

## **Fees & Fines: A Cycle of Punishment & Poverty**

*July 22, 2021 | 3:00-4:15pm*

### *Speaker Bios*

#### **Eva DeLair**

Eva received her J.D. in 2014 from Drexel University, Kline School of Law. While at law school, Eva worked at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project where she assisted in prisoner rights litigation; interned at the Philadelphia Defender Association where she represented low income clients in pretrial felony arraignments and misdemeanor trials. She also volunteered with the ACLU, reviewing police stops for violations of people's Fourth Amendment Rights; Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity assisting individuals in understanding their conviction histories and applying to seal them; and as a collective member of Books through Bars in Philadelphia which sends free books and educational materials to incarcerated people. Eva brings strong experience to Root & Rebound, working with systems and impacted people and communities. During Eva's second summer of law school, she interned in San Francisco at Legal Services for Prisoner with Children (LSPC). Following law school, she continued that work as a fellow at LSPC and then as a staff attorney until July of 2018. With LSPC, Eva advocated for legislative and regulatory policy changes to increase the rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and their families. Areas of work include increasing access to visits and family connections, increasing and protecting employment rights, accessing expungement and other post conviction sealing remedies, challenging the use of solitary confinement, advocating for trans and gender nonconforming prisoners, among others. She worked from start to end on many of these projects, from legislative advocacy, following and advocating for proper regulatory implementation, and working with communities to ensure that they knew their rights and how to access them, and with service providers to develop tools to implement the changes.

#### **Elisa Della-Piana**

As LCCRSF's Legal Director, Elisa Della-Piana litigates impact cases, spearheads statewide policy coalitions, and supervises a program staff of fifteen advocates working on immigrant, economic, and racial justice. Elisa's current and recent impact cases include: *Sanchez v. Caltrans*, a class action against state agency Caltrans for the destruction of homeless people's belongings; *Smith v. Reiskin* and *Coalition on Homelessness v. City and County of San Francisco*, challenging the constitutionality of a city towing low-income residents' vehicles because they cannot afford to pay tickets; *Jackson v. City of Oakland*, which ended enforcement of a decades-old loitering ordinance used to target Black housing authority residents; and *Rubicon v. Solano County Superior Court*, the first known lawsuit against a court in California for suspending licenses for failure to pay a traffic citation, and failing to implement ability-to-pay procedures for low-income court users. Elisa has also helped lead coalition efforts to end abusive fines and fees in California. She has helped conceive, research, and draft reports including Not Just a Ferguson Problem, Stopped, Fined, Arrested, Paying More for Being Poor, and Towed Into Debt. In addition to numerous other policy victories, she is grateful to have worked with incredible coalition and legislative partners to make California the first state to end the suspension of driver's licenses for failure to pay a traffic ticket, allowing more than 600,000 low-income Californians to get Back on the Road. Elisa spent seven-plus years with the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), where she served as Director of Programs and led EBCLC's

policy work, including helping to draft California bills related to consumer rights, homelessness, fines and fees, and civil rights. She also directed the Neighborhood Justice Clinic in Berkeley, where she supervised the General Legal Clinic, co-founded the Consumer Law Clinic, and led EBCLC's homeless rights work. Elisa began her career at LCCRSF as a Bingham McCutcheon Equal Justice Works Fellow and then as a Soros Justice Fellow. During her fellowships, she supported impact litigation, including the successful class action suit *Kincaid v. City of Fresno*, represented low-income clients, and worked on policy issues and other legal matters through the Homeless Rights Project. Elisa is a graduate of UC Berkeley Law School. After graduation, she clerked for Judge David F. Levi, Eastern District of California, and Judge Betty B. Fletcher, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

### **Brandon L. Greene**

Brandon Greene is director of the racial and economic justice program at the ACLU of Northern California. In this capacity, Brandon provides programmatic vision and leadership for advancing racial and economic justice in the state. Previously, Brandon managed the Civic Design Lab in Oakland and was an attorney and clinical supervisor at the East Bay Community Law Center, where he helped create and lead the decriminalization of poverty clinic. Brandon has also worked as public defender in Contra Costa County and as a fellow at Public Advocates in San Francisco. Brandon is a graduate of Boston University Law School, where he was a public interest scholar and Martin Luther King Social Justice Fellow. In his spare time, Brandon likes to write and podcast. His recent articles "Too Rich to be Poor: The Hypocrisy of Indigency Determinations" and "Mirror, Mirror: Anti-Blackness and Lawyering as an Identity" were published in the Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law and the Harvard Black Letter Law Journal, respectively. His article "Depraved Necessities: Prison Privatization, Educational Attainment and the Path to Profit" was published in 2013 by SRBLSA Law Journal. Brandon has also been a fellow with the Front Line Leaders Academy, the New Leaders Council, and recently a Legal Innovators Fellow with Law for Black Lives.

### **Claire Solot (Moderator)**

Claire has been working with non-profit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 25 years. Claire led the formation and operations of several private foundations and currently serves as the Managing Director of the Bigglesworth Family Foundation. In 2014 Claire co-founded the Bay Area Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN), a network of over 100 organizations that fund legal aid organizations. She is a nationally known expert in this area and has been invited to speak at the White House, the Legal Services Corporation, the CA Access to Justice Hearings. In addition, she consults with individuals, families and businesses in order to help them achieve their charitable, philanthropic and community objectives. Prior to entering into the field of philanthropy, Claire worked as an attorney in both the private and public sectors. Claire has expertise in organizational development, non-profits (legal and administrative issues), board governance and mediation. Claire received her Juris Doctor and Masters of Science in Organization Development from the University of San Francisco.

## **Asher Waite-Jones**

Asher Waite-Jones joined EBCLC's Clean Slate Practice in 2019. Prior to joining EBCLC, Asher was a Staff Attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow at Legal Services for Children in San Francisco, where he worked defending homeless youth in a wide variety of civil and criminal cases, including in moving violations and quality of life infractions and fighting for decriminalization of youth homelessness. During law school, he interned at the Bronx Defenders, the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office, and at EBCLC's Immigration and Homelessness Units. Prior to law school, Asher worked as a paralegal for a nonprofit representing incarcerated people in federal civil lawsuits and as a volunteer at a local needle exchange in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is committed to serving people facing structural oppression of all kinds, dismantling all hierarchical systems, ending mass incarceration, and moving towards the total liberation of all marginalized people. Asher received his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

## **Kellie Walters**

Kellie began her legal education at The John Marshall Law School in January 2003. During that time, she was an intern at The Fair Housing Legal Clinic for four semesters and spent several semesters employed as a legal research assistant. In 2006, she obtained her Juris Doctor degree and was admitted to the Illinois Bar. Later that year, she enrolled in Northwestern Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, seeking an LL.M. in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. During that time, she wrote her LL.M. thesis on the oil drilling in southeast Nigeria, its effect on the Ogoni tribe, and the ongoing litigation. She also taught seminars at the Portland Community College about the relationship between Environmental Law and Human Rights. Kellie returned to the windy city and worked with the Civil Rights Center litigating cases involving police misconduct until they closed their doors in 2009. After which, she started in private practice, focusing on criminal defense and civil rights cases. From 2015 through 2020, she was a supervising attorney for the housing section at UIC – The John Marshall Law School Domestic Violence and Family Law Clinic. In 2021, she began working as a Staff Attorney with LSPC and is really excited to work on the policy side of civil rights matters. Prior to attending law school Kellie spent two years working as a domestic violence counselor in an emergency shelter.