

**Indiana Response to Hate Conference**

**August 17, 2017**

**Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel**

**Presented by the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate  
and the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana**

**DRAFT Agenda**

**8:00 AM: Registration and Continental Breakfast Opens.** Please plan to arrive by 8:30 AM to receive your registration packet and breakfast. The conference will start promptly at 9:00 AM.

**9:00 AM: Amy Nelson of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana.**

Welcome to Attendees

**9:05-9:10 AM: David Sklar of the Jewish Community Relations Council.**

Jewish Community Relations Council's mission is to safeguard the rights of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world. They also protect, preserve, and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic.

**Introduction of Miriam Zeidman**

**9:10-10:00 AM: Miriam Zeidman of the Anti-Defamation League: *Hate Crimes 101*.**

This opening session will define the differences between hate crimes and bias incidents. Discussion will include why state hate crime laws are needed. Do hate crime laws regulate thought or speech? What makes hate crimes different from other crimes?

**10:00-10:05 AM: Tony Mason of the Indianapolis Urban League.**

The Indianapolis Urban League's mission is to assist African-Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged individuals to achieve social and economic empowerment.

**Introduction of Jeannine Bell**

**10:05 AM-10:35 AM: Jeannine Bell, Author and Indiana University Law Professor: *Documenting Hoosier Hate*.**

Jeannine Bell is the author of two books researching levels of hate, hate crimes, and the impact of segregation. At our conference, she will explore Indiana's historical past which includes hate crimes, lynching, sundown towns, and prevalence of hate based organizations. Only by acknowledging our past history can we all work together to overcome the long term impact of hate and trauma.

**10:35-10:45 PM: Rima Khan Shahid of the Muslim Alliance of Indiana.**

The Muslim Alliance of Indiana envisions a future in which thriving and integrated Hoosier Muslims serve their broader communities and the state, and in which they are considered as an indispensable component of Indiana's political, economic, religious and social fabrics. It also works towards building a broad Hoosier Muslim community that is strong in its diversity, inclusive, and is capable of effective collective action to preserve its civil rights and liberties, along with those of other vulnerable groups.

**10:45 AM-11:00 AM: Break**

**11:00-11:15 AM: Amber O'Haver of the Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC): *Using People First Language***

People with disabilities are – first and foremost – people who have individual abilities, interests and needs. They are moms, dads, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, friends, neighbors, coworkers, students and teachers. About 54 million Americans -- one out of every five individuals -- have a disability. Their contributions enrich our communities and society as they live, work and share their lives. The language a society uses to refer to persons with disabilities shapes its beliefs and ideas about them. One of the major improvements in communicating with and about people with disabilities is "People-First Language." People-First Language emphasizes the person, not the disability. By placing the person first, the disability is no longer the primary, defining characteristic of an individual, but one of several aspects of the whole person. People-First Language is an objective way of acknowledging, communicating, and reporting on disabilities. It eliminates generalizations and stereotypes, by focusing on the person rather than the disability.

**Introduction of Lydia X. Z. Brown** (*Note: The Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC) has graciously contributed to the costs for Lydia X. Z. Brown's participation at this Conference.*)

**11:15 AM-Noon: Lydia X. Z. Brown, Disability Rights Advocate.**

Numerous disability and criminology studies, over many years, indicate a high crime rate against people with disabilities. However, the U.S. Office on Crime Statistics reported in 2002 that in many cases, crime victims with disabilities have never participated in the criminal justice process, "even if they have been repeatedly and brutally victimized." There are a number of challenges for disability-based hate crime reporting.

For instance, hate crimes against people with disabilities are often never reported to law enforcement agencies. The victim may be ashamed, afraid of retaliation, or afraid of not being believed. The victim may be reliant on a caregiver or other third party to report the crime, who fails to do so. Or, the crime may be reported, but there may be no reporting of the victim's disability, especially in cases where the victim has an invisible disability that they themselves do not divulge.

Perhaps the biggest reason for underreporting of disability-based hate crimes is that disability-based bias crimes are all too frequently mislabeled as "abuse" and never directed from the social service or education systems to the criminal justice system. Even very serious crimes — including rape, assault, and vandalism — are too-frequently labeled "abuse." Ableism - a set of practices and beliefs that assign inferior value (worth) to people who have developmental, emotional, physical, or psychiatric disabilities contributes significantly to how persons with disabilities are viewed in our society.

