



MAG-Net #RightToConnect Delegates

October 6-7, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

A project of the Center for Media Justice, the Media Action Grassroots Network is a movement-building network of nearly 200 social justice, media, and arts organizations collaborating nationally for communications rights, media/technology access, and fair representation. Our member organizations represent a diverse set of issues and identities. Together we work to amplify grassroots voices to influence national media policy debates.

Alix Nguéfack

New Jersey Advocates for Immigrant Detainees, NJ

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

As **Detention Project Coordinator** at American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), organizational member of the NJ Advocates for Immigrant Detainees coalition, Alix organizes families and individuals facing immigration detention and deportation around immigration policies and advocacy. Before coming to AFSC, Alix worked with the International Institute of New Jersey where she served as the program coordinator for the Survivor of Torture Program. A graduate of the New School with an MA in International Affairs, Alix also holds a Master of Law from the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon. Alix is a graduate from NYU Law School.

Ana Montes

The Utility Reform Network (TURN), CA

Issue Area - Lifeline Program

Ana is the **Director of Organizing** at TURN, a consumer advocacy organization based in San Francisco. She has 12 years of consumer advocacy experience as Director of Technology and Consumer Education at the Latino Issues Forum. In that role she created an innovative model for bringing technology to low income and minority communities, developed community civic engagement in limited English speaking communities and managed statewide consumer education projects geared towards Latino and Asian Communities.

Angella Bellota

Center for Media Justice, VA

Angella is the **Membership Organizer** with the Center for Media Justice. Angella leads membership education, recruitment, and convening for the Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-Net), a project of the Center for Media Justice and the largest media advocacy network in the United States. Prior to joining CMJ, Angella served as Field Director at the Campaign for Youth Justice working to strengthen the capacity of organizations fighting against the criminalization and over-incarceration of youth. Angella graduated from California State University, San Bernardino with a BA in Sociology and a master's degree in Sociology from North Carolina State University.

Brandi Collins

Color of Change, CA

Issue Area - Lifeline Program and Prison Phone Justice

Brandi is the **Media Justice Director** at ColorofChange.org. She comes to Color of Change from the Center for Media Justice, an organization fighting for media rights, access and representation for marginalized communities. Previously, Brandi worked at Safer Foundation, crafting policy recommendations and statements on workforce development and prisoner reentry. She holds a B.A. in History from Agnes Scott College, and a J.D. from University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School.

Brittaney Carter

Color of Change, NY

Issue Area - Lifeline Program and Prison Phone Justice

Brittaney Carter joined the ColorOfChange team in 2015 as **Economic Justice Campaign Manager**. Previously, Brittaney worked as a policy research consultant at Race Forward and a Financial Security intern at PolicyLink. Her past work includes communications consulting, student advocacy and teaching English abroad in Santiago, Chile. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley and BA degrees in Journalism and Spanish from the University of Georgia.

Rep. Carol Ammons

Illinois State Representative, IL

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Illinois State Representative for the 103rd District representing the Champaign-Urbana region. A long time advocate for poor communities, Ms. Ammons is working on legislation to ban commissions on prison phone contracts in the State of Illinois, which receives around \$13 million a year in commissions - the highest in the country.

Carrie Wilkinson

Human Rights Defense Center, FL

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Carrie is the **Prison Phone Justice Director** for Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) and has 20 years experience as a civil rights litigation paralegal prior to joining the HRDC in January 2014 to reopen the Seattle office and start up the Washington Prison Phone Justice Campaign.

Cheryl Leanza

United Church of Christ Office of Communications, DC

Issue Area - Lifeline Program and Prison Phone Justice

Cheryl is the President of her consulting firm, A Learned Hand, LLC. In this capacity she serves as **policy advisor to the United Church of Christ's historic media advocacy arm and as the Co-Chair of the Leadership Conference of Civil Rights Media & Telecommunications Task Force**. Ms. Leanza helped to lead the victorious effort to pass the Local Community Radio Act, and has been a leader in public interest advocacy for more than 15 years, including advocacy for diversity in media ownership, protection for children in media, and other policies furthering First Amendment principles.

Danielle Chynoweth

Center for Media Justice, IL

Danielle is the **Organizing Director** for the Center for Media Justice and has 27 years experience as a community organizer. Danielle helped lead the Local Community Radio Act to victory and build a national coalition to create 1000+ new local media centers. She co-founded the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center and was a founding partner of Pixo Technologies. Danielle served as Urbana City Council member in Urbana, Illinois, spearheading public arts, wireless, and broadband projects. She has presented on media in Thailand, Burma, Italy, the U.S., and as an Evans Scholar at Evergreen State College. She holds a Masters degree in Political Science from the New School for Social Research.

Gregg Gaither, M.S.W., M.Ed.

Illinois Campaign for Prison Phone Justice of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, IL

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Formerly a corrections officer, Gregg is a **social worker, educator** and community activist for prison phone justice reform. Gregg began his career in human services as a correctional officer at Cook County Jail and later founded Woodlawn Reentry Project on Chicago's South Side, serving returning citizens from county, state, and federal correctional systems.

Jazlin Mendoza

Generation Justice, NM

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Jazlin is a **college student whose father has been incarcerated for many years**. Over the last six years, Jazlin has been a youth advocate at Generation Justice in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Generation Justice is committed to training teens to approach journalism and broadcasting from a social justice framework, which has allowed Jazlin to develop her skills as a youth producer - creating radio segments to give voice to local activism and the community. Jazlin is currently enrolled at Central New Mexico Community College and is committed to sharing her experience to advocate for prison phone justice.

Karina Wilkinson

New Jersey Advocates for Immigrant Detainees, NJ

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Karina is a **community organizer** and member of the New Jersey Advocates for Immigrant Detainees coalition. She co-founded two visiting programs for immigrant detainees in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, where long-term immigration detention has now ended. She has co-coordinated work on the NJ Phone Justice Campaign (NJPhoneJustice.org) with groups including NJAID, the New York University Immigrants Rights Clinic, the NJ Institute for Social Justice, and LatinoJustice PRLDEF. She holds a PhD. in Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Lee G. Petro

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Washington D.C.

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Lee is Legal Counsel to the Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP Telecommunications & Media Team in the Government & Regulatory Affairs Practice Group. Since 2009, Lee has served as **pro bono counsel to the Martha Wright Petitioners** in an FCC proceeding that has sought to end excessive telephone rates for inmate calling services. Lee also authors a monthly column in Radio Magazine, and has spoken on panels for the National Association of Broadcasters, the state broadcast associations, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Michael Scurato

National Hispanic Media Coalition, Washington D.C.

Issue Area - Lifeline Program

Bio – Michael is the **Vice President of Policy** at NHMC. September 2010, he was hired as a Law Fellow after being accepted into Georgetown Law's Post-JD Public Service Fellowship Program. While in law school, he represented the public interest in media and telecommunications law issues at the Institute for Public Representation (IPR), one of Georgetown's renowned legal clinics, first as a summer research assistant and later as a student in the clinical program. At IPR, he represented clients on issues such as diversifying media ownership, privacy, and protecting children from harmful ads on TV and online. He earned his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and his BA in Political Science from New York University.

Olivia B. Wein

National Consumer Law Center, Washington D.C.

Issue Area - Lifeline Program

Olivia has been a **staff attorney** in the Washington office of the National Consumer Law Center since December 1999. Olivia represents the interests of low-income clients at the federal and state level on energy and utility issues. She regularly submits testimony to Congress on the importance of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as comments to various federal agencies and state public utility commissions on behalf of low-income consumers. Olivia is on the board of the National Low-Income Energy Consortium, and co-chairs the LIHEAP Coalition, which is comprised of a broad array of national, regional and local groups and organizations

Roberta Rael

Generation Justice, NM

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Roberta is the **Founder and Director** of Generation Justice, which is an intergenerational media making project that is committed to social change. Generation, the MAG-Net anchor for the region of New Mexico, operates from the social justice principles of equity, inter-generational connectedness, and civic engagement through media making. Roberta is also principal of Inspired Leadership Inc. Previously, Roberta directed the UNM's Multi-Cultural Minority Recruitment and Retention Program, SAFETEEN New Mexico, Youth Link, and Vida Manos Y Salud. Roberta has several years of radio production experience. She also hosts and produces a public radio cultural affairs program "Espejos de Aztlan" on KUNM - FM.

Rudy Gallardo

The Utility Reform Network, Policy Voices Network, CA

Issue Area - Lifeline Program

A former Lifeline subscriber, Rudy is a lifetime educator, community activist, and author currently living in Fresno, California. A former migrant worker from a family of 12 children, he was raised in California's Central Valley. Rudy has a BA in English and did graduate work in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University.

Salma Mirza

Nation Inside, TX

Issue Area - Prison Phone Justice

Salma is the **Director** of Nation Inside, working with groups to tackle the issues of mass incarceration through online and offline organizing. Salma has been a grassroots and online organizer within the labor and racial justice movements for over 7 years. She has worked for Austin Beloved Community, the Texas State Employees Union, United Students Against Sweatshops, the Society for Labour and Development, and the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health. Salma has a B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Stephanie Chen

Greenlining Institute, CA

Issue Area - Lifeline Program

Stephanie is the **Energy and Telecommunications Policy Director** at Greenlining Institute, where she oversees Greenlining's legal counsel before the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. Greenlining advocates on a wide range of issues impacting underserved consumers and small businesses. Stephanie has litigated several high-profile cases impacting billions of dollars in utility rates, winning broad statewide protections for communities of color, low income ratepayers and small business owners.

Steven Renderos

Center for Media Justice, CA

Steven is the **Senior Campaign Manager** at Center for Media Justice (CMJ) and came to CMJ from the Main Street Project, a MAG-Net anchor organization. He brings more than seven years of community organizing and training experience, and more than ten years of filmmaking and media production experience. Prior to joining Main Street Project, Steven served as Project Coordinator of the Minnesotano Media Empowerment Project, an initiative focused on improving the quality and quantity of media coverage and representation of Latinos in Minnesota. He currently serves on the board of La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles.