



National Immigration Summit: Our Shared Future

June 22, 2023 | 1:00 PM ET | 12:00PM CT | 10:00AM PT

Speaker Bios

[Register Here](#)



[Linda Corchado](#), Director, Children's Immigration Network, CHILDREN AT RISK

Linda Corchado is the Director of the Children's Immigration Network for Children at Risk. She has worked in many capacities in immigration advocacy and has attributed much of her success to having a person-centered approach while working across the aisle with law enforcement and government officials. As an attorney from El Paso, Texas, she has been at the forefront of key legal battles on the border ranging from the separation of families under Zero Tolerance to advocating for the end of expulsions of unaccompanied minors and reforming our immigration court system. She has served in multiple coalitions, working groups and task forces on immigration policy and reform. In her new role at Children at Risk, Linda is looking forward to making a statewide impact, build broader coalitions and engage more partners to advocate for all immigrant families across Texas. She is the former Director of Legal Services at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. Her work has been featured in The New Yorker, The Los Angeles Times and El Paso Matters. Ms. Corchado received her B.A. in Political Science and Latin American Studies at Swarthmore College and received her law degree from Cardozo Law School in New York City. She currently lives in El Paso, Texas.



[Gabby Benitez](#), Senior Policy Associate, The Children's Partnership

Gabby Benitez, MPP, is a Senior Policy Associate at The Children's Partnership where she works in multiple areas of the organization's policy and advocacy efforts including immigrant health, oral health and health care coverage that aim to advance children's health equity and access. Gabby leads the development of different policy and research projects in the organization to identify issues and policy solutions to address support gaps for historically marginalized children. As an immigrant herself, Gabby strives to ensure that the voice of immigrant families is integrated in policy solutions that directly impact their lives. Prior to joining TCP, Gabby worked in public opinion research and program evaluation, assessing programs for government and community-based organizations in the areas of education, public health and community outreach. Gabby is a triple alumnus of UC Irvine with a B.A. in Political Science, B.A. in Criminology, Law and Society, and a Master's degree in Public Policy.



[Suma Setty](#), Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration and Immigrant Families, CLASP

Suma Setty is a Senior Policy Analyst on CLASP's immigration and immigrant families team and the daughter of Indian immigrants. Prior to CLASP, Suma worked at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) a university-based policy research center, leading and coordinating mixed-methods policy research with low-income families on paid leave, immigration enforcement, and immigrant integration. She has presented her research findings to affected communities, advocates, and state and federal policymakers. In her work at CLASP, she analyzes evidence on the harms of immigration enforcement on children and strategically integrates research into policy advocacy efforts. She also co-chairs the Children Thrive Action Network's research working group. She holds an MPH from Columbia University and a BA in Environmental Studies and Political Science from Macalester College.



[Mario Bruzzone](#), Senior Policy Advisor, Women's Refugee Commission

Mario Bruzzone is a senior policy advisor at the Women's Refugee Commission. His work focuses on protecting the rights of unaccompanied immigrant children and reparative justice for the harms caused by family separation. At the national level, Mario coordinates several working groups related to unaccompanied children's care and protection, including on political strategy and the prevention of sexual assault and exploitation. He works regularly with both legislative and administrative agency staff on improving care, with recent emphasis on access to reproductive and abortion care as well as the prevention of child-labor exploitation. Previously, Mario worked on the policy team at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, covering a broad range of issues including unaccompanied children, federal appropriations, refugee and humanitarian protection, and regional protection in Latin America. He holds an MS and PhD from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.



[Juan Carlos Gomez](#), Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration and Immigrant Families, CLASP

Juan Carlos Gomez is a policy analyst for CLASP's immigration and immigrant families team. He works with the rest of the team to uplift policies that support immigrant families, such as securing access to public benefits and ensuring that children in immigrant families have the support and resources necessary to succeed. Prior to joining CLASP, Juan was a Legislative Aide for Senator Cory Booker, working on immigration, health care, and workforce issues. His work in the U.S. Senate focused on addressing health care inequities and immigration enforcement policies. Before working in the Senate, Juan was a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute intern in the House of Representatives. Juan graduated from Montclair State University with a bachelor's degree in both Political Science and Psychology



[Mina Dixon Davis](#), Policy Analyst, The Young Center

Mina Dixon Davis is a Policy Analyst at the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights who advocates to center children's rights and best interests in all decisions. Prior to joining the Young Center, Mina was at the Children's Defense Fund, where she focused on pursuing justice for children at the intersections of child poverty, child welfare, and immigration policy. Mina comes to the Young Center with a background in journalism and law, and she strives to ground her work in listening, storytelling, and building a case to improve the odds for children. Mina received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.



