LATINA EMPOWERMENT DAY
LONG BEACH SPEAKERS

BELINDA BARRAGAN
Director of Community Engagement, HOPE

Ms. Belinda Barragan is part of the Executive Team and serves as the Director of Community Engagement for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She is responsible for directing HOPE’s community engagement team in executing community outreach events that build relationships with HOPE’s key stakeholders, non-profit organizations, and local, state and federal elected officials and community members. Her team executes HOPE’s flagship conference Latina History Day and the regional Latina Empowerment Days. She is an accomplished non-profit Director, public affairs and political management professional, with over 25 years of experience working with government entities, Community Based Organizations, corporations and grassroots organizations. A lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley, Ms. Barragan received her undergraduate degree in Business Finance from the University of San Francisco.

MONIQUE MARQUEZ
Regional Services Consultant, Wells Fargo

Monique started working at Wells Fargo as a teller November of 1999. She held various positions within the Branches from Banker, Branch Operations Manager and Branch Manager. She worked in the city of Long Beach for over 10 years covering multiple Bank Branches. In 2019, Monique transition into a supporting leadership role. As a Regional Service Consultant, Monique supports 17 branches within the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Compton and Pasadena. Monique has a passion around personal and professional development. She is currently the Chair of Wells Fargo Women’s Employee Resource Network for Orange County.

ELIZABETH SEELMAN
Principal Manager, Government Relations, Local Public Affairs, SoCal Edison

Liz Seelman is a Principal Manager for Government Relations at Southern California Edison (SCE). She manages a team of 14 government relations and public policy professionals throughout Los Angeles and Orange County. Prior to this role, Liz was the Principal Manager for Legislative Affairs at Edison International (EIX). She led a team that provided public policy analysis for EIX, SCE, and Edison Energy with the primary responsibility of leading the review and tracking of state and federal legislation in order to facilitate balanced public policy that aligns with Edison’s strategic priorities.

ADRIANA MENDOZA
Associate Director, Advocacy & Community Engagement, AARP

Adriana Mendoza currently serves as Associate Director for Advocacy and Community Engagement for AARP California. In this role, Adriana works to position AARP as a trusted resource and leader in local communities, as well as with elected officials, business leaders, and non-profit organizations. Adriana also has statewide responsibilities in overseeing AARP California’s Hispanic/Latino community engagement strategy. She has held various positions in the Association, including managing cross-functional teams of staff and volunteers tasked with building AARP’s relevance to members and multicultural communities through advocacy, community outreach, volunteer strategies, and brand awareness.
EMELLY VILLA
Community Engagement Coordinator, HOPE

Emelly Villa serves as a Community Engagement Coordinator for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She supports the community engagement team in executing HOPE's events and conferences such as Latina History Day and regional Latina Empowerment Days. She is responsible for executing community outreach strategies alongside her team to build strong partnerships with community leaders, HOPE alumnae, and elected officials. Emelly is a recent college graduate, receiving a degree in International Development Studies from UCLA.

GENESIS DISCUA
Community Engagement Coordinator, HOPE

Genesis Discua works alongside Hispanas Organized for Political Equality's (HOPE) Community Engagement team to bring conferences, roundtables, and other programming to the Latina community in efforts to further pursue HOPE's mission of creating political and economic parity for Latinas. She is responsible for various community outreach efforts, maintaining relationships with the HOPE's Leadership Institute Alumna, fostering relationships with elected official offices, and assists with event logistics and planning. Genesis is a proud product of the California Community Colleges and recently received a degree in Political Science from CSUN.

LAUREN SALAIZ
Youth Program Associate, HOPE

Lauren Salaiz currently serves as a Youth Program Associate for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She supporting the organization's youth initiatives, including the high school and college leadership programs which aim to connect first-generation Latinas with resources and support to pursue and complete a college and thrive in the workforce. Lauren received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2021. She is passionate about community engagement and development, education, and uplifting marginalized communities.

IVETTE KUYATEH, ESQ.
Founder & Managing Partner, Kuyateh Law Group
HLI CLASS OF 2016

Ivette Kuyateh, Esq. (HLI Class of 2016) is a highly sought after wealth preservation attorney who ensures every client's short and long term goals are at the forefront of the asset protection strategies she provides. Also known as, Kingdomsherolawyerinheels™, Ivette is a devoted Christian, wife, mom and trailblazing attorney focused on empowering others with solid financial and wealth preservation tools to protect their assets and peace of mind. Ivette is a former prosecutor, experienced litigator and zealous advocate often referred to as a “Wonder Woman” both in and out of the courtroom for her passion for standing strong as a voice for the voiceless and advocating for the rights of others in her community by also serving victims of abuse and trauma and training their service providers on financial abuse.
COUNCILWOMAN MARY ZENDEJAS

District 1, Long Beach City Council

Councilwoman Mary Zendejas was elected to represent the 1st District of Long Beach in November of 2019 becoming the first Latina wheelchair user to be elected to public office in the nation. As an infant, she was diagnosed with Polio, and later in High School started using a wheelchair daily. Her passion for living and working hard is rooted in seeing her parents, a field hand and factory worker, provide their children a better life. Their hard work allowed Mary to go to California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and become the first in her family to graduate from college.

TRUSTEE HERLINDA CHICO

District 1, Long Beach City Council

Trustee Herlinda Chico proudly represents Area 4 which includes East Long Beach, Signal Hill and Catalina Island. She is the first person of color to be elected to this seat and the first Mexican American woman elected to the Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees. As a product of the California community college system, Trustee Chico knows first-hand that a high-quality public education can be a great equalizer for students. She attended Rio Hondo Community College and transferred to California State University, San Bernardino where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Communications. Prior to being elected, Trustee Chico’s work in the community included successfully connecting local non-profits that work with traditionally marginalized populations to resources at LBCC.