civil rights. A MacArthur Foundation “Genius,” Julie was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown and assumed the position of California Labor Commissioner in April 2011, overseeing over 500 staff in 18 offices across the state. Her leadership has resulted in a renaissance in enforcement activity across the entire Division and record-setting results. In 2014, She launched the “Wage Theft is a Crime” multi-media, multilingual campaign to reach out to low-wage workers and their employers to help them understand their rights and feel safe speaking up about labor law abuses. It is the first statewide campaign of its kind.

Previously, Julie served as the Litigation Director at Advancing Justice LA, the nation’s largest non-profit civil rights organization devoted to issues affecting the Asian American community. In her 17 years as a civil rights lawyer, Julie brought landmark lawsuits resulting in millions of dollars for low-wage workers and policy changes in California and the United States protecting immigrant victims of crime and human trafficking.



Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District, Los Angeles County

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has championed transportation, job creation and retention, and local hiring. He has overseen the construction of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, as well as a network of cutting-edge health care facilities throughout the second district.

Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas served the 26th District in the California State Senate where he chaired the Senate’s Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. He was first elected to public office in 1991 and served on the Los Angeles City Council for nearly a dozen years, departing as Council President pro Tempore. He later served

two terms in the California State Assembly, where he chaired the Assembly Democratic Caucus. He is widely regarded as the foremost advocate of neighborhood participation in government decision-making.

Ridley-Thomas’ political career was preceded by a decade of service as executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, which followed five-years as a high school teacher.



Roxana Tynan, Executive Director, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Roxana joined LAANE in 2001 and served as deputy director for six years until assuming the position of executive director in February 2012. She was the guiding force behind LAANE’s groundbreaking Community Benefits Program, which has pioneered a new model for economic development in Los Angeles and across the country. She negotiated many of LAANE’s Community Benefits Agreements as well as the Los Angeles Superstore Ordinance, which has successfully limited Walmart’s expansion efforts in Los Angeles.

Roxana has been instrumental in the expansion of LAANE’s work and impact over the past decade. She has also played a leading role in developing LAANE’s community organizing department, mentoring dozens of young organizers and creating one of the region’s most effective grassroots recruitment and advocacy programs.