



Michigan's Progressive Democratic Caucus

From our Mission Statement: *"to promote the cause of progressive democracy... social and economic justice, civil rights, integrity and fairness"*

**2021 Michigan Democratic Party Spring Convention
Justice Caucus Membership Meeting
February 16, 2021
Report of the Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee recommends the election of the following people for election as officers and directors for the 2021 – 2023 term.



Ulanda Caldwell
Administrative Co-Chair

Ulanda began her Michigan political career within the 15th Congressional District, with the late Hon. John Dingell. She is currently an active State Central Committee Delegate in the 14th Congressional District with Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence.

Ulanda has carried the role of Treasurer of the Justice Caucus since 2013. She is currently a Management Analyst (MBA- Nonprofit Cert), working in the nonprofit and political sectors and a member of UAW Local 2320 AFL-CIO.

During the 2020 election cycle, Ulanda worked with the MDP Voter Protection, Fair Fight 2020 as a State Organizer. She also worked as the Deputy Director of the African American Outreach – including Special Projects “Mass Incarceration Project.” Ulanda is a former Paralegal/ Project Coordinator for the American Bar Association, Justice Center, Standing Committee on Judicial Independence in which she assisted in coordinating the national work of the judicial model code of ethics, campaign finance reform and judicial independence as customized for each State.



Jeremy Kaplan
Presiding Co-Chair

Born and raised in Oakland County, Jeremy has worked on local, state, and federal campaigns for over a decade. He served in Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence's district office for over four years before becoming Campaign Manager and Finance Director for the Committee to Re-elect Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack in 2020.



Mark Miller
Treasurer

Mark Miller has been a member of the Justice Caucus since 2004. He has served on the State Central Committee for six terms, was Sixth District Chair for four terms, a national delegate for Obama in 2008, an elector for Joe Biden in 2020 and serves on the MDP Rules Committee. He is currently Clerk for Kalamazoo Charter Township.



Cristine Howe
Secretary

After graduating from Miami University, Cris had a real education in politics at the University of Chicago working on the McGovern campaign. She still measures political corruption by what she saw in Illinois. Years later, with kids at home and a job in a library, she ran for office herself. She was on the local school board for twenty-two years, and president of the local Democratic Club for about fifteen. She joined the Justice Caucus to help with Camp Millie, with the slogan "Catering is my calling."



Jihan Aiyash
At-Large

Jihan is a daughter of immigrants and a lifelong resident of the 14th Congressional District. She currently serves as the President of the Hamtramck school board and is fiercely dedicated to systemic equity.



Hedieh Briggs
At-Large

Hedieh Briggs is an activist who has held and holds positions at executive board level at the Ann Arbor Dems, Washtenaw County Dems and Michigan Democratic Party. She has been a member of the Justice Caucus Board since 2014. She is passionate about social justice, equity and creating access for mental health treatment for all.



**Michelle Deatruck
At-Large**

Michelle Deatruck is the Founding Chair of the DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council. Former Vice Chair of her County Commission and a veteran Peace Corps Volunteer, she serves on the National Advisory Board of Climate Power 2020, the Board of Directors for the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, and many community boards.

A member of UAW 2320, Michelle is a progressive dedicated to centering and uplifting racial, gender, economic, intergenerational, and environmental justice.



**Amani Johnson
At-Large**

Amani Johnson is an Organizer and a Trustee on the Southfield Board of Education. He graduated from CMU in 2018 with a B.S. in Public and Nonprofit Administration. Amani loves to cook and travel.



**Nick Roumel
At-Large**

Nick Roumel is a civil rights lawyer. His practice includes employment discrimination, representation of sexual abuse survivors, personal injury, and general litigation. He is co-chair of the Washtenaw County ACLU Lawyers Committee and a member of the Michigan Association of Justices Sexual Assault Legislation Committee.



**Charlene Snow
At-Large**

Charlene Snow is the Legal Director at United Community Housing Coalition in Detroit, where she represents tenants in 36th District Court. She has worked at UCHC since 2008. She has practiced law since 1976, doing a number of things, including representing women prisoners in two large class actions, divorce work, employment discrimination cases and other things.

Charlene a precinct delegate in Detroit and a member of the 14th District. She's been on the Justice Caucus board for a number of years and has been the coordinator of many Camp Millie's across the state. She is a past board member of the Women's Caucus of the MDP. She has volunteered for the MDP Voter Protection effort for many years.

Charlene is active in Irish Organizations, the Irish Cultural Forum and the Scholarship Committee of the United Irish Societies. She is also secretary for the Detroit Irish Music Association which is part of Comhaltas Celtaire Eireann.



**Paul Stevenson
At-Large**

Co-founder of the Justice Caucus & former Administrative Co-Chair, Stevenson is an attorney licensed in Michigan & Pennsylvania. An honors graduate of the University of Detroit School of Law, he is an active member of the Michigan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union. In 2009, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* named Stevenson as one of the Top 20 “Leaders in the Law.”

Just a month out of high school, Stevenson was the youngest member of the 1972 Democratic National Platform Committee and a delegate committed to Hubert Humphrey at the 1972 Democratic National Convention. He might have learned a few things in the intervening years.



**Rashida Tlaib
At-Large**

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib was born and raised in Southwest Detroit and is the proud daughter of Palestinian immigrant parents.

Rashida represents Michigan’s 13th Congressional District, which includes several Detroit and Wayne County communities. She is a congressional leader in pushing for economic, racial, and environmental justice.



**Henry Yanez
At-Large**

Henry Yanez is currently a member of the Sterling Heights City Council. Appointed to council in January 2019 and won election to a full term in November of that year. Prior to serving on city council, Henry served as State Representative for House District 25 representing the cities of Sterling Heights and Warren for three terms.



**Holly Bird
CD-1**

Holly T. Bird has a long history of environmental and Indigenous activism. While attending law school Holly created the Illinois Native American Bar Association and is credited for removing the “Redskins” mascot from a local school system. She is a published author of articles involving Native American law that are quoted regularly by the US Office of Civil Rights.

In 2008, Ms. Bird was appointed as an Assoc./Acting Chief Judge for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, where she served until 2011. In 2010, she was appointed to the Supreme Court for the NHBPI Tribe and continues in that capacity today. In 2013, Ms. Bird was awarded American Arbitration Association’s 2013 Higginbotham Fellowship and became the first Native American arbitrator in the US.

Ms. Bird served as Ground Coordinator and Co-Executive Director for the Water Protectors Legal Collective, the leading legal service at the NoDAPL camp/protest in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Currently, Ms. Bird serves as Co-Executive Director for Title Track, a Michigan nonprofit dedicated to clean water, racial equity, and youth empowerment. Ms. Bird also maintains a private law practice in Traverse City.



Leonard Page
CD-1

Leonard is a retired staff attorney with the International UAW (30 years) who served two years as NLRB General Counsel before being removed by George W. Bush. He currently is vice chair of the Straits of Mackinac Alliance and is working hard to shut down Enbridge's Line 5 and is hoping to see this case before the new Michigan Supreme Court.



Scott Urbanowski
CD-2

Scott Urbanowski has been involved in the Justice Caucus since 2015. A writer and digital media strategist, his work has helped a number of candidates and non-profits. Inclusion, equity, and social justice fuel Scott's activism.



Wesley Watson
CD-3

Wesley has served as Precinct Delegate Captain in Ada Precinct 1 since 2016 becoming the youngest and first Black Precinct Delegate in Ada Township history. Wesley became the first Black Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democratic Party in 2018 and Vice-Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party Environmental Caucus in 2019. Wesley served as a national advocate for the Black AIDS Institute to fight health disparities and stigma in Black and Brown Communities.

Wesley Watson serves as the West Michigan Regional Organizing Director for NextGen America and Deputy State Field Director with For Our Future for the 2020 election cycle. Wesley believes if young people in our targeted regions use their resources to become agents of their political realities through intersectionality training & actions, then the result will be tangible progress on issues & a cultural shift around the politicization of young people (including voting). Wesley's Deep grassroots organizing was key to flip Kent County in the 2020 election.



Jim Haadsma
CD-3

State Rep. Jim Haadsma is serving his second term representing Michigan's 62nd House District, which is located in Calhoun County and comprises the cities of Battle Creek, Springfield and Albion; and the townships of Albion, Bedford, Clarence, Convis, Lee, Pennfield and Sheridan.

