



Fawzia Mirza

Emcee

Ms. Mirza uses performance, personal storytelling & comedy to break down stereotypes across a multiplicity of identities: race, religion, sexual orientation, and gender. She co-wrote, produced and starred in her first feature, *Signature Move* which world-premiered at South by Southwest Film Festival and won the 2017 Outfest Grand Jury Prize for Best US Narrative Feature. Fawzia co-created, co-wrote, and starred in web series like *Kim Kardashian & Brown Girl Problems*, as well as short films like the award-winning *The First Session*. She produced, co-created & starred in the mockumentary, *The Muslim Trump*, about the Muslim illegitimate daughter of Donald Trump. Notably, in 2016, she announced *Signature Move*, introducing herself as a lesbian on Twitter. She tweeted "I'm a lesbian, Muslim, Pakistani, actor, activist, writer, producer, lawyer & creature of passion."

Dr. K. Sujata

Chicago Foundation for Women

Dr. Sujata earned her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering. Ten years later, she completely changed careers to lead Apna Ghar to address issues of domestic violence in Chicago's South Asian community. Since then, Sujata is a strong advocate for women and girls with broad experience in Chicago's philanthropic, business and nonprofit communities. She has served as president and CEO of Chicago Foundation for Women since 2011, a grantmaking organization focused on basic rights and equal opportunities for women and girls in the greater Chicago area.

Quiana McKenzie

Emily's List

Quiana McKenzie is the State and Local Eastern Regional Finance Advisor at Emily's List. In this role, she assesses the fundraising and campaign operations of down ballot statewide and state legislative races and provides targeted coaching to candidates throughout the course of the campaign. Quiana has nearly a decade of experience working with political campaigns, serving in finance, communications, compliance, and field roles. She is a veteran of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office and Governor Pat Quinn's administration. She has also held elected office, serving a term as a community representative for a local School Council in Chicago.

Tom Steyer

Need to Impeach

Mr. Steyer is leading an effort to Impeach Donald Trump, as a danger to the world. The Need to Impeach organization asserts that the current POTUS has brought us to the brink of nuclear war, obstructed justice, and taken money from foreign governments. Mr. Steyer currently serves as the President of NextGen America, which he founded in 2013. Tom previously founded and served as the Senior Managing Member of Farallon Capital Management, based in California, until leaving to pursue philanthropic and advocacy efforts full-time. The San Francisco resident spent some \$65 million to back select Democratic candidates and environmental causes in the 2016 election cycle. He and his wife, Kat Taylor, co-founded the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy and the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance at Stanford University. They also co-founded Beneficial State Bank in Oakland, a nonprofit community bank.

Tahera Ahmad

Northwestern's Interfaith Chapel

Chaplain Tahera Ahmad is a Muslim 'scholar-practitioner' who serves as the director of interfaith engagement, associate university chaplain and associate chair of the women's residential college at Northwestern University. She also serves as faculty at Garret theological seminary on the Northwestern campus. She was recognized at the White House as a leading Muslim. Tahera has been featured widely in various media networks; most notably in the national PBS documentary, *The Calling*, which portrays the struggle of faith in the 21st century for leaders from the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. Ahmad has worked closely with the U.S. Justice and State departments leading both national and international workshops on cultural awareness of Muslims and religious diversity. She currently serves as a trustee on the Parliament of the World's Religions and on the first American Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council. For nearly a decade she served as the director of the largest Muslim youth camp in North America and serves on the board of the Muslim Community Center of Chicago.

Celina Villanueva

ICIRR: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Ms. Villanueva is currently the Civic and Youth Engagement Manager at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Celina has previously served as the Director of Organizing at Chicago Votes, as well as working on various issue-based campaigns including the fight for Marriage Equality in the state of Illinois. She has helped to expand voting rights through her efforts on Online Voter Registration, Election Day Registration, and most recently Automatic Voter Registration. She formerly served as Outreach Coordinator for Cook County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, a role that superseded her work on various state and local electoral campaigns. Celina has also worked with national organizations such as the National Council of La Raza serving on their Youth Advisory Board and with their Lideres Initiative

Suzette Wright

Ford Motor Company, Sexual Harassment and Assault Plaintiff

As the host of the popular talk show, “Urban Dialog with Suzette,” airing live bi-weekly on Facebook, Suzette Wright is not only an Activist for Women’s Rights but a media powerhouse and Chicago influencer. @SuzetteWright and @UrbanDialog/IG and Twitter.

