



HIV & AIDS Legal  
Services Alliance

## ***Meet our Board of Directors***

### **Seth Levy**

Seth is a partner with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, where he represents domestic and foreign research institutions, healthcare providers and private sector companies in connection with their intellectual property matters, including patent procurement, various transactions and disputes, particularly in the life sciences and media/entertainment industries. Seth serves as chair of the firm's Life Sciences Practice Group, leads its Los Angeles patent practice and represents the Los Angeles office on the firm's Pro Bono Committee. He is active in the American Health Lawyers Association as the chair of its Life Sciences practice group, as well as the American Bar Association as a past member of the ABA AIDS Coordinating Committee. Seth also served as the national public service coordinator for *Answering the Call*, an ABA Young Lawyers Division program designed to enhance the delivery of legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS and which was modeled in part on HALSA's HIV Legal Check Up program. Seth received his J.D. from USC Law School and his B.S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University. Seth looks forward to the day that he can spend more time behind his piano than behind his desk.

### **Therese Lyons**

Therese Lyons recently moved to Santa Monica from Washington, D.C., where she spent 20 years working in the public and non-profit sectors. Most recently, she was a senior advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and directed a Presidential initiative to increase the delivery and cost-effectiveness of USDA's programs that provide food, housing, and other assistance to those in need in the United States and around the world. In addition, Therese has been actively involved in volunteer service throughout her life and has provided pro bono consulting to a variety of non-profit organizations in Eastern Europe. Currently, she is an independent consultant working with nonprofit organizations to build their organizational capacity. Therese holds a MBA from the Stern School at New York University and a BA from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

### **W. Clark Brown**

Clark serves as General Counsel for the Los Angeles County Bar Association ("LACBA"), the largest voluntary regional bar association in the county. He oversees the public service programs at LACBA which provide domestic violence assistance, immigration assistance, indigent criminal defense, peer to peer mediation programs in Los Angeles elementary through high schools, lawyer referrals, as well as HALSA's attorney pro bono program. Leaving litigation practice at Irell & Manella, Proskauer Rose and as name partner at Sasaki & Brown starting in 1997, Clark took the position of General Counsel at LACBA in 2003. He served as President of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of LA, Trustee of LACBA, Board member of GLAAD, and has served on committees of the State Bar of California, the Los Angeles Superior Court, Mayor Villaraigosa's childhood mediation initiative, and LACBA. Clark graduated from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, ran a theatre company there

and in New York, worked on tuna boats off Africa and Central America, graduated from ULCA School of Law, and helped create HALSA starting in 1995 with Jon Davidson of the ACLU, Peter Lee, and David Schulman of the City Attorney's AIDS/HIV Discrimination Unit. With one short sabbatical, he has been on its Board since its inception. His sons aged 5 and 9, and his partner of 24 years, Robert Scheps, along with motorcycles, ice hockey, the high desert and collecting Zane Gray novels are the loves of his life.

### **Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler is an associate with the Los Angeles law firm Liner Grode Stein Yankelevitz Sunshine Regenstreif & Taylor LLP. Chris' practice focuses primarily on commercial litigation matters in both the federal and state courts. Before joining the Liner firm, Chris was an associate with the Los Angeles and New York offices of Heller Ehrman LLP, and served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Sterling Johnson, Jr. of the Eastern District of New York. Chris is a member of the California and New York state bars. Prior to attending law school, Chris worked as an editor and special projects manager for The New York Times. Chris' volunteer service included his participation on the Board of Directors of Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), where he also served as the interim executive director of that organization's Los Angeles Chapter in 1992. Chris earned his undergraduate degree from University of California Los Angeles, and his law degree from Brooklyn Law School. Chris and his husband John are the proud parents of a beautiful little boy.

### **Alec Pedersen**

Alec N. Pedersen, CRPC®, CSPG is a Senior Financial Advisor and Business Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. where he manages the comprehensive financial planning needs of individuals, businesses, charities and trust accounts. In this capacity, Alec and his team of Associate Financial Advisors, designs financial plans focused around goal achievement for his clients and coordinates implementation of strategies in retirement planning, wealth accumulation, lifetime tax planning, protection planning and insurance, estate planning and planned charitable giving. Alec represents Los Angeles on the National Ameriprise Pride Advisor's Council that handles complex financial planning issues specific to the LGBT community. Alec is a member in good standing of the Million Dollar Round Table which is the Premier Association of Financial Professionals®, as well as the Planned Giving Round Table of Southern California and The National Committee on Planned Giving. He also is an active member of the Association for Advanced Life Underwriting. The mission of the AALU is to promote, preserve and protect advanced life insurance planning for the benefit of its members, their clients, the industry and the general public and this is accomplished through advocacy in Washington. Alec was one of the first recipients of the Ameriprise Financial Chairman's Award for Excellence for his outstanding leadership in practice management and developing advisor mentorship and was also Ameriprise Financial's most recommended employee advisor nationally in 2005 out of over 4000 advisors. Currently, Alec operates his practice out of his main office in Beverly Hills. Alec received his B.A at Columbia College in Chicago and recently completed a decade in Los Angeles, making him an honorary Angelino. However, he still roots for the Cubs.

