



SPEAKER BIOS

AMY HARFELD

Amy Harfeld implements the Children's Advocacy Institute's (CAI's) national advocacy agenda in Washington, D.C. In addition to representing CAI before federal legislators, agency officials, and other policymakers, Harfeld actively participates in several national coalitions and collaborations that further CAI's objectives and goals. She also performs research and analysis regarding CAI's legislative and regulatory policy advocacy and assists in the research and drafting of CAI special reports.

Harfeld has been an advocate, educator, and public interest attorney for over 15 years. After obtaining her JD from the City University of New York School of Law, she prosecuted child abuse and neglect cases for New York City's Children's Services, and then served for three years as the Executive Director of First Star, a national child welfare non-profit in Washington D.C.

ROBERT SHIREMAN

Robert Shireman currently directs California Competes, a nonprofit project aimed at addressing the state's higher education challenges. Previously, Shireman spearheaded the Obama Administration's successful efforts to reform student lending, increase Pell Grants, simplify the financial aid process, strengthen consumer protections, and focus national attention on college completion. In 2004, Shireman launched the Institute for College Access and Success, where his early leadership on the issue of rising student debt prompted Congress to adopt income-based repayment for student loans.

Inside and outside of government Robert Shireman has worked to improve campus diversity, reform high schools, recruit new teachers, and renovate crumbling schools. His efforts on student loans and college access earned him Money Magazine's "money hero" status in 2012. His triumphs over powerful special interests have also earned him the "Voice of Conscience" award from Public Advocates, a nonprofit civil rights law firm. He holds degrees from U.C. Berkeley (A.B. in Economics), Harvard (Ed.M), and the University of San Francisco (MPA).

RIGEL MASSARO

Rigel S. Massaro, Policy & Legal Advocate, joined Public Advocates in January 2013, where she is working on Public Advocates' education team. She was first exposed to the issues presented by for-profit post-secondary schools in 2007, when she clerked for Consumers Union and investigated why the law authorizing the regulation of the private postsecondary education sector in California was allowed to sunset. As a former teacher and lifelong activist, Rigel believes a public education must empower students of all backgrounds and ages to obtain professional and civic success. Before joining Public Advocates this year, Rigel was staff attorney at Advocates for Children of New York, where she represented immigrant families of students with disabilities, engaged in city and state level advocacy on behalf of immigrant students, and trained hundreds of parents and professionals. After law school at the University of Arizona, she clerked on the Arizona Court of Appeals. Prior to attending law school, Rigel joined Teach for America and taught middle school for three years in Phoenix, Arizona, where she served as the president of her district's education association.

HOPE RICHARDSON

Hope Richardson is a policy analyst at the California Budget Project (CBP), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Sacramento that works to make the budget more understandable and to shed light on how budget and fiscal policies affect the lives of low- and middle-income Californians. Ms. Richardson joined the CBP in June 2012. Since joining the organization, her work has focused on human services issues, including the CalWORKs program and the state's child care and development system. She has contributed to numerous reports and publications, including *What Would Proposition 30 Mean for California?*, the CBP's analysis of Proposition 30; *A Fair Chance: Why California Should Invest in Economic Opportunity for Women and Their Families*; and *Who Pays Taxes in California?*, the CBP's annual snapshot of California's tax system. Prior to joining the CBP, she served as a policy consultant to the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center and interned in the planning department of the San Francisco Human Services Agency. Ms. Richardson holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a graduate of Wellesley College.

DANIEL HEIMPEL

Daniel Heimpel is an award-winning journalist, the founder of national non-profit organization dedicated improving the lives of children through solution-based journalism and teaches graduate students of public policy, social work and journalism how to use media to drive social change. Heimpel has written and produced stories about vulnerable children for Newsweek, the *Los Angeles Daily News*, the *LA Weekly*, the *Seattle Times*, the *Huffington Post*, Current TV and the *San Jose Mercury News* among many others. This coverage has garnered him journalism awards from the Children's Advocacy Institute, The Los Angeles Press Club and the Child Welfare League of America among others.

In 2010, Heimpel founded Fostering Media Connections (FMC), a non-profit with the mission of harnessing the power of media and journalism to drive public and political will behind improving the lives of vulnerable children. Since its inception, FMC has been central to policy-change to the child welfare system on both the state and federal level. Heimpel is currently a lecturer at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy as well as USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy.