

# Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center

## Budget Summit 2018

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

## PLENARY SESSION PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Keynote Speaker | A Call to Action**

#### **Andrea Purse, Managing Director of Communications, The Hub Project**

Andrea Purse leads communications efforts for The Hub Project. The Hub Project was started in 2016 to help lead communications campaigns on key issues--from health care, to taxes, to financial regulation--the Hub works to make sure that campaigns are smart, focused, and help move the public and leaders towards action.

Before working at The Hub, Andrea headed up communications for NextGen Climate and the Center for American Progress, both leading national progressive organizations. Andrea also has a strong background in broadcast communications, working as the director for broadcast media at the White House, and leading similar efforts for the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives and John Edwards Presidential Campaign in 2008. At the White House, Andrea worked with the President, First Lady and other Administration officials to have a strong presence on key issues of the day, from combatting Ebola around the world, to encouraging Americans sign up for the Affordable Care Act. Andrea has worked in various nonprofits including the Children's Defense Fund, Rhode Island Kids Count, and Campaign for America's Future.

A native of McMurray PA, Andrea now lives in Silver Spring, MD with her husband, Jimi, and two children, McKenna and Keaton, who are aspiring political organizers (and who practice canvassing their own house and their neighbors on behalf of progressive causes).

#### **State Senator David Argall, 29th Senatorial District**

Senator Argall represents the 29th District in northern and western Berks County and all of Schuylkill County. He serves as Chairman of the Senate Majority Policy Committee and is the first member from the 29th District to serve in a leadership position in the State Senate since 1861. As the proud grandson of local Cornish, Welsh, and German farmers, coal miners and factory workers. Senator Argall's top legislative priorities are promoting job growth, eliminating the school property tax burden on homeowners and revitalizing our downtowns and older industrial areas. He led the successful fight to pass a new anti-blight law which has been hailed as "a significant step forward for Pennsylvania" by newspapers across the state.

Senator Argall earned a bachelor's degree from Lycoming College. He earned a master's degree and his Ph.D. in public administration from Penn State. His doctoral dissertation reviewed the benefits and drawbacks of Pennsylvania's tax-free "Keystone Opportunity Zones" for economic development. As time permits, Dr. Argall serves as a part-time public policy instructor at Penn State. Senator Argall lives in Rush Township with his wife, Beth, and two very active terriers. Their children, AJ and Elise, are respectively pursuing a law degree and a new career in public service. You can visit his website at [www.senatorargall.com](http://www.senatorargall.com).

#### **State Senator Lisa Boscola, 18th Senatorial District**

State Senator Lisa M. Boscola has spent the majority of her professional career working to improve the lives of Lehigh Valley residents. First elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1994, Senator Boscola served two terms in the state House and is serving her fifth term representing the 18th Senatorial District, consisting of Northampton and Lehigh Counties. Prior to her election to the General Assembly, Senator Boscola served as Deputy Court Administrator with the Northampton County Court. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Villanova University cum laude.

Throughout her legislative career, Senator Boscola has worked tirelessly to bring property tax reform to the forefront of the debate in the General Assembly. Senator Boscola has been a leading proponent of the total elimination of the local school property tax and has been a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 76. She has also introduced legislation to freeze property taxes on seniors so that they can remain in their homes. Senator Boscola has also focused on the need for state government to promote economic development initiatives to provide family sustaining jobs to the Lehigh Valley and across the Commonwealth. She has worked diligently to bring the Lehigh Valley region our fair share of state funds for worthwhile local projects. She has been a strong advocate for funding economic development programs with proven track records of job creation. Working with the private sector to drive growth, job expansion and retention has been a focus for Senator Boscola.

Since 2011, Senator Boscola has been Chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and also chairs the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. Senator Boscola is also a member of the Judiciary, Banking & Insurance, Game and Fisheries and Rules & Executive Nominations Committees. Senator Boscola resides in Bethlehem Township with her husband, Ed Boscola and their two cats Turbo and Trixie.

