



Young Leaders Program

Class of 2013

Octavio N. Espinal	National Council of La Raza
Erica L. Jacquez	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
Jason Llorenz, Esq.	Rutgers University
Marisa Moret	City and County of San Francisco Office of City Attorney
Derrick Olsen	Greater Portland Inc.
Fátima Pérez	Akerman Senterfitt
Lisa J. Pino	United States Department of Agriculture
Damon Shelby Porter	MoBroadbandNow
Ryan Rhodes	United States Department, International Trade Administration, Import Administration
Michael Sellman	McCalla, LLC

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Octavio N. Espinal

Associate Director, Office of the President
National Council of la Raza

Octavio Espinal is currently the Associate Director, Office of the President at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. In his role, Octavio leads the day-to-day management of the President's Office and serves as the organization's primary liaison to NCLR's Board of Directors. Octavio supports the President and CEO various ways and is part logistical coordinator, part gatekeeper, and part personal aide. He helps with connecting the dots and assures the President and CEO gets through the day with the greatest amount of efficiency and ease. He also works closely with the President and CEO to coordinate communications, delegate assignments, and ensure appropriate follow up in conjunction with NCLR's executive team. As the liaison to NCLR's Board of Directors, Octavio manages all corporate governance matters such as planning board meetings, maintaining corporate documents, and proposing policies and procedures for effective governance.

Prior to joining NCLR in 2004, Octavio worked at LLEGÓ, the National Latino Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Organization, ultimately serving as the Assistant Director of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs. During his tenure at LLEGÓ, Octavio worked with local nonprofits to develop and implement innovative HIV/AIDS prevention programs for LGBT Latinos focusing on reducing homophobia, stigma, and language/cultural barriers.

When not working, Octavio has dedicated his time as a volunteer to several nonprofits. He served on the Board of Directors of SMYAL, a local youth organization that addresses the social, educational and health needs of LGBT youth in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. He has also volunteered at the Human Rights Campaign, the American Cancer Society, and GLSEN.

Octavio earned a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park with a concentration in Latin American Studies. In 2010, he received a Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate from Georgetown University's Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership. Octavio was born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five.

Erica L. Jacquez

Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement Liaison
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.)

Erica L. Jacquez has been dedicated to public service for more than 13 years. In November 2011, Erica was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement Liaison at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.) under the leadership of Secretary Donovan. Currently, Erica serves as a Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Officer. In this capacity, she serves the Secretary as primary liaison between U.S. Senators and Congress members within the Western Region. Prior to her work in the Obama administration, Erica served Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina as the First District Field and Unincorporated Services Director. In this role, she functioned as Molina's main community liaison and managed the Supervisor's offices in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. Prior to working in this capacity, Erica held several positions including Public Affairs Manager for the Southern California Gas Company, a Sempra Energy Utility and as the District Director for State Senator Martha Escutia serving the constituents of the 30th Senate District.

Ms. Jacquez received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Fullerton. She earned a Master Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California (USC) in addition to receiving a certificate in Political Management. She is a graduate of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government's Executive Leadership Program and the Center for Creative Leadership. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctorate in Policy, Planning and Developmental Studies at USC.

Ms. Jacquez' commitment to her community includes serving as the founding Co Chair for the California Latino Caucus Institute's Madrinas Padrinos program and as founding Chair for the University of Southern California Mexican American Alumni Association's Young Leaders Council. In 2002, she was appointed by Governor Davis to serve on the State of California's Domestic Violence Advisory Council. She previously served as a board member for the Economic Alliance and Planned Parenthood. She is very active in her community working as a volunteer on Presidential, State, and local campaigns.

Ms. Jacquez is a graduate of the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Institute and USC's Ross Program in Real Estate. She received political training from Emily's List, the National Women's Political Caucus and Rutgers State University of New Jersey. Ms. Jacquez is a graduate of the National Hispana Leadership Institute where she was selected as one of 22 women nation wide to participate as a fellow. She is also a graduate of the Valley Leadership Institute.

A native of Montebello, CA, she resides in Washington, DC.

Jason Llorenz, Esq.

Senior Fellow

Director of Innovation Policy, LIN@R

Rutgers University School of Communication and Information

Jason Llorenz is Senior Fellow to the School of Communications and Information at Rutgers, where he focuses on the role of technology in emerging communities' participation in the digital economy.

Jason's writing appears in the Huffington Post, and he has authored or been interviewed for publications including the Washington Post, NPR, Univision News, Latina Lista, Politic 365, Fierce Telecom, and others. He has addressed groups and associations both on Capitol Hill and around the country, including SXSWedu, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI), and others.

