

Seattle Journal for Social Justice

Volume 20 | Issue 2

Article 7

3-15-2022

About the Authors

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Recommended Citation

(2022) "About the Authors," *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*: Vol. 20 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/sjsj/vol20/iss2/7>

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About the Authors

REBECCA DIXON

NELP is led by Executive Director Rebecca Dixon. Rebecca is a respected national leader in federal workers' rights advocacy and the go-to resource for state and local worker movements centered on racial, gender and economic justice and dignity in the workplace. Rebecca's motivation for advancing workers' rights and commitment to economic justice is deeply rooted in her lived experience growing up in rural Mississippi at the intersection of race, class, and gender—characteristics that have long defined our ability to participate in our democracy and economy. As the descendant of enslaved people and daughter of sharecroppers and domestic workers, Rebecca knows firsthand what is lost when workers of color are relegated to the lowest rungs of our labor market, without respect, rights, and protections.

SEPIA COLEMAN

Sepia Coleman worked as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and home health aide when the COVID-19 pandemic began to ravage the country. Shortly into the pandemic, however, she got sick with the virus twice and was hospitalized before having to heal at home alone. She still has longterm effects from COVID. Sepia experienced first-hand the struggles of being an essential worker in the time of COVID-19, with few employer protections in place. Sepia was not compensated by either of her jobs for sick leave during her two bouts with COVID. She was later terminated from her job because she could not do the CNA job requirements. Prior to the pandemic, Sepia was on the frontlines of the Memphis Fight for \$15 labor movement and has been an outspoken advocate for healthcare employees. Currently, Sepia is a residential tech support person through Case Management, which provides assistance to persons with multiple diagnoses.

ROSALINDA GUILLEN

Rosalinda Guillen is the founder of Community to Community (C2C) and a lead strategist and visionary within the non-hierarchical ecofeminist leadership of C2C. Her perspective is fundamentally influenced by her introduction to the multi-racial, working-class community organizing model of the Rainbow Coalition, the Cesar Chavez house meeting model, The World Social Forum, the Landless Workers Movement (MST) of Brazil, and growing up a farmworker in La Conner, WA. Rosalinda has organized farmworkers in Washington State and the strawberry fields of Salinas, CA. She has represented farmworkers in the legislatures of California and Washington State and in ongoing policy and Movement building dialogues on immigration issues, climate change, labor rights, trade agreements, ecofeminism, and strengthening the food sovereignty movement towards a Solidarity Economy.

MAGGIE HANNON

Margaret (Maggie) Hannon is a 2022 J.D. Candidate at Seattle University School of Law. Prior to law school, Maggie graduated from the University of Portland with a B.A. in Political Science. After college, Maggie volunteered with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest and the Northwest Justice Project (NJP) in Yakima, Washington where she assisted NJP's Farmworker Unit with outreach efforts at farmworker housing camps throughout Washington. After volunteering for a year, she worked as a Courtroom Clerk with the King County Superior Court. During law school, Maggie worked with the Criminal Justice Division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office, with Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala in Tacoma, Washington, and with the Civil Rights Clinic at the Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law. After law school, Maggie will be working as a Judicial Clerk for Judge Egan in the Oregon Court of Appeals.

RICHARD BALES

Rick Bales is a faculty member and former dean at Ohio Northern University Law School. He teaches, writes, and speaks on a wide variety of topics related to labor/employment/dispute resolution. Before COVID and the military coup, he traveled frequently to Yangon, Myanmar, to provide dispute resolution training to the union representing workers in garment factories and to assist in providing skills training in the local law schools.

BEN WALDRON

Ben Waldron is a recent graduate of the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law. In law school, Ben was the Citations Editor for the Law Review Editorial Board and an intellectual property research assistant. Since graduating from law school in 2021, Ben has worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Ohio.

MYNOR LOPEZ

Mynor Lopez is a third-year law student with a background in public policy and legislation. Prior to attending law school, he worked for the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises. During his time with those agencies, he worked to address the needs of disenfranchised and minority communities at the state level. During his first year at Seattle University School of Law, Mynor worked as a Calhoun Fellow, a program focused on racial justice. He also worked with Breskin Johnson & Townsend, PLLC, a local firm that represented employees in employment discrimination suits. Mynor plans to focus his work on improving outcomes for BIPOC communities across the state and will be working with the Washington State Attorney General's office after graduation.

LIA MARIA FULGARO

J.D. Candidate, Seattle Univ. School of Law; Boston Univ. (Paralegal Studies); California State Polytechnic Univ., Pomona (B.A., English Language and Literature; minor in Political Science). Originally from the San Francisco East Bay Area, Lia Maria Fulgaro has worked as a paralegal for the last eight years, finding her time helping childhood sexual abuse survivors at a small plaintiff's firm some of the most rewarding to date, but appreciating every chance to assist and advocate for others. She is increasingly grateful for her liberal arts education that stressed critical thinking, problem-solving, human interaction and relationships, and appreciation for diversity. In her spare time, she enjoys connecting with others; outdoor activities such as running ultramarathons, triathlons, backpacking, and snow sports; photography; learning and exploring; travel; and finding ways to make a positive difference in the world, however small.