

2019 Clean Water Forum Bios



Marisol Aguilar, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

Marisol Aguilar, staff attorney with the Modesto office of the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), works with low-income individuals on social justice efforts and implementation of community equity initiatives. As Director of their Community Equity Initiative team, she works on environmental justice and infrastructure issues alongside community members residing in unincorporated marginalized areas, working in partnership with community organizations, researchers and local leaders to identify complex areas of need specific to local communities. Throughout California hundreds of thousands of people live in Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities (DUCs). DUCs range from urban pockets that are excluded from cities, to more remote, densely settled rural communities. Residents in these communities often live without the most basic features of a safe and healthy environment —potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, access to healthy food, sidewalks, streetlights and parks— due to decades of neglect and exclusion from formal decision making by city, county and state governments. The Community Equity Initiative (CEI) is a multi-strategy effort designed to address and eliminate social, political and environmental factors that negatively impact DUCs. It was established to focus CRLA resources towards changing patterns of historic inequality in rural regions of California. In partnership with PolicyLink and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, CRLA staff work alongside community leaders to raise awareness of DUCs, increase investment in community infrastructure, advocate for equitable development, promote environmental justice, guarantee fair representation and build leadership capacity, so that residents can engage meaningfully in decision-making that impacts their neighborhoods and their families. Marisol earned her law degree from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



Susana De Anda, Community Water Center

Susana De Anda is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Community Water Center, a nonprofit environmental justice organization based in California's San Joaquin Valley, whose mission is to act as a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy. Susana is a seasoned

community organizer and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: The James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award (2018), Latino Community Foundation Leading Change Award (2018), White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity (2016); Mark Dubois Award from Friends of the River (2014); “150 Fearless Women in the World” by Newsweek Magazine (2012); and “Women on Top – Top Activist” by Marie Claire magazine (2012).

Susana’s experience includes planning and organizing positions at the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment; the County of Merced Planning Department; the Santa Barbara County Water Agency; and the Santa Barbara non-profit Community Environmental Council. Susana earned a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara while completing a double major in Environmental Studies and Geography. Susana served for the past few years on the Community Funding Board of the Grassroots Fund through the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, Tulare County Water Commission, and on the Board of Directors of the Tulare County United Way. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for the Water Solutions Network and is a Steering Committee member on the Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus. Susana is also a co-founder of the board of Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL).



Jed Borghei, Robins Borghei LLP

Jed J. Borghei has dedicated his career to representing clients unfairly injured by contamination. Jed, along with founding partner Todd Robins, established Robins Borghei LLP to help public water providers hold accountable those responsible for polluting their water supplies.

Jed serves as co-lead plaintiffs’ counsel representing over twenty public water suppliers in the ongoing California statewide coordinated TCP products liability litigation against the manufacturers of TCP-containing fumigants. Jed has also been at the forefront of developing a successful model for litigating nitrate contamination cases on behalf of water suppliers. As a result of Jed’s innovative representation of his clients, he has been invited to be a guest lecturer on groundwater law at Stanford University Law School and UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law.

Jed is committed to serving his clients as a trusted legal advisor. As one City Manager whose case Robins Borghei LLP successfully resolved stated, Jed and Todd “are a real credit to their profession, and we could not have done it without their expert knowledge and services. They truly went beyond what other attorneys would provide.”

Prior to founding Robins Borghei LLP, Jed had the privilege of serving as Counsel to the Presidential Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, where he investigated the response of government and industry to the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill and drafted portions of the final Commission report that was presented to the President of the United States.



Michael Claiborne, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Michael Claiborne is an attorney with Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability, a nonprofit organization that works alongside the most impacted communities in the Eastern Coachella and San Joaquin Valleys to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income and place. Leadership Counsel works with community leaders on issues including safe and affordable drinking water, adequate wastewater service, basic transit services, quality affordable housing, and the right to live free from industrial pollution with infrastructure that supports healthy lifestyles. Mr. Claiborne's practice is focused finding solutions to water issues affecting California's most vulnerable communities, along with administrative advocacy and litigation to strengthen water quality regulations.



Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Action

Jennifer has served as a water policy and legislative analyst for Clean Water Action since 2003. She directs the Central Valley Program and serves on key state stakeholder committees, advising state agencies on actions to improve groundwater quality and allocate state funding for water infrastructure. Prior to joining Clean Water Action, Jennifer worked in the private sector, including a stint as a San Francisco tour guide, and advocated on environmental issues in San Francisco. She holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from U.C. Berkeley.



Nathaniel (“Nat”) Kane, Environmental Law Foundation

Nathaniel Kane joined the Environmental Law Foundation as a staff attorney in 2014, after completing a two-year environmental law fellowship at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP. There, he represented local governments and nonprofit groups in land use and environmental litigation, including regulatory takings, CEQA, and eminent domain cases. During law school, Nat was Executive Editor of the *NYU Environmental Law Journal* and received a

Guarini Fellowship in Land Use and Environmental Law.



Paul Kibel, Golden Gate University

Paul Kibel is Water and Natural Resource Counsel at the Water and Power Law Group PC. He is a tenured Professor at Golden Gate University School of Law, where he teaches Water Law and California Environmental & Natural Resources Law, and co-directs the GGU Center on Urban Environmental Law (CUEL). Prior to joining the Water and Power Law Group, Paul was a partner with the water and natural resource practice group at Fitzgerald Abbott & Beardsley LLP and worked for the California State Coastal Conservancy’s Office of Counsel and Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. He previously co-chaired the Natural Resources Subsection of the California State Bar Real Property Section and presently serves as a faculty advisor to the California Water Law Symposium. His publications include the books *Rivertown: Rethinking Urban Rivers* (MIT Press, 2007) and *Understanding Water Rights in California and the West* (Lexis Nexis, forthcoming 2017) and articles on water law in the *Stanford Environmental Law Journal*, *Ecology Law Quarterly*, *Virginia Environmental Law Journal* and *Berkeley Journal of International Law*. Paul is a member of the International Association of Water Law (AIDA), and served as a co-author for *the Greening of Water Law* guidebook AIDA prepared for the United Nations Environment Programme.

He holds a LL.M. from Boalt Hall Law School, University of California at Berkeley (1999) and a B.A. from Colgate University (1989). Paul’s water and natural resource law experience includes groundwater rights adjudication, water supply contract negotiations, water supply due diligence for the purchase of land and other facilities, compliance with California SB 221 and SB 610 water supply requirements, water resource analysis under the California Environmental Quality

Act and National Environmental Policy Act, instream fisheries protection under the Endangered Species Act, California reasonable use law and public trust law, water rights and water infrastructure reservations in land sale agreements, streambed alteration agreements, conjunctive use contractual arrangements for groundwater aquifer management and supply, climate adaptation law and policy in the water resource sector, Law of the River (Colorado), United States-Mexico cross-border waters and other transnational watercourses, and application of NAFTA and WTO rules to water resources.



Debi Ores, Community Water Center

Debi Ores joined the Community Water Center in 2014. As Staff Attorney, Debi is responsible for leading CWC's work on preventing nitrate contamination of drinking water sources. She also works on number of other legislative and regulatory matters including implementation of the Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act with a focus on ensuring disadvantaged communities are included in the decisions surrounding water management, water affordability, and promoting sustainable water systems.

Prior to working for CWC she interned with the State Water Resources Control Board in the Office of Enforcement and with the Delta Stewardship Council. Both of these positions solidified her desire to work on protecting our State's valuable water resources.

Debi received her B.A. in Political Science from UCLA. She obtained her J.D. from the University of California, Davis School of Law where she was an officer for the Environmental Law Society and an editor for the environmental law journal, *Environs*.



Angélica Salceda, American Civil Liberties Union

Angélica Salceda is a staff attorney at the ACLU of Northern California, where she focuses on economic justice, immigrants' rights, and civil rights and civil liberties enforcement in the Central Valley.

Prior to joining the ACLU as a staff attorney, Angélica was an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Fenwick & West. As an Equal Justice Works Fellow, Angélica led a project to identify and remove educational barriers impacting pregnant and parenting students in California's Central Valley.

Angélica received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and History with a minor in Anthropology from University of California, Los Angeles. She was a 2007-2008 Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellow and was subsequently hired as a legislative aid in the California Assembly. There, she worked on a number of policy issues, including environmental justice and immigrants' rights. Angélica is a graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law.