Channyn Lynne Parker

Transgender Activist

Ms. Parker is currently the manager of youth drop-in at Broadway Youth Center [BYC] a satellite clinic of Howard Brown Health's with a focus on LGBTQ and homeless youth ages 13-24. BYC's work, benefits not just unstably housed youth and youth experiencing homelessness, but the entire community as well. Prior to that, Channyn was the Project Coordinator at Chicago House TransLife Project, which serves those most marginalized—trans women, particularly trans women of color.

Chakena Sims

Chicago Votes

Ms. Sims is a Board member for Chicago Votes and has been involved with the organization since its inception in 2013. Chakena served as a Peer Advisor for the Obama Foundation and helped organize Barack Obama’s first civics training for 500 young people in Chicago. She was also nominated to attend the White House’s United State of Women Summit for her work with voting rights activists, and currently serves on Connecticut College’s Board of Trustees. Chakena is dedicating her life to eradicating homelessness, voter enfranchisement, and economic development in low-income communities. She plans to run for political office in the near future.

Bridget Gainer

Cook County Board Commissioner

Commissioner Gainer has a career in both public and private sectors. Bridget is a Vice President of Global Public Affairs for Aon and a Commissioner on the County Board, bringing over 20 years of experience in non-profit, government and corporate sectors. Bridget began her career as a community organizer in New York City; she continued that work in Chicago where she founded a community center at Senn High School. Bridget then went to work for the City of Chicago in a variety of roles focused on public private partnerships. Elected to the Cook County Board in 2010, Bridget called for the creation of a Pension Committee and was appointed its first Chairman. As Chair, Bridget brought transparency to the County's Fund and launched an open-data pension website to facilitate fair and sustainable pension reform. Commissioner Gainer is also Chairman of the Cook County Housing, Workforce, and Community Planning Committee.

Lisa Madigan

Illinois Attorney General

Attorney General Lisa Madigan was the first woman elected to serve as Attorney General of Illinois. Lisa is now the senior most female Attorney General in the country. She is also the first Illinois Attorney General to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court in nearly three decades. Attorney General Madigan is largely recognized as one of the country's foremost experts on consumer rights and regularly testifies before Congress and federal commissions on a range of issues, including mortgage lending abuses, privacy rights and employment discrimination. She has also been called upon to testify about rising student debt and consumer risks associated with for-profit schools. Prior to her election to the Illinois State Senate in 1998, Lisa was engaged in private law practice. Convinced that she could do more for the people of Illinois as the state's chief legal advocate, she ran for Attorney General in 2002 and was re-elected in 2006, 2010, and again in 2014. She has chosen not seek re-election in 2018 to move on to a new challenge.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

US Congress, Illinois 9th Congressional District

Jan Schakowsky was elected to represent Illinois' 9th Congressional District in 1998, after serving for eight years in the Illinois State Assembly. She is in her tenth term. Jan serves in the House Democratic Leadership as Chief Deputy Whip. She is a member of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, House Budget Committee, as well as the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where she serves as Ranking Member of the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, and as a member of the Health and Oversight & Investigations Subcommittees. Jan believes the number one priority in this Congress is to create jobs and restore a vibrant middle class. She has long been involved in the fight to protect women's reproductive freedom. Jan continues her work to prevent violence against immigrant women, achieve economic parity, and establish transitional housing for women and

children who are victims of abuse. She is the sponsor of the International Violence Against Women Act, which would make the safety of women and girls around the world a long overdue U.S. foreign policy priority. She belongs to nine caucuses and groups.

Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley

League of Women Voters

Ms. Mbekeani-Wiley is a Staff Attorney at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. There she focuses on police reform within schools, voting rights, and criminal and juvenile justice reform. Michelle started her legal career with the Civil Rights Team at Equip for Equality, providing legal assistance to individuals living with disabilities. She was also an Émigré Memorial German Fellow, founder of a grass-roots organization called Then Just Feed One, Inc. In 2017, Michelle was awarded Crain's Chicago Business 20-in-their-20s award. Michelle was elected as Township Trustee in Oak Park, Illinois in May of 2017, and has served as the Vice President of the League of Women Voters Oak Park and River Forest Chapter.