Jason earned a Juris Doctor from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, and Bachelor of Arts from Cazenovia College. He is admitted to practice law in the State of New York. Jason serves as a legal advisor to the Columbia-Harlem small business development center at Columbia University. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Washington Internship Institute (501C3), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Alumni Association (CHCI-AA), and on the Board of Advisors of the Minority Media and Telecommunication Council (MMTC).

Marisa Moret

Managing Attorney and Chief of Staff to San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera
City and County of San Francisco

Marisa is the Managing Attorney and Chief of Staff to San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera. In this position, Marisa is responsible for overall service delivery and resource allocation for a public law office that provides legal counsel to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and over 90 departments, boards, commissions and offices of the City and County of San Francisco as well as the San Francisco Unified School District and San Francisco Redevelopment Successor Agency. Marisa oversees a budget of \$67 million and a staff of over 330 and has office wide responsibility to develop and implement executive initiatives. Marisa also serves as chief liaison and relationship manager for key constituencies including community groups, other government agencies and state and local elected officials.

Marisa is one of the longest serving and highest-ranking Latinas in San Francisco government. She is a proven executive manager who has successfully managed multi disciplinary project teams and achieved goals on target and within budget. She has accomplished transformational change in a complex public law office and has been instrumental in the City Attorney's Office success over the past dozen years including recruiting high caliber and diverse legal talent from across the nation and elevating the office to be considered one of the leading municipal law offices in the nation. Her legal and managerial skills have directly enabled the office to pursue groundbreaking litigation to protect consumers, the environment, and civil rights. Marisa inspires collaboration and top performance among individuals and teams.

Prior to joining the City Attorney's Office, Marisa was an equity partner with Nossaman, a mid-sized law firm with seven U.S. offices. Marisa was Nossaman's first Latina Equity Partner and was a member of the Diversity Committee, Hiring Committee, and Political Action Committee. At Nossaman, she was in the Land Use and Environment Group and her practice focused on complex environmental litigation and regulatory affairs, and state and local legislative strategy and advocacy. Marisa was also previously associated with the Radcliff Frandsen and Girardi and Keese firms.

Marisa is active in the community and has served in leadership positions with a number of organizations. For the past six years she has served as an appointee of the Speaker of the California State Assembly to the Board of Directors of the California Coastal Conservancy. In this role, she works with the agency to use entrepreneurial techniques to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources, and to provide access to California's shore. With a staff of 75 and a current annual budget of \$50 million the Conservancy has undertaken more than 1,800 projects along the 1,100 mile California coastline and around San Francisco Bay. Marisa also serves on the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that raises, manages, and distributes funds for the benefit of St. Mary's Medical Center.

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From 1997 to 2001, Marisa served on the Board of Commissioners for the San Francisco Housing Authority as an appointee of Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Marisa has played a major role in numerous state and local campaigns for candidates and ballot initiatives including high profile initiatives such as No on 8 (a constitutional amendment initiative to eliminate the rights of marriage for same-sex couples) and No on Prop 17 (an initiative related auto insurance rates.) Marisa has advised a number of political candidates on fundraising, policy matters, and campaign infrastructure. In 2004, Marisa was a California Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Marisa is an active member of the California Minority Counsel Program, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association, and San Francisco Women's Political Caucus. Marisa is a frequent speaker and panelist on issues related to diversity, public service and campaign management.

Marisa was raised in Los Angeles, and is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law. She is an active member of the California Bar and resides in San Francisco, California.

Derrick Olsen

Vice President of Regional Strategy & Coordination
Greater Portland Inc.

Derrick Olsen is the Vice President of Regional Strategy & Coordination at Greater Portland Inc. Derrick leads the region's implementation of the Greater Portland Export Initiative, the annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and provides coordination and project management services to the region's economic development community.

Previously, Derrick managed international trade and investment issues for over four years with Business Oregon (Oregon Business Development Department). Derrick also has over 13 years of experience managing political and economic issues as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State in Latin America, Asia, and Washington, DC. He served as Committee Administrator for the House Education Committee in the Oregon State Legislature during the 2007 legislative session.

As Global Investment Strategist, Derrick worked closely with Business Oregon's foreign trade and investment representatives in Greater China, Japan, Korea, and the European Union to attract foreign direct investment into Oregon, and coordinated the work of Team Oregon Clean Tech and Team Oregon Food Processing, coalitions of state/local/regional economic development organizations that jointly market Oregon's advantages as a location for business investment. Previously, Derrick served as International Trade Manager and led International Trade Officers in Oregon and foreign representative offices in assisting small and medium Oregon businesses and industries to expand their exports of goods and services. Derrick also served as Vice Chair of Study Oregon, a collaborative effort of Oregon colleges and universities to market Oregon as a destination for international students.

As a Foreign Service Officer Derrick served as: the Chief of the Political Section in Tegucigalpa, Honduras; a Political Officer in La Paz, Bolivia; a Watch Officer/Senior Watch Officer in the State Department Operations Center; an Economic and Consular Officer in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and a Consular Officer in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the World Affairs Council of Oregon, the Board of Directors of the Oregon Economic Development Association, and the International Air Service Executive Committee, which is tasked with establishing and maintaining nonstop international air service between Portland International Airport and Europe and Asia.

Fluent in Spanish, Derrick graduated from Tigard High School in Tigard, Oregon, has a Bachelor of Arts in Government and History from Dartmouth College, and a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. He and his wife Rebecca are proud parents of their son James and their daughter Morgan.

Fátima Pérez

Public Policy Advisor
Akerman Senterfitt

Fátima Pérez has over 14 years of experience in governmental and external affairs at the state legislative and municipal levels of government, and in the corporate communications industry where she was responsible for directing the legislative and public affairs efforts for first Bell South Telecommunications, Inc., then AT&T-Florida. Fátima knows Florida's legislative process and has worked diligently on behalf of the private sector before the Florida Legislature and many South Florida municipalities. This experience has earned Fátima an outstanding professional reputation, strong relationships, and positive political capital with dozens of policy makers throughout Florida.

Areas of Experience

Florida Legislative & Executive Lobbying
Local Government Advocacy

Related Professional Experience

AT&T Florida, Regional Director, Legislative & External Affairs, 2006-2011

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., Regional Director, Legislative & External Affairs, 2003-2006

City of Miami, Office of the Mayor, Senior Advisor to Mayor Manuel A. Diaz/Intergovernmental Affairs, 2002-2003

Florida Senate & House of Representatives, Senior Legislative Aide to Senator Walter "Skip" Campbell and Representative Annie Betancourt, 1997-2001

Education

Harvard University, 2006; National Hispana Leadership Institute Fellows Program

M.P.A., Florida International University, 2001; Outstanding Student Scholar Award for Academic Year 2000-2001

Nova Southeastern University, 1997; Certificate in Legal Assistant Studies
B.A., Florida State University, 1996; Criminology

Lisa J. Pino

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Lisa J. Pino is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Agriculture. Pino has served the Administration since her appointment by President Barack Obama and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on May 11, 2009 as the first Latina Deputy Administrator of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, of the Food and Nutrition Service. Working alongside USDA's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard, Pino oversees the Department's program and equal employment opportunity complaints process and manages day-to-day operations. In this role, Pino leads and directs the fair and equitable treatment of all USDA customers and employees while ensuring the delivery of quality programs and enforcement of civil rights.

As the former Deputy Administrator of USDA's SNAP program, Pino strengthened USDA's food and nutrition programs for low-income children, individuals, and families, and to ending the nation's hunger and obesity challenges, particularly among children, immigrants, seniors, and veterans. In this spirit, she: spearheaded USDA's first bilingual, cross-cultural national initiative to ensure access among underrepresented communities experiencing high incidences of food insecurity; founded USDA's most comprehensive Latino engagement plan, La Mesa Completa; partnered with USDA's Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to educate Latino faith-based leaders about nutrition program eligibility; championed civil rights priorities as the agency's first Civil Rights Resolving Official and achieved the highest Dispute Resolution rate of any USDA agency; developed new SNAP non-citizen policy guidance to clarify the immigration requirements of SNAP participation for the first time in more than a decade; launched the Spanish SNAP online retailer locator to help customers locate SNAP retailers; advised the White House Let's Move! team and the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion to create USDA's MiPlato as a cultural complement to USDA's MyPlate food icon; represented the First Lady's Let's Move! initiative to end childhood obesity on efforts including Let's Move! in Indian Country; presented as a speaker during the nation's first White House Hispanic Policy Conference and other White House Hispanic Community Action Summits held around the nation; established and nurtured partnerships with national and community organizations; served on the U.S. Office of Minority Health Federal Health Equity Team, the first federal interagency effort to address and solve health disparities among communities of color, and USDA's Hispanic-Serving Institutions Advisory Group; inspired a partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a bilingual promotores initiative to educate the public about nutritional assistance programs; and mentored Hispanic college students participating in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities internship program.

Prior to her work at USDA, Ms. Pino was the Director of Public Affairs for the bilingual broadcasting Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network in New York, and Director of External Affairs for the International Institute of the Americas College in Arizona.

Pino Cont...

