



Speaker Biography

Panel Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Community Mediation

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Online via Zoom video conference | RSVP by Friday, May 21, 2021

[Learn more about event here.](#)

Overview

NVMS Conflict Resolution Center is pleased to convene this panel discussion to deepen our understanding of the collective work of mediation, and to identify ways the practice of peacebuilding can proactively become an instrument for creating community ties that transcend demographic backgrounds. Meet our panelists and moderator.

Panelists:

Sonia Aranza, Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategist



Sonia Aranza is a member of the NVMS CRC Board of Directors. She is an accomplished Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategist with 25 years of experience serving top organizations including Boeing, CIA, Coca-Cola, McDonalds, NASA, Oshkosh Corporation and more. She is a past chairperson of the Diversity Professionals Expert Group of the National Speakers Association. The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) selected her as a featured Diversity and Inclusion Expert in HR Magazine. She was named "100 Most Influential Filipina-Americans in the United States" and featured in the book *Disrupt 2.0* where she authored "Transformational Leaders Begins Within." She brings academic grounding to her work with two Master's degrees and numerous certifications. Prior to establishing her global consulting practice, she served as Director of Constituent Relations in the United States Congress for former Congressman Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii and advocated for underserved communities on complex issues such as immigration. Sonia Aranza is on the faculty of Howard University's Executive Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Program.

Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, Fairfax County



Karla Bruce currently serves as the first Chief Equity Officer for Fairfax County, Virginia. In this role, Bruce successfully championed the adoption of the One Fairfax Racial and Social Equity Resolution and Policy. She provides overall management of the One Fairfax strategic framework, advising and supporting the Board of Supervisors and Executive Leadership in shaping and directing policy and practice to foster equitable opportunity for all Fairfax County residents. With over 20 years of local government management experience, Bruce is known as a driver of innovation in public service delivery, bridging the efforts of local government with the collective action of residents and broad networks of partners to strategically address issues facing vulnerable populations and neighborhoods.

Alma Jadallah, PhD., President, Kommon Denominator!



Dr. Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah is a conflict prevention and mitigation specialist and is the founder, president, and managing director of Kommon Denominator, Inc., an organization that is committed to leveraging social science research in support of the peaceful resolution of conflict. In that capacity, she designed and delivered small and large-scale interventions in corporate, community and international settings on dispute resolution processes, ethnic and racial conflicts, issues related to gender mainstreaming, women's leadership development, inclusive and participatory processes, and multi-stakeholder engagement strategies. Dr. Jadallah is an alternative dispute resolution specialist, a skilled facilitator, and mediator on the national and international levels, executive coach, a Virginia Court Certified mediator. She has participated in several global conferences on conflict resolution and has been a speaker and participant at various national and international fora and guest to various media outlets. Her writings included conflict assessment studies for the U.N. and USAID and focus on the role of culture on conflict resolution processes especially negotiation, mediation, inclusive peace processes, conflict assessment, gender, and leadership. A native of the Arab world, Dr. Jadallah is fluent in Arabic and has in depth knowledge of the region. She worked on strategic projects in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Morocco, Tunis, Libya, and the GCC countries. Dr. Jadallah earned her Ph.D. from the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. She teaches graduate level courses on conflict resolution theory and practice, cross cultural issues, and protracted conflicts in lead academic institutions around the world. She also taught at the National Labor College on issues of diversity and leadership in labor disputes.

Walter Tejada, former Chair of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors, Community Leader



Walter Tejada joined the NVMS CRC Board of Directors in February 2021. He was on the Arlington County Board from 2003 to 2015, serving as Chair in 2008 and 2013 and Vice Chairman in 2007, 2012 and 2015. He has distinguished himself as a leader committed to enhancing the diversity of Arlington and the region's community voice. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Office of the Public Defender for Arlington & the City of Falls Church, the Arlington Non-Profit Assistance Center, and the Community Volunteer Network. While an elected official, Tejada held leadership roles in the National Association of Counties (NACo) serving on the Transportation, Justice and Public Safety, and Healthy Counties committees. He was appointed chair of NACo's Immigration Task Force in 2009 and 2012, and vice chair in 2015. Tejada also served in leadership positions in the Virginia Association of Counties and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Walter Tejada was the first chair of the Virginia Latino Advisory Commission, a member of the Governor's Urban Policy Task Force and the Immigrant Rights Coalition of Greater Washington. He is currently the president of the Virginia Latino Leaders Council. The Governor of Virginia appointed him to serve on the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, where he serves as Co-chair of the Dulles Corridor and Sustainability Committees. He also serves on the MWAA's Business Administration, Ethics Review, Human Resources, Risk Management, and Strategic Development Committees. Walter Tejada is a recipient of the Spirit of the Community Award from the Arlington Community Foundation, Outstanding Young Arlingtonian of the Year from the Arlington Jaycees, the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award from the Center for Non-Profit Advancement (twice) and the Immigrant Advocate of the Year Award from the Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition.

Jacqueline Tucker, City of Alexandria Race and Social Equity Officer



Jaqueline N. Tucker is the first Race and Social Equity Officer for the City of Alexandria, appointed in 2020. Tucker directs the City government's race and social equity programs to ensure policy decisions advance race and social equity for all Alexandria residents in order to build a more equitable community. Tucker served as the first East Region Project Manager for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. At GARE, Tucker analyzed policies and practices through a racial equity lens and provided technical assistance and coaching to local, state, and regional governments for policy intervention, organizational transformation, and strategy development on the issue of race and social equity. Tucker also helped to plan the first-ever, metropolitan Washington, D.C. regional learning cohort of local government staff to advance racial equity and opportunities for all, a partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and GARE. Prior to GARE, Tucker served as the Leadership for Educational Equity Fellow and interim senior federal relations associate for the Council of Chief State School Officers. She contributed to Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs, a report that outlines practical steps for state education chiefs. Tucker, a Texas bar-certified attorney, has previous experience as a legal analyst with Deloitte and Touche, a Freedom of Information attorney with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a community organizer with Families Empowered, and an aide to several members of the U.S. Congress. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Butler University and a Juris Doctor from the Howard University School of Law.

Moderator: Regine Talleyrand, Ph.D., Associate Professor, George Mason University



Dr. Regine Talleyrand is an Associate Professor for the Counseling Program in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. She completed her PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Maryland and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Talleyrand has spent the past twenty years studying mental and physical health disparities in People of Color and developing culturally relevant counseling interventions for communities that have been underrepresented and underserved. She has published and presented extensively in the areas of eating disorders in People of Color, racial and ethnic identity development, acculturation stressors for immigrant populations, multicultural social justice counseling, career counseling and the importance of advising and mentoring relationships. Dr. Talleyrand served from 2005 to 2016 as an advisor and consultant to the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, a private, non-profit organization that provides transitional housing and support services for homeless individuals living in the Northern Virginia area. She has served on the NVMS Conflict Resolution Center Board of Directors since 2017. Based on her research and teaching expertise, she has also served in moderator and consultant roles for local and national organizations invested in increasing awareness of cultural diversity, race and privilege.

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