



2023 ADVANCED LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE COHORT BIOGRAPHIES



Karen Ansara

ALI Fellow

Karen Ansara brings to ALI a distinguished record of addressing global poverty. After adopting four children, Karen and her husband Jim established a philanthropic fund to address the deep poverty that leads families to surrender their children. To inspire more international philanthropy, Karen launched the Network of Engaged International Donors (NEID Global) in 2008, a learning and grantmaking community of 180+ philanthropists, foundations, and impact investors. Karen co-founded the Haiti Fund at the Boston Foundation after the 2010 earthquake, now the Haiti Development Institute (HDI). Currently, Karen serves on the boards of MCE Social Capital, Women Moving Millions, Groundswell International, and Build Health International.



Kate Bean

ALI Fellow

Kate Bean brings to ALI mindful leadership expertise and experience as a pioneer in public education innovation. For 18 years she served as the founder/CEO of Aveson, a non-profit organization built to manage charter schools and lead a national movement to challenge traditional K-12 education. She served as the speaker for the Personalized Mastery Learning Network. Kate also founded and led the first workers' cooperative for public school educators in the state of California and served on the board of the California Center for Cooperative Development.

Through her company iChangeCourse, Kate advises non-profit leaders on start-up practices, change management, mindful leadership, and personal/professional balance. She spent a year traveling the country doing volunteer work while documenting stories of shared values, resilience, and the power of connection.



Rachel Bejla

ALI Partner

Rachel Bejla brings to ALI 20 years of experience as a corporate lawyer in Brazil, having worked at one of Brazil's most prominent law firms for the first ten years of her career. Rachel then moved to work in the sugar and ethanol industry as in-house counsel and from there to an Australian investment bank. She was also involved in matters of diversity and gender equality.

In 2008, Rachel joined Associacao Maria Helen Drexel, a charity that maintains foster homes for children in vulnerable situations.

Rachel joins her husband, Jose Luis Camargo, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



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Matthias Bosch

ALI Fellow

Matthias Bosch brings to ALI global intellectual property (IP) experience. He co-founded Bosch Jehle, a Munich-based IP law firm with a focus on complex patent litigation in various technology fields. His practice also involved counseling and developing worldwide IP strategies for emerging and established companies. He also serves as director for Rocksure Group Limited, a travel company offering luxury travel with a sustainable footprint.

Matthias volunteers his time with the non-profit organization Global Dignity, whose goal is to bring awareness and create conversation about every human being's inherent value and worth. He is a current board member and country chair for Germany. He is also a board member for Wertebündnis Bayern, a conglomerate of charity organizations working in cooperation with the Bavarian government.



Katie Bouton

ALI Fellow

Katie Bouton brings to ALI recognized and award-winning expertise in human capital, talent acquisition, DEI, and business strategy serving most recently as President of Diversified Search Group (DSG), a global executive search firm. Katie spent 25 years working in talent and people operations, including founding Koya Leadership Partners, a search firm for the social impact sector, and serving as CEO for nearly two decades. She is a board advisor for Steady Growth Ventures, ReadySet, and DSG, a member of the International Women's Forum and the National Association of Corporate Directors and an angel investor in ventures led by underrepresented founders. Katie is active in the nonprofit sector, co-chairing the Sustainability Advisory Board of UNH, Executive Committee of the UNH Foundation, and Development Committee Chair for The Home for Little Wanderers.



Kathleen Brandenburg

ALI Fellow

Kathleen Brandenburg brings to ALI global design strategy leadership experience. Kathleen is a leading figure in the field of human-centered design, an approach that puts the needs of people at the center of every solution. She co-founded the global design and innovation consultancy IA Collaborative. Throughout her career, she has brought a design approach to a range of industries and sectors, including humanitarian causes.

Recently nominated by The Smithsonian Cooper Hewitt as Visionary of The Year, Brandenburg has also been named a Master of Design and one of the 50 Most Influential Designers in America by Fast Company. She serves as an Illinois Tech trustee and the board of overseers at the Institute of Design, and is a sought-after speaker on the value and impact of design.