As an attorney dedicated to public service, Pino brings over a decade of community experience serving families facing poverty, including immigrants, in areas such as immigration, law, housing, education, employment, and labor.

In 2006, Pino moved to Northern California to become a AFL-CIO community organizer, and in 2001 became the first bilingual law fellow under a joint program funded by Americorps and the National Association of Public Interest Law, now known Equal Justice Works, where she worked to fight against housing predatory lending schemes targeting Hispanic immigrants in Phoenix, Arizona. Between 2001-2008, she additionally served the Florence Immigrant Rights and Refugee Project, Community Legal Services Farmworker and Housing Divisions, Littler Global Migration Group, Bacon & Dear LLC, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, U.S. Attorney's Office of New York, and the U.S. Library of Congress.

A New York native, she received her B.A., M.A., and J.D. at Arizona State University, and is a member of the Arizona Bar Association. In 2008, she completed Harvard University's Executive Public Leadership Program as a National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) Fellow, and The White House Project Program in New York. She has received multiple awards for her service including the 2009 NHLI Latina Leader Award, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's 2010 Brillante Alumni Hall of Fame Award, 2011 USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions Advisory Group Service Award, and the 2012 LULAC Partner Award and USDA Food and Nutrition Service Hispanic Heritage Month Award for her contributions to the Latino community. Most recently, Pino became the first Latina member of USDA's Council of Native American Ranchers and Farmers, which was inaugurated in August 2012 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Damon Shelby Porter

Managing Director

MoBroadbandNow

Damon is Managing Director of MoBroadbandNow, a public-private initiative expanding and enhancing broadband accessibility and adoption. There is over \$320 million invested in new broadband infrastructure projects.

An entrepreneur and strategist, Damon is also co-founder of mPost, a start-up company developing an innovative mobile handset financing and procurement model for wireless carriers. He was named a “Rising Star” by KC Business magazine in 2011.

Previously, Damon worked in both the public and private sectors as director of public affairs for a Fortune 500 telecommunications company, earning six nationally recognized professional awards for excellence. He also served as chief of staff for two speakers of the Missouri House of Representatives. Damon was named transition chairman for Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel in 2008.

Damon is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was a Marshall Memorial Fellow of the German Marshall Fund. He earned his law degree from The Catholic University of America where he was a member of the Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy and holds a bachelor of arts in communications from Marymount University where he was twice elected student body president.

An advocate for the arts and culture, Damon is a board director of Studios, Inc. and was a trustee of the Kansas City Symphony and an advisory member of the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri, the sister city to Seville.

Ryan Rhodes

Special Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration

Ryan Rhodes is a Special Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. As a Special Advisor, Ryan provides key strategic counsel to the Assistant Secretary in the enforcement of U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty trade remedy laws. Previously, he served as an advisor to the Director General of the U.S. Commercial Service, the U.S. government's lead agency supporting U.S. companies to export overseas. In this role, Ryan developed outreach strategies and provided guidance to the Director General to raise awareness of the U.S. Commercial Service and assisted in executing trade missions in over 20 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.

A native of Monett, Missouri, Ryan has spent over twelve years in public service beginning his career as an aide to United States Senator Jean Carnahan. He also served as the National Campaign Scheduler and Finance Assistant to the re-election campaign for United States Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and later served as Senator Daschle's personal aide at Alston & Bird, LLP. Before joining the Obama Administration, Ryan managed the Washington, D.C. finance office for Obama for America and was a finance staff member for the Democratic National Committee.

Ryan graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Southeast Missouri State University and received his law degree from American University-Washington College of Law.

Michael Sellman

Managing Partner

McCalla, LLC

Michael Sellman works in New York as the managing partner of McCalla, LLC, an investment firm. Before founding McCalla, he worked on the foreign policy team of Governor Mitt Romney's 2012 Presidential campaign. Previously, he was a vice president for Morgan Stanley Principal Investments, the firm's on-balance sheet private equity and special situations trading effort. Prior to that, he worked as a currency derivatives trader and strategist for the firm in New York and London. Michael holds an A.B. in History and Government from Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, where he served as class marshal, chairman of the Senior Class Commencement Committee, and vice president of the student body. He is past treasurer of the Board of Directors of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy and helped found the New York branch. He participated in the Council for the United States and Italy's Young Leaders Program and the Foreign Policy Initiative's Young Leaders Program, and served as the associate editor for three books on contemporary American art containing over 600 pages, 2000 color plates, and more than 25 essays. He also serves as special advisor to The Souls Grown Deep Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to identifying, documenting, preserving, and promoting the visual art of the African-American South. Michael is an Eagle Scout and enjoys hunting, squash, skiing, and the opera.