



Board of Directors

The Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools board of directors includes a diverse set of experience and background covering critical aspects of the organization including education reform, charter school management, leadership development, political management, community/parent engagement, at-risk students, finance, operations, legal, and fund raising. The board is organized into four standing committees (executive committee, facilities, finance and fund development, and legal/audit).

Richard Riordan, Chairman

As the former California Secretary of Education, the honorable Richard Riordan brings expertise in managing the politics of change and relationships with key people that can help the Alliance in Los Angeles and throughout the state. Mr. Riordan received a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Princeton University, after which he served in the Korean War as a U.S. Army field artillery officer. After leaving the Army, he earned a law degree from the University of Michigan. He went on to become a successful attorney and businessman, forming the law firm of Riordan & McKinzie during the early 1970s. In June of 1993, Riordan was elected to succeed long-term Mayor Tom Bradley to become the 39th mayor of Los Angeles. In 1997, more than 60 percent of Los Angeles voters reelected him to a second term that concluded on June 30, 2001.

Harold Williams, Vice Chair

Mr. Williams is counsel to the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He brings experience leading education reform efforts and influence in the Los Angeles region. He is also President Emeritus of the J. Paul Getty Trust, where he served as president and CEO for 17 years. Prior to assuming his position with the Trust, Mr. Williams was the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and has served as Dean and Professor of Management of the Graduate School of Management, UCLA, and Chairman of the Board of Norton Simon, Inc. Mr. Williams serves on the Board of the Alliance for Excellent Education in Washington D.C.; he is Chair of the Board of Visitors of the UCLA School of the Arts; Director, Southern California Public Radio – KPCC; Co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee for Arts Education, LAUSD; Director, Center for Governmental Studies; Director, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; and Trustee, Committee for Economic Development. He was a member of the Regents of the University of California, and the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project. Mr. Williams received his JD from Harvard Law School.

Alan Arkatov

Mr. Arkatov is Chief Strategy Officer for Rogers & Associates, the leading independent Communications firm on the West Coast. He previously served as CEO of Burson-Marsteller California, and was President of the eEducation Group, where he served as the Chief eLearning and Strategic Consultant for LAUSD and USC, among others. He was the Founder and Chairman of OnlineLearning.net, the leading online continuing education provider in the United States. Previously, Mr. Arkatov was a television producer and political media consultant, having created the ads for over a dozen successful Mayoral, Gubernatorial, US Senate and Presidential campaigns. He is a State Commissioner and former Chair of the California Postsecondary Education Commission, was President of the City of LA's Commission for Children, Youth, and Their Families, an appointee of the Secretary of Education to the Congressional Web Education Commission, and President of the Board of Commissioners for LA's Information Technology Agency.

Kurt Benjamin

Kurt Benjamin is Co Founder of Mercator Group Funds, an institutional investment fund that focuses on the PIPE space. Mr. Benjamin was born and raised in Los Angeles. Previously he served as a partner in RIG Investments, a block trading company that specializes in the small and micro cap market place.

Maria A. Casillas

Maria A. Casillas is currently President of Families in Schools, an organization created by the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project (LAAMP) to strengthen families, schools, and communities so that children achieve academic success. Ms. Casillas served as President of LAAMP, an organization established to accelerate school reform activities in Los Angeles County schools, from 1995 to 2001. She has experience as a classroom teacher, principal, and district administrator, including regional superintendent for LAUSD. Most importantly, she has experience in delivering support services to schools. As Executive Director of Region XIX Educational Service Center, she worked closely with the Texas Education Agency, providing support to El Paso area schools and districts.

Rebecca Wolf DiBiase

Ms. DiBiase is the Associate Director of the Broad Foundation. She has significant experience improving the productivity and accountability of schools, and has worked as a consultant for schools, nonprofits and other public organizations on goal-setting, leadership and program evaluation. Previously, Ms. DiBiase was Director of Accountability for the Charter School Office of the Massachusetts Department of Education. She also worked for the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, where she focused on policy reforms in K-12 education and urban entrepreneurship. Earlier in her career, she taught middle school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She has a BA in International Relations and Spanish from the University of Virginia, and a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

David I. Fisher

Mr. Fisher is Chairman of the Board of Capital Group International, Inc. and Capital Guardian Trust Company, as well as an officer and director of numerous affiliated companies. He is a portfolio manager for US, non-US, global and emerging market assets and has been responsible for the organizations international investing activities since 1982. Mr. Fisher serves on many Boards of Trustees including the J. Paul Getty Trust, Harvard Westlake School, UCLA School of Public Policy CalArts, The Lowe Institute, and The Institute of International Finance, Inc. He brings finance and business expertise, innovation and community leadership to our Board of Directors.

Jeffrey L. Glassman

Mr. Glassman is the Managing Director of Bingham Legg Advisers LLC – Los Angeles. He is also “of Counsel” to Bingham McCutchen LLP – Los Angeles (formerly Riordan & McKinzie). Prior to joining Bingham Legg Advisers, he was a Vice President of Bel Air Investment Advisers LLC. He also practiced law for 30 years, specializing in estate planning and probate and trust administration. Mr. Glassman was a principal at the law firm of Riordan & McKinzie for 18 years, having served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. In 2001 Mr. Glassman was elected to the Board of Directors of Herbalife International, Inc. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors of Wallis Foundation, International Foundation for Election Systems, University of Judaism, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission, Los Angeles Sports Council and Los Angeles Police Foundation. He is also on the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University, Children’s Museum of Los Angeles and Board of Regents of Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Glassman received his BA from UCLA and his JD from the Loyola Law School of Los Angeles.

Paul C. Hudson

Mr. Hudson is currently President and CEO of Broadway Federal Bank, the oldest and the only publicly traded African American bank west of the Mississippi. Prior to joining Broadway Federal in 1980, he practiced law with the Washington D.C. firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering. In 1975, he returned to Los Angeles to join the law firm established by his father, Hudson, Sandoz and Brown. He is a member of the State of California and District of Columbia bars. Mr. Hudson is a past President of the Los Angeles NAACP and serves on numerous boards, including the California Community Foundation, Los Angeles Orthopedic Hospital Foundation, American Red Cross, Phillips Graduate Institute, and serves as Chairman of Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners and Community Build, Inc. Mr. Hudson has previously served on the boards of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, LA County Hospital Commission, California Business Roundtable, Southern California Edison Advisory Board, LA Chamber of Commerce, California State University at Los Angeles Foundation, Fulfillment Fund, and LA County Economic Development Corporation, to name just a few.

Stewart Kwoh

Mr. Kwoh is the President and executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California the largest and most diverse legal assistance and civil rights organization targeting Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. He is also Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the country's first national Pan Asian civil rights organization. Mr. Kwoh is a trustee of the Methodist Urban Foundation, California Consumer Protection Foundation, The California Endowment and The California Wellness Foundation. Mr. Kwoh earned his BA and law degrees at UCLA.

Lauren Leichtman

Ms. Leichtman is CEO and a Founding Principal of Levine Leichtman Capital Partners. She has been a private equity investor since she co-founded LLCP more than twenty years ago. Prior to founding Levine Leichtman Capital Partners, Ms. Leichtman practiced law for approximately ten years, including three years with the Securities and Exchange Commission. She is the chairperson of the Deep Value Fund's Investment Committee. Ms. Leichtman graduated from Southwestern University School of Law and has been a member of the California Bar since 1977. She received her LLM from Columbia University Law School.

Arthur Levine

Mr. Levine is a Founding Principal of the private investment firm of Levine Leichtman Capital Partners which he co-founded with Lauren B. Leichtman in 1984. LLCP's investing activities are made on behalf of itself and its worldwide network of investors, which include state and corporate pension funds, insurance companies, high net worth individuals, family offices, foundations and endowments. Mr. Levine has been a private equity investor for more than 20 years. From 1976 to 1985, he was a principal investor in Westwood One, Inc., a leading radio network company. He currently serves on the Board of Advisors of Columbia University School of Law, is a trustee of the UCLA Foundation and has served as Chairman of the Anderson School Entrepreneurial Studies Center and on the Corporate Advisory Board of the NASD. Mr. Levine is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Law and received his MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA.

