



HIV & AIDS Legal
Services Alliance

Meet Our Staff

William “Trip” Oldfield III, Executive Director

Mr. Oldfield has more than a decade of nonprofit experience, primarily leading social service and AIDS service organizations. He has worked for Lamp Community, Orange County Gay and Lesbian Services, Gay and Lesbian Center of Long Beach and Being Alive Los Angeles before joining HALSA in 2006. Mr. Oldfield holds a Masters in Business Administration and Organizational Development from the University of Redlands, and is a published author of several studies supported by BoardSource, a national non-profit Board governance think-tank. He also teaches nonprofit courses in fundraising, finance and Board development. In his spare time he restores vintage Porches and his 1927 Spanish home in Long Beach.

Peggy Farrell, Legal Director

Ms. Farrell obtained her *Juris* Doctor from the City University of New York School of Law at Queens College in 1999, and became a member of the California State Bar in 2000. During law school she secured fellowships with several national public interest law firms including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU. Since obtaining her license to practice law, Peggy has worked as litigator for various civil rights firms including Schonbrum DeSimone Seplow Harris & Hoffman, specializing in plaintiffs-side employment discrimination and police abuse matters where she obtained several million dollars in jury verdicts and settlements for victims of discrimination. Peggy has also provided *pro bono* legal assistance and advocacy to clients of Clean Needles Now and Common Ground, the Westside HIV Center for the last eight years. As Legal Director, she provides direction and case oversight to the HALSA Legal Team and handles cases involving HIV/AIDS discrimination in employment and places of public accommodation, privacy and denial of treatment and medical access cases.

Laurie Aronoff, Los Angeles County Bar Association Pro Bono Coordinator

For the past sixteen years, Laurie has been the Project Director of the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Barristers AIDS Legal Services Project. She has coordinated the efforts of hundreds of volunteer attorneys and other legal advocates to provide millions of dollars worth of donated legal services to thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS on a wide range of legal issues including HIV discrimination, real estate fraud, public benefits and asylum. In 1997, the County Bar’s program joined four other agencies to form the HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA) where Laurie serves as the Director of Volunteer Programs. Previously, Laurie worked as an Analyst on hunger and homeless issues for the City of Los Angeles.

Lindsey Brengle, Development Manager

Before joining the HALSA team, Lindsey worked in development for MAZON, Jewish National Fund, and Susan G. Komen For The Cure. Additionally, Lindsey volunteers with several organizations in Los Angeles, including the Progressive Jewish Alliance and Get on the Bus!. She obtained her BA in International Politics from Whittier College and a Masters in Business Administration from the American Jewish University in Non-Profit Management.

Lawrence C. Goldstein, Tax Advocate

Lawrence C. Goldstein, Enrolled to Practice before the Internal Revenue Service started the Tax Assistance Program in February, 1997 at AIDS Project Los Angeles. This program then expanded by offering a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), and the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), funded by the Internal Revenue Service. The tax assistance program avoids and resolves controversies by assisting clients with current tax preparation as well as with prior years tax preparation for those not in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service or Franchise Tax Board as well as resolving tax controversies with both the IRS and FTB. All forms of tax problems are handled including Audits, Installment Payment Plans and Offers in Compromises (OIC's), and correspondence from either taxing authority. HALSA has established relationships with both the Taxpayer Advocate Services in the IRS and FTB which allows for many problems to be resolved most efficiently.

Pedro Ramirez, Intake Coordinator

Pedro's background is Salvadorian. In his free time he is a volunteer with several community organizations that promote human and civil rights awareness. At HALSA, he serves as the bilingual Intake Coordinator, screening clients for eligibility for our services and to provide them with the necessary information and referral. He also assists the attorneys with many tasks, such as preparing documents, translating letters from English to Spanish and vice-versa, simultaneous translation for interviews between attorneys and clients and many other similar tasks. Prior to coming to HALSA, Pedro worked as an automotive technician for 15 years. Because of this experience he developed the necessary skills to deal with clients of many backgrounds.

Pearl Saracho, Immigration Attorney

Ms. Saracho has headed HALSA's immigration practice since 2004. Ms. Saracho received her B.A in political science from University of California, Irvine. She went on to law school at Western State College of Law in Fullerton California. After graduating from law school Ms. Saracho took on other endeavors such as working as a case worker for Orange County's abused and neglected children. During this time Ms. Saracho became certified in court and community mediation. She worked for Orange County Human Relations as a mediator for three years. Ms. Saracho then went on to practice law as an immigration attorney for Orange County Catholic Charities. Ms. Saracho is considered one of the top 2 public interest Immigration attorneys for people living with HIV in California.

Thomas DeBoe, Housing Attorney

He has practiced law in California for more than 8 years and worked for several nonprofits including Westside Legal Services, Legal AID Foundation of L.A., Tarzana Treatment Centers, and the Minority AIDS Project. He is well known in the legal community for his expertise in housing/tenant rights and HIV/AIDS discrimination.

Tonya McGary, Public Benefits Attorney

Tanya McGary received her B.A in American Studies from Yale University. She obtained her J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of the Law. While in law school, she worked at Dickson-Ross, an employment discrimination firm. She also interned with the General Advocacy Assistance Project, the East Bay Community Law Center and the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center's Workers' Rights Clinic. After graduating from law school, she worked as an attorney at Children's Law Center of Los Angeles representing foster children in dependency court. Ms. McGary's current practice focuses on assisting clients with their public benefits matters.

Jaime Cartagena, Loyola Fellow

Mr. Cartagena graduated from Loyola Law School in May of 2007 as a Loyola Scholar and was admitted to the California State Bar in December 2007. Before graduation, he served as an intern for HALSA and a law clerk for El Rescate Legal Services and also for L.A. Neighborhood Legal Services. Mr. Cartagena is bilingual and specializes in immigration and housing law.