

TRAINING PANELISTS

Coordinator: Connie Malloy – California Redistricting Commission, Ret.



Connie Malloy serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Panta Rhea Foundation, catalyzing a just and sustainable world. She also serves as a strategic advisor to individual donors, families, foundations and philanthropic collaboratives.

Connie served as a Commissioner and Chair of California’s inaugural Citizens Redistricting Commission from 2010-2020, and now consults and trains on independent redistricting. She is a Board Director for the national Funders Committee for Civic Participation, and for Southern California Grantmakers.

Connie previously served as Portfolio Director at The James Irvine Foundation. During her seven-year tenure she deployed over \$200 million in grants to support economic and workforce development, expand voting access, social impact bonds, and the foundation’s annual Leadership Awards.

Prior to her funder roles, Connie oversaw programs at Urban Habitat where she launched the Boards & Commissions Leadership Institute. The institute trains leaders committed to advancing social justice for service on local and regional boards and commissions and provides individualized support throughout their leadership roles.

Earlier in her career, Connie served as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fellow and Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia. Connie earned her master’s degree in urban planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor’s degree from La Sierra University in Riverside, CA.

Cynthia Dai – California Redistricting Commission, Ret.

Dai is founder and CEO of Dainamic Consulting, Inc. a San Francisco-based strategy and interim executive firm that accelerates growth. Her diverse clientele includes social enterprise and public sector organizations such as Benetech, Digital Divide Data, Frameline, Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology, UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza), and the Skoll Foundation; global companies like Canon, Cisco, Intel, Microsoft, Motorola, Philips Electronics, and Toyota; as well as Silicon Valley startups such as Gigster, Pacific Data Images (now PDI DreamWorks), Persistence (acquired by Progress Software), and Salon.com.



Cynthia was one of 14 selected to serve on California’s inaugural 2010 Citizens Redistricting Commission, widely considered the gold standard in independent redistricting. The CRC eliminated partisan gerrymandering in under eight months with fair electoral maps, upheld by the California Supreme Court in multiple unanimous decisions and approved by voters with a 2-to-1 margin. This work was recognized

by an Innovation for Public Engagement in Government grant from Harvard Kennedy's Ash Center. In addition to participating on the CRC's rotating leadership, Cynthia chaired the effort to deploy multi-partisan Commissioner teams to share our model via 30+ visits to support reform advocates in a dozen states.

This summer, Cynthia was a 2020 Census Enumerator. She is active in the Open Primaries movement and speaks on ranked-choice voting.

Also an educator and mentor, Cynthia launched an entrepreneurship program in China and works with accelerators like the European Innovation Academy and Global Social Benefit Institute. She previously served on the boards of the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, and Habitat for Humanity San Francisco.

Cynthia earned an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with honors from UC Berkeley.

Dr. John Dobard – Advancement Project



Dr. John Dobard is the Director of Political Voice at Advancement Project California, where he leads efforts to eliminate racial and economic disparities in political participation and government responsiveness through policy advocacy and data-based collaborative action. Most recently, Dr. Dobard helped establish the Census Policy Advocacy Network (CPAN), a statewide coalition of organizations that successfully encouraged the state to develop a robust 2020 Census outreach program funded by an unprecedented investment of \$187 million. He has also worked with coalitions across the state to use the California Voting Rights Act to secure equitable electoral systems. Originally from the San Bernardino area, Dr. Dobard attended Riverside City College and received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. He also earned a master's degree and doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago.

Kathay Feng – California Common Cause

Kathay Feng is Common Cause's National Redistricting Director. Feng has led Common Cause's work to challenge partisan and incumbent gerrymandering, through litigation, state-based organizing around ballot initiatives and legislation and creating new platforms for community-based redistricting. As Executive Director of California Common Cause, she championed and won election and redistricting reforms, stronger government sunshine and accountability laws, campaign finance reforms, stronger net neutrality laws, and the voting rights of traditionally disenfranchised communities.



Kathay is the architect of California's Citizens Redistricting Commission, leading the multi-year effort to study, write, and pass the two initiatives, Propositions 11 and 20, that created the commission and new community-focused process. She also led efforts that secured passage of California laws bringing online voter registration and same day registration to the state.

Before joining Common Cause in 2005, she headed the Voting Rights and Anti-Discrimination Unit at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. She serves, or has served, on numerous boards including the California Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Voter Participation and Outreach, the LA County Human Relations Commission, and the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council. She is a graduate of Cornell University, and holds a law degree from UCLA School of Law.

