2019 Pacific Region Summit

**Presenters & Panelists**

**John Bell**

Attorney John Bell is licensed to practice law in Guam and California and focuses on labor and employment law. Through his prior practice with Torres Law Group he gained considerable criminal and civil litigation experience in a fast-paced and dynamic firm with an emphasis in employment discrimination matters for both employees and employers. As an associate attorney at The Law Offices of Phillips & Bordallo PC, he facilitated well over 50 adverse actions, grievances, and in matters involving Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaints; researched and advised Port Authority of Guam management on administrative law matters including but not limited to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), workers compensation, and procurement law compliance. John earned his Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law, with a concentration in labor and employment law.

**Nina Jusuf**

Nina Jusuf has been working on domestic violence and sexual assault issues since 1992, starting as a hotline volunteer before becoming a shelter-based domestic violence advocate and later as the Executive Director of the San Francisco Women Against Rape for five years. She is one of the founders of the National Organization of Asian and Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV) and has led numerous trainings on sexual assault and domestic violence issues in general and API-specific trauma-informed services; provided technical assistance to different API organizations; and has been providing training on organizational sustainability to different organizations in the United States and internationally. Nina is a certified trainer on Multicultural Wellness from Capacitar, an international energy-based healing program, and serves as Capacitar’s International Adviser. She has led/facilitated trainings on multicultural wellness, sustaining activists and activism and integrated security for women human rights defenders and has provided training in Indonesia, East Timor, Turkey, Serbia, Bosnia, Thailand and the United States.

**Guadalupe Lopez**

Guadalupe Lopez is a citizen of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and has been employed by the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition since 2007 and currently serves as the Elevate|Uplift Program Coordinator. She has extensive experience in advocacy for American Indian people who have experienced domestic and sexual violence. Guadalupe is known for her expertise in training and presenting on a wide variety of issues surrounding sexual violence of American Indian and Alaska Native people. She was one of the culturally-specific TA providers for the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative through the Office on Violence Against Women, and she has been a faculty member for Praxis International’s Advocacy Learning Center. She also provided TA to over 30 tribes under the Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program for the Office on Violence Against Woman. In addition, Guadalupe was one of five researchers who interviewed 105 Native women used in prostitution and trafficking for MIWSAC's report: *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota*.

**Luz Marquez-Benbow**

Luz Marquez-Benbow is an adult survivor of child sexual abuse, sexual assault and rape. Currently, she is a Just Beginnings Collaborative fellow where she is focused on building a survivor network #IamNegrx, of Black Latinx to advance movement building toward ending child sexual abuse across the Diaspora. Her project, in collaboration with the DC Rape Crisis Center and VidaAfrolatina held the first national gathering of Afrodescendant adult survivors during the International Day of Afrolatinx, AfroCaribbean and Diaspora women and girls on July 2017 and fosters a network of Black Diasporic survivors, committed to focus on affirming their Blackness, speak their truth as survivors and participate in culturally specific-centered healing and wellness modalities while also holding critical strategy sessions on issues impacting Black women and girls across the Diaspora. Luz previously served as the Director of Outreach and Policy for the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA); she co­founded the National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA) and worked closely with national policy advocates, and Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2005 and 2013. Most notably, Luz co-led the efforts to develop the Culturally Specific Grant Program in VAWA and ensure that all national violence against women policy is reflective of the needs of Communities of Color throughout the U.S and Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S Virgin Islands. She also co-led the work to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention Services Act of 2010, as it pertains to ensuring the equitable distribution of VAW resources across Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S Virgin Islands. Prior to working on sexual assault issues, Luz worked within the disability rights movement, primarily as the work related to self-advocacy and leadership of Young People with Disabilities.

**Nicole Matthews**

Nicole Matthews is a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and is the Executive Director for Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), where she has been since 2002. MIWSAC is a statewide tribal coalition and a national Tribal technical assistance provider and whose mission is to strengthen the voices of Native women to create awareness, influence social change, and reclaim the traditional values that honor the sovereignty of Native women and children thereby eliminating the sexual violence perpetrated against them. The MIWSAC vision is: Creating Safety and Justice for Native Women Through the Teachings of Our Grandmothers. Nicole was one of five researchers who interviewed 105 Native women used in prostitution and trafficking for their report: *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota*. She has spoken at statewide, tribal, and national venues on sexual violence, sex trafficking, and the intersections of racism and oppression.

