

ALEX M. JOHNSON

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bryson Gillette, Los Angeles, California

Vice-President

Jan. 2023 - present

Oversee multiple clients across various sectors, including philanthropy, government, nonprofit, and corporate. Provide strategic advise and counsel to organizational leads and executives, while also leading public affairs campaigns that include overseeing the creation and execution of earned and paid media strategies. Develop and execute high-level strategic communications plans to ensure that short and long-term goals are achieved. Effectively engage in business development while managing relationships with clients and key external stakeholders. As a senior leader, manage staff and provide overall leadership development support.

California Wellness Foundation, Los Angeles, California

Chief of Staff

April 2022 – Jan. 2023

Provided high-level strategic support and counsel to the Vice-President of Programs on grantmaking priorities and special projects, program development, policies and overall departmental strategy, budget and operational infrastructure effectiveness, and external engagement. Led the day-to-day onboarding and transition for a new executive departmental leader within the grantmaking program team to support the seamless integration of a new departmental leader.

Vice-President of Programs (Interim)

Aug. 2021 – April 2022

Led the strategic development and implementation of the foundation's grantmaking program and impact investments. Managed an annual grantmaking budget of \$53 million along with additional program-related investments of \$5-7 million. Ensured that all approved grants were strategic, responsive, and equity centered. Led a 13-person team and provided direct supervision to five director-level staff. Served as a member of the Executive Management Committee and partnered with the President/CEO to advance organization-wide strategic goals, supported management of the board of directors, and worked with the President/CEO to identify a permanent successor.

Program Director

June 2018 – July 2021

Managed the Community Wellbeing portfolio centered on supporting the health, safety, and resilience of historically marginalized communities in California through public policy advocacy, research, communications/narrative change, leadership development, and capacity building. Spearheaded the foundation's \$9 million portfolio to address youth justice, gun violence prevention, trauma and healing, and healthier community environments. Developed a strategic approach to support communities of color disproportionately and historically impacted by police brutality and structural racism, by investing in community-based efforts to transform the system of policing and reimagine models of community safety.

Californians for Safety and Justice, Los Angeles, California

Jan. 2017– May 2018

Managing Director

Led strategic planning to advance best practices in criminal justice reform; build coalitions with diverse stakeholders and engage in high-impact communications, elevating the voices of diverse crime survivors in the debate on public safety policy. Managed organizational development of an 18-person team, and various consultants in three regions of the state, including staff responsible for driving core goals and objectives across various policy teams. Cultivated high-level relationships with policymakers, media, and allied partner organizations including labor, business, and community-based organizations.

Children's Defense Fund-California, Los Angeles, California

Sept. 2014– Dec. 2016

Executive Director

Led statewide advocacy, policy, program and organizing efforts to ensure access to quality affordable health coverage and care for children and low-income families, reforming the juvenile justice system, promoting educational equity, ending child poverty, and improving outcomes for children of color. Supervised a 20-person team in four regions of the state and multiple consultants. Led organization through a period of substantial growth, transition, and planning to be positioned as one of the leading child advocacy organizations in California.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles, California

Nov. 2010 –Aug. 2014

Assistant Senior Deputy for Education and Public Safety

Led the development, oversight, implementation and integration of education and public safety policy priorities and initiatives for the Second District. Partnered with community organizations and advocacy groups to advance policy solutions and strategic budgetary investments in youth justice, early childhood education, probation department reform, and community intervention services. Led a \$1 million initiative to support summer literacy programming in underserved communities, including a pilot program in two county probation camps.

New York City Department of Education, New York, New York

Nov. 2008 –Oct. 2010

Attorney, Office of the General Counsel

Managed complex civil litigation and special disciplinary proceedings as part of an initiative to remove poor performing school-site personnel, improve academic outcomes for K-12 students, and close systemic educational equity gaps. Lead attorney on hearings and trials. Counseled school leaders and departmental executives on performance management.

Bronx County District Attorney's Office, Bronx, New York

Sep. 2005 – Nov. 2008

Assistant District Attorney

Managed over nine hundred felony and misdemeanor cases, including an investigation into alleged misconduct by a senior law enforcement official, for the Domestic Violence Bureau. Conducted jury and bench trials, plea negotiations, and proceedings before the grand jury. Supervised attorneys at trial and grand jury proceedings.

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.

May - August 2003

Appeals Bureau

Law Clerk

Prepared appellate brief contesting the sufficiency of an anonymous informant's tip to law enforcement. Drafted motion in limine addressing prosecutorial misconduct. Prepared memoranda regarding Fourth Amendment matters.

ADDITIONAL RELATED EXPERIENCE

Lehman College, City University of New York, Bronx, New York

October 2007 – Oct. 2010

Adjunct Lecturer

Lectured for six semesters on: Litigation/Civil Procedure, Legal Research, and Legal Ethics. Direct responsibilities included all aspects of instruction including development of lesson plans, preparing examinations, and assessment.

Marshall Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, Washington, D.C.

August 2003 - May 2004

Fellow

Taught constitutional law, criminal law, and civics during one class period, three days per week, during the 2003-2004 academic year to secondary school students at SEED Public Charter School and Paul Public Charter School.

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctor, May 2005

Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, cum laude, May 2002

SELECTED BOARD MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

Southern California Grantmakers

Aug. 2020-present

Member (Executive Committee; Co-Chair, Board Affairs Committee)

The Trust for Public Land (California Advisory Board)

Feb. 2019-present

Member (Co-Chair)

Los Angeles County Arts Ed Collective Leadership Council <i>Member</i>	Jan. 2016-present
Los Angeles County Board of Education, Los Angeles, California <i>Member (Chair, Audit Committee)</i> <i>President, 2017-2018; Vice-President, 2016-2017</i>	Aug. 2014-June 2021

SELECTED SPEECHES, PANELS and PRESENTATIONS

Southern California Grantmakers <i>Moderator, Guaranteed Income: A Solution for Poverty Alleviation and Path to Closing the Racial Wealth Gap</i>	September 2021
Philanthropy New York <i>Moderator, Now is the Time: How Philanthropy is Tackling Gun Violence</i>	January 2020
Grantmakers in Arts (Annual Conference) <i>Moderator, The Arts and Mental Wellbeing</i>	October 2019
Annie E. Casey Foundation <i>Keynote Speaker, Family Centered Community Change Grantee Convening</i>	June 2019
Grantmakers in Health (Annual Conference) <i>Panelist, Healing Centered Approaches to Youth Violence</i>	June 2019
Center for Nonprofit Management (501(c) Conference) <i>Moderator, Plenary Session</i>	June 2019
Southern California Grantmakers <i>Moderator, Arts in Education Action Forum: Catalyzing Change Across Schools and Systems of Care</i>	January 2019
Green Dot Public Schools (Annual All-Staff Conference) <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	August 2018
Los Angeles County Arts Education Summit <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	December 2017
Sierra Health Foundation (Speaker Series) <i>Panelist, Adolescent Brain Development and the Juvenile Justice System</i>	September 2015
Fuller Theological Seminary (Fuller Forum) <i>Panelist, Youth in Justice and Youth Injustice</i>	May 2015

SELECTED AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Visionaries Award <i>Southern California Leadership Network</i>	November 2018
Marshall Memorial Fellowship <i>German Marshall Fund of the United States</i>	Feb. 2017-March 2018
Hairston Distinguished Alumni Award <i>American University, Washington College of Law</i>	April 2016
Champion for Children Award <i>SEIU Local 721</i>	March 2015