



## **2018-2019 Union Settlement Associate Board**

**Kaari Casey** is the manager for virtual programs at the New York Academy of Sciences, where she works with a global network of students and STEM professionals as they develop solutions which address the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to that, she served as the partnership manager and lead educator at the City Parks Foundation, developing STEM programs for at-risk youth. Her background is in environmental education and she has worked with a variety of organizations including the Wildlife Conservation Society, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, and the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation. Kaari received her BS in Secondary Education and Biology from Penn State University and her MA in Biology from Miami University.

**Jessica Chestler** is a licensed real estate salesperson at CORE. She is from the Upper East Side but grew up in Harrison, NY. Jessica graduated in 2013 with a Communications Degree from The Ohio State University. Before joining CORE, Jessica worked in luxury travel. She has been lucky enough to travel and explore over 30 countries, but her heart is always here in New York.

**Jenna Cooper** is a licensed clinical social worker, working as a child therapist in the Child, Adolescents, and Family Services Program of SBH Health System Behavioral Health in the Bronx. Jenna works with people between the ages of 5 and 21, and with their families, at the outpatient clinic and the school-based satellite clinic at P.S. 85. She provides individual, family, and group therapy, as well as crisis intervention and advocacy. She also supervises graduate school interns working towards their MSWs. Previously she worked at STEPS to End Family Violence, providing therapy to survivors of domestic violence. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University and a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. Originally from Philadelphia, she has lived in New York for 14 years.

**Sharisse Devot** is an Assistant at Finsbury, a global strategic communications firm, which specializes in crisis and strategic communications and consulting. The firm advises clients in a wide array of matters, including executive leadership, litigation-related issues, and corporate reputational positioning. Ms. Devot primarily works with four of the firm's partners to manage their client interactions and those of their teams. Prior to joining Finsbury, Sharisse was a Project Coordinator for Google, where she developed operational mechanisms that increased efficiency and effectiveness. As part of her role, she also helped to manage the operations of the company's locations around New York and in the North East. Sharisse was previously a

legal assistant at an immigration law firm, where she focused on case management and prepared legal and regulatory filings for the court and governmental agencies.

Sharisse graduated from the Florida International University with a Bachelor's of Science in Early Childhood Education.

**Devon Fuller** is an Associate at Finsbury, where he supports team in across different industries including, mortgage and finance, healthcare and technology. Prior to joining Finsbury, Devon held a variety of internships within the communications field at places such as Time and Fortune Magazine and Time Warner, working with their corporate communications team. He also spent a year working closely with PKPR, a small public relations firm, where he supported in press outreach and client event coordinating. Devon earned his Bachelor's degree Public Relations from Mansfield University.

**Vanessa Gottlieb** is a native New Yorker, and has studied and worked across politics, communications and development contexts in NY, London, Paris, Brussels and Nevada. She currently consults freelance for non-profits and political campaigns while co-founding an innovative non-profit program that combines the symbiotic benefits of art and equine therapy for special needs. Vanessa holds a BS in international politics from the Georgetown University SFS and an MS in communications and development from the London School of Economics.

**Manna Hara** is currently the Associate Director of Environmental Education at City Parks Foundation. She oversees the Learning Gardens program which educates youth in community gardens across the city. She has her Master's degree from NYU in Environmental Conservation Education and her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. A science nerd at heart, she loves to teach and inspire others to enjoy and appreciate nature. A volunteer member of Sierra Club ICO, she currently resides in Brooklyn with her dog Joey.

**Vanessa Lippman** serves as CORE's Marketing Project Manager, supporting the brokerage's brand management. In this role, she assists with positioning CORE agents, their listings and go-to-market strategies. Vanessa graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Central Florida with a B.S.B.A. in Finance accompanied by a minor in Hospitality Management. She currently resides in Kips Bay.

**Joel Lock** has been involved in the Youth Development field in some capacity since he was studying Psychology at Virginia Tech. He has been with the City Parks Foundation for (almost) three years. Joel is currently on the Advisory Board of the Career Internship Network (part of the Youth Development Institute), a member of the Events Committee of the College Access Consortium of New York, and also conducts training for Youth Service Professional across NYC. He has a passion for educating educators and any person (no matter the age) on best practices of working with young people.

