

Rebecca Vallas



Senior Fellow Center for American Progress

Rebecca Vallas is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, where she has spent the past five years helping to build and lead CAP's Poverty to Prosperity Program in a range of roles including as the program's policy director and vice president—and along the way, helping to launch the organization's criminal justice reform and disability justice work. She is also a cofounder of the Clean Slate Initiative, which is now helping leaders in over a dozen states expand and automate criminal record-clearing to help justice-involved individuals move on with their lives and have a fair shot at jobs and housing. Prior to joining the Center for American Progress, Vallas spent several years representing low-income individuals and families at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, where she began her work advocating for the rights of Social Security disability beneficiaries as a Skadden Fellow, and as the deputy director of government affairs at the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR).

Ms. Vallas has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, CNBC, Fox News, PBS, and Al Jazeera America, and NPR, as well as several local television and radio outlets; her work has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and a wide range of national and local news outlets; and she has testified before Congress on several occasions. Ms. Vallas is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance – for which she currently serves as Secretary of the Board—and was the inaugural recipient of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association's New Leaders in Advocacy Award. She was twice named one of Forbes Magazine's "30 Under 30" for Law & Policy as well as Emory University's "40 Under 40," and is a 2019-2020 Rockwood "Leading from the Inside Out" Fellow.

Vallas received her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Anne K. Callagy



Director of Governmental Benefits The Legal Aid Society

Anne Callagy has been at The Legal Aid Society since 1993. Ms. Callagy was a staff attorney in the neighborhood offices in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx in the areas of housing and public benefits from 1993 – 2007. Ms. Callagy taught as an adjunct professor in the Urban Law Clinic at New York Law School during 2006-2007. Since 2007, she has been the Supervising Attorney for the Government Benefits Unit in The Legal Aid Society's Bronx Neighborhood Office. She is currently the Director of the Government Benefits Practice at Legal Aid. Ms. Callagy trains and supervises legal services and pro bono attorneys in government benefits practice, including Social Security disability benefits hearings and appeals.

She graduated from Boston College, and the New York University School of Law.

Randy Feliciano, MPA



***Senior Program Manager
National Council on Aging***

Mr. Feliciano is a Senior Program Manager with the National Council on Aging (Center for Benefits Access). In this role, he provides technical support and training to benefit enrollment centers throughout the U.S and spearheads a committee of national non-profit organizations and federal government agencies focused on the needs of low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

Randy's professional background also includes program management, client advocacy, media communications, federal grant support and Volunteer Administration. From 2010-2015 he worked for Arlington County's Department of Human Services where he managed a legal guardianship program (serving incapacitated adults in the Arlington area), and a Personal Advocate Service where volunteers worked with area residents and human service clients to connect them to local, state and federal benefit programs and services.

In 2014, he co-authored an article for the American Bar Associations, BIFOCAL, entitled: The Work of a Volunteer Fiduciary, which highlights the effectiveness of volunteer and pro bono guardians of incapacitated adults. In the fall of 2019, the State Supreme Court appointed Randy to the Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) in Virginia.

Cara Liebowitz



Development Coordinator The National Council on Independent Living

Cara Liebowitz is the Development Coordinator at the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL). She handles the organizations grant writing, fundraising, and organizational partnerships, including sponsorships, exhibiting, and advertising for NCIL's Annual Conference.

Cara has nearly a decade of experience in the disability rights movement, with a particular focus on issues of education and media representation. Her work has appeared in a variety of online and print publications, including the Washington Post, Uncanny Magazine, and Everyday Feminism. She has spoken at over 30 local, national, and international conferences and events on a wide variety of disability rights topics.

Cara holds a B.S. in Education from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Disability Studies from the CUNY School of Professional Studies.