Harry Levitt

Mr. Levitt is Executive Vice President of MullinTBG, and a partner and business developer in a national executive benefits consulting firm with offices in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. Mr. Levitt consults with large public and private corporations in the design, funding, securitization and administration of leading-edge non-qualified executive benefit plans. He frequently speaks and publishes articles on executive benefits and compensation topics.

Bernard J. Luskin

Dr. Luskin is presently Chairman and CEO of Luskin International; Executive Vice President and Director of the Media Studies, Media Psychology and Community College Leadership programs at the Fielding Graduate Institute; and Visiting Professor at Claremont Graduate University. He is also the director and principal investigator of a major research project funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to study the leadership contributions of the Kellogg Fellowship programs and fellows, and their implications for the future of education. He was president of Orange Coast College, and founding president of Coastline Community College. He is a founding executive of KOCE-TV, the Orange County PBS station. Dr. Luskin was also founding chancellor of Jones International University; the first fully accredited totally web-based university. He has also served as President & CEO of several Fortune 500 companies, including Phillips Interactive Media, Phillips Education and Reference Publishing, and Jones International. Dr. Luskin serves as Chairman of the Board of High Tech High L.A. Charter School.

Richard Merkin, M.D.

Dr. Merkin is the CEO and founder of Heritage Provider Network. He has over thirty years experience in managing clinically focused, administrative service organizations in health care delivery and physician network development. Dr. Merkin pioneered the development of medical networks responsive to the changing health care marketplace throughout California. His leadership has inspired the formation of over 25 group models and IPA structures in California and New York. Many of the medical groups have been recognized for their performance and service to the community, with awards including: the Health Plan Certificate of Excellence for Health Education Programs, the Physician's Recognition Award in Continuing Medical Education from the American Medical Association, the Health Plan Wellness Award and the California Task Force Employer Excellence Award. Dr. Merkin received the Marquis Award for Health Care from the Southern California Foundation for Health, Education and Research. He graduated from the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Neal Millard

Mr. Millard is an attorney practicing in the area of finance, representing predominantly foreign and domestic financial institutions. He is extremely active in the public financing of charter and private schools and universities. Mr. Millard is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the USC Law Center. He is also active in local government and was elected as a trustee to the Altadena Library Board. He was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to serve as a member of the Judicial Procedures Commission for the County of Los Angeles, serving as the chair of the commission from 2000 to 2002. He is on the board of the La Canada Flintridge Educational Foundation and previously served on the boards of Public Counsel, Inner City Law Center and the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation. He is secretary to the After School All Stars, Los Angeles, an after-school program serving at risk children. Mr. Millard received his AB degree from UCLA and his JD degree from the University of Chicago.

Gayle Miller, Secretary

Ms. Miller is the retired President of Anne Klein II, a leading designer sportswear manufacturing company in the United States. She brings business management and leadership expertise as well as experience on how to engage parents and communities in education causes. She also serves as Vice President of Program Development for a non-profit foundation she co-founded to develop and implement programs for inner-city children and parents. Over the past twelve years they have developed a values-based curriculum that has been used as an "after school program" in public and private schools and incorporated into the daily schedule of courses taught in many other schools in the Los Angeles area. Ms. Miller was also a board member of the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project (LAAMP).

Theodore R. Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell assumed the role of CEO of NewSchools Venture Fund in the fall of 2005 after having served on the NewSchools Board of Directors for seven years. Previously, he served as president of Occidental College from 1999 to 2005. A former deputy to the president at Stanford and vice chancellor at UCLA, Mr. Mitchell is a national leader in the effort to provide high quality education for all students and has long been active in California and Los Angeles educational reform initiatives. Immediately prior to his presidency at Occidental, he served as vice president for education and strategic initiatives of the J. Paul Getty Trust. Ted is also an education advisor to California Senator Dianne Feinstein and served as a senior education advisor to then-Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan. He serves on the boards of a variety of nonprofit education organizations. Ted graduated from Stanford with BAs in Economics and History, and also earned an MA in History and a Doctorate in Education at Stanford.

