

## *Tracey Gronniger*



### *Directing Attorney Justice in Aging*

Tracey Gronniger is the Directing Attorney for the Economic Security team at Justice in Aging, which uses the law to fight senior poverty. In this role, she pushes to improve access to Supplemental Security Income, Social Security, and other public benefits that provide economic support for low-income older adults across the country. The team looks particularly at increasing equity for those who have traditionally experienced systemic discrimination and lacked legal protections, including people of color, women, LGBTQ individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

Prior to her work at Justice in Aging, Tracey spent nearly ten years as a senior staff attorney at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in its Bureau of Consumer Protection, where she litigated a variety of cases to halt fraudulent and deceptive marketing practices. Tracey is currently on the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Board of Directors and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI).

She received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Michigan Law School and graduated from Harvard University.

***Kee Tobar, Esq.***



***Director of Race Equity & Inclusion  
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia***

Kee Tobar is the Director of Race, Equity, and Inclusion at Community Legal Services (CLS) of Philadelphia — the largest legal aid organization in Pennsylvania. As CLS’s first Race, Equity, and Inclusion Director, she provides vision, leadership, and direction for CLS’ ongoing strategy to support racial equity, inclusion and diversity (REID) across all aspects of the organization’s work and efforts.

Previously Ms. Tobar worked as a disability justice attorney in the CLS Youth Justice Project, with a focus on social security advocacy and law enforcement policy related to persons with disabilities. She began her time at CLS as a Stoneleigh Foundation Emerging Leader Fellow with a project focusing on increasing access to civil legal services for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, and system-involved (child welfare, juvenile justice, homeless services) youth, as a means of preventing and reducing homelessness. Prior to CLS Ms. Tobar was a Zubrow Fellow at Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Ms. Tobar also has practice experience in the areas of national juvenile justice and child welfare policy. She has published numerous articles on the intersections of race, disability, age, and sexual orientation.

She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

## *Kascadare Causeya*



***Program Manager, BEST & Co-coordinator Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment, Central City Concern***

Kascadare 'Kas' Causeya is the Co-Coordinator of Central City Concern's Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment Team helping people enroll in the Affordable Care Act version of Medicaid. He has made it his life's work to offer knowledge, experiences, and skills to those who are facing barriers because of severe mental and/or physical impairments.

He started working for Central City Concern as a Benefits Specialist, helping those with severe medical and mental impairments, develop and file their claims for Social Security Disability. He is a member of the SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Expert Panel, Luke-Dorf Board of Directors, and National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE). Kas has made numerous presentations for NADE, SOAR, and the National Healthcare for Homeless Conference.

Kas completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Washington, in the fields of History and Psychology. He completed his Master in Business Administration through Aspen University.

## *Dazara Ware*



### *Assistant Director SAMHSA SOAR TA Center Policy Research Associates, Inc.*

Dazara Ware, MPC, is an Assistant Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center with Policy Research Associates (PRA) located in Delmar, New York. Dazara has worked with the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center for 10 years, and has over 28 years' experience working with people and within systems that provide services to those with serious mental impairments, are homeless, were previously incarcerated, and/or other legal histories. In her current position, her areas of expertise include assisting with SOAR implementation in legal settings. In addition, Dazara serves as a lead contributor to the planning, development and execution of PRA's strategic plans to reduce the influence of implicit bias and encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion within program areas with a goal to reduce negative impact on the partners and providers. Dazara is committed to fostering safe psychological spaces for colleagues and constituents and works to encourage all to address internal unconscious bias in effort to strengthen overall service delivery.

Dazara earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University and Master of Arts (M.A.) in Professional Counseling from Argosy University.

***F. Michael Willis***



***Partner  
Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker***

Michael Willis is a partner at Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker where he helped launch the firm's international indigenous rights practice area drawing from his work with indigenous communities and organizations in Bolivia and nearly a decade of human rights work in Guatemala. Representing Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), Michael designed activities and drafted funding proposals to enable AIO to work with indigenous Bolivians. This strengthened their ability to promote inclusive, democratic processes for indigenous culture and identity.

Michael first joined Hobbs Straus as a law clerk in 1997. After spending 2003-2004 as a democracy officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development in La Paz, Bolivia, Michael returned to Hobbs Straus in 2004 and became partner in 2006.

Michael practices in the areas of tribal transportation, trust reform, and the federal-administrative process for tribal recognition. He has extensive experience in tribal risk management and the application of the Federal Tort Claims Act to Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements.

Michael was the primary drafter of the amicus curiae brief submitted by the Intertribal Transportation Association in the *Wagon v. Prairie of Potawatomi Nation*, 546 U.S. 95 fuel tax case before the Supreme Court in 2005. In the trust reform area, Michael worked with the United South and Eastern Tribes to encourage a legislative settlement of the *Cobell v. Norton*, lawsuit and promote greater tribal involvement in and oversight of the government's management of trust assets. He was the primary drafter of the first amicus curiae brief submitted by the National Congress of American Indians in the *Cobell v. Norton* litigation.

Michael along with Tim Seward authored, "Protecting and Preserving Indigenous Communities in the Americas," Human Rights, publication of The American Bar Association. He has taught the human rights course, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, at American University's Washington College of Law.

***Robin R. Runge***



***Associate Professorial Lecturer in Law  
The George Washington University Law School***

Robin R. Runge, Juris Doctor (J.D.), is a professorial lecturer in law at The George Washington University Law School where she has taught Public Interest Lawyering and Domestic Violence Law since 2004, including in the clinical education program.

From 2013-2018, Robin was the Director of Enforcement Policy and Procedures in the Wage and Hour Division and a Senior Policy Advisor in the Civil Rights Center at the U.S. Department of Labor. From 2009-2013, Robin was an assistant professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law where she taught in the Housing and Employment Law Clinic and Domestic Violence Law. In 2012-2013, she lived in Beijing, China as a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar studying the legal system response to violence against women in China and assisting with the drafting of the national anti-domestic violence law that was adopted in 2015. From 2003 to 2009, Robin directed the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence where she led efforts to expand civil legal assistance for victims of domestic violence domestically and internationally.

Previously, she was Deputy Director and Coordinator of the Program on Women's Employment Rights (POWER) at the D.C. Employment Justice Center. Upon graduation from law school, Robin received an Equal Justice Works Fellowship and created the Domestic Violence and Employment Project at the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, one of the first programs in the country devoted exclusively to advocating for the employment rights of domestic violence victims. She is a graduate of The George Washington University Law School and Wellesley College. Robin is from Collinsville, Illinois and currently resides in Washington, DC.

## ***Aaron Tax***



### ***Director of Advocacy SAGE***

Aaron Tax is the Director of Advocacy for SAGE. He advocates for LGBT-inclusive federal aging policies that account for the unique needs of older LGBT adults.

Until June 2011, Aaron served as the Legal Director at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), the leading organization challenging “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) in Congress and in the courts. He started there as a staff attorney in 2006, and for nearly five years at SLDN, he took part in a multifaceted approach to advancing the civil rights of LGBT servicemembers through law, policy, outreach, and education. As the Legal Director, Aaron was responsible for running the legal services program at SLDN, providing free legal services to service members impacted by DADT and related forms of discrimination, including those who are HIV positive and/or transgender.

Prior to joining SLDN, Aaron spent three years working for the Department of the Army in the Office of EEO and Civil Rights, the first two years as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF). As a PMF, he worked for the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany, and served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, where he tried more than two dozen cases. A graduate of Cornell University with honors and distinction and the George Washington University Law School with honors, he currently resides in Washington, DC.