

Sue Parker

California Assembly Chief Clerk

Session 1

The California Legislative Process

Part 1: The California Legislative Process
February 14, 2024 | **11:00 am - 12:00 pm**



Sue Parker was first elected and sworn in as Chief Clerk of the California State Assembly on January 9, 2020. Mrs. Parker is the 40th individual to serve as Chief Clerk since 1849 and the first woman to hold the position. Before becoming Chief Clerk, Mrs. Parker had been the Assistant Chief Clerk. In that role, she oversaw the operations of the Assembly Desk, advocating for the increased use of information technology to streamline the processing of bills and updated the official Chief Clerk website to allow greater access to the legislative process. She began her career as a Senate Fellow and has held many roles within the office of the Chief Clerk, including being the first female Reading Clerk.

The Chief Clerk of the California State Assembly is one of three nonmember, nonpartisan officers elected by the Members of the Assembly at the beginning of each two-year session. The Chief Clerk serves as the Parliamentarian of the House. Under the direction of the Chief Clerk, the Chief Clerk's Office is responsible for publishing the official documents of the House; and keeping all the bills, papers, and records of the proceedings of the Assembly.

Luis Lopez

Director, Government Affairs
City of Hope

Session 1

The California Legislative Process

Part 2: Case Study - Interactive Learning
February 14, 2024 | 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



As director of government affairs, Luis helps craft and drive City of Hope's government relations efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. He deploys strategic advocacy programs to enlist policymakers and external stakeholders in supporting policies that expand patient access to expert cancer care and enable the pursuit of innovative life-saving research. Luis has devoted much of his professional career to advocating for access to comprehensive, high-quality care, particularly for underserved and underrepresented communities. Before joining City of Hope, Luis was director of government affairs for AltaMed Health Services, a federally qualified health center in Southern California. His tenure at AltaMed included four years as director of corporate communications and public affairs. Luis holds an MBA degree in healthcare administration from the University of Colorado, Denver, and a master's in public policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Pomona College.

Carol McGruder

Co-Chair African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC)

Session 2

Advocacy and Amplifying Our Voice

Part 1: *What is Advocacy?*

February 21, 2024 | **11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Part 2: *Community Engagement to Advance*

Policy: Case Study/Interactive Learning

February 21, 2024 | **12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**



Carol McGruder is a seasoned veteran of California's tobacco control experience. Carol is a senior project director, activist, researcher, and writer. She has worked in tobacco control since 1994. She is experienced in the fields of public policy, social marketing, media advocacy, global tobacco control, health education, community capacity/power building, and leadership development. She is a proud co-founding member and Co-Chairperson of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC). Created to inform the direction of tobacco control policy, practices, and priorities, the AATCLC works at the intersection of public health policy and social injustice. The AATCLC has been at the forefront of the national movement to restrict the sale of mentholated tobacco products, assisting municipalities across the country. They have fought resolutely against the decades of racialized tobacco industry targeting of the Black community and the resulting 45,000 Black lives lost each year from tobacco-induced diseases.

Carol and the AATCLC have received honors and accolades from many organizations including the Public Health Law Center, SRNT, American Legacy Foundation, and the San Francisco and Berkeley Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She served as NAACP Branch President for Berkeley, CA for two terms. She received the prestigious Biddy Mason "unsung shero" award in 2021.

Simeon Gant

Chief of Staff for Assemblymember
Corey Jackson

Session 3 Communicating with Legislators

*Part 1: Understanding California
Policymakers/Legislators*

February 28, 2024 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Simeon Gant is a government relations and public affairs consultant. He currently serves as Chief of Staff to California State Assemblyman Corey Jackson, DSW, MSW (D-Moreno Valley). Simeon has served as a legislative consultant in the California State Assembly and Senate since 1994 focusing on policy affecting civil rights, human services for foster youth and low-income citizens, health, public safety and K-12 education.

