



## ***Cinnamon Clark***

Cinnamon Clark is a native of a small desert community in northwestern Arizona, Bullhead City, and enlisted in the US Navy in 1997 as an Aviation Electrician's Mate, retiring in after 20 years in 2017. While on active duty, she graduated from Chapman University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and went on to earn a Master of Science in Psychology specializing in Organizational Leadership and Human Behavior in 2012.

Following 14 years of active-duty career in the Navy, she accepted a position with the Navy as a Diversity & Inclusion Consultant, at Commander Naval Air Forces (CNAF) and it was there that her passion for inclusion and the importance of diverse representation was born. For over a decade, she has been an Inclusion and Diversity Practitioner. As Diversity and Inclusion Outreach

Consultant at Commander Naval Air Forces she built a robust outreach program from the ground up boasting over 20,000 contacts annually, leveraging national relationships with affinity organizations in aviation, and STEM developing opportunities to connect with and recruit future aviators nationwide. She has also help positions with the County of San Diego as an Inclusion & Diversity Trainer. She took on the role as Force Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), managing a diversity portfolio that included: a portfolio that developed policy, initiatives and cleared the way for the very first woman to complete the special operations training pipeline in HERstory following the Combat Exclusion ruling in 2015. Also managing the Women In Special Operations Forces (WISOF), Culture of Excellence (COE) Initiatives at NSW, and all Inclusion and Diversity programs.

Currently, Ms. Clark is the Practice Lead for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Services at McLean & Company where she leads the DEI practice. Where she leads the development and delivery of client-facing services such as DEI strategy, diagnostics, change management, and workshops. She also advises our corporate HR team on DEI strategy and initiatives across Info-Tech Research Group's companies

Ms. Clark is a committed advocacy and allyship personally and professionally lending her voice and advocacy throughout the South San Diego area. She is a Commissioner on the City of San Diego Citizen's Equal Opportunity Commission (CEOC), Board Member on the San Ysidro Planning Group (SYPG), San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and commissioner on the Human Rights Commission for the County of San Diego (HRC) and a number of advocacy and community entities serving south San Diego.



**Angela Elliott-Santos**  
**Chairwoman, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation**

Ms. Angela-Elliott Santos has been the Manzanita Tribal Chairwoman since March 2015, filling the position vacated by the death of Leroy J. Elliott, Manzanita Tribal Chairman for 17 years. Chairwoman Santos had served the same 17 years on the Manzanita Executive Committee, advising the Chairman and serving as Fiscal Officer for the Tribe. She directs all Tribal Departments including Public Works, Education, Library Services, Telecommunications, Natural Resource Management, Tribal Historic Preservation, Renewable Energy, Housing, Cultural Programs, and Language Revitalization. She also provides guidance for federal funding that supports many of the tribal government programs such as U.S. EPA, BIA, HUD, and USDA.

She has fought for many years for cultural and heritage resource protection within the Kumeyaay Homelands from the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River and over 75 miles north and south of the international Boarder with Baja California, Mexico. Chairwoman Santos has battled to protect the inherent sovereignty of the Manzanita Band as a federally recognized Tribe and to protect those that cannot speak for themselves but are protected by the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Chairwoman Angela Elliott-Santos serves on the Board of Directors for many organizations including the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA), Southern Indian Health Council (SIHC), Intertribal Court of Southern California, Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (KCRC), and the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Council (KHPC).

Ms. Elliott-Santos is celebrating 30 years of marriage to Santiago de los Santos and is the proud mother of four children, and four grandchildren.



**Eleanor Evans**  
***Educator, Leader, Activist, Human Rights Advocate***

Eleanor Evans is a member of the Oceanside Unified School Board of Education/Trustee. Eleanor is a dedicated educator and a committed advocate of human rights for everyone. As a youth, she marched through the streets in San Diego encouraging fair hiring practices by major corporations and utilities. A student at San Diego State University and Co-Chair for the Student Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Eleanor Evans worked with former University President Malcolm Love and his Committee to Involve Black Students into College Life. Some of the successes were to invite Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to speak on justice at SDUSD; to enable the Student CORE to become an on-campus organization. She was appointed as a liaison to help

pilot the California Educational Opportunities Program (EOPS) and to help establish the position for an effective SDSU campus ombudsman.

As a former executive officer for the County of San Diego Urban League, Eleanor was the Committee Chairperson and Treasurer to help collaborate and establish the Market Street Gateway (COSTCO) Industrial Park which has provided thousands of sustainable quality jobs.

