



### LEADERSHIP

#### **KARL RILEY | BOARD PRESIDENT | FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Vice President, Small Business Community Lender, Chase Bank



Karl has an extensive background in commercial and business banking with over 14 years of financial industry experience. Prior to joining J.P Morgan Chase as a VP, Sr. Govt and Not For Profit Relationship Manager, Karl served as a VP, Community Business Lender with Fifth Third Bank. In this role he did Not For Profit Lending, Commercial Lending, Business Lending, Affordable Housing and Impact Finance. Before that he worked at US Bank for 6 years as a Business Banking Officer, focused primarily on SBA, Investment CRE and Small Business lending. Through his consistent customer-focused work ethic, he has been recognized as a resource, leader and connector in the Chicagoland community. As a Small Business Community Lender for Fifth Third Bank, Karl partnered with business owners to identify all of their financial needs. He takes a consultative approach to deliver specific advice and customized solutions that offer value and convenience. Karl is active on the boards of Growing Home Inc, Chatham Business Association, Chicago Neighborhood Initiative and Neighborhood Housing Services.

Karl holds himself and those around him to very high expectations. When he's not serving his clients and prospects, Karl is an avid and high performing endurance athlete having swam at the collegiate level. Karl has completed a number of adventure races as a part of the Spartan Race Series. Born and raised in New York City, Jamaica and Florida, Karl now proudly calls Chicago home. He has two daughters and a son. Karl is a graduate of Florida A&M University where he earned a bachelors in Business Administration and a student in the DePaul MBA program.

Karl has an incredible passion and strong ability to advise business owners and help his clients achieve their overall objectives. Karl's enthusiasm to help is unparalleled and community commitment is unwavering.

#### **MICHEÁL NEWMAN-BROOKS | VICE PRESIDENT OF BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | PROGRAM & FARM COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Program Manager of School Gardens, Chicago Public School



Micheál Newman-Brooks is the Program Manager of School Gardens in the Office of Student Health and Wellness for Chicago Public Schools. Micheál is also the consulting Director of Farmer Training for GoodFoodCatalyst. She previously served as the Project Manager of Urban Agriculture in the Sustainable Division of the Department of Planning and Development with the City of Chicago until 2020. Her passion for environmental and food justice lends to her 15+ years of experience in non and for profit businesses including Marketing and Advertising, Project Management, Construction and Escrow, Investments, Finance and Accounting as well as Community Organizing and Engagement not to mention Agriculture and Horticulture.

Micheál is often referred to as passionate, gifted and purpose driven. She desires to see her work make a difference in the world, yet is always willing to work in the background and allow others to receive the accolades. She also seeks to challenge herself by exploring all avenues for betterment that are placed before her such as continuing education and traveling internationally to learn from global leaders in her industry. Her work keeps her constantly connected to many

local urban gardens and community organizations in various roles. She sits on the governing boards of Growing Home, LARC (Lead Abatement Resource Centers), and WEROCK for Girls. Micheál earned degrees in Business, Agriculture and Horticulture!

Micheál proudly lives and serves on the west side of Chicago and has been married to her childhood crush for over 22 years. They have two adult children!

## **STEPHEN GATES | TREASURER OF BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Associate Director, Midwest SAP Program Delivery, Accenture



Stephen is an Associate Director in the Midwest SAP Program Delivery practice of Accenture, responsible for leading large scale, complex, global SAP business transformation programs across High Tech, Consumer Goods, Retail, Life Sciences, Automotive, and Tolling and Transit clients.

He started working with Growing Home in 2015, as a result of his passion for gardening, healthy food access, and job skills development for underserved communities. After volunteering in a few cohort visits in the Accenture office, he found his new home in the relationship, quickly taking on a leadership role and broadening the scope and impact of the relationship between Accenture and Growing Home.

Stephen lives in Lakeview with his wife, son, daughter, and two dogs.

## **DAN KAPLAN | SECRETARY OF BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Marketing Manager, American Library Association



Dan has worked in marketing and technical roles in the publishing industry since moving to Chicago in 1988. His roles have included the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Reader*, and since 2007 at *Booklist*, the book review publication of the American Library Association.