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José Luis Camargo Junior

ALI Fellow

José Luis Camargo Jr. brings to ALI experience in corporate law and entrepreneurship. A founding partner at Madrona Advogados, one of the most respected and fastest growing law firms in Brazil, he served on the firm's strategy committee since its formation, and as co-head of the firm's corporate and M&A practice.

José Luis is a board member of the Maria Helen Drexel Association, a São Paulo based nonprofit organization responsible for placing abandoned children in foster houses within the City of São Paulo, and has helped increase local, national, and international awareness of children abandoned or abused by their parents/tutors. José Luis has been practicing law pro bono to the benefit of several entities and organized pro bono work provided by members of his firm.



Paulo Carvão

ALI Fellow

Paulo Carvão brings to ALI experience in global technology. He has led multibillion-dollar businesses and inspired teams to achieve aggressive growth goals. His specialties include P&L oversight, organizational leadership, technology partnerships, growth strategy, IT infrastructure, Cloud, and AI. Paulo is an expert at transforming businesses into profit engines, positioned to thrive in an increasingly digital world. He leads with a people-first approach, bringing teams together under a shared strategy and maximizing the collective impact. He is an advocate for diversity of thought, perspective, background, and experience.

At IBM, Paulo was a senior leadership team member until retiring in 2022 and acted as Co-Chair of the Americas Diversity & Inclusion Council, Member of the Hispanic Executive Council, and Chair of the Americas Regional Banks Cloud Council.



Emily Chien

ALI Fellow

Emily Chien brings to ALI multi-faceted expertise in technology, data, and financial services. She has pioneered and patented multi-billion dollar digital solutions and launched pension risk transfer and financial wellness platforms to improve financial security for Americans. Most recently, Emily was Global Head of IBM's Sustainability Services Climate Risk business. Emily led cross-IBM collaborations serving financial services clients and Private Equity partners globally.

Emily co-founded the 100 Women in Finance ESG Peer Advisory Group, is a member of the Economic Club of New York and the Women's Bond Club, and serves as Director and Treasurer for the Southampton Fresh Air Home. Emily was an early proponent of applied AI in business, and her research in innovation is published with Harvard Business School.



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Chris Coles

ALI Fellow

Chris Coles brings to ALI global private capital and development finance experience. A managing director at Barclays Capital, he founded the firm's leveraged finance business and served on the bank's management committee. He subsequently became COO and an executive committee member of Actis, an emerging markets private equity firm, and then CIO of British International Investment, the UK government owned international development finance institution. Chris is the co-founder and chair of Ready4SchoolRwanda, a UK nonprofit focused on early childhood development in Rwanda. He is also a founder, investor, and donor in EFAG, an SME leasing group based in East Africa and in Justice and Care, a UK nonprofit combating human trafficking.



Brian Conway

ALI Fellow

Brian Conway brings to ALI significant for-profit and nonprofit leadership experience. Brian served as chairman and managing partner of TA Associates, a leading global growth private equity firm. During Brian's 38-year tenure at TA, the firm has grown from investing approximately \$50 million a year domestically to over \$6 billion annually in global growth companies.

Brian was the chairman of Steppingstone, a Boston-based college success program, for over 15 years. During his board tenure, Steppingstone grew to serve 1,400 Scholars. While a Trustee of Amherst College, he chaired the advancement and the budget and finance committees and co-chaired a record-breaking campaign. He is currently a member of the executive committee of The Boston Foundation and a member of the board of fellows of Stanford Medicine.



Karen Conway

ALI Partner

Karen Conway brings to ALI experience in design and architecture. She is an architect by training and is passionate about design and the built environment. She cares about beauty and aesthetics, nature and the environment. Karen is on several boards including the National Park Foundation, helping to preserve and build connection to one of America's greatest assets. Additionally, she serves on several boards including the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, Mass Design Group, an architecture firm for the underserved, and The Telluride Foundation, a community grant organization.