### **State Representative Mike Sturla, 96th House District**

Representative Sturla, state representative for the 96th Legislative District (Lancaster County) was born and raised in Lancaster County. He graduated from Garden Spot High School in 1974 and from the University of Kansas in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Design. While still in college, he started a painting and renovating business with his brother that later became Sturla Brothers, Inc. Construction and Contracting. Rep. Sturla would later form Architrave, an architecture and design business with several partners.

Rep. Sturla began his public service in 1987 when he was elected to Lancaster City Council. He also served as a member of the Lancaster County Planning Commission in 1990 until his election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1991. For the past 20 years, he has diligently served the citizens of the 96th District, which includes Lancaster City and parts of Lancaster Township and Manheim Township. He also volunteers in the community and serves on various boards, including the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board and the Stevens College Community Advisory Council.

Throughout his legislative career, Representative Sturla has served on a variety of House standing committees, including Appropriations, Transportation, Health, Education, Urban Affairs, and Aging. As chairman of the Professional Licensure Committee in the 2007/08 session, he shepherded through 22 laws. He also has been a member of the Capitol Preservation Committee and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. In the 2009/10 legislative session, Rep. Sturla was elected by his Democratic colleagues to the leadership position of Democratic Policy Committee chairman. He has been re-elected to this post for each subsequent session. In this role, he is instrumental in crafting the caucus' policy agenda.

### **Diana Polson, Policy Analyst, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center**

For more than a decade, Diana has served as a researcher and public policy analyst for universities, policy think tanks, and applied research centers. Diana enjoys working at the nexus of applied research and worker/community organizing. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from CUNY Graduate Center in New York City, where she completed her dissertation on care work and the low-wage economy. Diana, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, lives in Pittsburgh with her wife and their two boys.

### **Marc Stier, Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center**

Marc Stier has had an illustrious career as an activist, teacher, and writer. Prior to joining PBPC as Director in 2015, Marc served as the executive director of Penn ACTION, where he worked to protect funding for education and women's health care and expand Social Security; the Pennsylvania Director of Health Care for American Now, which led the grassroots effort in support of what became the Affordable Care Act; and the Health Care Campaign Manager for SEIU Pennsylvania State Council. Stier was an academic for 25 years. He has a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and a doctorate from Harvard University, both in political science. He has taught at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; City College of New York; the University of North Carolina, Charlotte; and Temple University, where he was the associate director and internet coordinator of the Intellectual Heritage Program. Stier is the author of numerous papers on political philosophy, the history of political thought and American politics. He is the author of the book *Grassroots Advocacy and Health Care Reform*, published in 2013. He recently finished two new books, *Liberalism and Communitarianism Revisited* and *Civilization and Its Contents: Reflections on Sex and the Culture Wars*. He also is co-editor of *Ambiguity in the Western Tradition*.

### **Corinna Vecsey Wilson, Esq., President, Wilson500, Inc.**

Corinna Vecsey Wilson, Esq. is the president of Wilson500, Inc., a creative solutions consulting firm offering strategic communications, government relations, project management and public relations services. She has over 25 years of experience as a corporate lawyer, lobbyist, and trade association and not-for-profit senior manager. She is also a media and communications professional, having worked in newspapers and on television. Most recently, she was vice president for content at Pennsylvania Cable Network. Notable among her achievements was her lead role as general counsel and chief operating officer of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association advocating passage of the new Pennsylvania Right-to-Know law, signed by Governor Ed Rendell in 2008. She is also proud of her work with Pennsylvania Legislative Services and the leaders of all four political caucuses of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to create the Capitol All-Stars softball game that has raised over \$170,000 to fight hunger in Pennsylvania. Corinna co-founded the Pennsylvania Women's Forum and currently sits on the Advisory Board of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts. She manages Hunger-Free Lancaster County, a three-year initiative to ensure sustainable access to three healthy meals a day for all Lancasterians. She tweets @CorinnaVWilson and you can find her website at [www.Wilson500.com](http://www.Wilson500.com).

