

Karen Baker



Karen Baker currently serves as California's Chief Service Officer for Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. She leads CaliforniaVolunteers, the State Service Commission charged with administering the nation's largest state AmeriCorps portfolio. In addition, CaliforniaVolunteers serves as the lead agency for disaster volunteering and donations management, and promotes volunteering and service across California.

Initially appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in January 2006, Karen was named the Secretary of Service and Volunteering and has forged vibrant public-private partnerships resulting in the creation of successful innovations, including the California Disaster Corps, Business Partners Program and the CaliforniaVolunteers Service Enterprise Initiative.

Karen's 20-plus year career began with a year of service as a Jesuit Volunteer Corps member, working with at-risk youth. Her solutions-based innovations have been fundamental to her work in settings ranging from federal and state government, to local nonprofits, national nonprofits, and universities.

Her creative community solutions began while serving as the Executive Director of Chrysalis, a Los Angeles-based homeless nonprofit. She was then appointed by the Clinton administration as the Deputy Director of AmeriCorps*VISTA serving at the Corporation for National and Community Service. While there, she was appointed the Director of Special Projects for CEO, Harris Wofford. Her interest in addressing poverty issues led her to Share Our Strength, where as the Director of Innovation, she led "Taste of the Nation," a fundraising platform in 50 states and Canada. She returned to Sacramento as the Managing Partner of Valley Vision, an "action tank" that addresses regional economic, environmental, and social issues, and then began her state service with CaliforniaVolunteers.

Karen holds her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Karen, her husband Ed, and her two children live in Sacramento.

Jan Masaoka



Jan Masaoka is CEO of the [California Association of Nonprofits](#) (CalNonprofits), a statewide policy alliance of more than 10,000 nonprofits speaking to government, philanthropy, and the public at large.

Along with active policy work, CalNonprofits' current initiatives include the Nonprofit Overhead Project and the Nonprofit Student Debt Project. CalNonprofits recently released the first-ever economic impact study of California's nonprofits: *Causes Count: The Economic*

Power of California's Nonprofit Sector. With offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento, CalNonprofits works with legislators and regulators to strengthen the business and regulatory climate for nonprofits. CalNonprofits also provides health insurance to nearly 19,000 nonprofit staff.

Jan is a leading writer and thinker on nonprofit organizations with particular emphasis on boards of directors, business planning, and the role of nonprofits in society. Her books include *Best of the Board Café* (Fieldstone), *Nonprofit Sustainability: Making Strategic Decisions for Financial Viability*, co-author (Jossey Bass) and *The Nonprofit's Guide to HR* (Nolo Press). Jan founded and through 2015 wrote the [Blue Avocado](#) magazine, growing it from 0 to 64,000 subscribers.

Prior to CalNonprofits, she served 14 years as executive director of [CompassPoint Nonprofit Services](#) in which position she was named *Nonprofit Executive of the Year* by Nonprofit Times. She is an eight-time designee as one of the "Fifty Most Influential" people in the nonprofit sector nationwide and was named California Community Leader of the Year by Leadership California. Her volunteer work includes serving as chair of Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center and founding chair of Community Initiatives; she currently serves on the National Public Policy Committee of Independent Sector.

About Gene Takagi

Gene Takagi is the managing attorney of NEO Law Group, contributing publisher of the Nonprofit Law Blog, and a regular contributor to Tony Martignetti Nonprofit Radio. At NEO, Gene has represented over 500 nonprofit organizations on corporate, tax, and charitable trust law matters. Gene is a popular writer on nonprofit legal topics and has been published by The New York Times, The Nonprofit Quarterly, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, The Nonprofit Times, Taxation of Exempts, EO Tax Journal, and ALI-ABA. He is also a popular speaker who has presented at conferences for Independent Sector, BoardSource, Net Impact, CalNonprofits, the American Bar Association, the Northern California Planned Giving Council, Social Media for Nonprofits, the National Network of Fiscal Sponsors, and numerous local and regional bar and CPA associations.

Gene's professional experiences are diverse: corporate attorney for Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP, professor of nonprofit law at the University of San Francisco, director of the medical and behavior divisions of the San Francisco SPCA, management consultant for Allders International (specialty retail), and managing director of Suki's International (beauty/education). This background helps him provide clear, understandable legal advice with an appreciation of the relevant business issues. Gene, a graduate of UCLA School of Law and USF's Master of Nonprofit Administration program, is a recipient of multiple awards for his work, including Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer (American Bar Association, Nonprofit Organizations Committee, 2016), Northern California Super Lawyer (2015, 2016), and Outstanding Barrister of the Year (Bar Association of San Francisco, 2003). He currently serves on the board of CompassPoint and previously served on the boards of Community Initiatives, Net Impact, JCYC, the Barristers Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and the public policy committee of Independent Sector.