Justin Levitt – Loyola Law School



A nationally recognized scholar of constitutional law and the law of democracy, Professor Justin Levitt recently returned to Loyola after serving as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. At DOJ, he primarily supported the Civil Rights Division's work on voting rights and protections against employment discrimination including LGBT rights in the workplace.

Levitt has been invited to testify before committees of the U.S. House and Senate, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, several state legislative bodies, and both federal and state courts. His research has been cited extensively in the media and the courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He maintains the website All About Redistricting tracking the process of state and federal redistricting around the country, including litigation.

Levitt served in various capacities for several presidential campaigns, including as the National Voter Protection Counsel in 2008, helping to run an effort ensuring that tens of millions of citizens could vote and have those votes counted. Before joining the faculty of Loyola Law School, he was counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, for five years. He also worked as in-house counsel to the country's largest independent voter registration and engagement operation, and at several nonprofit civil rights and civil liberties organizations.

Levitt served as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He holds a law degree and a masters degree in public administration from Harvard University, and was an articles editor for the Harvard Law Review. He is admitted to the bar in California, New Jersey, New York, and the District of Columbia, and to the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit, Ninth Circuit, and Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts in the Central District of California and Northern District of Florida.

Carlos Marquez – San Diego Redistricting Commission, Ret.

Carlos Marquez is the owner of CM3 Advocacy LLC, a Sacramento-based government affairs firm that represents public education and healthcare clients. He joined the team at Redistricting Partners in 2020 with over a decade of local government and statewide policymaking experience. Most recently, Carlos served on the executive committee of Proposition 13, a statewide public school bond campaign.

Prior to founding CM3 Advocacy in 2019, Carlos served as Senior Vice President, Government Affairs at the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) where he managed the organization’s legislative, budget, and regulatory priorities and interfaced with a host of school districts, county offices of education, city councils, the state legislature, and several state agencies.

In 2011, Carlos steered the citizen-led San Diego Redistricting Commission, as Vice-Chair, in adopting a map that was lauded fair, on-time and under-budget. Additionally, under Carlos’ leadership, the San Diego Redistricting Commission produced a map that preserved high-ranking communities of interest and established two new empowerment districts.

Since then, Carlos has helped advance the missions of national advocacy organizations that include the American Civil Liberties Union, United Way Worldwide, Service Employees International Union, and the LGBTQ Victory Fund.



Astrid Ochoa – Future of California Elections



Astrid Ochoa is the Executive Director of Future of California Elections. Ms. Ochoa has experience in implementing statewide reforms, policy analysis, government and public relations and leading cross-sector partnerships. She helped launch Future of California Elections, an innovative cross-sector collaboration to modernize California’s elections, building the organization from the ground-up. Previously, Ms. Ochoa worked at NALEO Educational Fund leading the organization’s national redistricting community engagement strategy. Ms. Ochoa was named one of 76 Influencers for The Sacramento Bee’s 2018 Influencer Series. She holds master’s degrees in public affairs and urban and regional planning from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Pomona College. Ms. Ochoa serves as adjunct faculty in the area of Governance and Policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs for the University of Minnesota. She was appointed for a second term to serve on the state Language Accessibility Advisory Committee by California Secretary of State Alex Padilla and is a former member of the Governing Board of the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni.

Myrna Pérez – Brennan Center

Myrna Pérez is director of the Brennan Center's Voting Rights and Elections Program, and leads the Program's research, advocacy, and litigation work nationwide. An expert on voting rights and election administration, she is the author of several nationally recognized reports and articles. Her work has been featured in media outlets across the country, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and MSNBC. She has testified before Congress and several state legislatures on a variety of voting rights related issues. She is a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School and has also served as an adjunct professor of clinical law at NYU School of Law.



Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Pérez was the Civil Rights Fellow at Relman, Dane & Colfax, a civil rights law firm in Washington, DC. She graduated from Columbia Law School, where she was a Lowenstein Public Interest Fellow. Following law school, Pérez clerked for Hon. Anita B. Brody of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and for Hon. Julio M. Fuentes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She previously served as the chair of the Election Law Committee of the City of New York Bar Association. Pérez is the recipient of several awards, including the Puerto Rican Bar Association Award for Excellence in Academia and the New Jersey League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Award, and was named one of 2014's 50 Hispanic Influentials by Hispanic Business.

Pérez earned her undergraduate degree in political science from Yale University. She obtained a master's degree in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School, where she was the recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in Public Service. Prior to law school, she was a Presidential Management Fellow, serving as a policy analyst for the United States Government Accountability Office on issues including housing and health care.