As a highly effective educator who believes in the academic achievement and the social-emotional development of her students, she has taught grades K-12, Community Colleges, and Universities. Eleanor was a member of the San Diego Unified School District Race/Human Relations Corps. Eleanor Evans was one of the Commissioners for the California State Department of Education Common Core Academic State Standards. She is a member of the California State Board of Education Credential Proficiency Commission, Teaching Credentialing. Eleanor Evans has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences/Economics and a Master of Science in Counseling and a master's in governance.

Eleanor Evans is honored to have received the North San Diego County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NSDC-NAACP) Lifetime Achievement Award and the California Teachers Association State Human Rights Award.



## ***Sarah Farouq***

Sarah Farouq comes from a background of community organizing and advocacy in her various capacities in local and state-wide organizations. As a Muslim woman who came to the U.S. as an Iraqi refugee, Sarah's personal experiences have shaped her passions in her community work and activism. She has been engaged in fighting state-sanctioned violence, specifically advocating against the targeting and exclusion of Black and brown communities.

In her previous capacities as a community organizer at various community organizations, she has helped organize campaigns in issue areas, such as criminal injustice (mass incarceration and gang documentation), youth justice (supporting higher education equity), and most recently around the surveillance of AMEMSA (Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian) communities at the AAAJ-Asian Law Caucus. Sarah is also a recent political science graduate of UC Berkeley. Currently, she is an AMAL (American Muslim Anti-Racism Leadership) fellow at the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative, a Youth Advisory board member of

Borderlands For Equity, and a board member of the Feminist Front. Sarah plans to eventually earn her Juris Doctor and continue to advocate for marginalized communities impacted by systemic injustice from a legal capacity and uplift their issues on a policy level.



## ***Taha Hassane***

### ***Imam/Director of the Islamic Center of San Diego***

Imam Taha Hassane is currently serving as the Imam/Director of the Islamic Center of San Diego. He joined ICSD in September 2004 from the Colorado Muslim Youth Foundation where he served as a youth instructor. Imam Taha graduated from Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Algiers, Algeria, and served as a high school teacher and Imam in Algeria for ten years before coming to the United States. Imam Taha also holds a master's degree of theology in Islamic studies from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana.

In addition to his regular duties at ICSD, Imam Taha is a: Preacher & lecturer at different Islamic Centers, schools, and colleges around the US; Religious adviser of the Muslim Students Association at University of California San Diego since 2004; Board member of the Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County; Member of the West-Coast & National Catholic Muslim dialogue since 2006; Member of the Arab American advisory Board of the San Diego Police Department; Member of the Interfaith Advisory Board of the San Diego District Attorney Office; Board member of the National Conflict Resolution Center; Board member of the Interfaith Shelter Network of San Diego County; Volunteer Chaplain at San Diego prisons & hospitals.

Recipient of several awards: A major peace maker in San Diego 2015 by the Rotary Club of La Jolla, Spirit award 2015 by the Somali Family Services, Voices of Justice award 2010 by the Interfaith Center for Worker Justice, 2011 award of community Leadership & Social Justice Advocacy by CAIR San Diego, 2014 Outstanding Contribution Award by the Indian-American Muslim Council, 2018 KPBS & National Conflict Resolution Center "Community Heroes Award" for Civility in Politics, 2018 Islamic Shura Council of Southern California "Change-Maker Award". Also, recipient of Certificate of Recognition from: California Assembly Member Lorena Gonzales, California Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber, San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego Human Relations Commission!



## ***Pastor Dennis Hodges***

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Pastor Hodges grew in his faith early by attending Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church. Pastor Hodges received his formal education at Morgan Park High School, Southern Illinois University, and the International Theological Seminary at Bradenton, Florida. Pastor Hodges is a graduate from Ashford University, BS Degree in Criminal Justice. Honorary Doctorate Degree, Dyer Times Ministries Bible Training Center.

A former Law Enforcement Officer for thirty-two years, Pastor Hodges worked his way up through the California Department of Corrections holding progressively more responsible positions such as Investigator and he retired as a Special Agent/Captain with the Special Service Unit-Office of Correctional Safety on September 1, 2008.

Member of the Citizen's Advisory Board on Police / Community Relations.

Pastor Hodges' burning desire to be taught the uncompromising Word Of God, in a church without denominational restrictions, led him to New Creation Church. Upon joining New Creation in September 1993, Pastor Hodges' heart to serve caused him to become a member of the Usher Board where he was then elected president from 1994 through 1996. Pastor Hodges was appointed Chaplain of the city of San Diego Police Department.

On May 16, 1999, Pastor Hodges was licensed as a minister of the Gospel.