**Noon-12:30 PM: Lunch Break**

**12:30-12:40 PM: Amy Nelson of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana.**

**Introducing the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate**

**Performance by Preacher C (Cornelius Shaw)**

**12:40-12:45 PM: Introduction by the Indiana Youth Group. (pending)**

**Introduction of Judy Shepard**

**12:45-1:30 PM: Judy Shepard: *The Legacy of Matthew Shepard.***

In October 1998, Judy and Dennis Shepard lost their 21-year-old son Matthew to a murder motivated by anti-gay hate. Their ordeal moved thousands of people around the world to attend vigils and rallies in Matthew's honor. Determined to prevent their son's fate from befalling others, Judy and Dennis established the Matthew Shepard Foundation to carry on Matthew's legacy by embracing the just causes he had championed. This includes working for advancement of equal civil rights for gay, lesbian and transgender community, hate crime legislation at the State and Federal level and raising awareness using programs developed by the Foundation. Judy is determined to use her grief over her son's death to make a difference. She is an accomplished speaker to audiences nationwide and internationally about what they can do as individuals and communities to make this world a more accepting place for everyone regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, and expression. All proceeds from her speaking engagements go to support the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

**1:30-1:45: Break**

**1:45-2:15 PM: LaLa B. Zannell of the Anti-Violence Project (invited)**

AVP empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected communities and allies to end all forms of violence through organizing and education, and supports survivors through counseling and advocacy.

**2:15-2:25 PM: Kelly Rota, US Attorney's Office (invited)**

**2:25-2:30 PM: Kerry Steiner of the Indiana Native American/Indian Affairs Commission.**

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission studies and makes recommendations to appropriate federal, state and local governmental agencies in the areas of health, housing, education, employment and civil rights. Funding is made possible from sales of the Indiana Native American specialty license plate.

**2:30-2:35 PM: Barbara Bolling-Williams of the NAACP Indiana State Conference.**

**Introduction of Hilary Shelton**

**2:35-3:15 PM: Hilary Shelton of the NAACP-Washington DC Bureau: *21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge to Hate Crimes: Prevention, Analysis, Solution.***

As one of our national leaders in speaking against hate and hate based incidents, Mr. Shelton will share his experiences with attendees in combating and addressing hate. He will discuss the challenges we face by allowing division and hate, and the successes we can achieve through a combined, coordinated effort. Hate can have no home.

**3:15-3:20 PM: TBD-Introduction of Pardeep Kaleeka (pending)**

**3:20-4:00 PM: Pardeep Kaleeka: *A Community's Response to Hate.***

In the wake of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin shooting in 2012, Serve 2 Unite emerged in a spirit of defiance, meeting the hate behind the murders with fearless and creative compassion. Rooted in the principles of service to others and optimism in the face of adversity, Serve 2 Unite encourages young people of all backgrounds to value humanity and to aspire to live a genuine, honest life as a peacemaker.

**4:00-4:25 PM: Legislator Panel to be led by David Sklar.**

**Panelists Pending**

**4:25-4:30 PM:**

**Michael Thomas, Spoken Word Artist**

**Closing Comments**

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (Note: bios being added as received)

**Jeannine Bell:** A nationally-recognized scholar in the area of policing and hate crime, Bell has written extensively on hate crime and criminal justice issues. Her first book, *Policing Hatred: Law Enforcement, Civil Rights, and Hate Crime* (New York University Press 2002) is an ethnography of a police hate crime unit. Her book titled *Police and Policing Law* (Ashgate 2006) is an edited collection that explores law and society scholarship on the police. Her newest book is *Hate Thy Neighbor: Move-in Violence and the Persistence of Racial Segregation in American Housing* (NYU Press, 2013).



Bell's research is broadly interdisciplinary, touching on both political science and law. In that regard, she has written in the area of qualitative methodology and she is co-author of *Gaining Access: A Practical and Theoretical Guide for Qualitative Researchers* (AltaMira Press 2003). Her scholarship has appeared in the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, *Rutgers Race & the Law Review*, *Punishment and Society*, and the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*. An associate editor of the *Law and Society Review*, Bell has served a trustee of the Law and Society Association and as a member of the American Political Association's Presidential Taskforce on Political Violence and Terrorism. She was appointed Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law in 2015.

