

TEXAS IMPACT & TEXAS INTERFAITH CENTER STAFF

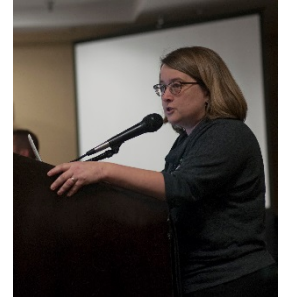
Bee Moorhead, Executive Director

Bee has been Director of Texas Impact since 2000, managing every aspect of the organization's work and answering to a 45-member board of directors. The Texas Impact Board is made up of representatives from the state's many faith communities.

Under Bee's leadership, Texas Impact has moved from fewer than 1,000 members to more than 20,000 members and earned recognition as a national leader in interfaith education and community leadership development.

Bee spent eight years as a senior fiscal policy analyst for former Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, John Sharp. Bee was responsible for the Comptroller's attention to public policy issues related to health and human services. She was the chief architect of Family Pathfinders, a unique program linking Texas congregations and civic organizations with families on public assistance.

She holds a B.A. in Drama from the University of Texas in Austin, and a M.A. of Public Affairs from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.



Joshua Houston, General Counsel / Director of Governmental Affairs



Josh began working with Texas Impact in 2010 where he serves as Texas Impact's attorney, performing legislative and regulatory affairs, and is also the in-house counsel for Texas Impact's sister organization, the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

After graduating from Texas A&M University with a B.A in History, Josh received his M.A. of Theological Studies from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

Before he joined the Texas Impact team, Josh worked in both the 79th and 81st Texas Legislative Sessions. He attends First United Methodist Church in Austin.

Scott Atnip, Outreach Director

Scott began his work with Texas Impact in 2002 as an intern. Since 2013, he has served as Outreach Director to connect the education and advocacy efforts of Texas Impact and the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy with people of faith throughout Texas through opportunities like Weekly Witness, Rapid Response and Advocacy Trainings. He received his B.A. in Political Science from Sam Houston State University and a M.A. of Public Affairs from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.



In addition to his work with Texas Impact, Scott is heavily involved in the United Methodist Church. He was elected as an alternate delegate to General Conference 2012 and has served as a board member for various organizations including CASA of Walker County and Walker County Community Development Corporation.

Erica Nelson, Courts and Ports Coordinator

Erica Nelson is a 2018 graduate from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and is a candidate for ministry within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Before going to seminary, she was a social worker who specialized in working with teenagers in the foster care system. She has served the local church through hospitality and administrative responsibilities and has served the national church as a delegate to the United Nations Status on the Commission of Women and Ecumenical Advocacy Days.



She currently serves as a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, a committee that provides advice on social witness and policy to the General Assembly, the national body of the PCUSA.

She has been working for Texas Impact since June of 2018 and has focused on two primary projects; a project assessing the impact of natural disaster and the faith-based community's response to it and the Courts and Ports program, leading people of faith to the Rio Grande Valley to provide faithful witness to those struggling with the immigration and asylum processes.

Noah Westfall,

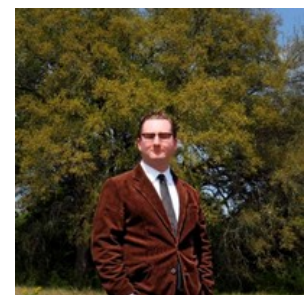


Noah Westfall is currently serving as a Young Adult Volunteer through the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is serving with Texas Impact until the spring of 2019. Noah was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and recently graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in philosophy before moving to Austin.

He hopes that his year of service will help him discern how he can use his love of asking questions and thinking deeply to address social justice issues and help make the world a more just place.

Joseph Czap, Policy Analyst

Joseph Czap is a 2017 graduate from the University of North Texas in Denton and the grandson of former Texas Impact Board Member Wanda Holcombe. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Studies with a focus on Political Science, Economics, and Public Affairs/Community Service.



After graduation, Joseph returned to his hometown of Georgetown and interned at State Rep. Ryan Guillen's capitol office and focused on constituent services and legislative development. Joseph also worked as a canvasser in State Rep. John Bucy's campaign and helped him win by almost 8,000 votes. He started as a Policy Analyst in November of 2018 and is passionate about Economic and Racial Justice, Climate Change, and History.