In 2008 he founded the community based non-profit Green Technical Education and Employment (Green Tech), teaching youth and young adults ages 15-21 about career opportunities in clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable living skills. Prior to his work in government, Simeon was a broadcast news and print journalist for NBC affiliate, KRNV News Channel 4 in Reno, Nevada and the Sacramento Observer newspaper in Sacramento, California. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications (Broadcast News) from California State University, Sacramento in 1992.

Ronald Coleman

Managing Director of Policy,
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Session 3

Communicating with Legislators

*Part 2: Communicating Effectively with
Policymakers/Legislators*

February 28, 2024 | 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



Ronald Coleman Baeza joined CPEHN in February 2021 as the Managing Policy Director. He leads CPEHN's statewide advocacy portfolio.

Prior to joining CPEHN, Ronald was the Director of Policy and Legislative Advocacy at Health Access California.

Ronald also managed his own advocacy firm and lobbied on behalf of the ACLU of California, the California Low-Income Consumers Coalition (CLICC), and the California Street Vendors Campaign. Ronald was also the Director of Government Affairs at the California Immigrant Policy Center, where he led numerous advocacy campaigns to improve the lives of California's immigrants.

Ronald received his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center, and his BA in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana. He is originally from New Jersey, and a member of their State Bar.

Katherine C Haynes, MBA

Sr. Program Officer,
California Health Care Foundation

Session 4

California Health Equity Policy and Translating Policy into Practice

Part 1: Health Equity and California Health Policy
March 6, 2024 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Katherine Haynes, MBA, has made a career of founding and leading new functions in complex organizations. She was the founding Director of Technology and Information Exchange at the University of California San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies where she pioneered and spread a method of community collaborative research. As the founding Executive Director of Diversity at Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Northern California, she and her team transformed language access and fostered disparities reduction work in the health care delivery system. In each leadership role, she created high-performing teams and led them to forge new ways of conducting research and delivering service to advance health equity. In her professional and volunteer roles, Katherine has led strategy development and governance, and overseen organizational change. As a consultant, she has worked across industries to build health and social services strategies. Currently, she leads philanthropic efforts to advance Black health equity through health systems change at California Health Care Foundation. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for American Jewish World Service and is a foresight practitioner and instructor for Institute for the Future.

Dr. Jerry P. Abraham

Director of Vaccine Programs, Kedren
Community Health Center in South Los Angeles

Session 4

California Health Equity Policy and Translating Policy into Practice

*Part 2: Policy as a Tool for Achieving Health
Equity: Translating Policy into Practice*
March 6, 2024 | 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



Dr. Jerry P. Abraham, MD MPH CMQ, is a renowned Physician and Public Health advocate who currently serves as the Director & Chief Vaccinologist of the CDU-KEDREN Mobile Street Medicine program, a joint initiative. Kedren Community Health Center is a Historically Black Institution HBI, Federally Qualified Health Center FOHC, and Acute Psychiatric Hospital located in South Los Angeles. Dr. Abraham also holds a joint Faculty appointment in the Departments of Family & Community Medicine and Psychiatry at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, the 5th Historically Black Medical School in the nation and located in South Los Angeles. Dr. Abraham received his Medical Degree from the University of Texas School of Medicine and completed his Family Medicine Residency at the USC Keck School of Medicine. He also holds a Master of Public Health from Emory University and completed a Fellowship in Injury Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Abraham is currently the President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association LACMA, Trustee of the California Medical Association CMA, and Vice Chair of the American Medical Association AMA Council on Constitution & Bylaws. Additionally, Dr. Abraham is a member of the National Medical Association NMA and serves on the Board of Directors of the Charles R. Drew Medical Society, the Historically Black County Medical Society in Los Angeles. He serves on numerous boards including the Urban Voices Project. Dr. Abraham is a nationally-recognized leader in developing health policy, ending health disparities, advancing health equity, and achieving racial & medical justice.

Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, Ph.D., MPH

District 9 Long Beach City Council Member
Director, UC Irvine Center for Statistical
Consulting and ICTS Biostatistics,
Epidemiology and Research Design Unit

Session 5 Navigating Local Politics for Statewide Change

*Part 1: Effective Organizing Locally to
Change Policy at the State Level*
March 13, 2024 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Councilmember Dr. Ricks-Oddie was elected to the Long Beach City Council in November 2022. She is a statistician by profession and an epidemiologist by trade. For over a decade Councilmember Dr. Ricks-Oddie has lived with her husband Keith and their two children in the Deforest Park Neighborhood in North Long Beach. She has spent that time practicing civic leadership in Long Beach, serving on the DeForest Park Neighborhood Association Board, North Long Beach Neighborhood Alliance, Uptown Property and Business Improvement District, Citizens Police Complaint Commission, and the Long Beach Planning Commission as chair.

Councilmember Dr. Ricks-Oddie is focused on quality-of-life priorities that protect our residents, strengthen our neighborhoods, and help our community thrive. Prior to serving as councilmember, she helped lead the cities Health Equity outreach and focus groups associated with Framework for Racial Reconciliation that is currently administered through the Long Beach Office of Equity.

Dr. Amber Johnson

Associate Professor in the Department of Health Science at California State University at Long Beach

Session 5 Navigating Local Politics for Statewide Change

*Part 1: Effective Organizing Locally to
Change Policy at the State Level*
March 13, 2024 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Dr. Amber Johnson is a teacher, public health scholar, and community leader. Dr. Johnson's career has focused on reducing inequities and disparities among marginalized populations. Dr. Johnson is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Science at California State University at Long Beach. She uses this position to inspire and embolden the next generation of leaders to develop innovative solutions to public health challenges facing our society. Dr. Johnson has developed partnerships with colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and local governments to conduct community empowered research projects, HIV prevention, community health prevention education community health assessment, and outreach. Currently, she is funded by the National Institutes of Health to study how discrimination, emotion, and cardiovascular disease risk factors can lead to health disparities among Black women.

Dr. Johnson has been actively involved in promoting equity in the City of Long Beach. She has assisted the City of Long Beach's city-wide equity efforts by conducting a qualitative analysis of townhall and listening sessions during the 2020 Framework for Reconciliation. She also leads the Black Health Equity Collaborative, a collaborative of Black serving organizations whose mission is to address health inequities and disparities in Black communities through one powerful voice.

Dr. Johnson has received numerous awards for her teaching, research, and service to the community. She also enjoys membership in national organizations including the American Heart Association, American Public Health Association, American Psychosomatic Society and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Fredericka McGee

Chief of Staff for
Supervisor Holly Mitchell

Session 5 Navigating Local Politics for Statewide Change

*Part 2: Case Study: Effective Organizing Locally
to Effective Policy*

March 13, 2024 | 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



Fredericka McGee began serving as Chief of Staff for Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell in February 2021. Ms. McGee ensures timely and effective completion of policies and initiatives through an equity lens. She is a strategic advisor to the Supervisor and senior deputy staff. She also manages team operations including personnel, administrative, budget and constituent engagement matters. She also creates and maintains processes to streamline operations to best serve the needs of the 2nd Supervisorial District.

She has received several awards including recently receiving the 2019 Frances Newell Carr Award from Women Lawyers of Sacramento and being named Sacramento County Bar Association's 2016 Distinguished Lawyer of the Year. In 2015 she was recognized by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Sacramento, the Yvonne Brathwaite Burke Award from the California Legislative Black Caucus, the Sacramento Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Award, the Wiley Manuel Bar Association named her the 2013 Attorney of the Year and The Recorder named her one of 40 Women Leaders in the Law for 2012 for her networking skills. In 2011, the California Legislative Black Caucus awarded her the Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Leadership Award and she was identified as one of the Top 100 Political Warriors by the Capitol Weekly. She received the Wiley Manuel Law Foundation's 2008 Diversity on the Bench award, the 2008 Lawyer of the Year award from California Association of Black Lawyers and also named California Lawyer's Attorney of the Year and one of the Daily Journal's Top 100 Lawyers of 2007.

McGee is a native of Long Beach, California and proud to return to her Southern California roots to lead as Chief of Staff for Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell.