

ACLU of Nevada

2017 Celebration of Civil Liberties

Honorees

Kathleen J. England—Emilie Wanderer Award



Kathleen Jane England, a Boston native, a 1975 cum laude graduate of Michigan State University and a 1978 graduate of Suffolk University Law School, started her legal career in the Las Vegas City Attorney's Office. Ms. England went into private practice with Vargas & Bartlett in 1982 and has practiced with a number of firms in the Las Vegas area and handled a wide variety of cases. Early in her career, Ms. England chaired the Defendants' Settlement Committee in the MGM Grand Fire Litigation (MDL #453) and defended state legislators in election challenges. Ms. England helped to found the Nevada State Bar's Young Lawyer's Section, was active in many of the American Bar Association's sections (Young Lawyers, General Practice, Gavel Awards), and was appointed to the Nevada Supreme Court's Gender Bias Task Force. She chaired the first City of Las Vegas Ethics Review Board and the Nevada State Bar's Character & Fitness Committee. She also co-chaired a project with Habitat for Humanity for the local bar association. Ms. England served on the Nevada State Bar's Board of Governors for ten years (2001-2011) and was President of the Nevada State Bar from June 2009 to June 2010. The Nevada Supreme Court has appointed her to a number of commissions. She is a frequent Continuing Legal Education presenter locally and nationally and has been a Master of the Bench for the Nevada Inn of Court and is currently a member of the Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys, the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association, and the National Employment Lawyers Association. Ms. England has also co-chaired committees researching and producing issues of the Nevada Lawyer, documenting the contributions of women attorneys and African-American attorneys in Nevada. Ms. England's clients have won substantial judgments in Title VII cases, including federal jury verdicts against Nevada Department of Prisons, SAKS Fifth Avenue, and Clark County Department of Aviation. She is active in many community organizations (Girl Scouts, homeless shelter, rape crisis shelter, Planned Parenthood) and has received many honors and awards. For over 30 years, Ms. England's civil litigation practice has been devoted to representing victims of discrimination and sexual violence.

Assemblyman James Ohrenschall—Liberty in Government Award



Legislative Service

- Nevada Assembly, 2007-2014 (first elected November 2006)—four special and four regular sessions
- 2011 SESSION COMMITTEES: Judiciary (Vice Chair); Commerce and Labor; Legislative Operations and Elections
- 2009-2010 INTERIM COMMITTEE: Legislative Commission (Alternate Member)

Other Public Service

- Member, Governor's Workforce Investment Board, 2009-2010
- Commissioner, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, 2009-2010
- Nevada Statewide AIDS Advisory Task Force, 2009-2010
- Nevada Autism Task Force, 2007-2008
- Appointee, Law and Criminal Justice Standing Committee, National Conference of State Legislatures

Honors and Awards

- Autism Advocate Award, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation
- Ralph J. Roske Award for Outstanding Work in Introductory History, UNLV Department of History
- Semifinalist, Clark County Bar Association Client Counseling Competition, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV
- Dean's Honor List, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV
- Academic Merit Scholarship, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV
- Meritorious Public Service Award, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association
- Outstanding Grass-Roots Democrat of the Year Award, Paradise Democratic Club of Clark County

Other Achievements

- Delegate representing Nevada, Young Democrats of America National Convention
- Graduate, Western Legislative Academy, The Council of State Governments—WEST

Affiliations

- Nevada State Bar
- United States District Court for the District of Nevada
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- UNLV Alumni Association
- Founding Member, Pi Mu Epsilon, National Mathematics Honor Society, UNLV Chapter

- Former Member, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local Union No. 631, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Paradise Democratic Club of Clark County
- Delegate representing Nevada and the United States, World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association Bi-Annual Meeting

Education

- Chaparral High School, Sunset High School, Las Vegas
- College of Southern Nevada
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), B.A., Economics
- William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV, J.D

Personal

Occupation:

Attorney at Law

Born:

1972, Las Vegas, Nevada

Recreation:

Hiking, climbing, skiing

Theresa Navarro—Community Equality Award



From the September 2012, Blue Nevadan of the Week

Her maternal grandfather was a revolutionist who fought alongside Pancho Villa in Mexico. Her father served in the U.S. Army during World War II and both her brothers fought in Vietnam. This is Theresa Navarro, a second generation American and Nevada delegate (to the 2012 DNC Convention in Charlotte) who reflects on a lifetime of activism that began by protesting in solidarity with Cesar Chavez at the age of nine.

Growing up, Theresa listened intently to her mother's stories about her revolutionary grandfather and Pancho Villa. She learned the concept of people who advocated for the poor and wanted agrarian reform. Then, when she was nine years old, she began hearing about Cesar Chavez and the working conditions of struggling Latino agricultural workers. Without anyone's instructions, she fashioned a black band around her arm and began protesting her neighborhood grocery store, advising shoppers what not to buy on any given day.