[Martin Kim](#), Director of Immigration Advocacy, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Martin Kim is the Director of Immigration Advocacy at Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), where he advocates for a fairer immigration system by developing public policy research, strategies, and analysis and by engaging with key legislative and executive stakeholders. Martin previously worked as the Deputy Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs at the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, leading work on issues related to the intersection of the criminal legal system and immigration law, access to health care, and access to education. Martin holds a J.D. from NYU Law, where he was a member of the Immigrant Rights Clinic and the Racial Justice Clinic and is admitted to practice law in New York State. Before law school, Martin received a B.S. in journalism from Northwestern University.



[Rebecca Sheff](#), Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of New Mexico

Rebecca Sheff is a senior staff attorney at the ACLU of New Mexico specializing in immigrants' rights. Prior to joining the ACLU, Rebecca spent three years in El Paso as a staff attorney with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, with a focus on immigration, border rights, and civil rights matters. Rebecca worked previously for Human Rights First in their Washington, DC office on foreign policy matters including refugee protection, rule of law issues, and threats to civic space. She was then selected for a fellowship with Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, where she advocated and litigated in international forums on behalf of human rights defenders targeted for their work. She clerked for the Honorable Roy W. McLeese III at the D.C. Court of Appeals. Rebecca received a B.A. in Political Science at Macalester College and earned her J.D. at New York University School of Law. Prior to her career as an attorney, Rebecca worked in Zimbabwe for a civil society organization combating election-related violence and providing services for survivors of torture and police brutality. Rebecca also worked for a human rights organization in Burundi, where she managed the launch of the first LGBTQ+ community center in the region and facilitated access to direct services, capacity-building, and advocacy initiatives to decriminalize same-sex relationships. Rebecca is passionate about access to justice, accountability, and organizing with folks who are most directly affected by state violence and abuses of power.



[Lindsey Wilkerson](#), Associate Director, Children's Immigration Network, C@R

Lindsey serves as the Associate Director of the Children's Immigration Network and Interim Director of the Texas Family Leadership Council at CHILDREN AT RISK, advocating for policies that positively impact the lives of Texas children, with a focus on immigrant children. Lindsey previously worked for the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies (CGRS) and volunteered with the Immigrant Rights Clinic at Texas A&M School of Law. Lindsey received her MIA from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University concentrating in Human Rights, and Women, Peace, and Security. She graduated summa cum laude with her B.A. in International Studies from University of St. Thomas.



[Paul Chavez](#), Senior Supervising Attorney, Southern Poverty Law Center's Immigrant Justice Project

Paul R. Chavez is a Senior Supervising Attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center's Immigrant Justice Project. At SPLC, his work has focused on ending the entanglement of federal immigration enforcement with local law enforcement agencies across the Deep South. Paul is committed to fighting abuses of immigrants by local police and protecting the rights of cities and counties to welcome immigrants. Before joining SPLC, Paul served as the Executive Director of Centro Legal de la Raza. Headquartered in Oakland CA, Centro Legal is a comprehensive legal services agency that protects and advances the rights of immigrant, low-income, and Latino communities. Under his leadership, Centro Legal grew into one of the preeminent legal service organizations on the West coast. Previously, Paul was a Senior Attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area where he directed the organization's Pro Bono Program and maintained an active racial and immigrant justice impact litigation docket. A respected litigator, Paul has received several awards for his work, including a 2015 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award, recognizing extraordinary achievement in Immigrant Rights Impact Litigation, and a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in 2018. Formerly, Paul was a litigation associate at Donahue Fitzgerald LLP with an employment and commercial litigation practice. Paul was a fire fighter in the United States Navy prior to receiving his BA in Political Science from the University of Colorado Denver. He earned his JD from Berkeley Law at the University of California.