The son of missionaries, Jim spent a portion of his childhood living in Africa with his parents, which is where his deep appreciation for public service began. A Michigan State University alumnus, Jim earned his Juris Doctorate from the Wayne State University Law School.



Nancy Gallagher
CD-4

Nancy is an attorney with over 25 years in private practice, (currently Gallagher, Everitt & Assoc PLLC, Alma, Michigan, with family and criminal law focus); previous experience in banking; graduate of Alma College and Thomas M. Cooley Law School, cum laude, with extensive involvement in community service and leadership (City Commission, 12 years; Mayor of Alma 6 years; 18 years as Alma College Trustee; over 30 years as Mid-Michigan Health Trustee, Masonic Pathways Director 6 years, member of numerous non-profit boards, and Director of a private industrial board, Powell's Manufacturing).



Kristin Corbett
CD-5

As a lifelong Michigander and progressive Democrat, Kristin is passionate about many issues that plague our state. A few of the issues that Kristine feels we need to address are gender, racial and sexual equality, environmental protections, voting reform, wealth inequality, universal healthcare, and education.



Elanor Riley
CD-6

Elanor Riley has been active with her local Democratic organizations since 2016. She has previously volunteered as an executive board member representing CD6 in the MDP Progressive Caucus. Currently, Elanor is the recording secretary for the CD6 Democrats and has served as both an alternate and delegate on the MDP State Central Committee. Her goal is to support and promote candidates who stand for progressive values and advance progress for the people, not corporate interests.



Terri McKinnon
CD-7

Terri McKinnon is the Director of IT Operations for N.E.W. Her education includes IT and Accounting degrees from KVCC and WCC. In addition to her work with NEW, Terri is actively engaged in community organizing and serves her community through her involvement on several Boards, including her roles as Vice Chair of the Jackson County Democratic Committee and Board member of the Jackson Pride Center.



Carolyn Hejkal
CD-7

Carolyn Hejkal is a retired preschool teacher and Democratic Precinct Delegate from Washtenaw County who has worked passionately for both candidates and causes since 2015. Her activism has included work with the Washtenaw County Democratic Party, Social Justice Michigan, Voters not Politicians, and the Poor People's Campaign.



Brendan Radtke
CD-8

Brendan is a December 2020 Graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University where he studied Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy. As a student, Brendan helped found and lead two student organizations: Spartans for Sanders, campaigning for Senator Sanders at Michigan State, as well as Spartan Solidarity Network, an organization formed out of Spartans for Sanders with the intention of improving conditions on campus for students and workers alike. Brendan is a member of Detroit Democratic Socialists of America and he is hoping to soon begin his professional career working in the labor movement as a union organizer. Solidarity.



Kathleen Carney
CD-8

Kathy has been involved with local and state politics and the Democratic Party since the early 1980s. The issue of justice started locally for Kathy. Her community's personal water wells were polluted by the State Road Commission.

Kathy is currently Vice Chair of the 8th Congressional District and from 2005 - 2017 she was chair of the 8th Congressional District. In 2002, Kathy was awarded by the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus: "Outstanding Women who are making a difference."



Nada Daher
CD-9

Nada's experiences as a refugee and a person of color have made her the person she is today. She sees herself as a lifelong activist that believes in fighting for the dignity and justice of others.



Rudolph Serra
CD-9

Rudy Serra is a founding Co-Chair and Justice Caucus Board member. He is a Ferndale Attorney, who served 2.5 years as Judge on Detroit's 36th District Court. Serra was selected a Michigan Lawyer of the Year in 2000, received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award in 2001, and ran in the 2002 Winter Olympic Torch Marathon. Serra is a former Congressional Aide, former Ferndale School Board member, former Oakland County Commissioner and former Human Rights Commissioner for The City of Detroit.

He served as a Referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, has post graduate training in Dispute Resolution, and was licensed to practice Social Work (1980 – 2007). He was General Counsel and Board member of The Triangle Foundation, and an Officer in The Michigan Democratic Party. Judge Serra co-wrote Chapter 3 in Michigan Family Law, and has been published in The Michigan Bar Journal, The Journal of Psychology and Christianity, and The Wayne Law Review, among others.