Her parents did not know she was doing this until her mother accidentally found her there one day when she came to the store to do some shopping.

At age sixteen, she took on the school board.

Her parents found out about it when they saw her picture on the front page of the newspaper.

During the Vietnam War, both her brothers fought. After learning that some of her friends were killed in action, Theresa began protesting the war her brothers were serving in. And yet, they weren't angry with her because they knew her well enough by now to know that she would fight against issues she felt were unfair.

Born the second of four children in San Fernando, California, Theresa had an older brother and one younger brother and sister. Her father was born in California and her mother was born in Durango, Mexico. After high school, Theresa married and had two children.

The marriage did not last and Theresa raised her children by herself. Her professional career has consisted almost exclusively of non-profit and activism work. Although her great-great grandfather was a full-blooded Apache, she did not yet know that when she got her first job working with Native-American tribes. She traveled 1,500 miles every month to 17 tribes to make sure needed services were being provided.

From 1991 to 1997, she ran [Community to Aid Abused Women](#) (CAAW), the largest domestic violence shelter in Northern Nevada. She was also a [Court Appointed Special Advocate](#) (CASA) and a rape crisis counselor. In 1994, Theresa became the very first advocate to assist a victim in

a courtroom.

In 2004, Theresa ran for [Washoe County School Board](#). She received 30,000 votes but lost by 300. That experience persuaded her that she best served the community as an activist.

In 2008, she became the Nevada State Director of Health Care for America Now. Having witnessed both of her children struggle to obtain adequate, timely medical care for chronic conditions, she knew the battle for health care reform was an important one. Her son had suffered with constant pain for 15 years due to a fall on a construction site. Her daughter struggled with fibromyalgia and the many syndromes associated with it. Both needed her help. In July 2010, her son died unexpectedly following a change in his medication. Joseph was 41. That same year, her oldest brother died. The pain of losing her only son coupled with the loss of her brother is still raw. But they also keep her motivated to fight another day for basic human rights for all.

Theresa now serves on the National Immigration Caucus and works part-time with the Catholic Diocese for a project called "[Justice for Immigrants](#)." She speaks in churches across Nevada educating Catholics on the status of our immigration process and the need for reform. She has done extensive work with [DREAMers](#) and the [Deferred Action](#) program.

Additionally, she is serving her second terms as a member of the [Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#). She is currently working on a project that evaluates the effects of placing youth under the age of 18 in the prison system. She is Board President of [Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada](#). She is the [second vice-chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party](#). Oh, and she's putting together a People of Color Caucus for the state of Nevada.

In her spare time she works with a number of universities as a speaker on the importance of voting. She also talks to international students about American politics. As a delegate to the 2012 DNC convention, she received a call from a media class in one of the universities while she was there. She answered questions about the DNC convention, issues of the day and the differences between Democrats and Republicans.

Noting the divisiveness that exists across political parties today, Theresa says she remains a Democrat because, *"Democrats are the ones who focus on the people. I don't have to agree with everything the Party does. They are the only ones who stand up for the less fortunate and I will continue to work with them on those things which we agree upon and push for those things on which we don't yet agree."*

Her dream was to be on the floor of the 2012 DNC convention. For the first time since he passed, she felt her son's presence with her, proud of her and her achievements. He's not alone. Northern Nevadans are already aware of Theresa's contributions to our communities and we all owe Theresa a debt of gratitude for her service.

Annette Magnus—Ferguson Family Freedom Award



Annette Magnus was born and raised in Las Vegas. She is a second-generation Nevadan with family roots in the local Culinary Union. In 2003, she graduated from Centennial High School where she was involved with student activities and student government. From her high school experience, she became interested in politics and set out to major in Political Science at UNLV.

In her junior year at UNLV, Annette applied for the legislative internship program and was accepted. Annette was assigned to then-Senate

Minority Leader Dina Titus for the 2005 legislative session, an assignment that changed her life. Annette went on to work as scheduler and personal assistant to Senator (now Congresswoman) Titus on both her 2006 Gubernatorial Campaign and her 2008 Congressional Campaign. In addition to this, she was also her Executive Legislative Assistant for the 2007 legislative session in Carson City.

Annette is now the Executive Director of Battle Born Progress, which is the public relations firm for the progressive community in Nevada. Prior to this, she was the Public Affairs Manager for Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada where she worked on political issues and media. Annette also graduated from NEWL in 2005 and from Emerge Nevada in 2007 and volunteers for a number of causes in the Las Vegas community in her free time.