

## 2021 Inland Northwest Fair Housing Conference - Presenters

**Abdella Abdella, Intake Analyst, Northwest Fair Housing Alliance** - Abdella has been with NWFHA for 3 years. He is also a full-time Business Software Specialist student pursuing his AAS degree at Spokane Community College.

**Margaret Albaugh** - Margaret is an Asian American photographer and creator based in Spokane, WA. Much of her work comments on identity, gender, and race. Her commissioned work is portraits and family documentary. Her partner is in the military and they live with their two kids, multiple cats and snake. For more information about Margaret's work, you can visit [www.margaretalbaugh.com](http://www.margaretalbaugh.com)



**Shannon Bedard, MSW – Director of Advocacy, Northwest Fair Housing Alliance** - Ms. Bedard served as lead staff on a HUD National Program Education and Outreach Initiative Sex Discrimination grant. Shannon is a Pride Foundation scholar and graduate of Access to Justice's Leadership Academy and Western States Center's WILD community organizer program. She has worked with multiple non-profits as a Youth Suicide Prevention Educator, Homeless Youth Advocate, LGBT Youth Organizer, and AmeriCorps Promise Fellow.

**Carolyn Benbow (she/her), Education and Enforcement Manager, Fair Housing Center of Washington** - Carolyn is the Education and Enforcement Manager for the Fair Housing Center of Washington located in Tacoma, WA. She has been with FHCW since 2015 and previously worked for Tacoma / Pierce County Habitat for Humanity. She has attended Fundamental of Fair Housing School (NFHA 2016), Fair Housing School: Intermediate Investigations (NFHA 2017), HUD's National Conference on Fair Housing Enforcement (2019), and Investigative Support for Testing and Enforcement Programs (NFHA 2019).-She is a certified instructor in fair housing laws through the Washington State Department of Licensing (license #16179). Her specialty is making complex information, such as fair housing laws, easier to understand and relatable to the general public.

**Michaela Brown, Equity & Leadership Facilitator** - Michaela (pronouns she/her) is a deeply curious, over thinking, heart in hand lover of people and history. Her background in collective impact organizing and commitment to advancing a world where everyone belongs has led her to serve in many community capacities focused on advancing individual and collective learning around diversity, equity, and inclusion (which includes her role as the Director of Community Learning for Excelerate Success, an education equity partnership, and in her roles as a race equity facilitator). Her formal education in history and leadership studies combined with her passion for multi-cultural education, identity development, and community healing has brought her to her newest role as an equity and leadership facilitator with JustLead Washington where she is excited to continue to grow with and cheer on change makers across Washington state.

**Claire Carden. Staff Attorney, Northwest Justice Project** - Claire Carden is a staff attorney at Northwest Justice Project. Claire's focuses at NJP are housing, consumer protection, and public benefits. Prior to joining NJP, she worked for the Center for Justice doing criminal justice reform and reentry work and clerked for the Honorable George B. Fearing at the Division III Court of Appeals. Claire graduated with honors from the University of Washington School of Law in 2015.

**Kimberly Castle, B.A., CPC, WA State Health Care Authority** - Kimberly Castle A WA native who earned her B.A. in Social Services from WA State Univ.; Kimberly began her journey as a certified peer counselor in 2011 when she was employed as a Permanent Supportive Housing Recovery Coach for the PORCH (Permanent Options for Recovery Centered Housing) pilot program. She continued as a peer case manager as well as an Outreach Spc. for the PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) project for two more years until moving forward in her journey to affect change in her current role. Kimberly is currently a Permanent Supportive Housing Program Manager/Trainer with the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, serving W. WA. She works to provide technical assistance and training to agencies around WA on providing quality Supportive Housing Services to fidelity and Supportive Housing as a Medicaid reimbursable service. Kimberly's passion is care coordination and serving individuals holistically from unhoused to a home.

**Theresa Vimbanayi Chowa** is the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator at Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium. Her work includes working with member organizations to advance their DEI goals as well as research about Racial Housing Justice. Theresa first became involved with DEI in her various student leadership roles are as a student Whitworth University working as part of the Diversity , Equity and Inclusion office . She graduated from Whitworth University in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in International Studies and Business Administration.