Dan lives in Evanston with his wife, Bekki. He loves playing and listening to music, is a news junkie, reads a lot, and continues to hone his gardening skills each year. Bekki and Dan are passionate about and work for organizations engaged in social justice and equity advancement. They are inspired by their adopted hometown for being the first city in the U.S. to offer slavery reparations (in the form of housing grants).

## MEMBERS

### **ASHANTA (SHAWN) BOONE | BOARD MEMBER**

Vice President, Branch Manager PNC Bank



Shawn is the Vice President Relationship Manager, Business Banking for PNC Bank. Shawn has been with PNC for more than seven years. Experienced Assistant Vice President with a demonstrated history of working in the financial services industry. Skilled in Commercial Lending, Banking, Coaching, Sales, and Credit Analysis. Strong professional graduated from Washburn culinary.

### **TARYN WILLIAMS CLARK | BOARD MEMBER**

Director, Corporate Communications, Bel Brands USA



From Fox & Friends to Time Magazine, Taryn is a media maven, garnering national and local media coverage for major brands such as McDonald's, Harley Davidson and M&M's. During her five-year stint in the Chicago office of global PR firm, Weber Shandwick, she was a sought after team member, developing strategic media angles to pierce even the toughest of publications. As one of the founding members of the Got Milk? social media team, Taryn and team oversaw content development for the brand's emerging social media pages. At Burrell Communications, one the world's most prominent multicultural marketing firms, she served as a program lead on McDonald's and Toyota, managing client and media relations. As a respected and trusted advisor to the brand, Taryn played a pivotal role in the creation of McDonald's first ever at Burrell, she created and executed the award-winning PR program, McCafe Grind. Locally, Taryn has oversaw and executed communications strategies for emerging healthcare and security clients as well as state legislatures. She has secured coverage in major local and national media outlets such as Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Ebony Magazine, Good Day Chicago, and the

Washington Post to name a few.

She currently serves as the head of corporate communications for Bel Brands USA, a major global player in the better-for-you snack market with more than thirty local and international brands, such as Babybel and The Laughing Cow, sold in more than 130 countries around the globe.

Taryn is a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri - Columbia as well as Illinois school districts 132 and 218. She is also a proud mother and resides on the northwest side of Chicago.



**JOYCE DONALY | BOARD MEMBER**

Senior Integration and Change Lead, HR Digital Transformation, National Co-Chair, BMO Black Professionals Network US (BPN US), BMO Financial Group



Joyce is a Senior Integration and Change Lead at BMO Bank where she leads change management activities impacting people strategies. She is responsible for developing and managing change management, communication and project plans impacting multiple business units. Joyce joined BMO in 2016 as a Senior Manager – Business Integration where she was responsible for metrics/SLA reporting, managing governance as well as compliance, audit and risk related activities. Joyce is actively involved with BMO ERG's as National Co-Chair of Black Professionals Network US (BPN) and is an active member of BMO Alliance for Women (A4W). Prior to joining BMO, Joyce held project management, business process improvement and financial analysis roles where she led multiple cross-functional and process redesign initiatives.

Joyce is actively involved in the community where she holds a number of volunteer leadership positions. In addition to sitting on the Growing Home Board, Joyce sits on the Board of Directors for D'Estee, Inc., has been a Volunteer Leader with Chicago Cares for over 10 years, and is an Officer with the Hoffman Estates Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. She has previously sat on the auxiliary board of Reading in Motion, was Chair of the Women of Color Giving Council for the Chicago Foundation for Women and is a Sustaining member of the Junior League of Chicago. Joyce has a Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana, is PMP certified and has a Six Sigma Green Belt from the Juran Institute.

**WENDELL HARRIS | BOARD MEMBER**

Vice President of Lending Operations, Chicago Community Loan Fund



Wendell Harris has over 20 years of commercial real estate, property management, and banking experience. He was promoted to Vice President of Lending Operations in March 2019, after serving as Director of Lending Operations following a brief tenure as Senior Loan/Program Officer for CCLF.

In the past five years, he has underwritten investments at CCLF that leveraged over \$443.3 million in real estate transactions that strengthen lower-wealth communities. He has held various positions in Treasury Management, Retail Management, Business Banking, and Commercial Real Estate at leading financial institutions such as Northern Trust, LaSalle Bank N.A., Charter One, GE Capital, and Urban Partnership Bank. He also worked for Midway Broadcasting (WVON radio) in Marketing and Sales.