Karen joins her husband, Brian Conway, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



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Carlos Danel

ALI Fellow

Carlos Danel brings to ALI leadership experience in social entrepreneurship and microfinance. He is co-founder and serves as chairman of the board on Genera, leading the organization from its origins as a nonprofit in southeast Mexico, to a group of publicly traded financial companies in Latin America providing banking services for low income clients. Genera currently serves 4.5 million clients with over \$2 billion in portfolio and employs more than 25,000 staff. Carlos also serves on the boards of Fundación Compartamos, Mexicanos Primero, Consejo Mexicano de Negocios, and chairs Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano, a think-tank on security and justice in Mexico.



Maribel Danel

ALI Partner

Maribel Danel brings to ALI experience in interior design and architecture. She is passionate about spatial design, furniture and mood creation to enhance the quality of living. She co-founded and ran an Interior Design firm in Mexico City specializing in living environments and turnkey projects for clients. Maribel also has an interest in Contemporary Art and serves in the Board of the Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC) in Mexico City. She is a volunteer at Fundación Teleton offering comprehensive rehabilitation services for children with neurological, muscular and skeletal disabilities as well as cancer treatment for underprivileged children in Mexico and the US.

Maribel joins her husband, Carlos Danel, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



Fairlie Delbridge

ALI Fellow

Fairlie Delbridge brings to ALI experience in entrepreneurship and property development across the public, private, and social enterprise sectors. Fairlie has owned and operated McDonald's franchises, spent time in banking, worked with Coca Cola, and served as a senior executive within the government. She is an investor and advisor to several social impact start/scale ups and has held a range of board positions in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.

Fairlie is a graduate fellow of the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship in Ethics & Leadership, an ex-commissioner of the State Planning Commission of South Australia, chair of the Real Estate Institute, former deputy chair of Scotch College and is managing director of Cminus Sustainable Spaces. She regularly leads innovative, strategic initiatives that seek to “do better and do good” across a range of sectors.



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Sean Doherty

ALI Fellow

Sean Doherty brings to ALL experience in disease philanthropy innovation and leadership in financial institutional development. He is the first and current chairman of the JDRF T1D Fund, an impact investment fund that has used a philanthropic model to catalyze hundreds of millions of dollars of private capital investment in type one diabetes cure therapeutics. Sean has held a range of volunteer leadership positions for nearly 20 years at JDRF, the leading public charity in T1D.

Sean is a former managing director of Bain Capital, a leading global alternative investment firm. As the firm's first general counsel, he built an industry-leading legal, compliance and public affairs group and led a variety of efforts in crisis management, branding, and philanthropy. He is a veteran of the United States Navy.



Suzy Doherty

ALI Partner

Suzy Doherty brings to ALL experience in advertising, branding, and patient advocacy. She began her career in New York at the advertising agencies Young & Rubicam and Saatchi & Saatchi. She transitioned in-house and led branding and advertising efforts at Showtime Networks and a public start-up in Boston.

After her son's diagnosis with type one diabetes at two years old, Suzy shifted her focus to patient advocacy. She has served on the New England board of directors of JDRF, the leading public charity in T1D, and for nearly ten years led large-scale events raising millions of dollars toward T1D care and cures. Suzy has coached countless families with a focus on both the physical and mental wellbeing of the parent and child dealing with this chronic disease.

Suzy joins her husband, Sean Doherty, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



Jonathan Drapkin

ALI Fellow

Jonathan Drapkin brings to ALL a passion for examining major societal challenges such as housing, urban blight, and community regeneration. Jonathan, founder of Drapkin Strategies consulting firm, spent 37 years in public and nonprofit service, most recently as CEO of the Hudson Valley think tank, Pattern for Progress, focused on improving the lives of the 2.4 million residents of the region. Before that, he managed the development of the \$150 million community-benefit performing arts center and museum at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival. A former county manager of Sullivan County, NY, Jonathan also served as director of the Office of Oversight and Investigation for the New York City Council.