**Ahmed Moussa** is a Financial Analyst in Houlihan Lokey's Financial Restructuring Group in New York. During his career, Ahmed has worked on financing and M&A engagements in the energy industry. Before joining Houlihan Lokey, Ahmed worked at a large Canadian investment bank in a similar role, a middle-market private equity firm, and an engineering consulting firm in Calgary. Ahmed was born in Cairo, raised all over, but spent most of his formative years in Calgary. He now resides in East Harlem. In his spare time, Ahmed enjoys volunteering in his community, staying physically active, and trying new restaurants. Ahmed graduated from the University of Calgary with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Economics.

**Romit Mukherjee** is a Lead Business Technologist in the investment management firm, Neuberger Berman. A regular volunteer for the US Meals-on-wheels program, Romit has worked for various Private Equity firms and has over 16 years of professional experience in developing and managing applications in the Alternative Assets space. Romit has Masters degrees in Information Systems, Finance and Management, and BA in Economics.

**Samantha Singh** recently served as an HR Analyst at KIND, working on their HR Operations team focusing on reporting and analytics, and providing management with key information to make decisions that align with the company's goals and strategy. She began her career in finance working at Prudential. With a background in accounting and finance, she migrated to the world of Human Resources in order to focus on having more human interaction and impact. She is currently pursuing her MBA from Rutgers University expecting to graduate from the program with a concentration in Strategy & Leadership in 2019. Samantha loves to exercise, bake and travel!

**Patrick D. Smith** is a customer engineer with Google Cloud. He was formally the Data Science and Machine Learning Lead for Excella in Arlington, Virginia, where he co-founded the company's artificial intelligence initiatives. Patrick is a graduate of The George Washington University, Elliott School, and is currently pursuing his Masters degree in Software Engineering part time from Harvard University. He is a published author of the book "A Hands on Introduction to Artificial Intelligence" by Packt Publishing. Patrick is a member of the Board of Directors of the PostClassical Ensemble, an orchestra that encourages cross-cultural understanding. He has also helped lead Young Professional's initiatives for the Washington National Opera and DC Jazz Festival. Union Settlement served his great grandfather in the early 1900s. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut with his wife Kristin, and is an avid polo player in his spare time.

**Rasheim Smith** is currently the Human Resources and Office Manager at Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers (SEBNC). In his role, he is responsible for the consultation and resolution of workplace issues with a focus on strengthening the organization through strategic planning and other organizational initiatives. Rasheim was born and raised in Bronx, New York. He currently resides in East Harlem. His prior professional experiences include working extensively with disenfranchised children, adolescents, and their families from a strength based perspective to mitigate the social ills of poverty. Rasheim is very passionate about social justice issues that affect impoverished communities. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Lehman College and a Masters of Social Work from Fordham University with a concentration in Clinical and Macro Studies. Rasheim is an active volunteer with iMentor, and enjoys fitness activities in his spare time.

**Evan Solomon** is a Cheshire, Connecticut native who has called New York City home for over five years. He majored in Philosophy and International Political Economy at Fordham University. During a semester at University College London, he wrote a research paper on gentrification in London, an issue that closely mirrors the realities in NYC. Most recently, Evan completed his Master's in Ethics and Society at Fordham while working as a Graduate Assistant in Fordham's Center for Ethics Education. He currently serves as a Coro Fellow, and is excited to learn how businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations interact with government to influence this process. After the fellowship, Evan will seek opportunities where he can craft solutions for public problems facing NYC, ensuring it remains the greatest city in the world for generations to come. In his free time, Evan incessantly follows city, state, national, and international politics.

**Bilan Stribling** is a nascent visionary. Throughout her journey, she has been a firm believer of acting local and thinking global. She dedicated most of her academic career promoting social justice and employing microfinance strategies to strengthen the economic subsistence in the communities she served. In 2016, she completed a Master of Science in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at Columbia University, while developing risk mitigation models for multi-party negotiations. Over the past few years, she has been selected to present her research at the International Association for Conflict Management Conference in Europe and the United States. She currently serves as an Equity Specialist at Bloomberg LP. Bilan also enjoys a soothing Matcha latte, classical music, and painting on the weekend.

**Bianca van der Meulen** is a brand strategist and co-founder at Sunbird Creative—a boutique agency based in Harlem that helps small businesses and social enterprises build customer-first brand identities. Bianca is passionate about using language, psychology, and business to empower individuals and communities. After growing up around the world, she moved to NYC to earn a BA in English and American Literature from New York University. Bianca lives in Harlem with her husband and enjoys painting, writing, and mentoring in her free time.