Resolved to leave an imprint on a generation of men, the Holy Spirit spoke to this desire and on September 7, 2001, "Living Hope for Hurting Men" ministry was birthed. This ministry has effectively changed the lives of men who seek to place themselves under the authority of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Hodges was ordained a Pastor on September 25, 2005.

For nearly 26 years, Pastor Hodges and his wife Deborah have set out to live the God-given dream of a Kingdom marriage. Together they share five children and two grandchildren.

Pastor Hodges' motto is " Look up, Look within, Look ahead, Look around, as you go to serve the Lord with Gladness. He believes that there are no "secret service" Christians; we are to live, walk, and talk the gospel daily.

What we do for Yeshua is all that matters.



## **George Khoury**

Graduated from UC Berkeley with a MSCE in Civil/Environmental Engineering in 1972, and more than 48 years experience in Project/Program Management in Design, Engineering, Construction and Construction Management. Is a registered Professional Engineer in California. Worked for the County of San Diego's Public Works Dept. Liquid Waste Division (1988-end of 1989). Started Brown and Caldwell Environmental Engineering Consultants (BC)'s San Diego office as BC's Office Manager (1990-1993), as Vice President (1993-1995) and as Senior Vice President, Business Unit Manager for California and Hawaii, and National Federal Program Director (1995-2009). Opened an engineering and construction management consulting business, GMK Consulting Inc. in 2015.

He and his spouse, Haifa, have three children. Lana who is an Immigration Lawyer in San Diego, Afif, who is a Corporate Lawyer/capital venture and CEO of SOCI, Inc., a San Diego based Corporation, and Jenna who is a Pediatric Dentist/Owner of the Brush Stop Pediatric Dentistry in Carlsbad. They are blessed with eight grandchildren, all of whom are in San Diego County. Involved in serving and supporting the communities he has lived in, since 1987, active members of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) where he is presently serving as an elected Member of the National Board.



**Sheriff Kelly A. Martinez**

Sheriff Martinez has served the residents of San Diego County and the Sheriff's Department since 1985. She began her career as a deputy working in the jails and then began her first patrol assignment serving the community of Fallbrook. Sheriff Martinez spent 22 years at the rank of Deputy Sheriff working in several assignments. Those assignments included gang investigations, narcotic investigations, and criminal intelligence investigator. As a sergeant, Sheriff Martinez served the city of San Marcos before her selection to supervise in the Special Investigations Division. Her next assignment was to investigate employee misconduct in the Sheriff's Internal Affairs Unit before promoting to lieutenant. As a lieutenant, Sheriff Martinez served the cities of Encinitas, Del Mar, and Solana Beach. She also served the communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Valley Center. Before promoting to Captain, she oversaw the Sheriff's participation in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Narcotic Task Force. As a Captain, she served the communities of Alpine and the back country of San Diego County. Sheriff Martinez promoted to Commander as was assigned to oversee the Sheriff's Investigations Units. Her appointment to Assistant Sheriff put her in charge of the Law Enforcement Services Bureau. As Undersheriff, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Martinez was elected Sheriff in 2022.

Sheriff Martinez is responsible for providing law enforcement services to 4,200 square miles of unincorporated San Diego County, nine contract cities, seven jails, and security for the court houses. She is responsible for the department's \$1.165 billion budget and 4,700 authorized employees.

Sheriff Martinez has Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She holds several POST Certificates including a basic, advanced, supervisory and management POST. She is a graduate of the POST Command College. Sheriff Martinez is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the San Diego Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, and a lifetime member of the California State Sheriff's Association. She is a San Diego native and committed to public safety. Sheriff Martinez is married with one adult son.





**Nicole Murray Ramirez**  
**LGBTQ Activist, Civil & Human Rights Leader**

Commissioner Ramirez has been a long time Latino and LGBTQ activist for now over half a century and has served and advised 7 mayors of San Diego. Ramirez is the only San Diegan to have been elected and served 4 times as Chairman of the City's Human Relations Commission. He has also served on numerous newly elected Mayor's transition teams and Police Chief Selection committees.

In the past, Commissioner Ramirez has worked with Harvey Milk and Cesar Chavez, now two personal heroes of his, as well as Coretta Scott King. Ramirez is on the National Executive Board of the Harvey Milk Foundation and was the founder and National Chair of the International Letter Writing Campaigns that resulted in the issuing of the Harvey Milk U.S. Postage Stamp with the official unveiling at the White House which he attended as well as spoke at. Ramirez also led the successful campaign to get the U.S. Secretary of the Navy to name a ship (the U.S.N.S. Harvey Milk) which is currently being built in San Diego at the NASSCO Shipping Yard.

Commissioner Ramirez is currently the National Chair of the National GLBT Civil Rights Network/U.S.A. and the International Chair of the International Imperial Council of the U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico (founded in 1965) with now over 70 city chapters in the three aforementioned countries. He is also currently Co-Chair (along with Katherine Stuart Faulconer, 1st Lady of San Diego) of the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force and Chair of the Sheriff's LGBTQ Advisory Council.

Commissioner Ramirez has been elected and served as the State President of Equality California, the National Chair of National Latino Latina LGBTQ Association, National Board member of the National LGBTQ Task Force and Human Rights Campaign (HRC), as well as Co-Chair of the Stonewall 25th March and Celebration in New York City.

He is the only LGBTQ activist to have been elected to all 5 National LGBTQ Marches on Washington National Executive Committees and been elected a National Chair of three of the Marches (in the 1987 March he invited Cesar Chavez to speak at the National Rally which drew over 800,000 people to Washington).

Commissioner Ramirez has received countless honors, awards, and commendations including the Cesar Chavez Social Justice Award presented to him by his wife the late Helen Chavez.

He was made an "Honorary Texan" by then-Governor Ann Richards. Presented "Keys to the City" by the Mayors of Salt Lake City, Utah; Lexington, Kentucky; Portland, Oregon; West Hollywood, California, and San Diego, California. Commissioner Ramirez has been honored by the Government of Mexico for his over 35 years of helping LGBTQ Citizens in Baja, California. Nicole Murray Ramirez has appeared in many historic films/documentaries and books. Currently, a major documentary film on his life is being negotiated.



***Ellen Nash***

***Board Member, Helix Charter School and Chair,  
BAPACSD***

Ellen Nash is a native of Southeast San Diego and graduated from San Diego State University with a B. S. in Public Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management. Ms. Nash subsequently pursued graduate studies in Educational Leadership and was instrumental in forming the first Black Gospel Choir at SDSU.

Over a 28-year period, Ellen worked her way up from student assistant to Manager of SDSU's Human Resources Department. She then served as Manager of Human Resources at UCSD's Health System for 5 years before retiring. Her extensive volunteer work includes San Diego Urban League, NAACP, and Up for Ed Board

## ***Regina Roberts***



Ms. Roberts is a native San Diegan who has lived in the county for most of her life. She attended a local high school and the University of California, San Diego graduating with a degree in Chemistry and minor in Economics. She also pursued some graduate work in accounting and business administration.

She worked for in the local defense industry in manufacturing development for numerous critical programs for national security. With the closure of the local defense industry, she moved into the commercial sector and supported building equipment for the semiconductor industry and installing systems around the world. She then formed her own engineering consulting firm and provided engineering design and field level equipment support to many companies around the world. She recently retired from the active pursuit of her career but remains involved in assisting previous customers maintain their equipment.

Ms. Roberts has been a lifelong advocate for the basic human rights guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights for all people, being a proponent of both personal rights and thereby, the personal responsibility inherent in those rights.

Ms. Roberts is involved in many community service organizations and has held leadership positions in nearly every group she is part of. She is the next Lt. Governor for the Kiwanis Division for North County, and is the President of Valley Center Western Days, Inc. which is responsible for presenting the local parade and country fair in the town of Valley Center.

She is married but separated and is the proud parent of three grown children and two grandchildren and shares that pride with her spouse. She is transgendered and transitioned late in life. She has been the "first" transgender barrier breaker in many mainstream activities and has tried to put a positive image of the Transgender and LGBT communities in many organizations and with people that traditionally have not been supportive of this community.



## Joseph Allen (JoJo) Ruanto-Ramirez

Joseph Allen (JoJo) Ruanto-Ramirez is a Queer, Buddhist, Indigenous Asian American, scholar-activist, writer, comedian, refugee who came to the United States in 1991 as a natural disaster refugee after the U.S. Navy evacuated him, his mom, and his younger sister from the Philippines. He received his BA in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego, his MA in Sociological Practice from CSU San Marcos, and is currently pursuing an inter-field PhD in Cultural Studies and American Studies at Claremont Graduate University. He currently is an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies – Asian American Studies at

Southwestern College and is a part of both San Diego Unified School District's Ethnic Studies Advisory Board and County of San Diego's Office of Education's Asian & Pacific Islander Education Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Association for Asian American Studies and Native American & Indigenous Studies Association, as well as being a program coordinator for Critical Refugee Studies Collective and Palimpsest: Filipinx American Studies. He is part of the editorial board of *Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies* (University of California Press) and will be working with other academic journals for future projects.