**Steve Corker, President, Landlord Association of the Inland Northwest** - Steve Corker is completing his third year of serving as the volunteer President of the Landlord Association of the Inland Northwest. Steve was in the last class of Spokane City Council members elected city wide in 1999 and was re-elected in 2007 in the class of city council members elected by district. He has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Spokane County Regional Health Board, the Spokane International Airport Board, Spokane Parks Board, and United Way. A 1963 graduate of Stanford University, he was an adjunct associate professor and lecturer in Gonzaga University's School of Business from January 1981 to May of 2016. He has also taught classes at Whitworth University, Park University (Fairchild AFB), and Spokane Community College. He moved to Spokane in 1970, was the senior vice president of the Educational Travel Company and in 1978 was an owner/partner in the advertising firm Coons, Corker & Associates until 1999. Steve is currently the Executive Vice President of Futurepast, Inc. a Virginia based international consulting group specializing in carbon counting services, ISO certification and training activities, and business planning and management services.

**Scott Crain, Attorney, Northwest Justice Project** - Scott Crain is a statewide advocacy counsel for Northwest Justice Project in Seattle, Washington. Currently, Scott's work focuses on the rights of low-income people to live in safe and stable housing, free from discrimination. Prior to working as an advocacy coordinator, Scott helped found NJP's Medical Legal Partnership. With MLP, Scott litigated public benefit issues on behalf of Medicaid-eligible children to prevent statewide reductions in TANF, expand autism services, and enhance EPSDT services for kids with chronic health conditions. Scott also worked as a staff attorney for NJP in rural Washington, and was previously a research fellow for the Institute on Race and Poverty. Scott has a J.D. from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. in Mathematics from Seattle University.

**Glenda Mendoza Creager, Intake Analyst / Hispanic Outreach Coordinator Northwest Fair Housing Alliance** - Ms. Glenda Mendoza Creager joined NWFHA in December 2020. Previously she was an Eligibility Specialist at SNAP. She also worked and volunteered at several nonprofits after moving to Spokane a few years ago (*Our Place, and the Associated Garden Club*), including Northwest Fair Housing Alliance, assisting with educational opportunities utilizing her Spanish skills. In Nicaragua her professional experience included administration positions in hotels. She enjoys helping those in her community. She has Bachelors in Engineering and also post studies in Administration from UPOLI University (University Politecnico of Nicaragua). In her free time, she loves spending time in the great outdoors with her husband and grandson.

**Olivia Evans** - Olivia Evans is a multidisciplinary visual artist based in Spokane, WA, working in video, photography, drawing, and film. She graduated from Eastern WA University with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art and a minor in film, in 2018. Her work is heavily influenced by motherhood, the subconscious, and social events -- intertwining traditional and digital media to create narratives of the self. All these influences echo her eclectic cultural experiences of growing up in an economically challenged home with an Italian mother and African American / Native American father. Living with her mother and sister for most of her life, till her parents marriage renewal in 2007. Olivia is working with The Alliance for Media, Arts, & Culture as a local producer of the documentary series Monday Movies, social media producer, and co-curates events in the Pacific Northwest region. She actively participates in Alliance National Youth Media Network activities. Her work has been featured in Saturate, a city-wide arts event in Spokane, at the Kress Gallery in Spokane, and Terrain 12, a large exhibition that features over 200+ artists in the PNW.



**Erik Heins, Enforcement Support Director, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development** - Erik Heins is the Director of the Enforcement Support Division in FHEO at HUD. Prior to that he spent six years with HUD's Office of General Counsel in the Fair Housing Enforcement Division, where he worked on matters related to administrative enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. Before joining HUD in 2014, he worked for five years as the fair housing staff attorney at Long Island Housing Services, Inc., where he represented the agency and individual victims of housing discrimination.

**Olga Lucia Herrera, Spokane Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Community Liaison / Enlace Comunitario, Pronouns (She/Her/Ella)**

Olga Lucia Herrera is a Community Psychologist who partners with local organizations to develop and implement initiatives to bring positive change to communities. She believes systemic change and social justice happen when individuals are empowered through quality programs that foster education, health, and cultural understanding. She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Social and Community Psychology from North Carolina State University. Olga Lucia has 20 years of work experience promoting education and health through action-oriented research, program evaluation, data analysis, and building collaborative practices with leaders and stakeholders. She has experience working in K-12, higher education, and rural international settings. Currently, she contracts with SIRC as Community Liaison- She is state-certified Spanish-English Interpreter and a board member of Cascade Bicycle Club and WA Bikes. She is often seen outdoors, most likely cycling or skiing.