# WORKSHOP PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Lauren Badger, Government Relations Associate, Food Research & Action Center**

Lauren joined FRAC in July 2017 as the government relations associate. She assists with the development and implementation of FRAC's legislative agenda, working with Congress, national organizations, and FRAC's network of state and local anti-hunger organizations to strengthen domestic anti-hunger programs for low-income individuals and families. She also manages planning of the annual National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference. Before joining FRAC, Lauren was an anti-hunger program associate at D.C. Hunger Solutions, an initiative of FRAC. In this role, she worked to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation and policies, and help reduce senior hunger in D.C. She has also worked with SNAP and other federal nutrition programs in previous roles at the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and the University of Georgia Department of Foods and Nutrition. Lauren has a B.S. in both dietetics and consumer foods from the University of Georgia and an M.S. in foods and nutrition from the University of Georgia. Lauren also completed the dietetic internship at the University of Georgia to become a Registered Dietitian.

## **Brittany Crampsie, Press Secretary, Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa and the Senate Democratic Caucus**

Brittany Crampsie is the Press Secretary for Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa and the Senate Democratic Caucus. Prior to working for the Senate, she spent several years in public affairs consulting in Harrisburg, primarily for clients in education and labor. During that time, Brittany was the Democratic analyst for abc27's program, "This Week in PA," a Sunday morning talk show that runs in media markets across the state. In 2017, she won *Central Penn Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" award; and in 2016, she won the same award from *City & State PA* magazine. Brittany is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Lehigh University, where she earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in Political Science. She sits on the board of the United Way of Pennsylvania and serves as an alumni outreach ambassador for her alma mater.

## **Dan Doubet, Executive Director, Keystone Progress**

Dan Doubet has lead various mobilization and organizing efforts for over decade from coast to coast. Most recently he has organized in his hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania, moving people from a list of email subscribers to Keystone Progress' first self-governing chapter. In August of 2017, he assumed the role of Executive Director of Keystone Progress.

## **Nijmie Zakkiyyah Dzurinko, Co-founder and co-coordinator, Put People First! PA**

Nijmie Dzurinko is a lifelong Pennsylvanian and cat lover. She is a former organizer and Executive Director of the Philadelphia Student Union, co-founder of the Media Mobilizing Project, and co-founder and volunteer co-coordinator of Put People First! PA.

## **Miriam Fox, Executive Director, Pennsylvania House Committee on Appropriations for Chairman Joseph Markosek (D)**

Miriam Fox is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania House Committee on Appropriations for Chairman Joseph Markosek (D). She brings to the position over 30 years of progressively increasing experience in public policy analysis and budgeting. She manages a team of experts who are key players in developing the Pennsylvania budget; plays a leadership role in legislative projects; negotiates budget and public policy for the House Democratic Caucus. Ms. Fox has served the committee since 1987 for three Chairmen. She began her tenure as a Revenue Analyst under Rep. Max Pievsky (Philadelphia), was promoted to Senior Fiscal Analyst in 1991 and finally to Executive Director in 2003 under Rep. Dwight Evans (Philadelphia). Beginning with the 2011/12 legislative session, she continues to serve as Executive Director under the chairmanship of Rep. Markosek (Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties). Her areas of expertise involve state and local taxation, public pensions, budgeting, cash flow analysis, relationship building, public information and outreach activities. Ms. Fox has also served as a delegate to the Public School Employees' Retirement System board. As a delegate, her responsibilities included oversight of investment returns and pension benefits, including annuities and health care issues, for one of the top-rated pension funds in the world. Ms. Fox received her Master of Science in Public Management and Policy Analysis from Carnegie Mellon University and her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Idaho State University. She resides in Dauphin County with her daughters.

## **Jeff Garis, Outreach and Engagement Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center**

Jeff Garis is the Outreach and Engagement Director for PBPC, a position he has held since 2013. Jeff has two decades of experience working with advocacy organizations in Pennsylvania. Before joining PBPC in 2013, he worked with diverse coalitions for several years as the field director for Pennsylvania Voice and as the state political director for America Votes. Jeff spent four years as the executive director of Penn Action, and served as the director of a statewide anti-death-penalty organization for seven years. He received a B.A. in English education from Messiah College and began his career as a minister and in teacher in a Mennonite middle school in his hometown of Souderton. Jeff is a lifelong Pennsylvanian, residing in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood with his wife, son, daughter, and Lemmiwinks the Dog.