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Elena Estavillo

ALI Fellow

Elena Estavillo brings to ALI combined experience in public service, nonprofit organizations, academia, and economic practice. As a trusted expert in the digital ecosystem, she founded and leads Centro-i para la Sociedad del Futuro, a think tank that works to build a digital future in an ethical, responsible, and inclusive way. Elena is an enthusiast activist for gender equality. She co-founded and chairs Conectadas, recognized as a WSIS Champion in 2020, and serves as an expert to UN Women CSW67. As a former commissioner in Mexico's Federal Telecommunications Institute, she contributed to building a solid regulatory body that is a model for other countries. Elena was named Gender Trendsetter 2022-2023 by ITU and 5G Trailblazer by Ericsson. She serves as board member to Tecnológico de Monterrey.



Connie Falcone

ALI Fellow

Connie Falcone brings to ALI operational and growth leadership experience, most recently for organizations focused on community impact. As president of the Northwestern Memorial Foundation she led fundraising operations in support of Northwestern Medicine's eleven hospital health system in Chicago, and earlier she served as executive director of Chicago Cubs Charities, leading community engagement for one of Major League Baseball's most storied franchises. Additionally Connie led finance and development activities for Urban Initiatives, a youth development through sports program focused on children in Chicago's underserved communities. She began her career in the field of law before becoming executive vice president of a private equity firm, in which capacity she assembled syndicated deals for technology companies. Connie has also served on the boards of several Chicago-based nonprofit organizations.



Tina Fernandez

ALI Fellow

Tina Fernandez brings to ALI experience in the legal and education sectors and has led several social-entrepreneurial ventures. Most recently, she served as founding executive director of Achieve Atlanta, whose vision is that Atlanta be a city where race and income no longer predict postsecondary success or upward mobility. Prior, Tina was a partner at Bellwether Education Partners, a national nonprofit providing strategic, talent, and policy consulting to education organizations across the U.S. Tina also served as a Clinical Professor at the University of Texas School of Law and was the founding director of the school's Pro Bono Program. Tina serves on multiple national boards including Bellwether, Latinos for Education, TNTP, and the National College Attainment Network. She is a fellow and moderator for the Aspen Global Leadership Network.



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Yildiz Gunay

ALI Fellow

Yildiz Gunay brings to ALI social sector leadership experience. Most recently, she was the general manager of TEV, the largest education foundation in Turkey. As its first woman, and youngest leader, she spearheaded institutionalization and modernization of the foundation while constructing and implementing award-winning growth strategies. Yildiz started her career at Citibank and was at the forefront of developing local derivative markets. Before TEV, she worked for Cargill and founded Black River Asset Management Turkey. Her responsibility area broadened over years to comprise Turkic Republics, Middle East and Africa.

Currently, she is a board member at Unlu & Co Investment Advisory and Asset Management Holding. She also served as the vice chairman of the board of Third Sector Foundation of Turkey.



Carol Hollingsworth

ALI Partner

Carol Hollingsworth brings to ALI many years of experience in deaf education. She left a career in marketing and graphic design to raise a deaf son and two other children. Over the years, she has been involved in the deaf community and in volunteer work for The Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, MA.

Carol joins her husband Val Hollingsworth as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



Val Hollingsworth

ALI Fellow

Val Hollingsworth brings to ALI experience in operations and manufacturing. He is chair of the board of directors of Hollingsworth & Vose (H&V) Co., a seventh-generation family business with origins in the 1700s, and served as CEO for 24 years. With plants in the US, Europe, China, and India, H&V is a leading global producer of filtration media and battery separator materials.

Val and his wife Carol have been involved in the education of deaf children for many years. Currently, Val is vice chair of the board of The Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, MA. He is also a trustee of Brooks School, located in North Andover, MA, and serves on the board of Victaulic Corporation of Easton, PA.



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Jorge Israel

ALI Fellow

Jorge Israel brings to ALI the experience of having founded and managed retail companies in Latin America. He started his career in 1982 in his family's business, Supermercados Multimarket, Chile's third largest supermarket chain, with his father and older brother. In 1987, he founded a Nissan automotive dealership, which has grown to become Grupo Automotriz Cordillera (GAC), the largest automotive dealership group in Chile and the second largest dealership group in Peru. Jorge is currently a member of the board of directors of two Chilean companies, in the real estate and financial sectors.