SPEAKER BIOS

Rev. Yvonne Coon Snelson, First United Methodist Church Georgetown



Rev. Yvonne Coon Snelson serves as the Senior Pastor for First UMC-Georgetown. She was first appointed in June 2011 as an Associate Pastor focused on Pastoral Care and Missions. In the years since, Yvonne has taken on new responsibilities, eventually becoming the Executive Pastor before her appointment as Senior Pastor in January 2018. Yvonne's passion is helping people accept and embrace their identity as a beloved child of God – and all that that means for each person, individually.

Prior to entering the ministry, Yvonne served as a Major Account Executive with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Management/Marketing) and graduated from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University (Fort Worth) in 2008.

Yvonne currently serves on the Wesleyan Homes Board of Trustees and the Central Texas Conference Core Team. A lifelong Methodist, Yvonne credits her parents for their role in creating the foundation for her Christian faith. Her father, Fred Coon, served as a certified lay speaker for many years, and her mother, Hazel, organized and led several outreach ministries through FUMC of Victoria (TX). Yvonne is the proud mother of two adult children, Josh and Nate, and delighted to be mother-in-law to Josh's wife, Jessi.

Jenifer Sarver, Sarver Strategies

Jenifer has nearly two decades of experience in media relations, crisis communications, speechwriting, coalition building, media and presentation skills training. In launching Sarver Strategies, Jenifer focused her skills on training and storytelling, helping clients develop a narrative that effectively conveys their core values, and then preparing them to effectively deliver that message.



Jenifer spent nearly six years as Chief of Staff to Ambassador Karen Hughes, the Worldwide Vice Chair of Burson-Marsteller. Jenifer was the Deputy Director of Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Bush Administration. She also served as the Director of The Archer Center and was a Senior Advisor on the Washington, D.C. staff of U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Jenifer worked in public relations at Cunningham Communications and Public Strategies, representing high tech and communications clients, and began her professional career in political campaigns, working as a Finance Director, and a Deputy Campaign Manager on two separate congressional races during the 1996 election cycle.

She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Journalism and a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies. She received the degree of Master in Public Administration from American University. She is on the Advisory Council of the UT Austin College of Communication, chairs the Advisory Council of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, is on the Archer Center Board and is past chairman of the board of the Texas 4000 for Cancer. In 2013, she received a "40 Under 40" Award from Maverick PAC. In 2018, Jenifer ran in the 2018 Republican Primary to represent Texas' 21st Congressional District in the U.S. Congress.

Beaman Floyd, Floyd Consulting



Beaman Floyd is a consultant and lobbyist with more than 20 years of experience in public affairs. He owns his own lobby firm and has worked on behalf of a variety of clients, among them property and casualty insurance companies and trade associations, public education associations, parents' rights groups, local government subdivisions, higher education groups, and religious groups. His activities include legislative strategy and direct lobbying, media relations, grass roots strategy, and academic research.

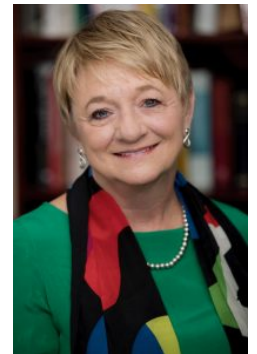
Mr. Floyd has been highly involved in several major policy issues in Texas, including property and casualty insurance reform, catastrophe policy, workers' compensation reform, healthcare, public school finance, and higher education policy. He frequently represents clients in both the print and electronic media, both in Texas and nationally.

He is also a regular guest lecturer to college faculty groups, in college classrooms, policy forums, and other political and educational settings. Prior to working in Texas, Mr. Floyd served on the legislative staff of the Louisiana House of Representatives with the Legal Division, which included the Civil Law, Criminal Justice, and Judiciary committees. He also worked with Louisiana Public Television. Floyd is a veteran of the United States Army where he served as an infantryman. Policy expertise: insurance, education, health care, public administration

Suzii Paynter, Pastors for Texas Children

Pastors for Texas Children recently announced the appointment of Rev. Suzii Paynter as a co-director of our ministry. She joins Rev. Charles Johnson and Dr. Charles Luke in this leadership role.

Before her most recent role, Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, she directed public policy initiatives for state and federal issues and led international relief and development projects with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and as the Advocacy Care Center. It was her leadership at the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission that helped birth Pastors for Texas Children.



Over the past decade, Paynter has gained a national reputation for her advocacy on important ethical issues such as religious liberty, advocating strongly for separation of church and state and against school vouchers. She has been active nationally on issues of hunger and poverty, human trafficking, immigration reform and the environment. In 2013, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty honored Paynter with the J.M. Dawson Religious Liberty Award.

A nationally recognized faith leader and ordained deacon and Sunday school teacher of more than 40 years, Paynter is a graduate of Baylor University, Stephen F Austin University and has held positions of leadership in Baptist churches in Texas, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

Mike Seifert, ACLU of Texas



Michael Seifert has lived in Texas border communities since 1989, when he came to the Rio Grande Valley as a Roman Catholic priest. He met the ACLU when the organization offered to advocate for the US citizen members of his parish, who, have been born by midwives, were being denied passports by the State Department (a rule created to address supposed fraud by some of the midwives). Along the border, a citizen without a passport cannot cross back and forth into Mexico, meaning that there can be no visits to a physician, or to a grandmother, or to the funeral of a loved one.

After 24 years of service as a priest, Seifert married in 2009 and took up the responsibilities as the Network Weaver for the Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network. The Network shaped collective impact efforts on behalf of more than sixty community-based organizations, and effectively brought the voice of the poorest of Texans to the tables of decision makers. In 2017, Seifert accepted the position of Border Advocacy Strategist for the ACLU of Texas, working out of the Brownsville office. The position allows him to continue to advocate for border communities at a time when national and state politics are willing to deny those residents basic rights enjoyed by the rest of Americans.

He and his wife, Dr. Marsha Griffin, live in a home just a half a mile from the border. In the morning, they enjoy the sounds of the birds that migrate freely, north and south, without passports, high above the border wall.

Ilka Vega, Hope Border Institute

Ilka Vega was born in El Paso, Texas and raised in Cd. Juarez, Mexico. She was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition by her mom and grandmother. In 2016, Ilka conducted a research with the grassroots network of Texas Impact to better learn about water issues affecting the Texas-Mexico border and the activism around it.



She is very passionate about social and environmental justice and completed an internship in the Texas 16th Congressional District office where she specialized in immigration related congressional inquiries to the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security. She currently serves as a representative of the South-central jurisdiction for the Racial Justice Charter Support Team for the United Methodist Women and administrative and community engagement specialist for Hope Border Institute.

Thomas Ratliff, The Ratliff Company



Thomas Ratliff began his work as a legislative consultant as Director of External Affairs for AT&T Wireless Services. In 1998, he opened Ratliff Company and began consulting for many top industries in Texas. Clients have included Fortune 500 companies and trade associations in telecommunications, Internet and software technology, electric utility, insurance, nursing, and other industries such as economic and business development.

In 2010, he was elected to the State Board of Education and was re-elected in 2012 to a term that ends in 2016. In 2013, he worked with Michael Morton to pass the "The Michael Morton Act" which was the first major criminal justice reform in Texas in many years.

Doug Lewin, Energy Foundation

Doug Lewin is founder and principal of Stoic Energy, Inc.; Texas Director for the Energy Foundation, Adviser to the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation's Energy Program; and Director of Texas A&M Energy Systems Lab's Texas Energy Summit.



Over the previous two years, Doug Lewin led CLEAResult's regulatory and market development efforts across North America. CLEAResult is a leading energy efficiency program implementer for over 250 utilities in 40 states and provinces. Prior to joining CLEAResult, Lewin was the founding Executive Director of the South-Central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER). SPEER was recognized by the US Department of Energy as the regional energy efficiency organization (REEO) for Texas and Oklahoma, working with a network of REEOs throughout the US to advance energy efficiency.

Lewin worked at the Texas Legislature for five years, primarily on clean energy issues for three different elected officials in the House and Senate. There, he established a successful bipartisan energy policy working group which helped advance clean energy policies. Lewin earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

Representative Mary Gonzales



In November 2012, Mary E. González was elected State Representative for House District 75—an area that includes east El Paso County, the fastest growing parts of the city of El Paso and the towns of San Elizario, Socorro, Clint, Fabens, and Tornillo. Mary was raised in Clint, Texas and graduated from Clint High School. She is currently serving her fourth term at the Texas House of Representatives.

Mary serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Public Education Committee, and is Vice Chair of the Local & Consent Calendars Committee in the Texas House. Throughout her time as a State Representative, she has authored numerous bills to improve public schools, increase economic development, and support agriculture in House District 75 and throughout the state. She is currently serving her second term as Vice Chair for the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, a second term as Secretary of the House Border Caucus, and the Chair of the new Texas House LGBTQ Caucus.

Mary received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her Master's Degree from St. Edward's University. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction- Cultural Studies in Education at UT-Austin.

Mary was named "Freshman of the Year" by the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, a "Champion of Equality" by Equality Texas two sessions in a row, and the 2015 "Advocate of the Year" by the same organization. In 2015, she was the youngest inductee into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame. Most recently, Rep. Mary González was awarded the "Champion for Children" title by the Equity Center, a Texas-based nonprofit organization that strives to create a more equitable public-school finance system.

Representative Shawn Thierry

State Representative Shawn Thierry is a member of the Texas House of Representatives, serving House District 146, which includes diverse communities in Southeast and Southwest greater Houston. Ms. Thierry is a proud product of the public education system. She attended Westbury High School, located in her district. In 1991, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She went on to receive a Juris Doctorate Degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.



Ms. Thierry has practiced law for more than twenty-two years and founded her own civil and commercial law firm, the Law Offices of Shawn Thierry. Presently, she is a principal of the Hardwick Law Firm, LLC, where she practices in the areas of real estate development, municipal law, and public finance.

In her initial term in the Texas Legislature, Rep. Thierry successfully authored 48 pieces of legislation. She is recognized statewide and nationally for passing legislation to reduce the alarming maternal mortality and morbidity rates for Texas women. Representative Thierry was also named the "2017 Freshman Legislator of the Year" by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus.

Ms. Thierry is a congregant of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and resides in the Northfield community of her District with her five-year-old daughter, Klaire Bijou. She cites her life creed from the words of Erma Bombeck: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and I could say, 'I used everything that you gave me.'"

Patrick Bresette, Children's Defense Fund



A leader in policy and advocacy for more than 23 years, frequent public speaker and national advisor, Patrick Bresette brings a broad understanding of how to work with and within the public sector to create positive social change for children and families. He joined Children's Defense Fund as Texas Executive Director in 2014.

Mr. Bresette was previously the Executive Director of Public Works, where from 2004-2014 he helped to transform and build public will for the common good by engaging more Americans in an active pursuit of a government that works for all. He has traveled to dozens of states to train advocates, nonprofits, community leaders, public officials and organizers on how to defend public programs and the role they play in the lives of children, families and communities. From 1991-2004, Mr. Bresette was Associate Director of the Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities where he was responsible for launching the Texas Kids Count Initiative and spearheading the Center's child advocacy work. He has led statewide coalitions in the development of shared legislative priorities and has testified frequently before House and Senate committees and administrative hearings on behalf of low-income Texans, especially children.

Mr. Bresette is a devoted husband, father of four, and grandfather to three young grandchildren in a vibrant bi-racial household in central Texas. He holds an MPA from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a BFA in Sculpture from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He works from both our CDF Austin and Houston offices.

Harriett Jane Olson, United Methodist Women

Harriett Jane Olson has served as chief executive officer of the United Methodist Women's national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007. United Methodist Women is a nearly 800,000-member organization within the United Methodist Church in the United States.

United Methodist Women members give about \$15 million a year for work with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world. UMW operates and owns the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City, a retirement home for deaconesses and missionaries in North Carolina, a publication and distribution network, and a series of mission education and leadership development events annually. Through these events and our connections around the world, UMW staff and members are inspired, prepared, encouraged and celebrated for their direct service and advocacy for justice.

A Harvard Law School graduate, Ms. Olson practiced real estate and environmental law (1983-96) at a N.J. law firm that is now part of Day, Pitney, before working for the church full-time. From 1996-2007, Ms. Olson was senior vice-president for publishing, editor for church school publications and United Methodist Church book editor at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, TN.

Ms. Olson has a bachelor's degree from Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y., where she serves on the board of trustees.