**Marley Hochendoner, Executive Director, Northwest Fair Housing Alliance** - Ms. Hochendoner has served as Executive Director for Northwest Fair Housing Alliance (NWFHA), a private non-profit fair housing education and advocacy organization based in Spokane, Washington for over 15 years. Prior to joining NWFHA, Ms. Hochendoner was an in-house staff attorney and policy analyst for the Nez Perce Tribe from 2003 to 2005, and a staff attorney at Idaho Legal Aid Services from 1998 to 2003, where she practiced landlord/tenant and domestic relations law. Ms. Hochendoner has taught Landlord Tenant Law as adjunct faculty for Gonzaga University School of Law and is a licensed attorney in Washington and Idaho (inactive). She is a member of the Greater Spokane Progress Race Equity Subcommittee and Trainers Cohort, and a licensed Washington State real estate instructor.

**Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst, Washington State Human Rights Commission** -

Laura is Policy Analyst at the Washington State Human Rights Commission's Olympia office. Laura has been with the Human Rights Commission for almost 20 years. Her work includes educating stakeholders and the public on discrimination laws, conducting legal research for the agency, writing technical guidance for employers, legislative drafting, rulemaking, and policy development and implementation. Recently, Laura has been working on the state agency response to COVID-19 and helping employers and business owners navigate the issues surrounding the pandemic. Prior to joining the Human Rights Commission, Laura worked as a consultant for City governments in the area of domestic violence, assisting police and courts with domestic violence criminal cases and implementing comprehensive practices and policies to combat domestic violence and

assist victims. Laura formerly was a practicing attorney in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan, concentrating in civil litigation. She also worked for then Sen. Joe Biden at the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Laura is a member of the State Bar of Michigan. She has a BA from the University of Michigan in Political Science and History, and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School.

**Ryann Louie (they/them) - Founder of Reimagine Spokane, incoming co-chair for Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) Spokane, architectural intern at South Henry Studios, LGBTQIA2S+ workshop facilitator for Spectrum Center.** Ryann is a southern California transplant who moved to Spokane for the second time to be involved in the holistic and progressive community movement in the Inland Northwest. With a background in architecture and a deep passion for environmental and social justice, they recognize that one of the ways to combat the system of white supremacy is to reimagine housing and development in ways that are safer, healthier, and more equitable for people and the planet.

**Colleen M. Melody, Civil Rights Division Chief, Washington State Attorney General's Office** - Colleen Melody serves as Chief of the Civil Rights Division in the



Washington State Attorney General's Office. The Civil Rights Division enforces federal and state laws protecting the rights of vulnerable populations in Washington, with an emphasis on civil rights and anti-discrimination work. Colleen leads a team of attorneys, investigators, and staff on enforcement matters statewide. These include cases in the areas of employment, housing, education, police practices, government agencies, and at businesses that are open to the public. The Civil Rights

Division has also taken a lead role in challenging unlawful policies of the federal government, including the Muslim Travel Ban, termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Transgender Military Service Ban, Family Separation policy, and others. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Colleen served as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC. There, she brought enforcement actions to remedy discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, and disability. Following law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge Ronald M. Gould of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Colleen's office is based in Seattle. The Civil Rights Division can be reached at (206) 442-4492 or at [CivilRights@atg.wa.gov](mailto:CivilRights@atg.wa.gov).

**Shawn Nikfar, Asst. Dir. of Testing & Investigations, Northwest Fair Housing Alliance** -Shawn has served as the Assistant Director of Fair Housing and Investigations for the past 18 years. He has a master's degree in intercultural communication and management. Mr. Nikfar joined NW Fair Housing Alliance in 2003. He has extensive education and training in many areas of fair housing investigations and is committed to eliminating housing discrimination through education, outreach and investigations.

