

SPEAKER BIOS

Colette Pichon Battle, The Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy



Colette is a generational native of Bayou Liberty, Louisiana. As founder and Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, she develops programming focused on Equitable Disaster Recovery, Global Migration, Community Economic Development, Climate Justice and Energy Democracy. Colette works with local communities, national funders and elected officials in the post-Katrina/post-BP disaster recovery. She was a lead coordinator for Gulf South Rising 2015- a regional initiative around climate justice and just transition in the South.

In addition to developing advocacy initiatives that intersect with race, systems of power and ecology, Colette manages GCCLP's legal services in immigration and disaster law. In 2019, Colette was named an Obama Fellow for her work with Black and Native communities on the frontline of climate change. In 2018 Colette was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate from Kenyon College; in 2016 Colette was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity; and in 2015 she was selected as an Echoing Green Climate Fellow. Under Colette's leadership, the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy co-chairs the national Water Equity and Climate Resilient Caucus with PolicyLink and anchors the five-state, multi issue initiative - Gulf South for a Green New Deal.

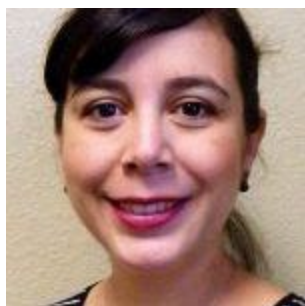
Elyse Yates - Digital Advance

Elyse Yates is the founder and CEO of Digital Advance. Elyse offers more than two decades of experience and expertise in arenas as diverse as politics, high-tech, public affairs, nonprofits, and entertainment – not to mention amazing big-picture vision, incredible insight, and strategies that work – all delivered with a zest for life that you wish you could bottle and sell.

Prior to launching DA, Elyse was a managing director for Public Strategies, Inc., the recognized leader in public perception management for Fortune 500 companies. During her tenure there, Elyse built an interactive business unit and a media relations division, managed the firm's marketing and branding, and led teams consulting for a broad spectrum of clients, including Perot Systems, the San Antonio Spurs, Seton Healthcare Family and Bank of America. Previously, Elyse was a media relations specialist at IBM, where she worked with broadcast media nationwide, specializing in the use of technology to distribute content. Among her earlier political credentials, Yates served as deputy spokesperson for then-Governor Ann Richards.



Laura Guerra-Cardus - Children's Defense Fund Texas



Dr. Laura Guerra-Cardus, MD, joined CDF-Texas in 2007 and serves as Deputy Director in CDF's Austin office. She helps lead statewide policy initiatives, including Cover Texas Now, which works with coalition partners to ensure that all Texas children and all Texans have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage. Since 2008, CDF-Texas policy efforts have connected more than 1,000,000 children to health coverage. From 2009–2010, Laura served as CDF-Texas' Interim Director.

Stacey Pogue - Center for Public Policy Priorities

Stacey Pogue joined the Center for Public Policy Priorities in 2008. She focuses on health policy issues. Before coming to the Center, she did health policy research with the Medicaid and CHIP Division of the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Insurance. In 2010 and 2011, she was selected to serve as a funded Consumer Representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Pogue earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography, summa cum laude, from Texas A&M University in 1997 and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin in 2005.



Anne Dunkelberg - Center for Public Policy Priorities

Anne Dunkelberg oversees health care policy for CPPP. She focuses on policy and budget issues related to health care access and immigrants' access to public benefits. She joined the Center in 1994 from the State Medicaid Director's Office at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Anne is a founding member of the statewide Children's Health Coverage Coalition (formerly the Texas CHIP Coalition) and the Cover Texas Now Coalition. She has been recognized by Families USA as an outstanding Consumer Health Advocate and by the LBJ School of Public Affairs Alumni Association as a Distinguished Public Servant. She was the primary author of the first edition of Texas Medicaid in Perspective ("the Pink Book") and serves on the Texas Medicaid Managed Care Statewide advisory committee and the Texas Healthcare Transformation Waiver Executive Waiver Committee. Anne is a native Texan, and received her B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and her Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Reverend Remington Johnson - Austin Presbyterian Seminary

Rev. Remington Johnson is a teaching elder and healthcare chaplain in Austin Texas. She has served at the bedside of the sick and dying for the past seven years both in acute care and post acute care. Remington's time in bedside ministry inspired her to turn her efforts toward increasing the support and the role of the faith community for those impacted by trauma and chronic diseases. She believes that our faith communities are uniquely equipped to care issues that arise from trauma and chronic diseases.



Alongside her work in health and faith, Remington lives an active life with her family where they do all the things that five year old boys like to do.



Matt Lohmeier - San Antonio Regional Justice for Our Neighbors

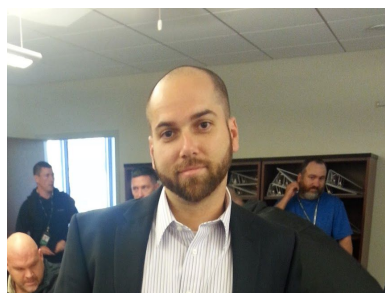
Matt Lohmeier is the Executive Director of the San Antonio Region Justice For Our Neighbors, a United Methodist immigration ministry that provides quality, free and low-cost legal services to immigrants trying to navigate the complicated U.S. immigration system. He's an accomplished non-profit leader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

Rich Newman - San Antonio Regional Justice for Our Neighbors

Attorney Richard "Richie" Newman manages the San Antonio Region Justice For Our Neighbors (SARJFON) border project. SARJFON provides free and low-cost immigration legal services to immigrants throughout the nation. Richie is helping JFON establish legal operations in Laredo, Eagle Pass, McAllen, and Harlingen. The Harlingen office is focusing on the Migrant Protection Protocols being implemented in Brownsville, Texas, while the other offices are providing high-quality legal services to the communities.



Richie started his legal career in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, serving as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney; Chief of Criminal Law; and finally, as the Officer-in-Charge of two Trial Defense offices in Europe. Some of his JAG cases were covered by the national media. After leaving the Army, Richie worked for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as an Assistant Chief Counsel (Trial Attorney) in Harlingen, Texas. He then became a Special Agent for Homeland Security Investigations, primarily targeting the organizations smuggling across the Texas-Mexico border.

Richie currently runs a small law practice in Spanish Texas (Rio Grande Valley) where he lives with his wife and seven children.



Beaman Floyd - Floyd Consulting

Beaman Floyd is a consultant and lobbyist with more than 30 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. Mr. Floyd works with several organizations to advance the understanding of public affairs advocacy, and is currently working with international officials in emerging democracies to establish ethical lobbying practices. He is a Charter Member of the Professional Advocacy Association of Texas.

The Honorable Vilma Luna - HillCo Partners



Luna is currently a principal at HillCo Partners in Austin, Texas where she directs the firm's Appropriations Practice. She draws on her years of legal and legislative experience to focus primarily on issues involving state budget and revenue, health care policy and finance, and other general government issues.

Previously, she maintained a private law practice and was a partner at the Watts Law Firm before joining HillCo Partners in 2006. She also worked as a Child Protection Services case worker prior to attending law school.

Luna represented District 33 (Corpus Christi) in the Texas House of Representatives from 1993 until 2006. She was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives from Corpus Christi. During her tenure in the House, she served on the Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Calendars committees. She was also appointed to the Legislative Budget Board. She spearheaded legislation including state budget and tax revenue, children's issues, special education, coastal management and protection, teacher and state employee pay raises, and health care.

Luna has won numerous awards and recognitions from professional and civic organizations, including Texas State University's prestigious Walter Richter Humanitarian Award (1997). Luna currently volunteers with local nonprofit organizations, her church and the Diocese of Austin.

She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Texas State University in 1979. Luna received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1985.

Eddie Solis - HillCo Partners

Eddie Solis is a lobbyist with HillCo Partners, an Austin-based public and government affairs consulting firm contracted with TEXPERS.



Jim Arnold - Arnold Public Affairs



Jim Arnold has broad political and public policy experience and has built a successful public affairs consulting business, Arnold Public Affairs. Jim opened his firm in 1999 after working in state and national politics. He works with both corporate and non-profit clients as well as hospitals and city and state government entities. Beginning in the mid-80s, Jim worked in numerous statewide political campaigns in Texas, as well as in statewide and congressional campaigns throughout the country.

From 1990 to 1994, Jim was involved in national politics in Washington D.C., working for the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) and the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC). He managed Governor Rick Perry's winning campaign for Lieutenant Governor in 1998. Before entering politics, he worked for the Texas Legislative Budget Board and the Texas Governor's Office.

Since 1995, Jim has worked as a volunteer trainer with the International Republican Institute, a USAID funded non-governmental organization, in emerging democracies around the world, most recently working with Syrian pro-democracy advocates in Turkey. He is an adjunct faculty member in the Government Department at Austin Community College.

Ellen Arnold - Arnold Public Affairs

Ellen Arnold represents non-profit entities such as Texas PTA, National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Goodwill Industries of Texas before the state legislature, assisting clients with their goals to pass legislation, obtain state appropriations, and influence or impact legislation that potentially affects their organizations.

In addition to representing single organizations Ellen manages projects on behalf of coalitions formed to achieve a common goal, providing strategic guidance, organizational support, and lobbying.



Ellen specializes in grassroots advocacy training, assisting organizations in their goal to more effectively participate in policy-making. Her presentations help participants to better understand the political environment in which policy decisions are made, and how to interact successfully with policy makers. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars.

Prior to becoming a government affairs consultant in 2002, Ellen worked in the field of education for over 20 years, the last several as principal of Barton Creek Elementary School in Eanes ISD in Austin. During her tenure there Barton Creek applied for and received the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School Award, presented by the United States Department of Education.

Luke Metzger - Environment Texas



As the executive director of Environment Texas, Luke is a leading voice in the state for clean air, clean water, clean energy and open space. Luke has led successful campaigns to win permanent protection for the Christmas Mountains of Big Bend; to compel Exxon, Shell and Chevron Phillips to cut air pollution at four Texas refineries and chemical plants; and to boost funding for water conservation and state parks.

The San Antonio Current has called Luke "long one of the most energetic and dedicated defenders of environmental issues in the state." He has been named one of the "Top Lobbyists for Causes" by Capitol Inside, received the President's Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society for his work to protect Texas parks, and was chosen for the inaugural class of "Next Generation Fellows" by the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at UT Austin. Luke, his wife, son and daughters are working to visit every state park in Texas.

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.

Jeff Archer - Texas Legislative Council



Jeff Archer, Executive Director of the Texas Legislative Council since 2014, has served at the council for 37 years as an attorney in the legal division and in recent years on the executive leadership team. Mr. Archer has drafted legislation and advised legislators in a broad range of subjects, including taxation, state finance, higher education, criminal law, gaming, constitutional law, legislative procedure, ethics, and redistricting. Mr. Archer has served as counsel to several investigative and oversight committees, and also assists the legislature in litigation support and compliance with open records laws. Mr. Archer holds a BA with highest honors in Classics from UT Austin and is a 1982 honors graduate of The University of Texas School of Law.