

ELISSA D. BARRETT, ESQ.

EXPERIENCE

WESTERN JUSTICE CENTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (2018 – PRESENT)

Led conflict resolution education and restorative justice organization through strategic planning and established multi-year partnerships with school districts. Currently, helping government affairs, program development, fundraising, financial management, and board relations.

CONSULTANT (2017-2018)

Served as Interim Executive Director of Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim, served as facilitator and associate producer for Skylight Theatre Company's productions of "Rotterdam" and "The Madres," and provided guidance on bisexual community inclusion efforts for the City of West Hollywood.

TREEPEOPLE, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT AND INNOVATION (2016-2017)

Managed fundraising operations, including major donor cultivation, foundation and government grants, corporate engagement, individual giving and communications.

BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL (2012-2016)

Supervised directing attorneys team in charge of legal programs including housing, consumer rights, real estate fraud, Holocaust reparations, worker rights, guardianships, special immigrant juvenile status applications, conservatorships and caregiver services. Established and led the California Consumer Justice Coalition, serving victims of the foreclosure crisis. Served as Interim CEO during leadership transition and secured seven-figure bequest settlement.

BEND THE ARC, CO-FOUNDER (2009-2012)

Co-founded Bend the Arc through the merger of Progressive Jewish Alliance (California) and Jewish Funds for Justice (New York), and established the country's leading progressive Jewish organization focused solely on domestic issues relating to racial and economic justice.

BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF PRO BONO PROGRAMS (2007-2009)

Co-founded the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network, a coalition of more than 100 law firms, corporate counsel teams and social service agencies in more than 30 cities across North America that has secured more than \$25M in reparations for Holocaust survivors. Established pro bono partnerships to advance the protection of tenants, low wage workers and the elderly.

BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF SYDNEY IRMAS HOUSING RIGHTS PROJECT (2002-2007)

Pursued litigation, public policy reform and community organizing strategies to address slum housing conditions, lack of affordable housing and the impacts of gentrification. Led legislative efforts related to Ellis Act reform, Section 8 voucher protection, sealing of unlawful detainer records, tenant relocation assistance, and slum housing rehabilitation.

STROOCK, ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY (2001-2002)

Served as a litigation department associate with the consumer and financial services team.

LOEB & LOEB LLP, ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY (1999-2000)

Served as a litigation department associate with the entertainment and employment teams.

WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID & COUNSELING, BATES INTERNATIONAL FELLOW (1998-1999)

Conducted research on women's rights movements in North Africa and the Middle East for the International Women's Rights Conference (Beirut, 2000), and developed programming on the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women for the Palestinian Authorities.

SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, EXTERN (1997)

Served on the litigation team for *National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality v. Minister of Justice*, 1998 (12) BCLR 1517 (CC) (overturning RSA sodomy laws), and provided research on prison conditions, school desegregation and proposed laws criminalizing HIV transmission.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL (1995-1998)

Journal of Gender and Law, Articles Selection Editor

LGBT Student Alliance, President

National Association of Women Lawyers, Emerging Leaders

National LGBT Bar Association and Foundation, National Student Co-Chair

TUFTS UNIVERSITY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (1988-1992)

International Relations and History (Majors), Spanish (Minor)

Art History & Linguistics Summer Program, Rice University (Sevilla, Spain)

COMMUNITY

AFFILIATIONS

Bend the Arc • California Conference for Equity & Justice, Healing Harms (Restorative Justice

Facilitator-in-Training) • CalNonprofits • LA LGBT Bar Association • Muslim Public Affairs

Council • National Council for Jewish Women • National Jewish Social Justice Roundtable •

Nefesh • ONE Archives Foundation • Reform Jails LA • Rockwood Leadership Institute • Williams

Institute Moot Court Competition • Women Lawyer's Association of Los Angeles

**LANGUAGES
& INTERESTS**

Spanish • Theater • Visual Arts • Whitewater River Rafting