**Amanda Polley, CPC, WA State Health Care Authority** - A native to the Pacific North West, Amanda is the Supportive Housing Program Manager and Trainer with the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery since 2018. Serving Eastern Washington as a certified peer with over 7 years of experience in delivering services as a Housing & PATH Outreach Specialist. A firm believer in choice as a key to recovery, Amanda advocates for the Housing First model as a safe place to begin the journey to recovery.



**Christopher Poulos** is the Executive Director of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Seattle University. Poulos has also taught political science and criminal justice. He is a founding member of a coalition actively working to end criminal record-based housing discrimination. During law school, he served at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and The Sentencing Project. Poulos has advised United States Senator Angus King (I-Maine) on addiction and justice policy, served on several local, state, and federal task forces related to criminal justice policy and reform, and the United States Department Justice consulted with him as one of the nation's most successful people following incarceration.

**Shyle Ruder, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Fair Housing Council of Oregon** - Shyle is the Education and Outreach Director at the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. Prior to her work at FHCO, Shyle worked in HIV/AIDS Services for 19 years with 14 of those years focused on housing services for people living with HIV/AIDS. As part of that work, she has taught about Fair Housing rights since 2001. Shyle served on the Renters Education Alliance Committee for seven years and helped develop the Rent Well tenant education series, an intensive 15-hour course designed to teach individuals their rights and responsibilities as renters. She holds a Master's Degree in Postsecondary Adult Continuing Education from PSU.



**Warren Seyler** - Former Chairman of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, serving 15 years as a Spokane Tribal Council member. Past 14 years worked within the Spokane Tribes Department of Natural Resources focusing primarily on outreach throughout the region doing history presentations and historic site tours.

**Eric M. Steven, P.S.** - Mr. Steven is the principal of Steven Law Office. Located in Spokane, his practice emphasizes in landlord-tenant relations and housing. He practices in all counties east of the Cascades in WA and N. ID. Mr. Steven represents numerous property owners, landlords, management companies, mobile home parks, subsidized housing providers, and the Spokane Housing Authority. Mr. Steven received his B.A. from the University of OK in 1987 and his J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1990. He is the author of numerous CLE materials, landlord training manuals, and legal articles. As one of the most highly evaluated CLE instructors statewide, Mr. Steven was selected by the WSBA to speak at the WSBA Encore "Best of CLE" series in 2003. He was an invited speaker at the WSBA Real Property Section year-end meeting in 2012, and the mid-year meetings in 2014 and 2016. Mr. Steven conducted fair housing training in Idaho in partnership with IFHC. Steven Law Office was named "Housing Law Firm of the Year" in 2018 by Lawyer Monthly Magazine.

**Cicily Thompson, Intake Specialist, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, Northwest Fair Housing Alliance** assisting in eliminating housing discrimination and to ensure housing opportunity for people of Washington state through education, counseling and advocacy. Ms. Thompson has dedicated a decade of her life to non-profits in and around the Spokane Washington area. She is an Alumni of Eastern Washington University and is a member of 3 non-profit organizations that help promote and advance Economic Justice and Human Rights.

**Carol Weltz, Director of Community Action, Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP).** Carol and works to provide energy assistance, rental assistance and Homeless services to Spokane County, WA. She manages an annual budget of \$20 Million and staff of 70. Carol came to SNAP in 2012 and has more than 30 years' experience in various human services agencies. She has been a Poverty trainer for the Center for Organizational Reform and a Community Advocate for the Center for Justice. Carol has also been a small business owner. Carol has a passion for connecting people to resources and helping others reach their full potential. Carol Received her Master's in Social Work at Eastern Washington University in 2008 and has a certificate in Business Administration and Accounting from Skagit Business College.

**Anthony Yenason (they/Ø), Community Engagement Specialist, Intermountain Fair Housing Council** Anthony is dedicated in the ongoing struggle for collective liberation. Working with the Intermountain Fair Housing Council starting in 2013, Anthony brings more than a decade of experience in street organizing, infosharing, and agitating into the efforts of spreading and upholding the Fair Housing Act throughout the state of Idaho. Anthony's focus as IFHC's Community Engagement Specialist is on education and community relationship building. Centering intersectionality and a social / historical contextual awareness, they bring to the table an analysis that strives toward collective liberation guided by harm reduction along the way.