Jackson Kaguri

ALI Fellow

Twesigye Jackson Kaguri brings to ALI global thought leadership in human rights advocacy, education, youth, and holistic community development. He is the founder of Nyaka Inc., a nonprofit organization he founded in 2001 to tackle systemic inequalities, poverty, and hunger in his village of Nyakagyezi in southwest Uganda. Jackson has raised over \$150 million for Nyaka to provide free education and healthcare to 86,000 AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. To foster sustainable economic empowerment, Nyaka provides micro-loans and entrepreneurial training for the 20,000 grandmothers who look after the children. He is board member of Global Giving, an international award winner and author of seven books, has been named CNN Hero of the Year, Heifer Hero, Global Citizen, and Power of One by Time Magazine.



Kathy Ko Chin

ALI Fellow

Kathy Ko Chin brings to ALI experience in philanthropic strategy. She is CEO of Jasper Inclusion Advisors. Through 2020, she served as president and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum for over a decade. The daughter of immigrants from China, Kathy's 40-year career has been committed to building community institutions that contribute to a just and multiracial society. For this work, she received the prestigious Helen Rodriguez-Trias Social Justice Award in 2020 from the American Public Health Association. From 2014 to 2017, she served as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She joined The Kresge Foundation Board of Trustees in 2017.



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Ken Lang
ALI Fellow

Ken Lang brings to ALI extensive investing and entrepreneurial experience. He founded Minot Capital and North Bay Capital, two Boston-based hedge funds focused on the technology, media, and telecommunications industries. Ken began his investment career at Putnam Investments and, prior to that, was an investment banker at Morgan Stanley and Montgomery Securities. Most recently, Ken has been an investor in and advisor to over 30 early-stage technology companies.

Ken has significant nonprofit experience in education and a passion for its transformative effects on underserved youth. He served on the boards of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, The BASE, and Bridge Boston Charter School. Ken mentored students at Beacon Academy and coached athletic teams for his five children.



Tom Mahoney
ALI Partner

Tom Mahoney brings to ALI expertise in corporate finance, investment management and technology. Tom has served as Managing Director in leading global capital markets roles at Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank and Painewebber. Previously, he was Chief Operating Officer at Gabelli Asset Management; and Chief Financial Officer of Molecular OptoElectronics Corporation.

Tom serves as a member of the Advisory Board of StratiFi Technologies, a fintech software firm, and a founding member of Alpha Partners Technology Merger Corp. Tom is also a member of the Board of Overseers of Mount Auburn Hospital, and of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has a special passion for classical music and has been a Director and founding Investment Committee member of New York City Opera.

Tom joins his wife, Emily Chien, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



Leonardo Martinez Flores
ALI Partner

Leonardo Martinez Flores brings to ALI more than 40 years of combined working experience in academic fields, the public sector, and nonprofit organizations, focusing mainly on economic, urban development, and environmental issues. Leonardo has been a member of the board and expert advisor for several councils and technical sustainability committees. In 1994 he received the National Award in Economics from the president of Mexico, and in 2016 he published the book Introduction to Urban Ecosystems.

His longtime interest in understanding how complex systems work led him to conceive the Mexico City Metropolitan Area Clean Air Program; the effort was recognized in 2013 with the C40 & Siemens Climate Leadership Award.

Leonardo joins his wife, Elena Estavillo, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



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Jocelyn McArthur

ALI Fellow

Jocelyn McArthur brings to ALI experience as a nonprofit and education leader. For over a decade, Jocelyn has focused on supporting families from low-income backgrounds through housing and education reform and youth development in California. She chairs the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee for Portola Valley which developed an eight-year affordable housing plan meeting state targets. For six years, Jocelyn was CEO and CFO of Peninsula Bridge, a nonprofit college access serving 700 low-income students in the San Francisco Bay Area. Jocelyn served as trustee of the Portola Valley Schools district; co-President of the schools' foundation; and, co-chaired a \$20 million fundraising drive for a new town center.