### **Reverend Dr. Franklin Hairston-Allen, President, Harrisburg Area Chapter of the NAACP**

The Reverend Dr. Franklin Hairston-Allen is the President of the Harrisburg Area Chapter of the NAACP, a position he has held since 2016. Dr. Hairston-Allen previously served as president of the NAACP chapter in Little Rock, Arkansas in the 1980s. He is also the pastor of the First Zion Baptist Church in Susquehanna Township, having resided in the Harrisburg area for more than three decades. Dr. Hairston-Allen earned degrees from Harding University, Philander Smith College, Shorter College, and the University of Arkansas. He is a native of Martinsville, Virginia.

### **Stephen Herzenberg, Executive Director, Keystone Research Center**

Stephen Herzenberg is the Executive Director of KRC, a Pennsylvania-based, independent, non-partisan economic research and policy organization, which also houses the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center. Dr. Herzenberg holds a Ph.D. in economics from MIT. His research has focused on the U.S. and global auto industry, the rise of the service-dominated new economy, the challenges unions face adapting to the new economy, workforce development, economic development, industry studies including early childhood education, long-term care, manufacturing, and construction, and a state policy issues generally. His writings for KRC are available at [www.keystoneresearch.org](http://www.keystoneresearch.org), including *The State of Working Pennsylvania*, published annually since 1996). His publications for national audiences include *Losing Ground in Early Childhood Education*, Economic Policy Institute, 2005; *New Rules for a New Economy: Employment and Opportunity in Postindustrial America*, Cornell/ILR press, 1998; and *U.S.-Mexico Trade: Pulling Together or Pulling Apart?* Office of Technology Assessment, United States Congress, September 1992.

### **Kadida Kenner, Campaign Manager, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center**

Kadida Kenner has been PBPC's Campaign Manager for more than a year, managing the Why Courts Matter campaign and working on other PBPC issues. After a decade in retail management and public relations, Kadida was inspired to work on then Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008 as a volunteer coordinator. During the first Obama term she returned to college and earned a BA from Temple University's Annenberg School of Communications. Immediately after graduation, Kadida moved to North Carolina and enjoyed success as a writer, producer and director for college sports television programming with a focus on HBCU sports. Energized by the 2016 election, she took a hiatus from TV production to return to campaign work as a field and digital organizer for the Hillary Clinton campaign.

### **Antoinette Kraus, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Health Access Network**

Antoinette Kraus currently serves as founding Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN). Kraus has helped grow PHAN into Pennsylvania's largest consumer driven organization. She works toward quality, affordable health care for Pennsylvanians, and building a healthier Pennsylvania. She currently serves on the advisory board of the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Health Cents Blog. She served on the transition team for Governor Wolf and is the chair of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's Health Literacy Workgroup. In 2013 she received an Advocacy Vanguard Award from PRO-Act for and in 2015 she received the Thomas J. Zeuber Patient Safety Award from SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania.

### **Hannah Laurison, Co-founder, Pennsylvania Together**

Hannah is the co-founder of Pennsylvania Together, a statewide coalition of grassroots resistance groups. She works with grassroots leaders from all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties who are resisting Trump's racism, misogyny and fascism; demanding accountability from our elected leaders and running for office themselves. Previously, she led a national coalition of organizations fighting cuts to the social safety net in the United Kingdom, served as an adviser to local and state governments on public health policy, and helped launch the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative.

### **Hillary Linardopoulous, Staff Representative, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers**

Hillary Linardopoulos taught at Julia de Burgos Elementary School in the West Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia for 9 years, and now serves as a staff representative for the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers. Her role at the PFT includes political mobilization and outreach. She sees her work in the union as a way of advocating for a fair, just, and equitable society. Hillary earned her Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Pennsylvania and her ESOL certification from Drexel University. She has written numerous op-ed pieces for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and also blogs for the *Huffington Post*.

### **Adanjesús Marín, Director, Make the Road Pennsylvania**

Adanjesús Marín grew up mostly in San Antonio, Texas. In 4th grade, when a teacher tried to segregate his class, he organized a walk-out. He saw the potential for organizing against the establishment and learned the power of collective multiracial direct action and organizing. While living in New York, Marín co-founded the Student Liberation Action Movement. Here in Pennsylvania, he spent 10 years organizing healthcare workers with SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania. As Chair of the Lancaster City Human Relations Commission,

he organized and led the Lancaster Committee to Defend Civil Rights. He is now the Director of Make the Road Pennsylvania (MRPA), the largest Latinx organization in the state, building power for justice through organizing.

### **Michael Maguire, Assistant Legislative Director, AFSCME Council 13**

Michael Maguire is the AFSCME Council 13 Assistant Legislative Director, a position he has held since January 2011. He became a member of AFSCME in 2000 when he joined Local 1896, City of Lancaster. Throughout the years, Mike was active in his local union as a Steward, Executive Board member, Local Union President and member of the AFSCME Council 13 Steering Committee. In 2009, he was hired by AFSCME Council 13 as a District Council 89 Staff Representative. Prior to his promotion to the Assistant Legislative Director position, Mike was in the Organizing Department and also active in various political races. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mike and his brother were raised in a union household. His father was President of United Auto Workers Local 834. Mike currently resides in Warwick, Lancaster County, with his two teenage sons, Kyle and Austin.

### **Ted Mowatt, Senior Associate/Lobbyist, Wanner Associates**

With over 30 years experience in government affairs and advocacy, Ted knows how to bridge the gap between his clients' worlds and government, translating their needs and concerns into the language policy-makers understand. Ted served for over thirteen years as the Government Affairs Director for the Pennsylvania Optometric Association. He also served as President of the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations and currently chairs the Pennsylvania Alliance of Health Care Providers, a coalition of organizations representing many health care professional groups. Ted is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), a member of the American Society of Association Executives, and the Pennsylvania Society of Association Executives, for which he serves on the Membership Committee. Ted is a 1983 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

### **John Neurohr, Communications Director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center.**

Before joining PBPC, John was the Communications Director at Keystone Progress and the National Communications Director for ProgressNow, a network of 22 state-based communications organizations. Prior to joining ProgressNow, John was the Communications Director for America Votes and, before that, a Strategic Communications Manager and Deputy Press Secretary at Washington, D.C.'s leading progressive think tank, the Center for American Progress. He is a board member of Vision for a Better Community PAC in western Pennsylvania and a member of the Robert Morris University History/Political Science Advisory Committee. John holds a master's degree in Political Management from the George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and a bachelor's degree in Television-Radio from Ithaca College.

### **Molly Chapman Norton, Executive Director, The Atlas Project**

Molly Chapman Norton is a veteran campaign strategist. As the principal of a Democratic opposition research and consulting firm, she managed research projects for hundreds of domestic campaigns from the local to presidential level, as well as a number of international political research operations. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Atlas Project, a critical piece of the progressive infrastructure that provides organizations with research and data solutions to help them create and execute campaigns and political programs. Norton began her professional career in the media as the Research Director of the Almanac of American Politics. She also served as Editor of *House Race Hotline*, a columnist for *Congress Daily* and as communications director for a think tank. Norton is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a long-time resident of Washington, D.C.

### **Jane Palmer, Executive Director, Indivisible Berks**

Jane Palmer is the founder of Indivisible Berks, a 2,000-member citizen advocacy group in Berks County dedicated to ensuring that our elected officials represent all their constituents, including the most vulnerable. Jane is a lifelong activist who coordinated the annual Keystone Progress Summit for several years, and in 2016 managed the 20th Anniversary Conference for Keystone Research Center. She is a writer, artist and former marketing communications consultant.

### **Eric Rosso, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Spotlight**

Eric Rosso is the Executive Director of Pennsylvania Spotlight, an organization dedicated to bringing accountability to right-wing extremism in Pennsylvania. Previously, he served as the Deputy State Director for Pennsylvania Working Families having started as their Political Director in 2015. In this position, he designed a successful electoral program for the 2015 municipal elections in Philadelphia and oversaw a candidate pipeline program. Before joining Working Families Party, Rosso was the Political Liaison at SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH where he was responsible for implementing political strategy across the tri-state region, engaging members in political activism and serving as a point of contact for elected officials. During the 2012 and 2014 election cycles, he served as the Field Director for SEIU's general public program managing the largest Independent Expenditure program in Ohio for the 2012 election. Rosso is a veteran labor operative who has also previously worked for AFT and Governor Ted Strickland. Follow him on Twitter at @ericopinion.