[Wendy Cervantes](#), Director, Immigration and Immigrant Families, CLASP

Wendy Cervantes is director of immigration and immigrant families. In this role, she oversees the organization's cross-team work to develop and advocate for policies that support low-income immigrants and their families. She is an expert on the cross-sector policy issues that impact children of immigrants, including economic security, child welfare, immigration, education, health care, and human rights. Prior to joining CLASP, Ms. Cervantes was Vice President of Immigration and Child Rights at First Focus where she led the organization's federal policy work on immigration and established the Center for the Children of Immigrants. Ms. Cervantes also served as Director of Programs at La Plaza, a Latino community-

based organization in central Indiana, where she oversaw the implementation and evaluation of education, health, and social service programs. Earlier in her career, Ms. Cervantes worked at the Annie E. Casey Foundation where she managed the national immigrant and refugee families and the District of Columbia portfolios. She also has experience as a community organizer and an adult ESL instructor. The proud daughter of Mexican immigrants, Ms. Cervantes holds an M.A. in Latin American Studies and Political Science from the University of New Mexico and a B.A. in Communications from the University of Southern California.



[Viridiana Carrizales](#), Co-Founder & CEO, ImmSchools

Viridiana Carrizales is the Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of ImmSchools. ImmSchools is an immigrant-led nonprofit organization that seeks to close the gap between immigration and education by working with schools to create safe and welcoming classrooms for immigrant and undocumented students. Prior to launching ImmSchools, Viridiana worked as the national managing director for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) at Teach

For America where she led the organization's efforts to recruit and place teachers with DACA in classrooms throughout the country. She began her journey as an immigrant activist in 2004 by co-founding a grassroots organization dedicated to organizing and informing undocumented students of their rights and access to higher education. Viridiana was born in Michoacán, Mexico and immigrated with her family to the United States when she was 11 years old. As a former undocumented immigrant, Viridiana is passionate about advocating and supporting undocumented students and their families. Viridiana holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature and communications from the University of Texas at Austin. After 14 years, she became a United States citizen in 2016 and currently resides in San Antonio, Texas.



[Dr. Marie Moreno](#), Newcomer Specialist

Dr. Marie D. Moreno is an educator that advocates and supports newly arrived immigrant and refugee families. For 18 years, she was the founding principal of Las Americas Newcomer School in the Houston Independent School District. She helped support and acculturate students from 32 countries, speaking 29 languages and dialects. Her 29 years of education experience have fueled her passion for ensuring

refugees and immigrant students receive the best education. She is devoted to learning more about refugee experiences by traveling to Kyangwali Refugee Resettlement in Uganda, small-remote villages in Guatemala, Cuba, Kenya, and newcomer schools in Tel-Aviv, Israel. Marie received her Baccalaureate of Science from the University of Houston, her Master's in Education from Texas Southern University, and her Doctorate in Education in Ethical Leadership from the University of St. Thomas-Houston. She is a servant leader by promoting equity and excellence to her students, families, staff, and community. She is a member of the American Leadership Forum-Gulf Coast Chapter and the Texas Teachers Educating Students of Other Languages (TexTESOL). She is the CEO/Founder of Newcomer Success LLC, a consulting firm to support teachers and school districts with newcomer programming. She has two children, ages 20 and 29.



[Muna Hussein](#), Family Engagement, Supporting Partnership in Education and Beyond

Muna Hussein is a mother of two, who was born in Somaliland and grew up in India. She has lived in Seattle Washington for the last 22 years. She is an educator and a community leader who spends most of her time to support and advocate for families to understand the American School system. She is one of the governing councils in **UPLAN** (United Parent Leadership Action Network) for Supporting Partnerships in Education and Beyond (**SPEB**).



[Juan Rangel](#), Federal Lobbyist, National Education Association

Juan Rangel currently serves as a Federal Lobbyist for the National Education Association - the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing more than 3 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators, students preparing to become teachers, healthcare workers, and public employees. He leads the organization's federal policy advocacy on issues related to immigration, bilingual education, LGBTQ+ issues, gun violence and school safety, police reform, and the school to prison and school to deportation pipelines. Prior to this, he was Senior Associate at D&P Creative Strategies - a Latina and LGBTQ owned boutique consulting firm - and led advocacy to Capitol Hill for all of D&P's nonprofit and corporate clients. Before this, he served as Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez, where he worked on immigration, labor, housing, civil rights, and homeland security, among other issues. Juan also formerly worked at the National Immigration Law Center. Juan is an immigrant originally from Jalisco, Mexico and grew up in a community of resilient farmworkers in Kerman, California. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Latino Studies from the University of Notre Dame.