Erika Mouynes

ALI Fellow

Erika Mouynes brings to ALI extensive experience as a public servant and as a private sector executive. She served her native Panama as minister of foreign affairs, as vice minister of multilateral affairs and cooperation, and as chief of staff of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and was instrumental in negotiating the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement as well as developing her country's COVID vaccine portfolio.

Erika's private sector experience includes structuring and financing of large, cross-border infrastructure and investment projects focused on emerging markets. As chief legal officer, she managed the business and legal affairs of a multi-billion-dollar investment company, and earlier and served as an attorney in the New York City office of the global law firm Shearman & Sterling.



Maria Palacio

ALI Fellow

Maria Palacio brings to ALI senior experience working for several multinational companies in the extractive sector in Colombia. In these roles, she led corporate affairs teams and designed communication and engagement strategies with significant stakeholders at national and international levels. Maria has expertise in corporate social responsibility, developing sustainability strategies, managing nonprofit organizations, and corporate best-practice implementation to align with international standards around human rights and the environment.

Maria has worked closely with key government players, policymakers, the private sector, and communities to promote private-public alliances and implement social programs that improve the livelihood of communities in conflict areas of Colombia. She has also contributed to building bridges between the central and regional governments to increase state presence in remote areas.



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Robert Pell

ALI Fellow

Bob Pell brings to ALI experience in urban planning with a career in forming, building, leading, buying, and integrating firms across five continents. He has worked in the UK in the public sector and then private consulting, mostly in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. In 1999 he moved to the USA and for ten years he worked for AECOM, the largest publicly traded AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction) firm, where he was the director of operations. Since 2016, Bob has built a unique international team—Urban Solutions—for Hatch, a Canadian international consulting firm.

Throughout his career, Bob has held various nonprofit board positions including on a UK pension fund, a UK social enterprise, a California K-12 school, and he ran a student summer intern program in five international locations.



Richard Phillips

ALI Fellow

Richard Phillips brings to ALI deep experience in global logistics and federal public policy. As CEO of Pilot Freight Services, he turned around and restructured a failing family business, built an organizational culture based on integrity and dignity, and resolved significant compliance and ethics issues. Under his leadership, Pilot grew its revenue 3x to nearly \$1 billion, and EBITDA grew fiftyfold.

Prior to running Pilot, Richard worked in all three branches of federal government, focusing on civil rights, national security, and technology policy. He has founded two successful nonprofits and serves on a number of nonprofit boards including the Wistar Institute and the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club. He also volunteers with his dog Noelle as a pet therapy team, working in hospitals and nursing homes.



Scott Ransom

ALI Fellow

Scott Ransom brings to ALI over 30 years of healthcare experience as a strategy consultant, executive, researcher, and practicing physician. As a consultant, he served in partner or managing director-level roles in the healthcare practices of McKinsey & Company, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Navigant, and Oliver Wyman, leading and supporting engagements for over 200 healthcare organizations, including five of the largest ten health systems and three of the five largest health insurers in the U.S.

Over 20+ years as a healthcare executive, Scott served as president and CEO of the University of North Texas Health Science Center, vice chancellor for health affairs for the University of North Texas System, and senior vice president and chief quality officer for Detroit Medical Center. He has also served as a healthcare professor and, as a practicing physician, has delivered over 4,000 babies.



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Anh Sawyer
ALI Fellow

Anh Sawyer brings to ALI 30 years of award-winning leadership experience driving impactful solutions for communities at risk. She served as executive director of the Southeast Asian Coalition of Massachusetts, annually helping a diverse, 20,000-member immigrant and refugee population representing four continents, 14 countries, and speaking more than 20 language groups on pathways to successful community integration while maintaining their unique cultural identities. In this capacity Anh routinely collaborated with hundreds of multi-sector stakeholders, including philanthropies, businesses, and government officials to bring equal access to healthcare, education, and economic development for marginalized populations. Earlier at Resource Exchange International, she directed the nonprofit's global healthcare exchange network and designed and implemented programs for trafficked ethnic minority women in the highlands of China and Anh's native home of Vietnam.



