

## Community Review Commission Member Biographies

**JOHN STOLLER (District 1)** is an Assistant Public Defender in Sacramento County where he leads the office's post-conviction unit. He also serves as a resource for attorneys both in and outside of his office, providing legal research assistance and amicus support. Previously, he was a civil rights attorney with the Law Offices of Pamela Y. Price, a ground-breaking civil rights attorney. In his free time, John volunteers with his community through both local organizations and ad hoc efforts. He regularly speaks at local high schools, colleges, and law schools on various civil rights and constitutional law topics. He frequently volunteers in various community efforts such as law school pipeline programs and other community events. John is proud to be a first generation college graduate and cares deeply about issues facing people on the downside of power.

**PAUL CURTIS (District 1)** has dedicated the past 30 years to creating positive and lasting changes as a community activist and leader in the nonprofit and human services areas in the Sacramento region, as well as at a statewide and national level. He has been a passionate and tireless advocate on issues ranging from HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ, foster care, runaway and homeless youth, to healthcare including mental health and substance abuse. Paul has over 40 years of extensive knowledge and experience with management and development in both the small business arena and in non-profits.

He was the founder and CEO of Objective Medical Evaluations from 1993 to 2010. He then used his years of volunteer and leadership experience with non-profits in the Sacramento area to move into non-profit management roles. He was Executive Director of the California Coalition for Youth, the statewide association of runaway and homeless youth agencies, and then moved on to become Executive Director of the California Coalition of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA), the statewide association of non-profit mental health and substance use disorder agencies. He now provides consulting services to non-profit agencies in the region.

Paul has served on numerous non-profit Boards in the Sacramento area including Capital City AIDS Fund, CARES (the Center for AIDS Research, Education and Services), the largest provider of services to those dealing with HIV and AIDS in inland Northern California, the Mountain Valley Chapter of the American Leadership Forum, and the Stonewall Democratic Club of Sacramento. He also served on the Community Advisory Council for District Attorney Jan Scully and on the Sacramento Sheriff's Community Advisory Board.

### **BISHOP CHRIS BAKER (District 2)**

- 2016 Appointed to Superior Court Judges/Clergy Commission
- Long-term intern, District 8 City Council
- Local community activist
- Board member of Bridge Network 2013
- St. Hope (Sacramento High) School site Council Board
- California Charter School Association – Improving parent involvement in student success

- Former At-Risk Juvenile Delinquent, Foster and Ward of the Court in San Francisco Bay Area

#### *Education*

- 2016 Completed Sacramento City Manager's Academy
- 2015 Completed Sacramento City Planning Academy
- 2010 Consecrated, Ordained as Bishop, Chicago, IL
- 2004 Ministry Training, Sacramento, CA
- 2007 Ordained Pastoralship, Houston, TX

#### *Awards & Accomplishments*

- 2015 President Obama's Acknowledgement and Appreciation letter for Community Involvement
- 2015 Appointed to Community Racial Profiling Commission, City of Sacramento
- 2015 U.S. House of Representatives acknowledgement
- 2015 California State Legislature Recognition acknowledgment

**MICHAEL WHITESIDE (District 2)** recently retired as a civil engineer after working 32 years at Caltrans. There he worked on transportation projects mostly designing and constructing bridges. This included an 18-year assignment to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Spans replacement project. He ended his career as the Assistant Chief Engineer for the Department.

During his career, Mike was active with the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG, or Bargaining Unit 9), which represents engineers, architects, and land surveyors on employment issues with the State. He held various offices at both the local and state-wide levels and is still active with PECG chairing one committee and as a member of the Political Action Committee.

Mike has over 20 years of experience volunteering with the Sacramento County Democratic Party, where he served on the Executive Board for 4 years. In addition to the county party work, he also held leadership roles in the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento and the Elk Grove – South County Democratic clubs, of which he is still an active member. Even today, Mike volunteers for the Democratic Party and various local campaigns, and he is a Precinct Leader for his neighborhood.

He also participates in his neighborhood associations.

On a personal note, Mike has been with his husband 25 years, who he married in 2008. He loves his dogs, gardening and landscaping.

Mike was appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Patrick Kennedy (District 2) because of his activism and interest in justice issues.

**JUDGE DARREL W. LEWIS (Ret.) (District 3)** was born in 1943 to parents who lived in Dolly Parton-type conditions minus the coat of many colors. Neither of his

parents finished high school, but they were honest, hardworking people who instilled those virtues in their son.

Darrel graduated from Analy High School in 1961. While attending Santa Rosa Junior College, he was arrested with several friends on false charges of disturbing the peace. Darrel did not have the \$40 for bail and was not given a phone call, so he spent the night in jail. When he appeared in court the next morning, he did not have an attorney, and there were no public defenders in those days. The Deputy District Attorney advised him to plead guilty so he naively, did so. Consequently, he lived with a false conviction on his record for the next 10 years.

He graduated from college and graduate school with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He then received a direct commission into the Army as an officer. Next, he attended law school and became a Deputy District Attorney in 1973. In 1978, Darrel ran against and defeated an incumbent Municipal Court judge and spent the next 20 years on the bench in Sacramento. He, then, retired and spent 20 years as a private mediator and arbitrator.

Darrel has personally experienced both sides of the judicial system which makes him the perfect candidate for the Community Review Commission.

**KHAIM MORTON (District 3)** is a Sacramento resident and co-founding partner of Advocacy Chiefs. Advocacy Chiefs also focuses on business development, government relations, grant research/writing and workforce development. With Advocacy Chiefs, Khaim helps to bring forward workforce development projects to better connect job seekers with training, and employers, to improve local government job services. Additionally, through his work, Khaim focuses on government relations, grant research and writing and government procurement.