John C. Morrissey

Mr. Morrissey is the Managing Director of Shea Ventures LLC and Executive Vice President of J. F. Shea Co., Inc. Shea Ventures makes investments in venture capital and other forms of private equity. In addition to providing leadership for Shea Ventures, Mr. Morrissey participates in the senior management of the J. F. Shea Co. and its operating businesses, including Shea Homes, the nation's largest private homebuilder, and J. F. Shea Construction. Prior to joining the Shea entities, Mr. Morrissey was managing partner of the Bingham McCutchen law firm's Los Angeles office. Mr. Morrissey received his BA in Economics from Yale College. Following college, he earned a degree in Philosophy, Politics & Economics from Oxford University. He earned his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

Molly Munger

Ms. Munger is a co-founder and partner in the Los Angeles civil rights firm, English, Munger, & Rice. She is also a Co-Founder and Director of The Advancement Project, a national organization founded in 1998 to advance revitalized approaches to inclusion and opportunity. The Advancement Project focuses chiefly on criminal justice and police issues, educational access and equity, tax and fiscal fairness. Ms. Munger has served as Western Regional Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She currently serves on the board of the James Irvine Foundation, on the Rand Corporation Advisory Committee on K-12 Education, and on the Board of Trustees of Occidental College. She is a graduate of Radcliffe College and Harvard Law School.

William G. Ouchi

Dr. Ouchi is the Sanford & Betty Sigoloff Professor in Corporate Renewal at The Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA. He previously served as Vice Dean and as Chair of the Strategy and Organization Area of the school. He serves as a member of prominent boards including Williams College, KCET public television, First Federal Bank of California. He was the Chairman of the LAUSD Advisory Committee on Finance Reform and is past-chair of the Los Angeles Educational Alliance for Restructuring Now (LEARN). Professor Ouchi is also an advisor to the Joint Senate-Assembly Committee on Preparing California for the 21st Century, and is a member of the Consumer Advisory Committee of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Between 1993 and 1995 he served as advisor and then as Chief of Staff to Mayor Richard Riordan in Los Angeles. Dr. Ouchi received his MBA. at Stanford, and his PhD at the University of Chicago.

Tony Ressler

Mr. Ressler co-founded Ares Management LLC in 1997, the general partner of the Ares Funds, including Ares Leveraged Investment Funds I-X, Ares Total Value Fund, the Ares Capital Corporation and other managed accounts, and the Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund (ACOF). He also co-founded Apollo Management, L.P. in 1990 and served as a Senior Vice President in the High Yield Bond Department of Drexel Burnham Lambert Incorporated. He serves on several

boards including: Allied Waste Industries, Inc., Samsonite Luggage (Chairman), Ares Capital Corporation (Co-Chairman) and several private companies. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Early Education, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Small School Alliance, the Asia Society of Southern California as well as Right to Play. Mr. Ressler is also one of the founding members of the Board of the Painted Turtle Camp. He received his BSFS from Georgetown University and his MBA from Columbia University.

Virgil Roberts

Mr. Roberts is the managing partner for the entertainment industry law firm of Bobbitt & Roberts. He brings legal expertise and has unique experience in working with at-risk communities. He is the former President of Solar Records and is a board member for the California Teacher Credentialing Commission and the LA Education Alliance for Restructuring Now. Mr. Roberts is also Treasurer of the Los Angeles Private Industry Council; Vice Chairman of the Public Education Fund Network; a Trustee of the Committee for Economic Development; and former Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project (LAAMP). Currently, Mr. Roberts is Chairman of the Board of the California Community Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Community Build, and is a Trustee of Occidental College and the Marlborough School. Mr. Roberts holds a law degree from Harvard Law School.

Eva S. Stern

Ms. Stern is a clinical social worker and educator with a broad based perspective of educational reform that emphasizes the need for engaging students, teachers, and the community. As chair of InsideOUT Writers, a creative writing program for at risk and incarcerated youth, she brings experience in managing a non profit that focuses on youth learning in adverse environments. Ms. Stern has also served as chair of Parents who Care, a community based drug education organization. She supports a wide range of programs in education and the arts through the Marc and Eva Stern Foundation. She has a bachelor's degree in education from Hunter College and masters in social work from USC.