**Barbara Bolling-Williams:** Barbara Bolling-Williams, an alumna of Gary's West Side High School, returned to her roots in 1991 to start her own law practice. She is married to Terence Williams Sr. and together they have five children, three granddaughters, Arionna, Justice and Nyla and a grandson, Ma-khi. The product of a school teacher and brick mason, her mother, instilled in her the desire to give of herself to her community. Her sister Carolyn passed in 1995.



Attorney Bolling Williams earned her bachelor's degree from GMI (now known as Kettering University) and her law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law. Ms. Bolling-Williams is a solo practitioner with an emphasis on plaintiff's issues. She formerly served as an adjunct professor at Valpo School of Law and a part-staff attorney with the Lake County Office of Family and Children.

In addition to family commitments, her passion is working for and with community-based organizations. Ms. Bolling-Williams, president of the Gary Branch from 1998 to 2004, has been the NAACP President of the Indiana State Conference, since October of 2003. In 2011, she was elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors, having formerly served as a member of the NAACP Foundation for nine years. At the Board level, she chairs the ACT-SO Committee, Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee and serves on the following Board Committees: Legal, Environmental Climate Justice, and Advocacy and Policy. Because of her extensive work with NAACP and other not-for-profit organizations, she is often called upon for speaking engagements and diversity training workshops and seminars.

She is a member of First Baptist Church where she is a member of the Bessie Griggs Mission and Recording Secretary of the Alter Guild. She serves on the Board of MWN-MOTTEP (Multicultural Wellness Network-Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program), is treasurer of the James C. Kimbrough Bar Association, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Attorney Bolling Williams has been blessed with many honors and awards, including the 2016 National State Conference President; two Regional State Conference President of the Year; Indiana State Conference Lauren Henry Award; Soror of the Year; featured alumna, Valparaiso, 2004; Valpo Black Law Student Honoree in 2004; NAACP/

NBA 100<sup>th</sup> & 103rd National Convention Continuing Legal Education Summit Panelist on voting rights, just to name a few. She is especially proud to have served on the successful team that challenged the closing of the early voting sites in 2008 in Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. Further she was one of a four member team that prevented the closing of the IV-D Court in Gary.

Having been taught at an early age, “*To whom much is given, much is required*” Attorney Bolling-Williams uses all of her God-given gifts and talents for the betterment of her community by helping those in need. She has a strong commitment to faith, family and community. Barbara believes “The only thing necessary for evil to succeed is for men and women of good conscience to do, or say, nothing.”

**Lydia X. Z. Brown:** Lydia X. Z. Brown (Autistic Hoya) is a genderqueer and transracially/transnationally adopted East Asian autistic activist, writer, and speaker whose work has largely focused on violence against multiply-marginalized disabled people, especially institutionalization, incarceration, and policing. They have worked to advance transformative change through organizing in the streets, writing legislation, conducting anti-ableism workshops, testifying at regulatory and policy hearings, and disrupting institutional complacency everywhere from the academy to state agencies and the nonprofit-industrial complex. At present, Lydia serves as Chairperson of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, founding board member of the Alliance for Citizen-Directed Services, stakeholder representative to the Massachusetts One Care Implementation Council overseeing health care for Medicaid/Medicare dually-eligible individuals, and board member of the Autism Women’s Network. In collaboration with E. Ashkenazy and Moré-nike Giwa-Onaiwu, Lydia is the lead editor and visionary behind *All the Weight of Our Dreams*, the first-ever anthology of writings and artwork by autistic people of color, published in June 2017.



Most recently, Lydia designed and taught a course on critical disability theory, public policy, and intersectional social movements as a Visiting Lecturer at Tufts University’s Experimental College, where they will be returning in Fall 2017. Lydia is a past Patricia Morrissey Disability Policy Fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership, where they focused on employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities, and past Holley Law Fellow at the National LGBTQ Task Force, where they focused on reproductive justice and disability rights policy issues. Additionally, Lydia worked for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network for several years as part of the national public policy team, where Lydia worked on various issues relating to criminal justice and disability, healthcare disparities and service delivery models, and research and employment disparities.

