

TEXAS IMPACT & TEXAS INTERFAITH CENTER STAFF

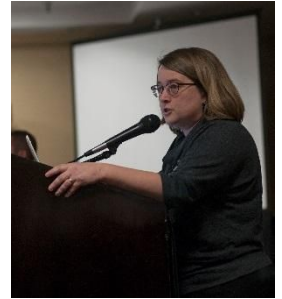
Bee Moorhead, Executive Director

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 an 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 specializes 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 disasters 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, Young Adult Volunteer



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.

PRESENTERS

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus



The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus is the eighth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California. He was installed as bishop in 2006. Prior to his election as Bishop of California, Andrus served as Bishop Suffragan in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Plant Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1979, and a Masters in Social Sciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg in 1982. After receiving his master's degree, Andrus went to work as a regional planner for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission on Virginia's Delmarva Peninsula.

In 1987, Andrus was awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. After being ordained deacon on June 20, 1987, Andrus became senior associate at Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. While at Church of the Redeemer, Andrus was ordained priest on April 25, 1988. In 1990, Andrus became Chaplain at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, until 1997 when he became Rector of Emmanuel Church in Middleburg, Virginia. He remained rector of Emmanuel until his consecration as Bishop Suffragan for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama on February 7, 2002.

His leadership has focused on key issues related to peace and justice, including immigration reform, civil rights for LGBTQ+ persons, health care, and climate change. Early in his tenure at the diocese, Bishop Marc co-chaired a community coalition that paved the way for the rebuilding of St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. More recently, his climate advocacy work has taken him to the UN Climate Conferences in Paris (COP21), Marrakesh (COP22), Bonn (COP23), and Katowice, Poland (COP24), as well as the Dakota Access Pipeline demonstrations at Standing Rock, North Dakota. Bishop Andrus is a member of the We Are Still In Leaders' Circle, a diverse group of ambassadors for American climate action. He also serves on the boards of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, California Pacific Medical Center, the Episcopal Impact Fund, the Episcopal School for Deacons, Episcopal Community Services, and the American Bach Soloists, among other foundations.

Andrus is married to Sheila Andrus, Ph.D., former director of the Sparkman Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Public Health, and they have two adult daughters: Chloé and Pilar.

Ruth M. Ivory-Moore, ELCA



Ruth is ELCA's Program Director for Environment and Energy. She has had careers in chemical engineering, as a corporate legal counsel, and brings legal specialties including environmental law and climate change. She is married to Chuck Moore. They have two children and two grandchildren. She enjoys travelling; spending time with family and friends; and particularly planning large family gatherings. She continues to be involved with Christian education leadership in her church. Her other volunteer work includes chairing a young adult and youth leadership summit in southern Virginia. She is a member of the board of Creation Justice Ministries and a member of ACT Alliance's Climate Change Group. She has given speeches on various environmental and climate change subjects.

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.

Matt Lohmeier, Justice for Our Neighbors

Matt Lohmeier is the Executive Director of the San Antonio Region Justice For Our Neighbors, a United Methodist immigration ministry that provides quality, free and low-cost legal services to immigrants trying to navigate the complicated U.S. immigration system. He's an accomplished non-profit leader who champions social justice.



Since graduating from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society and earning a Master of Divinity degree from Loyola University Chicago, Matt has helped nonprofits from a variety of vantage points. He's served as an adjunct professor at St. Edward's University in Austin, a mission leader in faith-based healthcare, co-chaired the Mayor's Advisory Council on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Corpus Christi, co-founded the Clergy Alliance to address issues of poverty and its comorbidities, also in Corpus Christi, served as a train the trainer facilitator for the "Workshops on Racism and Ethnic Sensitivity" program with the Archdiocese of Chicago and lobbied elected officials in multiple states.

Matt and his wife enjoy introducing their children to ministry work, teaching them the value of learning about other cultures and encouraging them to never sit on the sideline and allow injustice to happen to others.

Rachel Cooper, Center for Public Policy Priorities

Rachel joined the Center in 2012 with a focus on food and nutrition programs as well as obesity. Before joining the Center, she worked for the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) where she was in charge of research and data analysis and authored reports such as the School Breakfast Scorecard, Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation, and State of the States. Cooper also worked for the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), in their New York office, where she focused on helping families gain access to programs that provide work supports, such as tax credits, Medicaid, SCHIP, and food stamps. Cooper received her Masters in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University.



John R. Pitts, Texas Star Alliance



John R. Pitts is the founder and managing principal of the Texas Star Alliance. He has nearly 25 years of experience working around the Texas Capitol. John served as general counsel to former Lt. Governor Bob Bullock and also served as chaplain to the Texas Senate. He has held leadership roles in several multinational law firms and his expertise as an attorney and lobbyist is well-respected among policy makers across the country.

John has had the opportunity to develop and steward vital legislation on both state and national levels. While serving the lieutenant governor, John directed the effort to draft and pass the historic water legislation, SB 1. He has successfully represented clients from a broad range of industries including numerous Fortune 500 companies, major trade associations and national nonprofits. His clients represent a cross section of legislative issues including: transportation, water, health, education (public and higher), technology, finance, tax, banking, agriculture, affordable housing, appropriations, pensions, criminal justice, juvenile justice, ethics, insurance, gaming, and alternative energy.

His distinguished career includes serving as a partner at Vinson & Elkins LLP, as senior counsel at Akin Gump Hauer & Feld LLP, providing counsel to a Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice and holding several clergy positions with The Episcopal Diocese of Texas. A popular public speaker, John often speaks at State Bar of Texas conferences, University of Texas School of Law conferences, public affairs roundtables, professional association meetings and other continuing legal education seminars.

Driven by a passion to improve our communities, John is honored to serve on many organizations including the board of the Texas Association of Business; board chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters Greater Houston; board vice-chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star; board of Park Plaza Hospital and Medical Center; founding board member of Houston City Hall Fellows; board of The Hope Center Houston; board of St. John's School in Houston; board and co-Founder of Trinity Episcopal School of Austin; board and co-Founder of LIFE Houston; board of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia; board of the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas; board member of UTHealth Development Board and as vice-chair of its Government Relations Committee and chair of its PAC Committee.

John is a graduate of Southern Methodist University where he earned a B.S., an MBA and a J.D. In addition, John has received a Master of Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary. He has two sons and he and his wife call both Houston and Austin home.

John has been recognized as the 6th most influential lobbyist in Austin by the online publication, Capitol Inside. He has also been recognized as one of Texas' Top Rated Lawyers in 2014 by Martindale-Hubbell and selected by his peers, as one of the Best Lawyers in the United States in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. Big Brothers Big Sisters selected him as a Board member of the year in 2010.

Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller



Glenn Hegar was elected as Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in November 2014.

Glenn is a sixth-generation Texan who grew up farming land that has been in his family since the mid-1800s. He's a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M University and earned his law degree at St. Mary's University. Glenn has served in the Texas Legislature, where he worked on issues including public education, transportation, tax reform, government transparency, Second Amendment rights, water issues and tort reform.

As comptroller, Glenn is chief finance officer for the world's 10th-largest economy. He has emerged as a passionate advocate for conservative financial management and government transparency who has focused on creating a more efficient and customer oriented agency. He founded the state's

Transparency Stars program, pushed for smarter ways of investing our rainy day fund to protect it for future generations, and guided the formation of the nation's first ever state-administered precious metals depository.

His upbringing taught him the core values of hard work, honesty and integrity — the same values he and his wife Dara work to instill in their three young children, Claire, Julia and Jonah. Hegar's most important title throughout his years of service is the one closest to home: Dad!

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.

Reed Clay, Crestline Solutions

Reed has earned a reputation as a tireless worker who is trusted for his honest communication, strategic approach, and a deep understanding of a broad range of industries and issues. He spent over a decade at the highest levels of government, and during that time, became an expert in how government operates. Reed was most recently the Chief Operating Officer for the State of Texas under Governor Greg Abbott, where he worked daily alongside executive and legislative leadership to implement Governor Abbott's vision for the State of Texas. From healthcare, to energy; from insurance to retail; from manufacturing to infrastructure; from water to waste – Reed has a deep understanding of highly regulated industries and how government action impacts the bottom line.

Reed played an integral role in helping Governor Abbott attract quality leadership to oversee Texas' executive agencies and worked alongside agency leadership to tackle some of the toughest problems facing the State of Texas. During his time in the state capitol, Reed was also heavily involved in the development and execution of legislative priorities - from policy formation, to bill drafting, to working the legislative process. Because of his legal expertise and hands-on experience implementing legislation at the agency level, Reed is able to clearly see the real-world, policy impact of legislative and rulemaking decisions.

Reed understands government at every level. In particular, he understands the complex interaction between governments. While serving in the Governor's Office, he managed Texas' Office of State-Federal Relations - the primary point of contact between the State of Texas and the federal government, including Congress. Reed's deep understanding of federal agencies dates back to his time at the U.S. Department of Justice where he defended federal programs in litigation.

Similarly, in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Reed was instrumental in helping local governments interact with both the state and federal governments to bring needed assistance to their communities. As the Governor's point-man for the Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, Reed leveraged his experience and relationships in Washington, DC to help the Governor secure billions of dollars in federal assistance for the affected region. Reed has developed a rare expertise in disaster recovery programs, and more importantly how they are implemented. He is intimately familiar with the role that both the public and private sectors play in disaster preparedness and recovery. In fact, at the request of the committee chairman, he testified alongside the FEMA administrator and other experts from across the country before the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security to share his insights for improving the disaster recovery process.

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.