Wendell holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a certificate in Financial Analysis from the Keller Graduate School of Management. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with an emphasis in Accounting from Northern Illinois University. Wendell enjoys spending time with family, has a passion for classic cars, has volunteered as an Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for Morgan Park High School and Fenger High School in Chicago, and looks forward to coaching again in the future.

## **NORM JEDDELOH, ESQ | BOARD MEMBER**

Engagement Manager and Coach, Avocado Strategic Partners



A former federal court trial attorney, Norm is now a consultant specializing in helping emerging entrepreneurs and up and coming not for profits advance. In 2016 and 17, he was instrumental in developing and building a 13,000 square foot facility to combat homelessness in Lincoln Park. He is also an emerging novelist and writer, currently preparing his second novel for publication. And, along with his husband of ten years, he hosts foreign exchange students from all over the world. In his free time, he is a sailor and bicyclist. Here is his educational experience:

- University of Notre Dame, BA 1968
- Northwestern Law School, JD 1971
- University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, 1972

## **JOE NIEMEC | FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Senior Managing Director at Guggenheim Securities



Joe joined Guggenheim Securities as a Senior Managing Director in 2020 to expand its middle market investment banking coverage and to focus on advising companies in the services and industrials sectors. He joined Guggenheim after more than 15 years with William Blair, where he most recently served as Managing Director and Head of European Services & Industrials. Joe has extensive strategic advisory experience working on complex transactions, including cross-border situations and having completed transactions with companies headquartered in more than 15 countries. He worked for more than seven years in William Blair's London office. Joe earned his B.S. in Finance from University of Illinois with Highest Honors and his M.B.A from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

## **COLETTE PAYNE | FARM & PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Director, Reclamation **Project**, Women's Justice Initiative



Colette Payne is an organizer, leader, student, mother, and grandmother. Her passion is to educate families to build healthier communities. From 2014 – 2017, Colette was the Coordinator of the Visible Voices program for CLAIM (Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers), a Program of Cabrini Green Legal Aid. Currently, she serves as the Director of the Reclamation Project for the Women's Justice Institute. In her role, she helps engage women directly impacted by the criminal legal system to become agents of change and to create solutions to end the incarceration of women and girls. She frequently speaks at community events on topics ranging from the reunification of children and mothers, reproductive justice, mental health care, the need for increased programming in prison, and barriers to employment for people with criminal records.

In 2015, Colette joined the delegation to assess women's prisons in Illinois, becoming the first formerly incarcerated woman to serve in this role in the entire United States. Colette has appeared on television and spoken at conferences, churches, and universities, and testified before legislative committees. Colette has received numerous awards for her work, including: Claim's JoAnn Archibald Award (2013), Jane Adams Center for Social Policy and Research, Community Leadership Award (2015) and the Safer Foundation's Carre Visionary Award (2018).

Most recently, Colette was a recipient of the Chicago Foundation for Women 2020 Impact Award for her dedication to improving the lives of women and girls in the Chicago area.

**DOMINIQUE PRICE | BOARD MEMBER**

Counsel, Scharf Banks Marmor



Dominique Price is a seasoned attorney with experience spanning a wide variety of litigation, including commercial, product liability, personal injury, and premises liability. As a former NFL player, NFL agent, and sports law professor, Dominique continues to counsel clients in the sports and entertainment industries, including professional and collegiate athletes, in matters involving name, image, and likeness, endorsement contracts, and NCAA compliance.

In addition to the Growing Home board, Dominique's civic engagement includes serving on the Neighborhood Housing Services Metro Board, the Black Men Lawyers Association Board of Directors, and he has previously served as a mentor for the Northwestern University Football Program and for high school students through iMentor.

Honors & Awards: Super Lawyers Rising Star, 2024; Recognized on the Rising Stars list by *Indiana Super Lawyers* magazine, 2016; Recognized by *Lawyers of Color* magazine, 2013.

**LYNN SHECK | PAST BOARD PRESIDENT | GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Executive Business Development Leader



Currently taking a career break, Lynn was most recently the SVP of Open Banking at Mastercard. There she led the Sales and Client Success teams for the fast growing division enabling consumer permissioned access to financial data.

Lynn's passion for cooking, gardening, and food access all intersect perfectly at Growing Home. After volunteering on the farm one summer, she was hooked! Lynn lives in Roscoe Village with her husband and dog.

**FELICIA SLAYTON-YOUNG | BOARD MEMBER**

Founding Member and Executive Director, Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce



Felicia Slaton-Young is the founder and owner of Belle Lucre, LLC, a financial advisory firm based in Chicago, Illinois. She has more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry and more than 15 years as a financial advisor. She holds a BA in Business and an MBA from Webster University. Felicia Slaton-Young is a founding member and Executive Director of the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce and GE Chamber Foundation, two organizations with a mission to transform Greater Englewood into a popular commercial and retail destination by advising, developing, and showcasing its established businesses and acting as a comprehensive economic development partner.

Felicia is currently a board member of St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Centers' mission calls us to care for the sick and promote the health of the residents in the community while witnessing the Christian values of respect, dignity, caring, and compassion for all persons. Relationships are key and Felicia believes building and developing strong have allowed her to grow and sustain her business and build lasting relationships between businesses and community.



**KEVIN SWAN | CO-CHAIR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

General Manager, United Senior Services



Kevin is the General Manager at United Senior Services, a senior home health care provider serving Chicagoland. He believes building strong communities will make Chicago a greater place to live and is inspired by Growing Home's commitment to Englewood. Kevin is the co-founder of Growing Home's Associate Board for young professionals, where he served for over 7 years. He joined Growing Home's governing board in September of 2019. Kevin loves to spend his (elusive) free time traveling with his wife and two daughters.

**STEVE STANLEY | GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Pastor, Retired



Steve Stanley, a board member for 12 years, is a retired minister, having served as a pastor downstate in Danville and here in Chicago. He and his wife, Emmy, have lived in Chicago for 18 years. They discovered Growing Home shortly after locating to Chicago and are glad to support this great work that invests in people and communities.

Steve and Emmy have 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren and enjoy opportunities to travel for visits.

Besides Growing Home and volunteering, Steve is passionate about global solutions for equitable healthcare access and a sustainable climate. Locally, Steve likes taking walks and hikes, cooking new things, exercising, and playing a round of tennis.

**JAMES THOMPSON | FARM & PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Physician, Senior Partner & Vice President, Associated Allergists & Asthma Specialists



Dr. Thompson graduated from Washington University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at the University of Illinois Hospitals and Clinics. He served as chief resident of Internal Medicine at University of Illinois Hospital. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Thompson underwent allergy and immunology training at Washington University and is certified by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology. He is a fellow of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology as well as the Illinois Society of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. He is also a member of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. He is a member of the American College of Physicians and the Chicago Medical Society.

Dr. Thompson is a holistic nutrition health coach certified by the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. He is incorporating holistic nutrition concepts into the treatment of asthma and other allergic diseases as a means of achieving better health and to reduce the need for conventional medications. He is a board member of the charitable foundation, “Healthy Living With A Vision.” The foundation’s mission is to address healthcare disparities that impact black and brown people in Chicago and the greater Chicago area.

He is a senior partner and vice-president of the Associated Allergists and Asthma Specialists Ltd, a group practice he has worked in for thirty-one years.

<http://www.allergists-asthma.com> | <https://www.facebook.com/Mindfuleatingandnutrition> | <https://healthylivingwithavision.org/> | <https://www.facebook.com/HLVWAV>

**STEW WEISS | PAST BOARD PRESIDENT | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Attorney, Elrod Friedman LLP



Stew Weiss counsels municipalities on land use, government regulations, and contract matters. He has extensive experience in both public contracting and development incentives, and serves as counsel to village boards of trustees, city councils, zoning boards, plan commissions, and electoral boards.

Stew dedicates his pro bono practice to organizations that link the well-being of communities to open space and urban agriculture. He serves as pro bono counsel to NeighborSpace, a not-for-profit landbank that maintains over 115 community gardens in the City of Chicago. Stew is an avid cyclist and gardener. He lives in Chicago’s Bowmanville neighborhood with his wife and daughter.