### **Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters of Pennsylvania**

Susan Spicka is the Executive Director of Education Voters of Pennsylvania and a first-term school board member in Shippensburg. She has been involved in grassroots advocacy for public education since 2011. Prior to moving to Shippensburg in 2002, Susan taught English in a high school with a high number of economically disadvantaged students in Columbus, Ohio. Susan and her husband have two daughters who attend their local public schools. She holds a B.A. in Classics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a M. A. in Ancient Greek and a M.Ed. in English education from The Ohio State University.

### **Ashleigh Strange, Communications Director, Make the Road PA**

Ashleigh Strange was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and moved to the east coast in 2013. Currently she is the Communications Director at Make the Road Pennsylvania (MRPA), the largest Latinx organization in PA, building power for justice through organizing. Strange has volunteered in organizations across the country such as NPR, AmeriCorps, the Civil Air Patrol, college campuses and food banks. As a woman of color, she sees the potential and power of her community and strives to fight for equity every day.

### **Deborah Swerdlow, State Strategies Manager, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**

As State Strategies Manager at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Deborah Swerdlow supports state partner education and outreach on federal issues that support low- and moderate-income families, such as the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and low-income portion of the Child Tax Credit. Before coming to CBPP in April 2015, Swerdlow spent nearly three years as the Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she developed, executed, and evaluated grassroots campaigns around AAUW's federal policy priorities and supported the state-level work of AAUW state affiliates and local branches. Swerdlow previously worked at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), first as a legislative assistant focused on women's issues, health care, disability rights, and judicial nominations and then as a program associate focused primarily on the RAC's high school social justice trainings. Swerdlow holds a master's in public administration from George Washington University and bachelor's degrees in journalism and Middle Eastern studies from the University of Florida.

### **Liana E. Walters, Esq., Legislative Director, Senator Art Haywood (4th Senatorial District)**

Liana Walters, Esq., is Senator Haywood's Legislative Director, responsible for his policy research, drafting, monitoring bill positions, and budget analysis. She also serves as Executive Director (D) for the two Senate committees chaired by Senator Haywood (Aging & Youth; Communications & Technology). She graduated from Widener Commonwealth Law School with certificate in legislation from its Law & Government Institute.

### **Steve Wamhoff, Director of Federal Policy, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy**

As ITEP's director of federal tax policy, Steve is responsible for setting the organization's federal research and policy agenda. He is the author of numerous reports and analyses of federal tax policies as well as in-depth policy briefs that outline how the federal income tax and corporate tax code can be overhauled to improve tax fairness. Just before taking on the role of ITEP's director of federal tax policy, Steve spent more than two years as the senior tax policy analyst for Sen. Bernie Sanders and as a member of the senator's Budget Committee staff. In this capacity, he wrote legislation related to personal income and corporate income taxes, financial transaction taxes, estate taxes and tax avoidance. Before joining Sen. Sanders' staff, Steve had previously worked for ITEP and its c(4) partner Citizens for Tax Justice for more than eight years. During this time, he built expertise in analyzing tax policies and their effect on federal revenue as well as on people across the income spectrum. Notably, he wrote reports on proposals to extend the George W. Bush tax cuts, as well as proposals to eliminate tax breaks for investors and corporations as a way of financing health care reform and other initiatives. Earlier in his career, Steve worked for the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy and the Coalition on Human Needs. He received a Juris Doctor and Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University and a bachelor's from New York University.

### **Jennifer Wolff, Policy Specialist, Mental Health Partnerships**

Jennifer Wolff is the Policy Specialist for Mental Health Partnerships, formerly known as the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. In this role, she works to educate state and federal policymakers on the needs of people with mental health conditions and create a more responsive system. She also trains individuals in advocacy and represents MHP on many coalition and work-groups. Jennifer received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Bachelors in Social Work from Indiana University - Bloomington.