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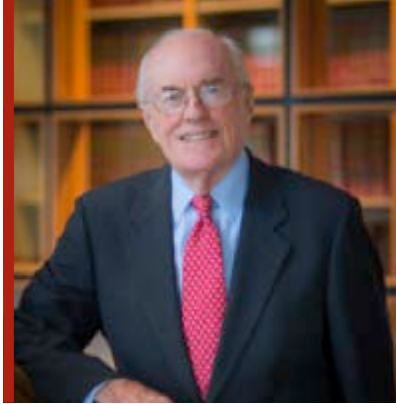


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Rob "Biko" Baker is the Executive Director of the League of Young Voters, and a nationally-recognized youth leader. Based in Milwaukee, Mr. Baker is a pioneer in running city-level, data-driven voter turnout campaigns that dramatically increase the voter participation of young urban citizens. A leading voice on field campaigns targeting young African American voters,

Baker serves on CIRCLE's research advisory board and is a board member of the New Organizing Institute. He is also a well known communicator around elections, as well as cultural and political issues including gun violence and voting rights. In addition to being a former contributor to The Source, he has appeared on C-SPAN, Fox News and CNN. A popular and powerful speaker at conferences and events, Mr. Baker has interviewed luminaries Cornel West, Russell Simmons, and Howard Dean, and has been on panels with many of the nation's strongest progressive voices. Baker holds a Ph.D. in History from UCLA.

## John Dunne



### **Former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under President George H. W. Bush**

Prior to joining Whiteman Osterman & Hanna as counsel to the Firm, John Dunne had served in a variety of federal, state and local government positions for thirty years. From 1990 to 1993 he was the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1966 to 1989 he was a member of the New York State Senate. Throughout his local and state service, he actively practiced law on Long Island, as a

partner in the national law firm of Rivkin, Radler, Dunne & Bayh.

From 1990 until 1993 Dunne, as Assistant Attorney General, headed up the enforcement of all federal civil rights laws. As part of his duties, he argued cases in federal appeals courts and in the U.S. Supreme Court. He was awarded both the Edmund Randolph and the John Marshal awards for distinguished service.

During 24 years as a state senator, Dunne served at various times as Deputy Majority Leader and chair of the judiciary, environmental protection, insurance and prisons committees.

John Dunne has authored a number of articles for various law school journals including Hofstra, Fordham and St. Louis, the op-ed pages of The New York Times, The Washington Post, U.S.A. Today and the New York Law Journal, Business Insurance and New York Bar Journal.

## Patty Ferguson-Bohnee



### **Faculty Director, Indian Legal Program Director, Indian Legal Clinic Clinical Professor of Law Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, Arizona State University**

Patty Ferguson-Bohnee has substantial experience in Indian law, election law and policy matters, voting rights, and status clarification of tribes. She has testified before the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the Louisiana State Legislature regard-

ing tribal recognition, and has successfully assisted four Louisiana tribes in obtaining state

recognition. Professor Ferguson-Bohnee has represented tribal clients in administrative, state, federal, and tribal courts, as well as before state and local governing bodies and proposed revisions to the Real Estate Disclosure Reports to include tribal provisions. She has assisted in complex voting rights litigation on behalf of tribes, and she has drafted state legislative and congressional testimony on behalf of tribes with respect to voting rights' issues.

Professor Ferguson-Bohnee clerked for Judge Betty Binns Fletcher of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and was an associate in the Indian Law and Tribal Relations Practice Group at Sacks Tierney P.A. in Phoenix. As a Fulbright Scholar to France, she researched French colonial relations with Louisiana Indians in the 17th and 18th centuries. Professor Ferguson-Bohnee, a member of the Pointe-au-Chien Indian tribe, serves as the Native Vote Election Protection Coordinator for the State of Arizona.