**Joseph Stacey**

Joseph Stacey is a Laguna/Hopi artist and community organizer from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Joseph began to explore art at an early age, from completing a community mural at the age of 8, to competing and selling his art at the Heard Museum Student Art Show throughout his middle and high school years. He continued to study fine art at the University of New Mexico, graduating in 2003 with a B.A.F.A. Since then, he has been featured in various galleries and mural art installations around NM, AZ, and CA. In Albuquerque, his murals can be seen at the NM EXPO fairgrounds or most recently, at the Peace and Justice Center. For the past two years, he has been a featured artist of the Native American Business Incubator Network (NABIN), creating hand-painted signs for local entrepreneurs and business owners at business development events across the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation. Through NABIN, he was trained in graphic recording by Peter Durand of Alphachimp University. Joseph continues to market his artwork as well as working with youth and people as a community organizer, which he also incorporates art as well, especially through graphic facilitation. His introduction to organizing began with involvement in school organizations and clubs. His job at Strong Families NM helped him to develop more management skills and also was challenging as he was hired to work in 4 different counties. He continues his organizing work today at Southwest Organizing Project where he has worked on various campaigns including the Healthy Workforce and GOTV. Currently, he is working on a project with Arriba NM in creating community engagement tools in the form of “carts.” These carts are to be additional tools to help assist in organizing and inspire the community to invest in each other and create change.

**Karla Vierthaler**

Karla Vierthaler is the Advocacy and Resources Director for National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). She supports the provision of technical assistance to the nation on a wide range of sexual violence prevention and intervention topics. She has been an advocate in the movement to end sexual violence for twenty years. Karla previously worked for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, where she worked to develop training and technical assistance resources addressing sexual violence in populations historically underserved, including adults in later life, people with disabilities, and others. In addition, Karla is certified by Department of Justice as an independent Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Auditor. Karla holds a Masters of Public Administration from Shippensburg University.

**Mira Yusef**

Mira Yusef is the executive director of Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity, an organization serving victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Iowa, and one of the founders of the National Organization of Asian Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence. In addition, she serves on the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) National Advisory Council. Mira has a Master’s in Social Work, with specialization in Community Organizing, and a Master of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Mira was a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, 2004-2005, to pursue research in the Philippines on Muslim Filipinas employed as domestic workers in the Middle East. She was also awarded the National Security Education Program David Boren Fellowship in 2006 to study the Indonesian and Malay languages as well as conduct field research in Malaysia and Philippines.

**Other Presenters/Panelists:**

* Maresa Aguon, Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center – Healing Hearts Crisis Center
* Cynthia Cabot (CC), Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence
* Nadine Cepeda, Assn of Individual Marriage & Family Therapists/Guam Department of Education
* Eugene Charfauros, Guam Police Department
* J. Justin Edquilane, Guam Police Department
* Jayne Flores (JF), Bureau of Women’s Affairs/Governor’s Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office
* Gary Hartz (GH), Guam Community College
* Bernolina Hedson, Pohnpei Women Council
* Sam Ilesugam, Guma’Mami
* Marstella Jack, FSM Women’s Council
* Bernice Joash, Women United Together Marshall Islands
* Ipu Lefiti (IL), American Samoa Catholic Social Services
* Lisa Linda Natividad, University of Guam
* Eric O’Malley (EOM), U.S. Attorney’s Office Districts of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands
* Leticia Piper, Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center
* Rachel Pocaigue (RP), Project Foresight
* Hilda Reklai (HR), Palau Community College
* John Rivera, University of Guam
* Christina Kiki Stinnett, Chuuk Women’s Council
* Robert Toelupe (RT), American Samoa Alliance against Domestic & Sexual Violence
* Jennifer Tofaeono (JT), American Samoa Alliance against Domestic & Sexual Violence
* James Yaingeluo, Chuuk Community Health Center