### **Bradley Wolf**

Bradley Wolf is Special Counsel in the Finance and Bankruptcy Practice Group in the Los Angeles office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP. Brad's practice concentrates on representing financial institutions and other lenders in complex financial transactions including secured and unsecured loan transactions, with an emphasis on loan restructurings, workouts and creditor's rights. Immediately prior to joining Sheppard Mullin, Brad was Senior Counsel at Wells Fargo & Co for nine years with responsibilities for overseeing commercial workouts and bankruptcies within the Wholesale Bank. Brad received his J.D. from USC Law School and his B.A. in English from U.C. Berkeley. In addition to his work with HALSA, Brad is a member of the Board of Directors of the Inner City Law Center. When not working, Brad's interests include traveling, cooking and spending time with his three dogs.

### **MaryAnne Carlson**

MaryAnne Carlson serves as First Vice President and Senior Counsel of OneWest Bank where she manages the company's employment litigation. Prior to joining OneWest, MaryAnne worked for Northrop Grumman Corporation's employment law department. She graduated from Southwestern Law School with a Juris Doctor degree and from The Johns Hopkins University with a Master's Degree in Writing. While at Southwestern, MaryAnne served as President of the school's GLBT association and wrote an award-winning paper on sexual orientation discrimination. MaryAnne earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland (European Division). She served on active-duty for the U.S. Navy (in Bermuda and Spain) as a court-reporter and paralegal in support of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. MaryAnne received several awards for her military service, including the Navy Achievement Medal and a combat ribbon for service in Beirut. In her free time, MaryAnne enjoys writing fiction, painting (abstract; large canvases), and visiting museums and art galleries.

### **Brietta Clark**

Brietta Clark has served on the board of HALSA since 2007. Brietta holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from University of Southern California Law School. Upon graduation, Brietta worked in the Los Angeles office of Sidley, Austin, Brown & Wood and was a post-graduate research fellow at the University of Southern California Law School. Since 2001, Brietta has been a professor at Loyola Law School, where she teaches several health care law courses and business associations. Her research focuses on the structural defects and hidden biases that create inequity in our health care delivery and financing systems. She has published academic articles and made presentations in the areas of reproductive health, the health care safety net, prison health care, restrictions on immigrant access to care, end of life issues, and the role of civil rights law in remedying disparities for minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. She also currently serves or has served on the following boards/committees: ACLU (Medical Rights Committee); the Institutional Review Board for Children's Hospital Medical Center Los Angeles and California Hospital Medical Center; the LACMA-LACBA Joint Committee on Bioethics; Executive Committee of the Health Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar; Law School Admissions Council's LGBT Issues Subcommittee.

### **Stephen Hicklin**

Steve is currently Vice President, Compliance for Bank of America and the Chief Compliance Officer for ReconTrust Company, a Bank of America subsidiary. He was litigation counsel for Countrywide Bank for three years before moving into his current business role. Steve has practiced law in California since 1988 with firms such as Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. He was also Senior Associate Counsel for Glendale Federal Bank, FSB and Vice President and Legal Counsel in charge of all litigation for WMC Mortgage Corp. Steve earned his undergraduate degree from California State University, Fullerton and his law degree from the University of California, Davis. He began his HIV-related legal work in 1988 as a pro bono attorney for the Los Angeles County Bar Association and continued that work after it became a part of HALSA. Steve joined the Board in 2005. He is a member of the Texas and California bars.

### **Karen R. Karrlson**

Karen is an Associate Director at Navigant Consulting Inc., a publicly-traded company providing independent consulting services in the areas of construction, energy, financial services, healthcare, insurance, legal and government / public services. Karen is a member of Navigant's healthcare practice where she focuses on assisting hospital clients with issues related to the revenue cycle. Before joining Navigant Consulting in 2004, she was employed by both Cap Gemini and Ernst & Young consulting. Prior to her consulting career, Karen served as the Assistant Director of Health Policy Studies for a national physician professional association where she focused on Medicare payment policy. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from UCLA and a Bachelors degree from Lehman College, CUNY. When not working or traveling for work, Karen's interests include creating art and cooking for her friends and neighbors.