Bernard Jocuns
CD-10

Lapeer attorney Bernard Jocuns is the current president of the Lapeer County Bar Association and is an active member of the following organizations: (Inaugural Chairperson) Marijuana Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan (Board Member), Michigan Association for Justice, National Association of Criminal Defense Layers (lifetime members), National Lawyers Guild, American Association for Justice, Justice Caucus of Michigan Democratic Party (Board Member), (Chairperson) Lapeer Zoning Board of Appeals, Lapeer County Criminal Defense Bar Association (founding member & President), American Legion (lifetime member), and NORML Legal Committee (lifetime member).

Bernard is also Editor & Author of the Medicolegal Aspects of Marijuana in Michigan (Lawyers and Judges Publishing Company) and is the Host of the Podcast the Bernard Jocuns Holy Happy Hour.



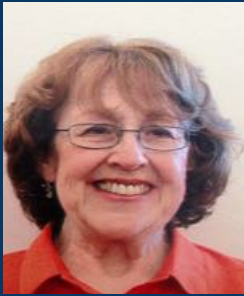
Jamie Sternberg
CD-10

Jamie Lyn Sternberg, MSN, MBA, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC is a Democrat who has previously served in the Michigan Democratic Party as Executive Board Member, 10th District Chair, St. Clair County Dems Treasurer, and 10th District representative for the Justice Caucus. Jamie is a Nurse Midwife and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner in Detroit who loves taking care of women and helping them have babies. She lives in Algonac, Michigan, with her husband Stewart, 3 dogs, 4 cats, and a couple dozen tropical fish.



Ethan Petzold
CD-11

Ethan Petzold is an organizer, nonprofit professional, and has been a party leader at the local, state, and national level. He hopes to bring his experience and passion for electing Democratic candidates to help move the Justice Caucus forward!



Carla Meier
CD-11

Carla Meier of Troy has been a longtime activist and has served as a Precinct Delegate, board member for the Troy Democratic Club, Oakland County Democratic Party, 9th, and 11th Congressional Districts and the MDP Justice Caucus. She was also a Delegate to the DNC in 2012 and has worked on local, county, state, and national campaigns. Carla would like to find ways to implement better communication between the MDP and the grassroots.



David Haener
CD-12

David is a board member of the 12th congressional district and is active in his communities with other organizations including both political and non-political groups. Being raised the youngest of 26 first cousins, David helps where he is told to and he was always told to help others clean up. So he still does.



Preston VanAlstine
CD-12

Preston is a recent college graduate and climate organizer. He coordinates the Ann Arbor chapter of the Sunrise Movement and works as a statewide organizer in Michigan for Our Revolution.



Don Mongrain
CD-13

Don has spent the past five years involved with the MDP. He has also been the male District 13 Representative of the Justice Caucus for the past four years. He looks forward to continuing to serve in this role.



Byron Nolen
CD-13

Byron Nolen has been a litigation attorney for 25 years. He also served as Mayor of the City of Inkster from 2015 to 2019. He has been active in several community organizations for many years, (Inkster Task Force, Inkster Chamber of Commerce, and Seeds2Feed Community Organization).



Harry Kalogerakos
CD-14

Harry Kalogerakos is an attorney in Detroit with a focus in municipal, real estate, and business law. He has been active in Democratic Party politics for over 25 years serving as a precinct delegate, president of the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club for 10 years, parliamentarian for 13th District Dems 2002 - 2010, statutory vice chair of the 13th District Dems 2011-2012, and first vice chair of the 14th District Dems 2013 to present. He joined the executive board of the MDP Justice Caucus in 2017. Additionally, he is a charter member of the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods NAACP and currently serves on its executive board.



Lauren Trendler
CD-14

Lauren is a resident of Oak Park and was a Bernie Victory Captain for the 2020 campaign. She is a member of Metro Detroit Democratic Socialists of America and currently serves as co-chair of the electoral committee, which helped re-elect Rashida Tlaib to Congress and elect Abraham Aiyash to MI State House.

Not Shown Above: Robert Leddy (CD-4), Mary Ellen Cain (CD-5),