



Spring Meeting

Promoting Economic Opportunity Through Policy and Influence

February 19, 2015 • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

The North Texas Asset Funders Network is pleased to present a forum highlighting effective ways foundations and nonprofits can use policy change as part of their strategy for addressing economic insecurity and asset building for low-income families.

Moderator: **Alfreda B. Norman, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas**

Legislative Perspectives

with Ann Beeson, Center for Public Policy Priorities

Learn how to leverage the 84th Texas Legislative Session to expand economic opportunity for all Texans.

Demystifying Influence Strategies: Developing and Implementing a Policy Agenda,

with Nayantara Mehta, Alliance for Justice

Learn why policy efforts can be an important method for achieving organizational mission. Hear about the role your organization can play in the field of policy, including the rules of engagement for both funders and nonprofits.

Opportunity Discussion: How Do We Practically Engage in Policy?

with Dena L. Jackson, Dallas Women's Foundation:

Learn how grantmakers and nonprofits can effectively and successfully collaborate to advance economic security issues.

Presented by the Steering Committee for the North Texas Asset Funders Network

Rose Bradshaw, Community Foundation of North Texas
Grant Coates, The Miles Foundation
Sarah Cotton Nelson, Communities Foundation of Texas
Elma Goodwin, US Dept of HHS, Administration for Children & Families
Susan Hoff, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
Dena L. Jackson, Dallas Women's Foundation
Roy Lopez, Capital One Bank

Sue Matkin, United Way of Tarrant County
Megan McTiernan, Thomson Family Foundation
Alfreda B. Norman, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
Kathy Smith, Meadows Foundation
Debbie Taylor, Citibank
Michelle Thomas, JP Morgan Chase

For all Funders Forum event archives and meeting materials, please visit our website,
<http://assetfunders.org/network/afn-regional-chapters/dallas-funders-group/>

The North Texas Asset Funders Network is a collaborative effort developed to bring grantmakers together to share and learn around the topics of asset building and financial capability.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

ANN BEESON

Executive Director, Center for Public Policy Priorities

A renowned social justice lawyer, former philanthropy executive and frequent public speaker and writer, Beeson joined CPPP in 2013. CPPP uses data and analysis to advocate for solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Beeson was previously the executive director of U.S. programs at the Open Society Foundations, where she promoted human rights, justice and accountability nationwide. From 1995–2007, Beeson was the national associate legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union. She argued twice before the U.S. Supreme Court and has been recognized as one of the nation’s top lawyers by *The American Lawyer* magazine and the *National Law Journal*. Beeson grew up in Dallas, received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Texas and her law degree from Emory University School of Law. She served as law clerk to the Honorable Barefoot Sanders, then chief judge of the Northern District of Texas in Dallas.

DENA L. JACKSON, PhD

Vice President, Grants & Research, Dallas Women’s Foundation

Jackson joined the Dallas Women’s Foundation in February 2012 as the –vice president of grants and research. In this role, she provides direction for areas of research on topics focused on women and girls and leadership in the \$3.5M in annual grants on education, health, safety, and economic security and is growing the foundation’s legislative advocacy initiative at the state level. Jackson’s experience includes health care administration focused on women’s health and managed care process improvement, grants management at Susan G. Komen for the Cure, opening both the Foundation Relations and the Research Development offices as vice president of education University of Texas at Dallas. A native Texan, Jackson earned her doctoral degree in health studies at Texas Women’s University.

NAYANTARA MEHTA

Senior Counsel, Alliance for Justice

Mehta is senior counsel with Alliance for Justice’s West Coast Office in Oakland, Calif. She works through Alliance for Justice’s Bolder Advocacy initiative to ensure that communities, and the nonprofits that represent them, have a voice in the policy decisions that affect them. She consults with and trains nonprofit organizations and foundations throughout the country on rules and strategies for legal and effective advocacy, including lobbying, election-related activity and ballot measure advocacy. She also provides legal guidance that encourages grantmakers to support advocacy by their grantees and the nonprofit sector. Mehta holds a JD from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall).

ALFREDA B. NORMAN

Senior Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

In her role at the Dallas Fed, Norman oversees a team that promotes community and economic development and fair and impartial access to credit through research and training, publications and conferences, workshops and policy forums. Norman came to the Fed in 2004 from Bank of America, which hired her in 1992 as its first neighborhood development officer, in charge of implementing a strategic plan for extending credit to low- and moderate-income communities in Texas. She went on to assume statewide Community Reinvestment Act responsibilities with Bank of America’s mortgage lending group. Previously, she worked as supervisor in the city of Dallas’ Office of Cultural Affairs and held management positions at The Container Store headquarters in Coppell, Texas. Norman earned a bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University and is a graduate of the University of Virginia’s Graduate School of Retail Banking.