[Betzabel Estudillo](#), Director of Engagement, Nourish California

Betzabel Estudillo is Director of Engagement with Nourish California. She provides organizational leadership in the development and management of engagement strategies that advances the organization's advocacy work. She oversees the organization's Food4All Campaign to increase food access among immigrant Californians. Betzabel also works to ensure students' access to school meals and increase immigrant participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).



[Liza Schwartzwald](#), Senior Manager of Economic Justice and Family Empowerment, New York Immigration Coalition

Liza Schwartzwald is an attorney, social worker, and trained mediator with a deep dedication to making New York a welcoming city for all families and children. She is the Senior Manager of Economic Justice and Family Empowerment at the New York Immigration Coalition where she leads early childhood, two generation, and economic justice policy and advocacy work, including directing the Linking

Immigrant Families to Early Childhood Education (LIFE) program. She can be reached at Lschwartzwald@nyic.org.



[Donna Cooper](#), Executive Director, Children First

Donna Cooper is the Executive Director of Children First. Formerly known as Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), Children First is the Greater Philadelphia region's leading child advocacy organization that influences elected officials by combining useful research, practical solution-oriented policy recommendations with the mobilization of citizens who advance the organization's work on behalf of children. Prior

to Children First, Cooper was a senior fellow at respected national think tank, the Center for American Progress, where she led the Center's research on early childhood education, public infrastructure and was a contributing researcher to the Center's work to reduce the incidence of poverty. Cooper served as the Secretary of Policy and Planning for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 2003-2010 where she was responsible for the state's education, public support, environmental and health care policy. While in that position, Cooper led the development of the state's Cover All Kids program which expanded access to affordable health care to nearly every child in the state. Cooper also led the seven-year effort to boost funding for public education that increased K-12 funding by over \$2 billion and designed the state's groundbreaking school funding formula which was enacted in 2008. While at the state, Cooper also helped launched the state's model approach to investments in early childhood education and increased funding to make college affordable for low income and working-class students while creating one of the nation's best systems to ensure that community college students can easily transfer credits to four-year colleges. Cooper was also the founding Executive Director of Good Schools Pennsylvania, grassroots organizing campaign that successfully pushed public education to the top issue in the 2002 race for Governor. Cooper served as the City of Philadelphia's Deputy Mayor of Policy and Planning from 1999-2002 where she designed and led the Greater Philadelphia Works Program, one of the nation's largest and most successful efforts to help single mothers on welfare achieve self-sufficiency.



[Deborah Rookey](#), Staff Attorney, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

Deborah is a Staff Attorney in MIRC's Unaccompanied Children program, where she works on the Long-Term Foster Care and Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Subpractice. In this role, she represents children across the state of Michigan in foster care homes in their immigration matters, including applications, removal proceedings, and asylum interviews. She received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2022.

Prior to law school, she worked as an advocate on Capitol Hill, focusing on progressive reform on a variety of international issues. She holds a B.A. in interdisciplinary studies from Washington University in Saint Louis.



[Moe Hickey](#), Executive Director, Voices for Utah Children

Moe Hickey has been the Executive Director of Voices for Utah Children since June 2019. Before joining Voices, Moe served as the Managing Director for the Park City Institute. He has spent years passionately developing early education opportunities in Summit County and has a deep understanding of Utah's education system. As President and Member of the Park City School Board, Moe advocated for solutions that would better support students, teachers, and Park City's growing community. Prior to moving to Utah, Moe spent over 20 years in International Finance. He worked in New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo and Hong Kong before completing his career as a Partner and the President of Emerging Markets at Cantor Fitzgerald. Moe is a graduate of Wagner College with a B.S. in Economics. He currently lives in Park City with his wife Cindy and has two adult children (Sambatt and Sokchea).

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