

SPEAKER BIOS

HOST & MODERATOR

Gregory Falls

Attorney, Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Greg Falls is a litigator in and serves as the managing member of Sherman & Howard's Phoenix office. He has more than 30 years of experience representing individuals, companies, state agencies, and government entities in federal and state court litigation, private arbitration proceedings, mediation, and administrative hearings. Greg was on the legal front lines of Arizona's efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. A known authority in cannabis law, Greg was retained to represent the ADHS in its implementation and enforcement of the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act after its adoption in 2010. He has defended dozens of lawsuits challenging the validity of agency actions, supervised teams of lawyers in scores of enforcement proceedings against industry parties, and provided ongoing strategic and operational advice concerning the legality of the agency's actions under the act. Following passage of the Smart and Safe Arizona Act legalizing adult use of recreational marijuana in Arizona, Greg became counsel for ADHS in its implementation and enforcement of that act. He is well versed in the regulatory issues pertaining to marijuana and the laws and regulations governing the cannabis industry.

PANELISTS

Don Bischoff

Captain, Special Projects, Mohave County Sheriff's Office

Don Bischoff began his law enforcement career as a Corrections Officer for the Mohave County Sheriff's Office in 1987, at the then new 241 bed county jail in Kingman, Arizona. Don graduated from the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA) in 1988 and became a sworn deputy for the county. Don worked in patrol districts covering the entire county to include the Arizona Strip located in the far northwest corner of the State. Don remained a supervisor for 13 years in the patrol division for the Kingman district and supervised a special county-wide vehicle collision response team. In 2013 Don was promoted to Captain and was assigned as Jail Commander over the 260,000 square foot 708 bed adult detention facility. In October 2021, Don was re-assigned to special projects and is currently managing the Sheriff's Office new jail Re-Entry Program.

Victor Bowleg

Program Manager, Racial Justice Initiatives, YWCA Southern Arizona

Victor Bowleg currently serves as the MacArthur Foundation Racial Justice Program Manager at the YWCA of Southern Arizona. He has a wealth of experience in the field of Conflict Resolution and in the recent past served as a Pima County Superior Court Mediator with the Family Center of the Conciliation Court and the Pima County Juvenile Court. In addition, Victor serves as an Adjunct Instructor at both Pima Community College and the University of Arizona. He earned both an M.A. in Rehabilitation/Mental Health Counseling from the University of Cincinnati College of Education and a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in Cincinnati, Ohio. Victor is an active member of the Tucson community with a commitment to DEI. He recently made history when he was elected in 2023 as the first male President of the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson. He has served as a volunteer in local organizations that include the National Institute for Civil Discourse. Seeking balance but also understanding the power of the Art's to educate he has experience in Theatre of the Oppressed, Playback Theater, and Psychodrama. He has performed as an actor in the Tucson community and also served as a dramaturg in productions.

Linda Elliott-Nelson

Ret. Vice President of Learning Services, Arizona Western College

Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson served as the Vice President for Learning Services, the Dean of Instruction, Division Chair of Modern Languages and Professor of Spanish at Arizona Western College. Linda earned a Ph.D. in Education from Walden University, an M.B.A. and an M.A. in Spanish from Arizona State University, and a B.A. degree from Northern Arizona University.

Her prior work experience also involved several years in the international business sector. Linda has served as the Chairman of the Board of Arizona Town Hall, Chair of Arizona Women in Higher Education Executive Board, Co-chair of the AZTransfer Steering Committee, and Chair of the Arizona Community College Chief Academic Officers. She currently serves on the boards of the Yuma Orchestra Association, Arizona Town Hall, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, and the Yuma Regional Partnership Council as well as steering committees for Southwest Arizona Town Hall and the Yuma Education Advocacy Council. She has presented internationally on community outreach and engagement, regional collaboration, partnerships, accelerative learning techniques, and community college trends.

Holly Figueroa

Tribal Liaison, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona – Health Choice

Holly Figueroa is Ohkay Owingeh and Hopi from the village of Sipaulovi and is Sun Clan. Holly serves as the Tribal Liaison for BCBSAZ Health Choice. As the Tribal Liaison, she works to strengthen tribal relations with 17 tribes in BCBSAZ Health Choice service area, focusing on Access to Care, Prevention, Coordination of Care, Nation Building, Training & Education, Reducing Health Disparities, Stigma Reduction, and cross sector tribal collaborative efforts.

With a Cultural Competency background, Holly works to ensure that culturally responsive services are delivered to all including Health Choice members and that providers meet the language and unique cultural needs of those they serve. Holly also develops education and awareness programs for staff and residents of the Health Choice service area to help reduce the stigma aimed at diverse cultures and to raise awareness and decrease health disparities they are often faced with. Holly was born into a military family and is the spouse of an Operation Desert Storm & Operation Vigilant Warrior Veteran. Holly is a certified Adult, Youth, and Veteran Mental Health First Aide Trainer. Holly serves on the Arizona Town Hall Board of Directors; she is a Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation Certificate Holder; she serves as the President for Arizona Rural Health Association; and serves on the MPOWRD Board of Directors. Holly is also a dedicated Ally who works to advocate and ensure Safe Spaces for 2SLGBTQ individuals and community. Additionally, Holly pursues other ways to give back to her community and to be an effective advocate for Native American people everywhere.

Sergio Paris

Director of Strategic Communications, Vitalyst Health Foundation

Sergio Paris serves as Director of Strategic Communications. In this role, he works with Foundation staff and community partners to advance Vitalyst's mission and goals.

Sergio brings more than a decade of experience in communications and nonprofit programmatic roles to Vitalyst. Prior to joining the Vitalyst team, he worked for Helios Education Foundation creating digital communications and serving as the foundation's spokesperson for Spanish-language media. He also previously served as the Director of Communications at United Food Bank in Mesa, Arizona, and has worked in various programmatic roles at Benedictine University, UMOM New Day Centers, and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Sergio is a graduate of Arizona State University's Master of Nonprofit Leadership & Management. He also holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

A native of Colombia, Sergio enjoys time with his girlfriend, her two kids, his dogs, his family, watching fútbol, and cooking.