Anna Valencia

Chicago City Clerk

Ms. Valencia was sworn-in as City Clerk of Chicago on January 25, 2017. As City Clerk, Anna has focused on making government accessible to all Chicagoans. Prior to becoming Clerk, she served as the second woman and first Latina to run Mayor Emanuel's Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs (LCGA) where she spearheaded the passage of police accountability reform, the modernization of the CTA's Red and Purple lines, the stabilization of pension funds and creation of the City's legal fund that assists immigrants and refugees threatened with deportation. Anna has also worked as an Illinois political professional in several positions including serving as Campaign Manager for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's re-election campaign, Senior Advisor for Mayor Rahm Emanuel's re-election campaign, Deputy Director of the Illinois Senate Democratic Victory Fund, a Communications Staffer for State Senate President John Cullerton, and Field Director for both Mike Quigley for Congress (IL-05) and Gary Peters for Congress (MI-09). In 2017, Chicago Magazine listed Valencia as an Emerging Power Player. Valencia has also been awarded *Negocios Nows'* 40 under 40 for her work as part of the next generation of Latina leaders.

Kimberly Foxx

Cook County State's Attorney

Ms. Foxx is the first African American woman to lead the Cook County State's Attorney's Office – the second largest prosecutor's office in the country. Kim spent her early childhood growing up in the Cabrini Green public housing complex, raised by her teenage mother and grandmother, which inspired Kim to pursue a career in public service as she sought to improve life in communities like the one in which she was raised. Prior to being elected State's Attorney, Kim

served as Chief of Staff for the Cook County Board President. A veteran prosecutor, Kim served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for 12 years. Kim has also served as a guardian ad litem in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office, where she worked as a senior attorney advocating for children navigating the child welfare system. She is active with a number of community organizations. Previously, Kim has served as board chair of Planned Parenthood of Illinois and president of the National Black Prosecutors Association-Chicago Chapter.

Tina Tchen

Attorney, Former Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama

Ms. Tchen heads Buckley Sandler's Chicago office. Tina provides corporations, boards of directors, and individuals with unique litigation, counseling, and crisis management skills. She leads her firm's Workplace Cultural Compliance Practice, counseling companies on issues related to gender inequity, sexual harassment, and lack of diversity in the workplace. Prior to joining Buckley Sandler, Tina served as an Assistant to President Obama, Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, and Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama. Tina has received a variety of awards in recognition of her work and serves on numerous strategic advisory boards for organizations, businesses, and nonprofits, including the U.S. Afghan Women's Council, Quantum Leaps, Inc., Civic Nation, the United State of Women, Women in the Service Change Initiative, and Gender Equity is Common Sense. Prior to joining the Obama administration, Tina was a partner in corporate litigation at Skadden, where she practiced for 23 years.

Congressman Bill Foster, PhD

US Congress, Illinois 11th Congressional District

Congressman Bill Foster is a scientist and businessman representing the 11th Congressional District of Illinois. He previously served in Congress from March 2008 until January 2011 as the Representative of 14th Congressional District of Illinois. Bill is the only PhD physicist in Congress. He serves on the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Bill's business career began at age 19, when he and his younger brother co-founded Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc., a company that now manufactures over half of the theater lighting equipment in the United States. Before he became a Member of Congress, Bill worked as a high-energy physicist and particle accelerator designer at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab). He led the teams that designed and built several scientific facilities and detectors still in use today, including the Recycler Ring, the latest of Fermilab's giant particle accelerators.

Asha Binbek

Council on American Islamic Relations

Ms. Binbek is currently a Communications Coordinator for the largest Muslim civil rights organization, CAIR-Chicago. As a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Asha earned two Bachelor's degrees in English and Communication. Concurrently, she served as the Undergraduate Student Government Interpersonal Relations director and as the first Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement Fellow, overseeing the UIC's efforts around the 2016 election, Asha helped the campus earn one of the inaugural Voter Friendly Campus Designations along with being recognized as the Most Engaged Campus by the All in Democracy Challenge. She was able to help with the creation of the first Arab American Cultural Center at a university, serving on its advisory board until graduation. She was also one of several student leaders that organized the Stop Trump Rally in March of 2016 which had over 15,000 people in attendance. Asha plans on attending law school in the next year and becoming a civil rights attorney with the hope of protecting the rights of minorities who cannot always protect themselves against injustices.