

GAME CHANGERS

This year, the DSJ Forum is proud to announce a new segment in our Journal, the Game Changers Series. The goal of the Series is to spotlight people who have been making a difference in the field of social justice, diversity and equality on a national and local level. We are proud to introduce these Game Changers to our readers and hope they inspire you just as they inspired us.

Maya Moore is a successful American professional basketball player. She plays for the the Minnesota Lynx in the Women's National Basketball Association.

She decided to skip the 2020 U.S. Olympic team to continue her push for the the release of Jonathan Irons, a

Missouri inmate she believed was wrongly convicted. Mr. Irons was successfully released after his conviction was overturned in July 2020. He had been unjustly incarcerated for 20 years.

In 2017, Maya created the Win with Justice

organization. This social action campaign aims to educate the public on the critical role that prosecutors play in our criminal justice system. Its goal is to aim towards a fair and equitable criminal justice system.

MAYA MOORE



TODD GLORIA



Todd Rex Gloria is the first person of color and the first openly gay person to serve as San Diego's mayor. He describes his ethnic background as half Native American, one-quarter Filipino, Dutch, and Puerto Rican. He is an alum of the University of San Diego (USD), where he actively advocated to

add sexual orientation to USD's non-discrimination policy.

Gloria's professional life is immersed in activism and politics such as: chairman of the San Diego LGBT Community Center, San Diego Housing Commissioner, President of San Diego City Council, and

Member of the California State Assembly from the 78th District.

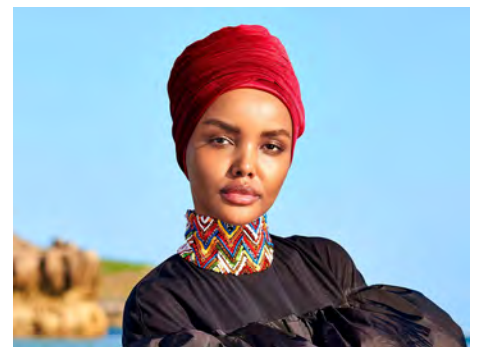
The focus of his mayoral campaign revolved around issues related to housing affordability, homelessness, public transportation, and climate change.

Halima was born in a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya where her family had fled during the Somalian Civil war. Her family immigrated to the United States. In 2016, she became the first Muslim contestant to wear a hijab and compete in the Miss Minnesota USA pageant, and made it all

the way to the semi-finals. Since then, she has been breaking barriers within the fashion industry as a Muslim model who wears a hijab. Most notably, she was the first hijabi wearing model to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated in a burkini. Recently, she decided to quit the fashion

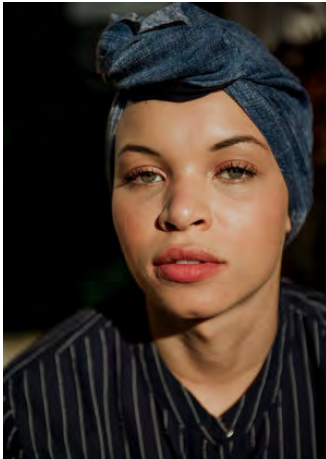
industry because she felt that she had lost touch with her faith. Given how interconnected her faith and her identity are to Halima, it was important to her show that other Muslim women do not have to compromise how they wear their hijab to fit into the image of how other people want you to be seen.

HALIMA ADEN



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BLAIR IMANI



In 2017, Blair notably came out as a Queer Muslim woman, while advocating for the need for safe spaces on the Tucker Carlson tonight show. In her Tedtalk, "Queer and Muslim, Nothing to Reconcile," Blair spoke about the importance of recognizing and encouraging

intersectionality within both communities and the need for transparency and conversations about sexuality within the Muslim community. As a queer, black Muslim woman, Blair has used her platform to advocate for queer communities of faith and has been on the front lines of the

Black Lives Matter movement. Ultimately, Blair has been a role model for queer black Muslims and has helped encourage and spark dialogue about a group of people that are severely underrepresented and misunderstood within these communities.

Alicia Garza is an American civil rights activist, writer and co-founder of Black Lives Matter. Seven years ago, Alicia wrote "Black lives matter" in a Facebook post after the acquittal of George Zimmerman for the killing of Trayvon Martin. This post, with

the help of others, led to "Black Lives Matter" becoming a rallying cry and a call to action.

Alicia continues to keep the momentum going and launched Black Futures Lab in 2018. The organization aims to help black communities achieve greater political

power. Black Futures Lab launched the Black Census Project, which conducted the largest survey of Black people conducted in the United States since the Reconstruction era. These findings allow Black people to speak for themselves and be listened to.

ALICIA GARZA



BRIAN FENNESSY



Chief Brian Fennessy has served as the Orange County Fire Authority Fire Chief since April 2018. His firefighting career began with the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management since 1978 as a hotshot crewmember, helitack captain and ultimately crew superintendent. In 1990, Fennessy joined

the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) and became Chief of the Department in 2015.

In 2020, Fennessy led a team of about 1,100 firefighters to combat the Bond, Silverado, and Blue Ridge fires in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the weeks preceding

those fires, Fennessy and his team also assisted fires in Los Angeles County and further north. Chief Fennessy himself has led initiatives on new fire-combating technologies, such as bringing in a super-capacity helitanker that can drop 3,000 gallons at once.

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JIMMIE GARDNER

Jimmie Gardner is a judicial reform advocate. He was wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 27 years before being exonerated.

While he was attending college in 1989, Jimmie was arrested and charged with two separate counts of robbery and sexual assault, and found guilty in 1990 and sentenced to 110 years in prison.

During the criminal trial, a state police forensic scientist was the expert witness and knowingly presented false testimony which resulted in his guilty verdict. Despite this exposure, Gardner did not receive a hearing until 2013 and finally was released in 2016.

Since his release, Jimmie has spoken at various

schools, organizations, and prisons about the ongoing injustices and bring about prison reform for inmates, including Chapman Fowler School of Law's Dialogue Series in September 2020.

Gardner is currently enrolled at Chapman University, working towards his Bachelor's degree.



SHEILA SADR



Sheila Sadr is an Orange County native, who spreads her love and stories through poetry. As an first generation Iranian-American poet, she found comfort and solace through poetry. In her poems she explores her femininity, culture and heartbreak as a way to show the world how she has

survived and you can too. Sheila has had several of her poems published, performed across the nation and won the Jack Rabbit Poetry Slam in 2018. She works at Get Lit Words Ignite, a non-profit organization in Los Angeles dedicated to teaching visual media and poetry.

Sheila has just published her poetry book, Birthday Girl, which serves as an ode to a journey of trauma and healing she endured in her lifetime. Sheila is inspirational because of how unapologetic she is in expressing her pain and emulating that into a platform that is so beautiful.

Nahla Kamaluddin is an Immigration Attorney. She is a native of Bahrain and immigrated to the United States in 2012 to pursue her legal education. Nahla worked on the issue of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials deporting women at Irwin due to a criminal investigation of

hysterectomies. Further Nahla, along other immigration attorneys, succeeded in stopping ICE from deporting a witness in Georgia's detention center. She continues to work to fight for immigrants facing unfair and difficult Government policies.

Nahla teaches the immigration clinic at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law. She says that "A major part of our day is dedicated to teaching and supervising the next generation of lawyers as they learn how to communicate with clients, develop their cases and even argue them at trial."



NAHLA KAMALUDDIN