Kelly Bagby



Vice President AARP Foundation Litigation

Kelly Bagby is the Vice President at AARP Foundation Litigation (AFL) managing the office's work related to health, hunger, housing, and human services. Ms. Bagby specializes in civil rights, disability rights, health law, and other public interest areas, with an emphasis on litigation. Ms. Bagby has been a part of AFL's Health Team since 2008 where she has litigated a range of discrimination and public interest cases in federal and state courts. Prior to joining AFL, she worked for the Office of Counsel for the Office of Inspector General for the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). From 1998 to 2004, Ms. Bagby was the litigation director at Disability Rights D.C. and worked at Disability Rights Maryland before that.

Ms. Bagby has served as class counsel in a number of cases that have permitted people to age in place in the community rather than in nursing facilities. Ms. Bagby was co-counsel in several cases in which nursing facility residents were administered psychotropic medications without informed consent. She has been working on patient dumping for the past several years and is counsel to a victim of dumping in a high profile case in California. Ms. Bagby files amicus briefs in state and federal courts that relate to ensuring that victims of abuse and neglect are able access the judicial system for redress. Some high-profile cases Ms. Bagby lent her expertise are: *Darling v. Douglas (Cota v. Maxwell-Jolly)*, 688 F. Supp. 2d 980 (N.D. Cal. 2010); *Brown v. District of Columbia* (Case No. 10-02250).

Yvonne Perret, M.A., M.S.W., LCSW-C



***Executive Director
Advocacy and Training Center***

Yvonne Perret is the Executive Director of the Advocacy and Training Center in Cumberland, Maryland. She has worked primarily in social work since 1968 and has been a licensed clinical social worker since 1985. Ms. Perret is the primary founder of the national Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program, begun in 2005. This program follows the model of the SSI Outreach Project that Ms. Perret directed in Baltimore from 1993 until 2002. The project was named a “Best Practice Program” by the National Alliance to End Homelessness in 2001 and an Exemplary Program by SAMHSA in 2005.

Since 2002, Ms. Perret has been a nationally recognized expert and leader in accessing disability benefits for adults who are homeless and who have behavioral health disorders. She is the lead author for the *Stepping Stones to Recovery* and *Stepping Stones to SSI and SSDI* curricula, written for staff assisting those with behavioral health disorders and HIV/AIDS, respectively. The approach used in both curricula is on accessing benefits as a tool in recovery. She is active in advocacy regarding mental health, homelessness, and public benefits and is the recipient of several awards for advocacy and social work, most recently being named one of the Top 100 Women In Maryland. .

Ms. Perret serves on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of Maryland, chairs the Allegany County Commission on Women and the Health and Education Group of the Allegany County Women’s Action Coalition. She is a trainer of Mental Health First Aid, an evidence-based program, and is a consultant/trainer to New York State and Maryland SOAR. She has served as a SAMHSA reviewer for several years and a facilitator SAMHSA’s BRSS TACS Policy Academies.

Tammy Seltzer, Esq.



***Director, DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project
Disability Rights DC***

Ms. Seltzer is the Director of the DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project at Disability Rights DC (DRDC), a program of University Legal Services in Washington, DC. DRDC is the District of Columbia's designated Protection and Advocacy organization, federally mandated to protect the rights of people with disabilities, including people with psychiatric disabilities. DRDC founded the DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project 13 years ago to assist DC residents with serious and persistent mental illness returning to the community from jail and prison, removing obstacles to reentry and linking individuals to services and supports. The DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project is the only DC legal services provider to assist individuals with disabilities to apply for SSI and SSDI prior to their release from incarceration.

Tammy has worked for over 20 years vindicating the civil rights of people with mental illness in various arenas including the justice system. Tammy spent two years as the Director of State Policy at the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the national association for community mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.

Ms. Seltzer also spent 10 years as an attorney with the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, where she focused on children and criminal justice issues, including an SSI benefits project to assist children of Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange. In 2016, Tammy received the Center for Court Excellence's 2016 Justice Potter Stewart Award for her work with people with disabilities, and in 2019 she received an Advocate for Justice Award from the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia.

Ms. Seltzer graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Public Policy and received her law degree from the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia.