

2023 DC Immersion Experience Alumni Bios



Sandhya Agarwal '03: Sandhya Bathija is the Vice President and Chief Communications Officer at Campaign Legal Center (CLC), a nonpartisan organization that advocates for every eligible voter to meaningfully participate in the democratic process. Sandhya develops and oversees the implementation of CLC's organizational communications strategy and creates proactive communications campaigns that advance CLC's mission. Sandhya is trained as a lawyer and journalist and has extensive background in nonprofit communications. She has led grassroots and communications campaigns for the Center for American Progress, the American Civil Liberties Union, Asian Americans Advancing Justice and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She has also worked as a reporter for the National Law Journal and practiced law for a small civil rights firm in Detroit, Michigan, where she represented clients in police misconduct cases. Sandhya holds a law degree from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and degrees in journalism and history from Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Sandhya is a member of the Michigan Bar.

sbathija@campaignlegalcenter.org.



Jon Baselice '07: Jon currently serves as the Vice President of Immigration Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and joined the Chamber in June 2014. He works with member companies to form Chamber policy positions on various issues and advocates for sensible immigration policies before Congress and the executive branch agencies.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Jon served as an advisor to Senator Rubio for three and a half years. In that capacity, he held a very important position as one of the Senator's lead immigration advisors during the Senator's involvement with the Gang of 8 and his push for comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the 113th Congress.

Jon is an attorney and is licensed to practice in the states of New York and Florida. He obtained his JD from the University of Miami School of Law, and he completed his undergraduate education at Syracuse University where he majored in economics and political Science and was a member of the Syracuse Orange football team.

jbaselice@uschamber.com



Tiffani Clements G'18: Tiffani Shea Clements is a Public Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Washington, DC. She has 29 years of federal government service with 23 years of experience in public relations. She has a wealth of work experience serving as a public relations professional under the Administrations of Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump and has staffed events with President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Vice President Joe Biden and Vice President Mike Pence.

Tiffani holds a B.A. in English from George Mason University and a M.S. in communication management from Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

She is 1/3 of a YouTube-based talk show, The Spot Real Talk, which provides commentary on tv, films and interviews with talent and creatives. The Spot Real Talk has conducted Roundtable interviews for many shows including: "PValley", "Raising Kanan", "Power Book IV: Force", "BMF", "Power Book 2: Ghost," "Snowfall", "This is Us", "Ozark", "The Chi", "Reasonable Doubt," "Godfather of Harlem" and several other shows. She has interviewed influential guests, including Emmy award winning writer and actress Lena Waithe; Chris Brancato,

showrunner of "Godfather of Harlem" and writer/producer of "Narcos" and "Hoodlum"; and Demetrius "Lil Meech" Flenory, star of "BMF."

The Spot Real Talk 2022 highlight reel of celebrity interviews can be found [here](#).

Tiffanic4@gmail.com



Joel Cohen '14: Just prior to graduating from Syracuse University with a degree in policy studies and a minor in business management, Joel Cohen began his career on Capitol Hill interning for United States Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland during his final semester of school. Following graduation, he was hired full time and worked on multiple issues, particularly focusing on health care. He then transitioned to work for the Senator, in his capacity as Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC). While working at SFRC, he initially supported the press team, and then transitioned into a policy role focused on the East-Asia Pacific region and oversight of the United States Department of State's operations and budget. After five years on Capitol Hill, he briefly moved to the private sector, focusing on trade, labor, and environmental policy issues, before then pursuing his M.P.A. full time at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. After completing his master's degree, he returned to Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant and subsequently was promoted to Legislative Director in the Office of Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada's First Congressional District. Along with running the day-to-day operations of the office, Joel served as the Congresswoman's chief legislative policy advisor, primarily focusing on assisting her work as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. His policy portfolio also included covering defense, trade, commerce, tax, gaming, appropriations/budget, space, sports, and alcohol/spirits issues for Congresswoman Titus.

Earlier this year, Joel made a shift off the Hill and recently began as the Director of Government Relations for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), where he focuses on tech policy and combatting hate online, as well supporting the ADL's international affairs work.

Joel and his wife currently live in Washington, DC, and he is a keen sports fan, particularly supporting the Baltimore Ravens, Baltimore Orioles, Washington Capitals, both his alma maters, and Arsenal Football Club. Outside of work, he enjoys learning about different cultures, traveling, playing various sports, as well as running, hiking, and biking. He hopes to one day have the opportunity to use sports as a policy tool to assist in diplomacy and lowering barriers for those less fortunate.

joel.cohen18@gmail.com



Charles Cutshall '07, G'09: Charles Cutshall is the Director of the Office of Privacy and Open Government (OPOG) and the Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) at the United States Department of Commerce (DOC). He performs as the Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP) within the DOC. In this capacity, Mr. Cutshall serves as the key policy advisor on implementing the Privacy Act of 1974; the privacy provisions of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and of the E-Government Act of 2002; the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA); the principles of transparency and open government; and leads the Department's Directives Management Program.

Charles.Cutshall@gmail.com



Bill Fletcher '14: As a litigator in the Investigation and White-Collar Defense practice group at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, Bill Fletcher represents both corporate and individual clients in criminal investigations and prosecutions, internal investigations and compliance, and civil litigation. Bill draws on his knowledge in diverse industries including automotive and transportation, blockchain and cryptocurrency, government contracting, finance and trading, securities, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and electronics and technology to assist clients in all phases of investigations, prosecutions, compliance, and litigation.

Bill is a proud graduate of Syracuse University's policy studies program. While at Syracuse, Bill was a member of Syracuse University Ambulance, SU Club Ski Racing, the University Conduct Board, and Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

fletcher.william.g@gmail.com



Chris Fowler G'13: Chris Fowler serves as Senior Director of Corporate Development at the USO, where he leads dynamic partnerships that strengthen America's military service members and their families. Since joining the USO in 2018, the partnerships Chris leads have provided over \$15mm in support of the USO's mission. His global team of five lead an impressive roster of strategic partnerships to include those with the National Football League (NFL), Lowe's, FedEx, Kroger and USAA.

A born storyteller and creative problem solver, Chris was raised near Syracuse University where he later earned his MBA. He has 20+ years of experience in creative professional services and over ten years in digital marketing and strategic communications, with a portfolio of projects that reaches the United Nations and two hall-of-fame songwriters.

Chris serves as an elected member of the Advisory Council of the Global Diplomacy Lab, which has a bold vision to advance more inclusive and agile formats of diplomacy and international cooperation to deal with cross-border and global challenges. Chris is also a member of the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network and was appointed as its first 'Network Driver' in North America, where he served as a community organizer from 2014-19.

Closer to home, Chris serves as an Election Officer in Fairfax County, VA. Staying in touch with his personal passions, Chris has performed in over 10 productions with the Washington, DC-based Picnic Theatre Company. In 2019, Chris was recognized as a "Distinguished Alumni" of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at George Mason University from where he earned a BA in integrative studies.

An avid (but a bit out of shape) footballer, Chris holds a Coaching License with the US Soccer Federation and has coached his daughters' soccer teams for 10+ seasons. He and his partner Jennifer Herrera live in Fairfax County, VA, with their two daughters, where they all enjoy listening to music and supporting both the men's and women's teams of Liverpool Football Club.

c.d.fowler@gmail.com



[John Fraser III G'18](#): Transformational Leader | DEI Champion | Coach | Keynote Speaker | BA Enthusiast | focused on Purpose, Impact, and Organizational Success at North Highland, a global management consulting firm headquartered in Atlanta. www.northhighland.com

For the past 15+ years, John has helped expand and develop Business Analysis and Transformative Change capabilities for a wide range of public and private sector organizations.

John.Fraser@northhighland.com
John.Fraser.iii@outlook.com



[Shawn Geegbae '05, G'07](#): Shawn Geegbae spent his childhood and formative years living in Northern Virginia. At Syracuse University, Shawn became a member of the national service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, and was selected as a Ronald E. McNair Achievement Scholar. After graduating with a BS in finance from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management, Shawn later worked on Wall Street as a commodity broker. Shawn is also an avid reader and writer and has authored two children's books.

Shawn.geegbae@gmail.com



with a minor in Chinese studies. She currently lives in Arlington, VA.

[Diane Girouard '10](#): Diane Girouard is currently the State Policy Senior Analyst at Child Care Aware of America, a national nonprofit organization with a vision that every family in the United States has access to high-quality, affordable childcare. Prior to this role, Diane was a Child Nutrition Policy Analyst at the Food Research & Action Center, where she analyzed and researched school breakfast and lunch policies in states and at the federal level. After college, Diane got her start in policy by working as an Education Policy Analyst for seven years in both houses of the New York State Legislature. Diane graduated from Syracuse University with a BA in policy studies and political science, with a minor in Chinese studies. She currently lives in Arlington, VA.

djgirouard@gmail.com



[Corey Goldstone '13](#): Corey Goldstone is a communications professional working as Program Manager for External Relations at Amazon. Corey focuses on campaigns and partnerships that focus on consumer protection related to Amazon's online store. Corey was previously Senior Communications Manager at Campaign Legal Center, a national public interest legal organization that protects voting rights through the legal system. Corey holds a master's degree from Georgetown University and received his bachelor's from Syracuse's Maxwell School.

coreygoldstone@gmail.com



[Stephanie Haver '15](#): Stephanie graduated from Syracuse in 2015 with a BA in Art History. She went on to receive a MA from The George Washington University in Museum Studies. She has over 6 years of experience working in nonprofit museum fundraising and currently works as the Membership and Annual Fund Manager at the International Spy Museum. Stephanie also currently serves as the Co-Chair for the Syracuse Alumni Club of Washington, DC.

stephaniebhaber@gmail.com



[Ian Kimani '15](#): Ian graduated from Syracuse University in 2015 with a BS in information technology & management with a minor in global enterprise technologies. He has worked on projects which have serviced the Department of Defense and the United States Postal Service through his career in IT consulting. He is also the CEO and co-founder of KPN Technology, Inc. an American-owned OSAT (outsourced semiconductor assembly and test) which provides wafer backend processing services.

ian@kpntechnology.com



[Danique Masingill '13, G'14](#): The passion that led Danique to become a leading expert in the service dog industry and launch multiple successful nonprofits and programs can be traced to her service in the U.S. Navy.

As a member of naval law enforcement, Danique served with military police dogs. The duty inspired her to study working dogs at Syracuse University, where she later researched the subject for her master's.

Danique's knowledge and experience helped quickly establish her as an expert in the field. Congress, the Department of Transportation, the Government Accountability Office, and the airline industry have all tapped Danique's expertise to craft wide-ranging policies governing service dogs and military canines.

In her capacity as Leashes of Valor's (LOV) president, Danique was at the forefront of efforts to advance both the law and science surrounding service dogs. A research study was conducted by LOV in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University's College of Nursing to study whether service dogs are an effective treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The effort could be an important piece in proving service dogs are an evidence-based treatment for the conditions and worthy of being a cost covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and private health insurers.

Danique's efforts to protect the legal standing of service dogs under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was central to a major victory, when the Department of Transportation passed rules removing emotional support animals from airplanes. It also recognized the right to travel with service dogs prescribed for PTSD. Danique has actively advised policymakers in creating rules that distinguished service dogs in the treatment of PTSD as an ADA-protected right.

Danique is currently building out a new program, The Hero Academy, which provides service, facility, and working dogs to veterans, first responders, their families, and communities at no cost.

danique@theheroacademy.org



[Brian Reil '09](#): Brian Reil is the managing director of external communications at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), which represents all of America's investor-owned electric companies. In this role, he manages media relations, issue management, and stakeholder engagement through earned and paid media, e-newsletters, social media, web content, and the Electric Perspectives magazine and podcast. Brian works across EEI and with all internal teams to ensure that EEI is delivering clear and consistent messaging on behalf of America's investor-owned electric companies. This requires subject matter expertise and extensive engagement not only with EEI staff, but also

with staff from other key stakeholders, including EEI's member companies, which operate in every state and the District of Columbia. Brian plays a critical role helping to coordinate unity of message among key industry and government stakeholders during business continuity exercises and emergency situations, when the electric power industry is at its best. After Hurricane Maria, Brian spent more than 50 days in Puerto Rico supporting the power restoration mission and helping to tell the industry story that we were one team, with one mission—

restoring power to the people of Puerto Rico. Most importantly, Brian helps explain to customers and to the media how EEI's member companies are prioritizing affordability and reliability as they work to get the energy they provide as clean as they can as fast as they can. Prior to joining EEI, Brian managed media relations at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. He holds a dual BA in political science and public relations from Syracuse University and MS in energy policy and climate from the Johns Hopkins University.

bjreil@gmail.com



Suraj Renganathan G'21: Suraj Renganathan is a Risk Consultant at Guidehouse (formerly Grant Thornton LLP), a mid-sized consulting firm in the Washington, DC, area. He mainly works on projects with federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State. He graduated from the Maxwell MPA program in 2021, specializing in data analytics. While at Syracuse, he was also selected to be a Presidential Management Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control, though he turned down the offer for personal reasons. Suraj graduated with a BSBA in business and public policy from the University of Denver in 2019, where he was the undergraduate valedictorian and a National Coca-Cola Scholar. He has also pursued several international educational experiences in the past, including an internship at a nonprofit in Bangalore, India, studying abroad at the University of Zurich, and a Fulbright Fellowship in Taiwan.

srenganathan@guidehousefederal.com



Gaurav Shetty '22: Gaurav Shetty graduated from Syracuse University in 2022 and majored in international relations and newspaper and online journalism. He currently works at Guidehouse as a communications consultant in the public sector.

Gshetty1562@gmail.com



Turnell Sims '90: Turnell is the President/Owner of Sims A&R Consulting LLC. Turnell's love of children inspired him to make education his career. He is dedicated to helping students achieve academic success irrespective of the unique challenges they may face. He is also dedicated to helping to develop a positive school culture and discipline procedures with the use of restorative practices. Through Sims A&R Consulting, LLC, Turnell now seeks to support students with special education needs through his advocacy component of his business. He will also be offering educational administrative leadership in developing and facilitating restorative practices in their

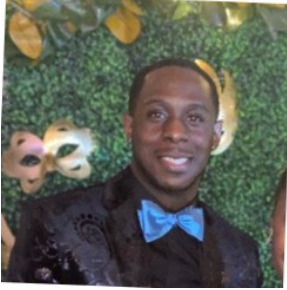
schools for divisions.

Most recently, Turnell was the Principal of Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES, Fox Meadow High School for two years. As Principal of Fox Meadow High School, Turnell led his educational community through the very difficult process of transitioning learning from in person to virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to joining Fox Meadow High School, Turnell Sims spent twenty years in various roles at Fairfax County Public Schools in Fairfax County, VA, as an administrator and teacher. For example, Turnell served at Franklin Middle School in Fairfax County, VA, as an administrator for a comprehensive special education program. Turnell led the program and supervised a wide variety of students with special needs. In addition, he led staff in developing innovative support and instruction of students with varying disabilities. After ten years at Franklin Middle School, Turnell joined Westfield High School as a sub school principal. There he supervised the Social

Studies, CTE (Career and Technology Education) and physical education departments. He was responsible for the Restorative Justice, Freshman transition and technology programs at the high school.

Turnell received a BA in speech communications from Syracuse University and a master's degree in Transitional Special Education from the George Washington University. Turnell also has an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision from Virginia Tech University.



Wyan Smith '11, G'12: Innovative digital IT Consultant with first-rate skills in directing full SDLC and Agile lifecycle projects and program initiatives. Significant leadership experiences in technology transformations spanning 10 years of experience in the financial services industry (Banking, Capital Markets, and Wealth Management), ranging from project and product management supporting enterprise initiatives to leading delivery of new client products. Specializations include Product Strategy, Agile Program Delivery, Technology Transformation and Delivery. Documented successes in achieving operational efficiencies and delivering complex product rollouts. Excellent stakeholder management skills enabling data-based decision-making for client executives and their respective teams.

wyan.smith@gmail.com



Megan Stull '00: Megan Stull serves as Senior Manager, Government Relations & Regulatory on Apple's Government Relations team in Washington, DC, where she focuses on issues including consumer devices, public safety, wireless spectrum, accessibility, and video.

Prior to joining Apple, Megan served as Senior Counsel on Google's Communications Law team in Washington, DC, and as an Associate in Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP's Communications, Media, and Privacy practice.

Megan served as the President of the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA) from July 2021 - 2022. She received the FCBA's Distinguished Service Award in 2016, as well as the FCBA Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2006.

Megan holds a juris doctor, magna cum laude, and a certificate from The Institute for Communications Law Studies from the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, where she was Editor-in-Chief of CommLaw Conspectus: Journal of Communications Law and Policy. She received a BA, summa cum laude, in television, radio, & film and women's studies from Syracuse University. Megan is a member of Syracuse University's DC Regional Council and of the Board of Visitors of Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

In her spare time, Megan volunteers with the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's Kitten College, saving neonatal kittens from kill shelters in the Washington, DC, area, and is a travel lover and fitness enthusiast.

She lives in Arlington, VA, with her husband and three cats (Clint Barton, Natasha Romanoff, and Countess Tessa von Chocula).

megan.stull@gmail.com



Jennifer Voss '04: Jen Voss is currently a Partner at ICF, a global consulting company, and sits in ICF Next, the company's marketing and digital division. Jen works in the US Government division and works on developing campaigns that tackle some of our country's most pressing problems including human trafficking, women's heart health, drug abuse, terrorism, and cyber security, among others. She started her career in consumer and sports public relations, and while at Syracuse, she was a broadcast journalism major at Newhouse and involved in WAER and Delta Delta Delta. Post college, she has been heavily involved in Syracuse alumni activities including the DC

Alumni Club Softball Team.

jvoss0712@yahoo.com



Madeleine Williams G'22: Madeleine Williams is a Program Analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) working in the Food and Nutrition Service's Child Nutrition Programs. She holds a MA in international relations from Syracuse University and MPP from the Hertie School of Governance. From her past experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer and fellow at the UNICEF Public Partnerships Division, to her new work projects, she is excited to work in the intersection of governance, nutrition and child welfare, and policy analysis.

madeleinewilliams1@gmail.com