

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair, Hon. Fernando M. Olguin
President, Michael J. Wallace
Vice President, Jeffrey A. Wortman, Esq.
Treasurer, Diane L. McGimsey, Esq.
Secretary, Lois D. Thompson, Esq.
Gordon A. Goldsmith, Esq.
Emily L. Murray, Esq.
Ryan K. Yagura, Esq.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Tanya M. Acker, Esq. James R. Asperger, Esq. Hon. André Birotte Jr. Hon. Nicholas F. Daum Craig J. de Recat, Esq. W. Allan Edmiston, Esq. Alfred Fraijo Jr. Esq. José A. Gómez, Ph.D. Hon. Terry J. Hatter, Jr. Eugene M. Holmes, Esq. Kayla K. Horacek, Esq. Hon. Jennifer T. Lum (Ret.) Carri B. Maas, Esq. Gina Miller, MBA Hon. Dorothy W. Nelson, Founder Hon. Jacqueline H. Nguyen Hon. Richard A. Paez Gregory N. Pimstone, Esq. Glenn D. Pomerantz, Esq. Hon. Barry Russell David J. Schindler, Esq. Hon. Suzanne H. Segal (Ret.) Hon. Holly A. Thomas William E. Thomson, Esq. Michael E. Williams, Esq. Cathy Winter-Palmer Shari M. Wollman, Esq. Kerry Garvis Wright, Esq.

## **PROGRAM COUNCIL**

Hon. Songhai Armstead (Ret.)
Claudia Brown Coulter, MDR
Rafael González
Dayna Mitchell, Ed.D.
Malikah Nu'man, Ed.D.
Shaphan Roberts
Terrence Roberts, Ph.D.
Heather DeWeese Schon, MDR
Shadeequa Smith, JD MDR
MaryAnn Szyskowski
Yvette Valdez

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Elissa D. Barrett, JD

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for your continued support of Western Justice Center and the shared belief that all children have a right to access the tools to succeed. Every year, we work with students, educators and community members to effect

Every year, we work with students, educators and community members to effect systemic change in the school house and beyond. We believe that, if we can equip our youth with the tools they need to mitigate societal stressors and manage conflict with their peers, we can positively impact their future – and ours.

# Will you join us again in 2024?

Over the last three years alone, the WJC has mobilized more than 2,000 students and educators to drive transformative change in their schools. We have trained them to serve as peer mediators and restorative justice facilitators. **Empowered and supported by WJC**, these 2,000 students and educators have used their conflict resolution skills to engage another 4,000 students and educators.

Together, we have set an ambitious goal — To positively affect the learning environment in more than 30 school communities with a collective population of more than 25,000 people.

Thanks to the momentum we created in 2023, we are now at 40 schools. That includes two districtwide projects – Azusa Unified and Pasadena Unified. Plus, an additional 8 schools across 5 districts through our role in the County's LA vs. Hate's Dream Resource Centers.

**WJC's model for transformative change is taking flight.** In Azusa last year, we inspired the creation of a student union that successfully navigated the merger of two high schools with rival gang territory. Today, student union leaders host regular conversations and facilitate community circles that promote peacebuilding and mitigate conflict districtwide. Results like these demonstrate what young people and school districts can achieve when they are empowered by WJC.

With your support, we can continue to build momentum for this powerful peacebuilding movement in education. We hope you will consider renewing your sponsorship for our 16<sup>th</sup> annual "Empower" event, which will be held on the beautiful rooftop terrace of the Jonathan Club on September 26, 2024. (Sponsorship levels and 2024 timeline attached.)

If you have any questions or would like to confirm your 2024 sponsorship, please reach out to Julia Dadakaridis, Senior Director of Strategic Advancement at <a href="mailto:julia@westernjustice.org">julia@westernjustice.org</a>.

We look forward to seeing you at Empower again next year!

Elissa D. Barrett, JD Executive Director