PLENARY SPEAKERS

sujatha baliga
Director, Restorative Justice Project
Vice President, Impact Justice
Just Beginnings Fellow

sujatha baliga’s work is characterized by an equal dedication to victims and persons accused of crimes. She speaks publicly and inside prisons about her own experiences as a survivor of child sexual abuse and her path to forgiveness. A former victim advocate and public defender in New York and New Mexico, baliga was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship in 2008 which she used to launch a pre-charge restorative juvenile diversion program in Alameda County. Through the Restorative Justice Project baliga helps communities implement restorative justice alternatives to juvenile detention and zero-tolerance school discipline policies; she is also dedicated to restorative approaches to end child sexual abuse and intimate partner violence. sujatha is a frequent guest lecturer at universities and conferences; she’s been a guest on NPR and the Today Show; and The New York Times Magazine and The Atlantic have profiled her work. She earned her A.B. from Harvard College, her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and has held two federal clerkships.

Jackie Payne
Director, Move to End Violence

Jackie Payne is the Director of Move to End Violence. Jackie began her career in post-apartheid South Africa, working on issues related to gender equality, women’s health, and economic empowerment. In 1997, Jackie became staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, covering a range of matters, including domestic and sexual violence, public benefits, housing, and consumer protection. Jackie then joined the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund in Washington, D.C., where she led a national coalition of community-based organizations dedicated to addressing the
gendered-roots of poverty in America. Jackie also chaired the national coalition to end domestic and sexual violence and helped lead the successful campaign to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. During this time, Jackie also served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, teaching Gender, Equality, and the Law.

In 2003, Jackie was recruited by Planned Parenthood Federation of America to run its 50-state advocacy program. In this role, Jackie set the Federation’s state policy agenda and enhanced the capacity of the 100-plus affiliates to engage in effective advocacy. In 2006, Jackie was promoted to Director of Government Relations, taking over responsibility for the entirety of the Federation’s state, federal, and international policy work. She left the Federation in 2009 to undertake this initiative for the NoVo Foundation.

Jackie received her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School. She is a trustee of the Patsy Takemoto Mink Foundation and serves on the board of the Women’s Funding Alliance.

Lovisa Stannow, Executive Director and Board Secretary, Just Detention International

Lovisa Stannow is the Executive Director and Board Secretary of Just Detention International (JDI). Lovisa manages all of JDI’s work, in the U.S. and internationally, and serves as the organization’s primary spokesperson. She has written extensively about prisoner rape, including a series of high-profile articles in The New York Review of Books, and is regularly featured in media outlets across the U.S. Prior to joining JDI in 2002, Lovisa served as the Executive Director of the Pacific Institute for Women’s Health and the West Coast Director and Communications Director of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières. In the early 1990s, she worked as a Press Officer for Amnesty International, following several years as a journalist in Europe and Latin America. Lovisa is multilingual and has spent significant parts of her career based in war zones and areas of humanitarian disaster in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Lovisa is a certified rape crisis counselor.
Farah Tanis, Co-Founder And Executive Director
Black Women's Blueprint

Farah Tanis is Lead Faculty for the Institute for Gender and Cultural Competence. Tanis is co-founder, Executive Director of Black Women's Blueprint working at the grassroots and institutional levels to address the spectrum of gender violence against women and girls in Black/African American and other communities of color. Tanis' work includes the development curricula, policy development, technical assistance and training focused on an intersection of social justice issues facing women and LGBTQ communities of color on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as well as mainstream campuses and communities. Tanis is founder and is lead curator at the Museum of Women's Resistance (MoWRe), which in 2013 became internationally recognized as a Site of Conscience. Tanis created Mother Tongue Monologues, a theatrical and multimedia art vehicle for teaching Black and Queer sexual politics in communities across the nation. Tanis is a 2012 U.S. Human Rights Institute Fellow (USHRN) and is a member of the Task Force on the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Tanis is a 2014 Feminist Majority Foundation "Ms. Wonder" Honoree for her work to address gender-violence on the nation's college campuses. Tanis is a graduate of Columbia University's School of Business, Institute for Executive Management, possesses a B.A. in Science from NYU, an M.A. in Social Work from Fordham University.