Lydia has been honored by the White House, the Washington Peace Center, the National Council on Independent Living, and the Disability Policy Consortium of Massachusetts. In 2015, Pacific Standard named Lydia a Top 30 Thinker under 30, and Mic named Lydia to its inaugural list of 50 impactful leaders, cultural influencers, and breakthrough innovators. Their work has been featured in various places, including *Religion, Disability, and Interpersonal Violence*, *Barriers & Belonging: Personal Narratives of Disability*, *The Asian American Literary Review*, *Feminist Perspectives on Orange is the New Black*, *Criptiques*, *Torture in Healthcare Settings*, *QDA: A Queer Disability Anthology*, *Films for the Feminist Classroom*, *Tikkun*, *Disability Intersections*, *Black Girl Dangerous*, *hardboiled magazine*, *POOR Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Sojourners*, *The Establishment*, *Al Jazeera America*, *NBC News Asian America*, *HerCampus*, *AfterEllen*, and *Vice Broadly*. Lydia is now a Public Interest Law Scholar at Northeastern University School of Law, where they co-founded the Disability Justice Caucus.

**Pardeep Kaleka:** Pardeep is a Licensed Psychotherapist with D & S Healing Center specializing in utilizing a trauma-informed approach to treat survivors of assault, abuse and acts of violence. A native

of Punjab, India, Pardeep Singh Kaleka grew up in Milwaukee and received his B.A. at Marquette University, and M.S. at Alverno College in Community Psychology. As a former Police Officer and Educator in the inner city of Milwaukee Pardeep understands the difficulty facing our communities locally and abroad. He firmly believes that the lamp of knowledge, truth, and wisdom outshines all the darkness in the world.



Both in his practice and out, Pardeep's passion remains one of healing and recovery. An example of this is Serve2Unite, an organization he founded in response to tragedy. This organization engages youth in service learning, artistic response, and global engagement to build positive school environments and communal identity addressing conflict and de-radicalization from a trauma-informed lens. Over the past 4 years, the work of Serve2Unite has been locally and internationally recognized as the recipient of The Guru Nanak Award, and The Parliament of World Religions for the work of building safe, inclusive communities. Partnership organizations include; Arts@Large, Against Violent Extremism, The Forgiveness Project, Interfaith Council of Milwaukee, Not In Our Town.

**Tony Mason:** Tony Mason, is a leader with a passion for service, and has dedicated his entire career to initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life for Indianapolis residents. Tony is only the third president in the history of the Indianapolis Urban League succeeding Joseph Slash and the late, Sam Jones.



Prior to joining the Indianapolis Urban League, Tony served as the Relationship Development Director for Companies With A Mission now known as trueU. While working at trueU, Tony recruited businesses and corporations who served non-profits through the annual \$1 million Super Service Challenge and benefitted personal and professional leadership development training services.

From 2009-2012, Tony served as the Senior Vice President of the 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee, and was responsible for providing administrative oversight and staff support for the Near Eastside Legacy Project and various community outreach efforts ranging from neighborhood redevelopment to educational programs to environmental initiatives to cultural arts projects to human impact initiatives. Over 200,000 Indiana residents, young and old participated in various Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee and NFL initiatives.

Prior to joining the 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee, Tony served as the Executive Director of the Circle City Classic for eight years building upon the Classic's tradition of staging one of the nation's largest, Black college football events. As Executive Director, Tony led a diverse team that included the Circle City Classic Executive Committee, Organizing Committee, staff, and over 500 volunteers. Under his leadership, the annual Classic weekend consistently attracted over 100,000 attendees generating an estimated economic impact of nearly \$15 million for the city of Indianapolis, annually. Additionally, Tony and his team provided nearly \$100,000 for scholarships awarded through the Indiana Black Expo/Circle City Classic Scholarship Program and over 5,000 youths benefited from various Classic youth initiatives.

Before joining the Circle City Classic staff, he worked in administrative positions with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the Amateur Athletic Association of USA (AAU), Indiana Black Expo Incorporated (IBE), Miami (OH) University, and Wichita State University.

Tony has received several awards including the Indianapolis Business Journal's "Forty under 40 – Indy's Bright Young Gems" Award, The Center for Leadership Development's Achievement in Business Award,

The Rev. Charles Williams Award presented at Indiana Sport Corporation's 2012 Pathfinder Awards Luncheon, McDonald's Black History Maker of Today Award, and the Black Coaches and Administrators' Images of Excellence Award.

Currently, Tony is a member of the Indiana Youth Institute's Board of Directors and he serves on steering or advisory committees with the United Way of Central Indiana, the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee, Race Cultural Relations Leadership Network, LISC 2020 Great Places, the Central Indiana Regional Economic Development Plan, and the Indiana Sports Corporation. Previously, he served on the boards of the Indianapolis Urban League, and the Indiana AAU Boys' Basketball Committee. He was also a founding member and the first president of the Indianapolis Urban League's Young Professionals. Tony earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Miami (OH) University located in Oxford, Ohio. He and his wife, Joy Mason, have two sons, Miles and John Michael.

**Amy Nelson:** Amy Nelson began as the first Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) in October 2011. She has worked in fair housing nonprofit organizations since 1997. From December 1997 to September 2009, she was the Executive Director of the Fair Housing of the Dakotas (FHD) serving North and South Dakota. The FHD had a number of groundbreaking cases addressing housing discrimination against those with disabilities and families with children and sexual harassment against women. From October 2009 to September 2011, Amy worked as the Director of Systemic Investigations and Enforcement at Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) of Richmond, VA which served the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her work there primarily focused on addressing systemic lending discrimination against minorities, rental discrimination against those with disabilities and discriminatory advertising. Prior to her work in fair housing, she worked in nonprofit management in Washington, DC and with the Cargill-Nutrena Feeds Division (Indiana and Minnesota locations). Amy received a Bachelor of Science degree in International Business and Political Science from Minnesota State University-Moorhead of Moorhead, MN and received her Master of Business Administration from Averett College of Danville, VA. The FHCCI recently launched the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate project.

**Amber O'Haver:** In January of 2016, Amber O'Haver took on a challenging new role with the Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC) as their new Executive Director. Prior to this, she worked as Deputy Director for accessABILITY, Center for Independent Living and as the Center's Housing Program Manager. O'Haver started with accessABILITY as one of their Independent Living Advocates beginning in August 2011. Previous to her work with accessABILITY, O'Haver worked as a Disability Marketing and Patient Care Consultant for a medical supply company and as a Public Relations Specialist for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana. O'Haver has worked and volunteered as a disability rights supporter since 1997, the same year she acquired her own disability. Steadfast in advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, she is a member of the Back Home in Indiana Alliance Steering Committee and the ADA-Indiana Steering Committee and began serving on the Indiana Disability Rights Commission and the Indiana Institute on Disability Consumer Advisory Council in October of this past year. She is also a Board of Directors Member for the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI). O'Haver has served on the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Sports Program Board of Directors and the Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability for Marion County and as Ms. Wheelchair Indiana 2012, she shared her platform message of ensuring affordable, accessible, integrated, safe housing for people with disabilities and advocated for a stronger deinstitutionalization movement within Indiana. O'Haver received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and completed her graduate course work in Public Relations at Ball State University. Amber lives in Avon, IN with her husband, Chad, and their adopted rescue dog, Nugget. She can be reached at [aohaver@insilc.org](mailto:aohaver@insilc.org).

**Rima Khan Shahid:** Rima Shahid joined the Muslim Alliance of Indiana (MAI) in June 2015 and has been the Executive Director of MAI since October 2015. As Executive Director, Rima is mandated to lead the implementation of MAI's mission of cultivating interfaith harmony, building a diverse inclusive Hoosier Muslim community, and collective action to preserve civil rights liberties for all Hoosiers. Within a short span of time, Rima has significantly enhanced MAI's impact by developing seminars, workshops, other initiatives to further community. She is a regular speaker at political and inter-faith events.



A native Hoosier, Rima attended Cathedral High School and IUPUI. Having spent more than a decade in the Middle East, and worked as Trade Development Officer at Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain, Rima brings a unique perspective and diverse range of approaches to community outreach objectives.

**Cornelius “Preacher C” Shaw:** Preacher C is a West Michigan native Spoken Word poet that explores the greater scheme of everyday life via pen and paper. Preach believes the first responsibility of any artist is to remind the audience of their humanity. As such, his poems attempt to capture the human experience and display it from his unique perspective. Whether contemplating faith, love, and politics—or responding to pop culture and simply having fun—Preach hopes to inspire others and encourage their expressions both on and off stage. He can be contacted via the following:



PreachThatPoem.com + YouTube.com/PreachThatPoem

Facebook.com/PreachThatPoem + Twitter: @PreachAboutThat

Instagram: @Preacher\_C

**Hilary Shelton:** Hilary O. Shelton, presently serves as the Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy/Director to the NAACP’s Washington Bureau. The Washington Bureau is the Federal legislative and national public policy division of the over 500,000- member, 2,200-membership unit, national



civil rights organization. In this capacity, Hilary is responsible for advocating the federal public policy issue agenda of the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization in the United States to the U.S. Government. Hilary's government affairs portfolio includes crucial issues such as affirmative action, equal employment protection, access to quality education, stopping gun violence, ending racial profiling, abolition of the death penalty, access to comprehensive healthcare, voting rights protection, federal sentencing reform and a host of civil and human rights enforcement, expansion and protection issues.

Hilary serves on a number of national boards of directors, national and federal advisory organizations and federal policy advocacy coalitions. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a family of six brothers and sisters, Hilary holds degrees in political science, communications, and legal studies from Howard University in Washington, D.C., the University of Missouri in St. Louis, and Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, respectively.

Hilary presently lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife Paula Young Shelton and their three sons, masters Caleb Wesley, Aaron Joshua, and Noah Otis Young Shelton.

**Judy Shepard:** Anti-Hate Crimes Activist and Mother of Matthew Shepard. Judy Shepard draws from personal tragedy to promote a greater understanding of LGBTQ issues and empower audiences to embrace human dignity and diversity through outreach and advocacy in their own communities.

In 1998, Judy lost her son Matthew to a murder motivated by anti-gay hate that shocked and captivated the nation. Turning tragedy into a crusade for justice, this leading voice in the LGBTQ rights movement has since established The Matthew Shepard Foundation to carry on her son’s legacy. Later, she spearheaded The Matthew Shepard Act, which expanded the federal hate-crime law to include crimes based on gender and sexual orientation.



The author of the best-seller, “The Meaning of Matthew,” Judy offers an intimate look at how her life and the entire fight for equal rights changed when her son was killed. With a name now synonymous with activism and equal rights, Judy leaves an indelible imprint with her words, compassion and raw honesty as she urges audiences to make their schools and communities safer for everyone, regardless of race, sex, religion, or gender identity and/or expression.

**David Sklar:** David Sklar has been the JCRC’s Director of Government Affairs since 2007. David has become a leading advocate on various public policy issues including human service funding, poverty, public education and immigration. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Indianapolis Immigrant Welcome Center and also serves as a board member or officer of numerous domestic issue coalitions, including three years as President of the statewide Indiana Coalition for Human Services.



He earned his bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a minor in Communications Studies from Ball State University, and a master’s degree in Public Affairs from IU’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Before coming to the JCRC in 2007, David worked at the Jewish Community Center of Indianapolis in the Camping and Youth Services Departments. While an undergraduate at Ball State, David was an active member and President of the Ball State Hillel. Contact David: [dsklar@indyjcrc.org](mailto:dsklar@indyjcrc.org)

**Kerry Steiner:** Kerry Steiner has served as the executive director of the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission since March 2015. Her involvement in Indiana’s Native American Indian community began in 1992; she is a former Vice Chair of the American Indian Center of Indiana and has served as the volunteer editor with them since 2008 as social media manager, website manager and senior editor of both the monthly e-newsletter and quarterly print newsletter.

Following her education at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, Kerry joined the U.S. Army and worked as a journalist for 13 years and served in Alaska, Maryland, Indiana and Panama. Her love of research, writing and a desire to tell people’s stories created a platform for those whose voice is not always heard.

In the past Kerry served on a three-year pilot grant program with the City of Indianapolis to combat gang affiliation with adult males coming out of the prison system as well as creating gang prevention programs for at-risk youth. Other advocacy involvement includes serving children with disabilities and she served for three years as board president of REACH for a Difference, an au-



tism resource organization in Abilene, Texas. Kerry has owned a genealogy business for 25 years, and in her free time enjoys traveling and the arts. She has one daughter who is an Air Force veteran.

**Michael Thomas** (bio pending):

**Miriam Zeidman:** Miriam Zeidman serves as the Anti-Defamation League's Midwest Civil Rights Counsel, based in Chicago. In that role, she advances ADL's civil rights work in an 18½ -state region that extends from Wyoming to Delaware. Her responsibilities include training law enforcement and educators; monitoring and testifying on state legislation; working on *amicus* briefs; and addressing discrimination complaints. Before joining ADL, Miriam worked as a litigation attorney at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. She received her B.A. from Northwestern University and her law degree from Stanford Law School.

Other bios pending...