Khaim brings over 19 years of government and public policy experience with work that spans policy and community field relations from the local government level including ten years serving in the California State Legislature and then as an appointee in the Administration of Governor Jerry Brown as a Deputy Secretary in the Government Operations Agency. This work has included working in the private sector representing the needs of local business owners and assisting in the continued economic development of the Greater Sacramento Region. Khaim has extensive experience working with all levels of government on issues of legislation and regulations ranging from environmental policy, retirement, land use, economic development, cyber-security, government service delivery and taxation. Khaim's philanthropic work includes Sac Splash, Broadway Sacramento, Black Men for Educational Equity and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Sacramento.

**THOMAS B. SCOTT (District 4)** currently serves as the Deputy Director for Policy and Administration for the California Community Action Partnership Association (CalCAPA). CalCAPA exists to support Community Action Agencies and CSBG Entities to strengthen communities and enforce a unified Community Action presence in California.

Prior to CalCAPA, he served as Regional Administrator, Region 9, Pacific Rim for the U.S. General Services Administration. Key responsibilities included oversight of programs and functions that reside in the region; provided leadership and advice on regional policy development; support and promotion of the Administrator and Administration's goals and objectives in the region and oversight of emergency response operations and activities in the region.

He has served the State Executive Director for the National Federation of Independent Business in California and, prior to that, was the Executive Director of California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for approximately 20 years.

Tom has an extensive background in both the private and public sectors. He has worked at all levels of government including positions in Los Angeles County, the California State Senate and multiple positions in the federal government.

He has lived with his wife Karen and their Welsh Corgi, Olive, in Folsom, California since 1997. He was appointed in 2011 to serve on the City of Folsom Planning Commission. He was the former Chair of the City of Folsom Utility Commission from 2001-2010. He is also Co-Chairman of the Folsom Chamber of Commerce JobsPAC. Tom also served on the Folsom Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 2004-2010.

In 2004, he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind. He served on the board until June 2013.

Tom earned a B.A. in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach and a M.P.A. in Intergovernmental Management from the University of Southern California.

**MICHAEL MARTEL (District 4)** has lived in Sacramento County since 1986. He was employed by the State of California (Department of Corrections) for approximately 33 years. All of his adult life, he was involved with nonprofits that benefit children either through education or recreation. He hopes that his involvement with this commission will assist the county supervisors in achieving their goals of listening to the residents and making our community better.

**THERESA RIVIERA (District 5)** is a strategic influencer dedicated to assisting and sharing in the responsibility to create a positive culture and to safeguard equity, inclusion, dignity, respect and safety for all. She encourages respectful expression of ideas and perspectives.

Ms. Riviera has worked directly with a number of diverse economic background groups including ethnic and cultural groups to identify and to assess their specific needs. Together, they developed effective working relationships.

Serving on City and County Boards and Commissions has taught her to be an active listener and observer in order to obtain relevant information and consider diverse viewpoints during discussions for future planning, programs and solutions.

Ms. Riviera makes it her responsibility to identify the barriers that various groups struggle with in making change. She also provides support by facilitating referrals, advocating for fair opportunities and developing constructive and cooperative working relationships that enable groups to negotiate effectively, deliver projects, and meet deadlines.

Ms. Riviera is a resident of Sacramento, along with her husband and two sons. She is currently mentoring, enjoying helping others and sharing her knowledge.

**Odette Crawford (District 5)** was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and relocated to California as a teenager in 1964. During her formative years, it became evident that she was a "people person." In 1976, Odette began her career in Law Enforcement that spanned three decades in a challenging, unpredictable and non-traditional profession, as a Correctional Officer. Odette promoted through the ranks and was recognized for historical accomplishments in this paramilitary organization. She was the first female officer to be assigned to a Gun Post position in Administrative Segregation and to the most, potentially, volatile mainline unit housed with gang members at the Correctional Training Facility at Soledad Prison.

While assigned to eight California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation institutions throughout her 30-year tenure, Ms. Crawford was revered as a pioneer and trailblazer in Law Enforcement when few women were allowed to work in male institutions in the mid-70's. She served as a positive role model for others to follow, especially women. She, quickly, earned the respect of peers, supervisors, and the inmate population and maintained that respect throughout her career. Upon her retirement in 2006, Ms. Crawford committed her time to helping at risk youth stay out of prison. She views her service to the community as a "Call to Action." Odette gives back to the community through her work as a Community Intervention Consultant for all youth.

*Ms. Crawford's notable community contributions:* Court Appointed Special Advocate for Foster Children (CASA), facilitated a weekly "Life Skills" program for seven years at Edward Harris Jr. Middle School and organized a project entitled "R.E.A.C.H" at H.W. Harkness Elementary School for two years, assists in the coordination and facilitation of the annual National Council of Negro Women's "Children of Promise" Program, and served as facilitator of the Youth and Law Forum at the Sacramento County Jail and workshops for Parental Empowerment in Northern and Southern California. The youth that Ms. Crawford has instructed over the years approach her in the community and tell of their successes and proudly announce they have graduated from college.

*Awards and Recognition:* Ms. Crawford is the recipient of the 2006 Association of Black Correctional Workers' "Hall of Fame" award for her contributions to the organization, the 2017 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Eta Gamma Omega Chapter "Outstanding Community Service" award, National Coalition of 100 Black Women's 2018 "Women in Law Enforcement" award and the 2019 Sacramento County "Heroes of Human Service Honoree" award.