

## **Disability Rights California**

### **Tho Vinh Banh:**

Tho Vinh Banh serves as Special Counsel for Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement at Disability Rights California (DRC). In partnership with the Executive Director, she manages strategies for engagement to support DRC's community goals and represent DRC in strategic partnerships with disability leaders and organizations, disability community members, civil rights leaders and organizations and elected officials. Tho Vinh previously served as Supervising Attorney of the Multicultural Affairs (MCA) Outreach Unit of DRC. She oversaw the organization's outreach efforts to ensure people with disabilities from underserved, language distinct, intersectional communities know about their rights. She has also engaged in legal and systems change advocacy through direct representation, legislation and policy work so that individuals with disabilities, including individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), receive equitable services and supports that they need.

Tho Vinh received her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, CA in 2001. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley in both Political Science and Psychology in 1997.

### **Eric Harris:**

Eric Harris is currently a Special Advisor for Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement with Disability Rights California. Most recently he was a legislative advocate with the California State NAACP. Mr. Harris is from Sacramento and attended Christian Brothers High School. He played on a National Championship wheelchair basketball team in high school as a member of the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP). This team gave him the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the country and compete with and against other top adaptive athletes. Mr. Harris was recruited by some of the top wheelchair basketball programs in the country and chose to attend the University of Arizona on a wheelchair basketball scholarship.

While at the University of Arizona, Mr. Harris balanced his education with wheelchair basketball. He had the opportunity to compete on the Under-20 USA wheelchair basketball team in Brisbane, Australia, where his team won an international championship. He also interned for United States Representative Barbara Lee, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Mr. Harris then went to the University of Oregon School of Law. He experienced more great internships at the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C. and the American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD).

Mr. Harris has continued to build experience in government at the local, state and federal levels. He has also been an advocate on behalf of Black people, people with disabilities and other marginalized communities. Mr. Harris has been a board member of the local NAACP in Sacramento. He joined the Resources for Independent Living Board in Sacramento in 2019. Mr. Harris is a co-producer on the Family Matters Forum radio show on 97.5 FM and a proud member of the fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma, Inc.

## California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

### **Russell Rawling:**

Russell is honored to serve as California Foundation for Independent Living Centers' (CFILC) Statewide Community Organizer, a role with a legacy of leaders committed to the strengthening the power of the Disability community. In short, Russell believes Disability community leaders must be at the forefront of a progressive society, because barriers to access are also barriers to progress.

Russell has previously served as Chair of the Sacramento City Disabilities Advisory Commission, Vice-Chair of the Disability Action Coalition (DAC), and board member of Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness. He is also a graduate of Sierra Health Foundation's Health Leadership Program (Class XV) and Sacramento's Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI). Russell currently serves on the Sacramento County Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee (Sacramento County VAAC).