Eva Schwarz
ALI Fellow

Eva Schwarz brings to ALI more than 30 years of diverse experiences as a founder, an entrepreneur, and an executive. Among other businesses, she co-founded Bevyz, a developer of a unique single-capsule multi-drink system, which was sold to Keurig Green Mountain in 2014. Eva founded Comeback, an Israeli nonprofit, in 2019 and is its chairperson. Comeback helps former felons from all sectors of society develop the tools to reintegrate in their community, thus drastically reducing recidivism.

Eva is passionate about social and environmental causes. Her latest entrepreneurial endeavor is creating a sustainable development project in Greece. The fragile land located on a cliff overseeing the sea has been damaged by overgrazing from sheep and the project aims to restore the ecosystem by re-vegetation and seeding.



Gugu Sepamla
ALI Fellow

Gugu Sepamla brings to ALI deep leadership experience in corporate affairs and public policy. She most recently was group executive director for regulatory affairs, ESG, and public policy at South African industrial conglomerate Barloworld, and previously served as a senior advisor at Boston Consulting Group, as managing director for public policy at Barclays Africa, and as head of strategy and emerging markets at Ernst & Young Africa, while also serving on the firm's Africa Executive Committee.

Selected by Forbes as one of the Top 10 Most Powerful and Influential Women in Africa, Gugu is a columnist for Business Day, South Africa's leading national daily newspaper, and previously was a political journalist for the South African Broadcasting Corporation. She has been named a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.



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Carmel Shields

ALI Fellow

Carmel Shields brings to ALI broad business management experience, including scaling customer-centric services businesses utilizing advanced technologies. She has held a number of executive-level roles, most recently executive vice president, at Shields Health Care Group, a family-owned and operated business offering the largest and most technically advanced network of medical imaging and diagnostic treatment – including dialysis, radiation therapy, and ambulatory surgery – facilities in New England.

Carmel serves on the boards of the Women's Foundation of Boston and Care 2 Communities, a nonprofit creating a model for sustainable, community-based healthcare in Haiti, and her past board experience includes the Yawkey House of Possibilities, Stonehill College, and the Nativity School Boston. Earlier in her career, she was an analyst for the House Committee on Ways and Means for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Esmeralda Simmons

ALI Fellow

Esmeralda Simmons brings to ALI more than 40 years of experience fighting for human and civil rights at the federal, state, and municipal levels. As founder and executive director of the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College, she grew and led a community-based racial justice advocacy center focused on legal work and research on civil rights, domestic human rights violations, and equity in public education, voting, policing, and the child welfare system, all while providing community organizations with legal counsel and research assistance. Esmeralda previously served as first deputy commissioner at the New York State Division of Human Rights, as an assistant attorney general for the State of New York, and as a member of several major public boards in New York City government, including the city's Board of Education and its Districting Commission.



Leslie Stevens

ALI Fellow

Leslie Stevens brings to ALI deep strategic communications experience. She founded LeslieStevensCo., a provider of marketing strategy to startups, and was president and co-founder of LaForce & Stevens, an independent agency ranked as one of the top marketing and public relations firms in the United States where she conceived and executed campaigns in the fields of home/design, health/beauty, entertainment, fashion, and hospitality for brands such as adidas, AT&T, Amazon, Johnson & Johnson, Unilever, and Virgin Mobile, among many others. Leslie's earlier experience includes leadership roles at Loving & Weintraub, Rowland Company/Saatchi & Saatchi, and Estee Lauder.

As a female entrepreneur, Leslie mentors young women in the workplace and is a member of the Princeton Entrepreneurial Council. She has served on the board of the Manhattan Theater Club and as a board club member of Film at Lincoln Center.