## Dolores Huerta



### **Founder and President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and Social Justice Activist**

As founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, Dolores Huerta travels across the country engaging in campaigns and influencing legislation that supports equality and defends civil rights. She often speaks to students and organizations about issues of social justice and public policy. The Dolores Huerta Foundation is a not-for-profit community organization that organizes at the grassroots level, engaging and developing natural leaders. The Dolores Huerta Foundation creates leadership opportunities for community organizing, leadership development, civic engagement, and policy advocacy in the following priority areas: health and environment, education and youth development, and economic development.

Ms. Huerta is a life-long labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farmworkers. She has received numerous awards for her community service and advocacy for workers', immigrants', and women's rights, including the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, the United States Presidential Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom presented to her by President Obama in 2012.



## Leon Russell



### **NAACP Vice Chair of the National Board of Directors**

Leon W. Russell retired in January of 2012, after serving as the Director of the Office of Human Rights for Pinellas County Government, Clearwater, Florida. He had held this post since January of 1977. In this position Mr. Russell was responsible for implementing the county's Affirmative Action and Human Rights Ordinances. In September of 2007, Mr. Russell was elected President of the International Association of Official Human Rights

Agencies during its annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The IAOHRA Membership is agency based and consists of statutory human and civil rights agencies from throughout the United States and Canada as well as representation from several other nations.

Mr. Russell served as the President of the Florida State Conference of Branches of the NAACP from January 1996 until January 2000, after serving for fifteen years as the First Vice President. He has served as a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP since 1990. He has served that board as the assistant secretary and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the National Board. He is a member of the International City Management Association; a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Campaign of Florida; past Board Member of the Pinellas Opportunity Council, past President and Board Member of the National Association of Human Rights Workers; member of the Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice with responsibility for recommending reforms to improve the juvenile justice system in the state of Florida.

Mr. Russell also served as the Chairman of Floridians Representing Equity and Equality. FREE was established as a statewide coalition to oppose the Florida Civil Rights Initiative, an anti-Affirmative Action proposal authored by Ward Connerly. Ultimately, the initiative failed to get on the Florida Ballot, because of the strong legal challenge spearheaded by FREE.

## Letter from the National Commissioners

We accepted the invitation to serve as National Commissioners on the National Commission on Voting Rights because of our long-standing commitment to the preservation of equal access and rights for all Americans, regardless of race or ethnic background. And we believe that one of the most fundamental of these rights is voting. The National Commission on Voting Rights was convened last year in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision to gut a vital protection of the Voting Rights Act, concluding that such protections were no longer needed. Those of us who had been working for years defending voting rights in minority communities strongly disagreed. Soon afterward, the Commission set out with two charges: first, to compile a comprehensive record of voting laws, practices and cases impacting minority voting rights and election administration issues; and second, to issue two reports based on our findings.

With the support of a broad-based coalition of national, state and community-based organizations, the Commission conducted twenty-five state and regional hearings across the country, where we heard from hundreds of voters, grassroots activists, state and local advocates, and experts on the wide range of issues impacting voters today. The Commission also examined state voting laws as well as recent legal cases brought on behalf of minority voters. The amassed record is clear—although we have made significant strides in expanding voting opportunities for all voters, voting discrimination is not a relic of the past but a very real problem that continues to persist in America.

Far too many of our constituencies are kept from the franchise. Far too many localities lack district elections that make it easier for minorities to elect their candidate of choice or disenfranchise incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals. Restrictive voter ID laws that make it harder for students and the elderly to vote, demands for proof of citizenship before allowing voters to cast a ballot, and continued instances of scare tactics and intimidation are just some additional examples of the practices that continue to plague our nation.

*Protecting Minority Rights: Our Work is not Done*, is the first of our national reports. We hope that this report will provide valuable information to voters in communities across the country. We also hope that it will give further evidence for why our nation should continue to provide the necessary protections to all voters—including African American, Latino, Asian American, American Indian and Alaskan Natives—so that we may all cast our ballots as freely as we believe was intended in our democracy.

Signed,

**Dolores Huerta, John Dunne, Patty Ferguson Bohnee, Leon Russell, Biko Baker**