He closely works with Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Coalition, Asian Business Association (ABA), Lao American Organization of San Diego (LAOSD), Queer APIMEDA, Pacific Arts Movement (PacArts), Iba Zambales Association of Southern California (IZASC), BIBAK San Diego (the Igorot American community of San Diego), Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC), Pakaraguian Kulintang Ensemble, Khmer American Mutual Association (KAMA), Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA), Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Initiative, Filipino American Educators Association of San Diego (FILAMEDA), National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP), and UC San Diego's Asian & Pacific Islander Alumni Council.

His passion has always been on educational equity and social justice, with a focus on queer and refugee communities in San Diego. His goal is to always highlight and centralize Asian refugee and Indigenous Asian American identity and narratives in his work. He is currently working with LAOSD and the Museum of Us for a future project on Lao American refugee narratives, as well as build curriculum for the Museum's exhibits that intersects Museum Studies with Ethnic Studies.

He advises 2 student organizations - Asian & Pasifika Business Association (APBA) of Southwestern College and ΨΧΩ (Psi Chi Omega) of UC San Diego. His students also know him as Professor Swoosh for his extensive Nike collection, while many Lao Americans call him Professor Jai because of his community work.



### **Milan Shah Bio**

Milan Shah is a high school student in San Diego with a passion for improving his community. He is the founder of [www.reelvoices.org](http://www.reelvoices.org), a student-led storytelling film project that amplifies youth voices. He was first inspired by his interviews with high school students at the El Cajon Valley Community Center who have overcome immeasurable obstacles just to arrive in the United States. That experience combined with his work at several nonprofits in San Diego focused on serving refugees and vulnerable youth led him to combine his passion for film along with his pursuit to create a more equitable and inclusive community. Milan has created award-winning movies.

At Westview High School, he is president of the Film Club and a member of both the Mock Trial and Tennis Teams. Outside of school, Milan is a Youth Attorney with the police department and presents cases in front of a judge and jury. He is also a Council Member with Outside the Lens which focuses on teens exploring media. He is a paid fellow for the UC San Diego Youth Ambassador-Scholar Program, iCivics, and Learning 4 Equity which all focus on community-based equity and education. He is proud to serve as a youth member of the San Diego Human Relations Commission.



## **Summer Stephan, District Attorney County of San Diego District Attorney's Office**

District Attorney Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families, providing justice to the most vulnerable, and is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Summer is focused on advancing public safety through fair and equal justice, bringing solutions to complex issues with a unique data-driven, commonsense approach that works to address the root causes of certain crimes driven by mental illness and addiction. As District Attorney, she leads the second-largest DA's Office in California, managing a professional staff of 1,000 employees, serving as the People's Prosecutor for San Diego County and its more than three million residents. Summer leverages her extensive courtroom, management, and leadership experience to set clear public safety priorities in collaboration with law enforcement and the community, keeping San Diego County one of the safest urban regions in the United States.

Summer rose through the ranks to become the elected District Attorney. As a trial prosecutor, she tried more than 100 jury trials, including cases of complex homicides, sexually violent predators, child molestation, sexual assaults, school shooting, and human trafficking-related cases. She served as Chief of the DA's North County Branch and Chief of the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, a special victim's unit she pioneered. In June of 2018, San Diego County voters overwhelmingly elected Summer as District Attorney.

DA Stephan holds leadership positions in public safety on the national, state, and local levels, which includes serving as a vice-president of the National District Attorneys Association, co-chair of the California District Attorneys Association Human Trafficking committee, and the National Association of Women Judges Human Trafficking committee. Summer served on the Governor's Task Force for High-Risk Sex Offenders and Sexually Violent Predators. She spearheaded the innovative "*Know the Price*" campaign, which focused on reducing sexual assaults on college campuses. She also led the award-winning "*The Ugly Truth*" human trafficking awareness campaign as well as the "*San Diego Opioid Project*," aimed at reducing opioid overdoses. Summer led a coordinated effort to protect the community from targeted mass violence with a School Threats Task Force that implemented a unified protocol with all 42 school districts in San Diego County.

In addition, she began an effective Veterans Treatment model in North County inspired by a heroic Marine Corps veteran. Summer is the recipient of numerous local, state, and federal awards, including an FBI commendation for organized crime prosecution, outstanding achievement award from the Deputy District Attorneys Association for the complex prosecution for the rape and murder of an elderly woman.

She was named an "Angel of Anti-Human Trafficking" and a "Modern Day Abolitionist." She was selected as the 2017 Southern California District Attorney of the Year by Crime Victims United, was awarded the Pathbreaker Award by Shared Hope International, and received the 2019 Humane Award for her work in fighting animal cruelty.

Summer received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis and her Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.