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Diane Umstead

ALI Partner

Diane Umstead brings to ALI experience in public finance and policy, water and municipal law, and grassroots organizing and advocacy. As an attorney with two of the largest law firms in Texas, her expertise in creating, financing, and advising boards of municipal utility districts led to her gubernatorial appointments to the Texas Water Development Board, where she was the first-ever female appointee, and the Corpus Christi Bay National Estuary Program Policy Committee. Diane served on the advisory board of the Friends of Tent of Nations North America and works with interfaith organizations on efforts to support the Palestinian people.

Diane joins her husband, Rex VanMiddlesworth, as an Advanced Leadership Initiative Partner.



Rex VanMiddlesworth

ALI Fellow

Rex VanMiddlesworth brings to ALI experience in law firm leadership, constitutional law, and energy law. Rex has more than 20 years of experience in senior law firm management and has opened and expanded new offices in Texas for several national law firms, most recently O'Melveny & Myers. He is widely recognized as an expert in electric utility regulation and litigation, and he has been a leader in developing and defending minority- and women-owned business enterprise programs for governmental entities, including the State of Texas.

Rex serves on the board of directors of the First Amendment Museum and the board of visitors of the University of Texas McDonald Observatory. Prior to beginning his law practice, Rex was a teaching fellow in constitutional law at Harvard College under Professor Archibald Cox.



Dianne Wilkins

ALI Fellow

Dianne Wilkins brings to ALI experience in global marketing and technology leadership. She recently became chair after 23 years at Critical Mass, a global digital agency, with offices in 8 countries and a client list that includes Apple, BMW, AT&T, and more, spending the last 15 years as CEO. Dianne was a founding member of both G23 and Omniwomen, organizations within Critical Mass' parent company designed to create advancement opportunities for women.

She hails from Alberta, Canada but has spent the last decade in New York and California. She is an active advisor and investor, serving on the board of numerous startups in both countries. She is the co-founder and managing partner of The Norma Fund, a private investment fund designed to empirically prove the value of female leadership.



FALL 2023 ADVANCED LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE FELLOWS

Due to disruptions from the pandemic, the following 2021 and 2022 Fellows will be joining in us in the Fall 2023 semester in order to complete their full fellowship



Khatuna Salukvadze

ALI Fellow

Khatuna Salukvadze brings to ALI experience in diplomacy and public sector leadership. In her most recent position as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Lithuania, Khatuna worked on Euro-Atlantic security and European integration issues. She has been a change leader and a member of the reforms team of Georgia, contributing to the country's institutional reforms. Previously, she held several prominent roles – spearheading the US-Georgia Strategic Partnership Charter, serving as a Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister, and leading the development of national and foreign security concepts of Georgia.

Khatuna is a member of the UN Senior Women Talent Pipeline (SWTP) and has been selected by the Secretary-General's Global Call for Leaders for senior leadership in UN peace operations. Her work advocates the advancement of women to leadership positions in peacekeeping and international security. Khatuna has worked as a professor and researcher at Tbilisi State University and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.



Marcy Syms

ALI Fellow

Marcy Syms brings to ALI executive leadership experience from the retail sector. She is the president of TPD Group, a multigenerational succession planning company, and was previously the CEO of Syms Corp., which she transformed from a regional to national clothing retailer. Marcy is a director of Benco Dental, the third largest distributor of dental supplies in the U.S., and past director of Rite Aid Corp.

The founding trustee and president of the Sy Syms Foundation, which supports programs in the areas of education, scientific research, societal justice, and the arts, Marcy also serves on the boards of the ERA Project at Columbia Law School, the National Public Radio Foundation, CUNY's Macaulay Honors School, and the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University. She is a past Overseer of Boston University.



Ketevan Vashakidze

ALI Fellow

Ketevan Vashakidze brings to ALI experience leading economic and social development in emerging countries. As president of the Europe Foundation, she led this organization to become one of the most recognized development agencies in Eastern Europe, mobilizing civil society, business, university, government and donor community to establish needed social infrastructure in the country of Georgia. Previously, Ketevan held a variety of leadership and consulting roles for social change focused organizations including UNICEF, UNDP, and the World Bank, and served on a number of advisory boards to government agencies in Georgia and philanthropic institutions internationally.