



Issues While Working in the Gig Economy - Speaker Bios

Katherine Fiester

Staff Attorney, Legal Aid at Work

Katherine Fiester works in the Wage Protection Program where she advises and represents clients in wage and hour litigation matters as well as wage claim and unemployment insurance administrative proceedings. She also serves clients at semi-monthly Wage Claim Clinics held at the California Labor Commissioner offices in San Francisco and Oakland.

Referrals for questions related to wage and hour or unemployment insurance can be made to Katherine Fiester directly at 415-864-8848.

Katie Wutchiett

Attorney, Legal Aid at Work

Katie works in LAAW's Work and Family Program, where she protects the rights of pregnant women, parents, caregivers, and survivors of domestic and sexual violence to care for themselves and their loved ones without risking their jobs and income. She built a new partnership between LAAW and Family, Maternal, and Child Health Services in Contra Costa County, through which she helps pregnant women and parents with low incomes to understand and utilize their rights. Before beginning at LAAW, she obtained her law degree from Washington University in St. Louis and clerked for the Hon. Bobby Shepherd of the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Referrals for questions related to leave or accommodations can be made to Katie Wutchiett directly at 415-864-8848 x264 or kwutchiett@legalaidatwork.org

Natalie Foster

Advisor to the Aspen Institute Future of Work Initiative

Natalie is the co-chair of the Economic Security Project, a two year fund to support exploration and experimentation of the universal basic income, and an advisor to the The Aspen Institute Future of Work Initiative.

In 2013, Natalie co-founded and launched Peers.org to support people who work in the sharing economy. Prior, she was the CEO and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, a platform for people-driven economic change, with Van Jones.

Previously, Natalie served as digital director for President Obama's Organizing for America (OFA) and the Democratic National Committee. Natalie built the first digital department at the Sierra Club and served as the deputy organizing director for MoveOn.org.

She's been awarded fellowships at Institute for the Future, Rockwood Leadership Institute and New America California, and she advises the Open Society Foundation.

The Importance of the CFPB - Speaker Bios

Alicia Criado

Regional Strategist, Office of Community Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

Alicia Criado is the Regional Strategist with the CFPB's Office of Community Affairs. In her role, Ms. Criado is responsible for leading the development of the Office of Community Affairs' regional strategy for policy and outreach across the fifty states by leveraging existing CFPB resources to expand Community Affairs' reach from DC headquarters.

Prior to joining the CFPB, Alicia was a Field Coordinator with the Economic Policy Project at UnidosUS (formerly the National Council of La Raza). In that role, she developed and executed public education and advocacy campaigns in both English and Spanish that improved the economic security of Latino workers and families through innovative public policy and program solutions. Alicia has also worked as a Labor and Education Specialist at the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education (UC Berkeley Labor Center), Research Assistant at the Center for American Progress; as an Organizer for both the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and the Service Employees International Union; and as a Community Development Specialist in Honduras with the Peace Corps.

During 2011-2012, Ms. Criado was a fellow in the inaugural Leadership Institute class at the Center for American Progress. She holds a master's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College and a bachelor's degree in peace and conflict studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She hails from San Diego, California.

To contact or refer to the CFPB, email: Communityaffairs@cfpb.gov

Solana Rice

Director of State & Local Policy, Prosperity Now

Solana Rice is Director for State & Local Policy at Prosperity Now. With over a decade of focus on building wealth and financial security for low-income families, she leads a team to create and advance effective state and local policies. The team is dedicated to building strong advocacy partnerships with organizations in the field and identifying policies that can address racial inequalities.

Solana supports the Prosperity Now Scorecard, a state-by-state assessment of how families are faring and the strength of state policies. She has also led several initiatives at Prosperity Now that use data to inform and compel new partnerships that in turn spark policy changes to improve financial capability for families.

Prior to joining Prosperity Now, Solana served as a director for financial security initiatives at PolicyLink. Solana has a Master's in City Planning from MIT, where she researched the integration of IDAs into community development services. She holds a B.A. in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis.

For more information about the Consumer Protection Campaign, contact *Emanuel Nieves, Senior Policy Manager* <https://prosperitynow.org/people/emanuel-nieves/>

Learn more about the campaign here: <https://prosperitynow.org/advocate/consumer-protections>

Participants are encouraged to sign up for regular updates on Prosperity Now federal campaigns and find ways to stay engaged: <https://prosperitynow.org/advocate/join-consumer-protections-campaign>

Vedika Ahuja

Economic Equity Team Interim Director, The Greenlining Institute

Vedika Ahuja is the Interim Director of the Economic Equity team at The Greenlining Institute. Her team works to ensure that communities of color in California have the capital necessary to build wealth and thrive. Her team works with Greenlining's coalition of 40 community-based organizations, including small business technical assistance providers, community lenders, and chambers of commerce to gather information on the ground and implement advocacy campaigns. Together, her team and coalition advocate for financial institutions and regulators to increase access to small business loans, support for the whole small business ecosystem, home loans, and loans and investments to nonprofits in communities of color. They also advocate at the Federal level for policies that support the needs of consumers and businesses of color.

Prior to joining The Greenlining Institute, Vedika spent two years at an economic consulting firm analyzing the impact of antitrust actions and anti-competitive practices on consumers. She graduated with a B.A. in Economics from UC Berkeley.

To contact Vedika Ahuja, send an email to: vedikaa@greenlining.org