

Speaker Bios

Eva Castillo was born in Caracas, Venezuela. Moved to Michigan in 1976 where she graduated from Western Michigan University.

She has been working with the Latino community ever since she moved to the United States. In Michigan she directed the Hispanic American Council and upon moving to New Hampshire in 1984, she worked at the New England Farm Workers Council and the Latin American Center.

In 2007 Eva was hired by MIRA Coalition as an organizer and Director of the NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees and Welcoming NH.

Eva's tireless work to support immigrants with workers' rights education, medical and legal interpreting and immigrant rights advocacy, has granted her the community trust and they contact her with a wide range of issues when the need arises.

Eva is a strong voice for the immigrant community and works with many allies to promote their integration and equity.

She encourages and trains others to stand up for themselves and to take charge of their own lives and circumstances. "We must realize that it is only by working together that we will achieve the power we need in order to make changes in society".

Eva served six years as a Manchester Police Commissioner, chairs the Manchester Disproportionate Minority Contact committee, and the MPD Community Advisory Board She is part of several boards and steering committees in New Hampshire.

She is the recipient of several honors and awards, among them:

- AFL-CIO NH Social Justice Award 2007
- Officer Michael Briggs Community Award Hero 2011
- DAR NH Americanism Award 2015
- Martin Luther King Award 2017- MLK Coalition

Bill Guinther is the Program Policy Analyst at New Hampshire Housing. He is responsible for coordinating New Hampshire's Consolidated Planning process which plans and reports the accomplishments of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Planning and Development block grants of HOME Investment Partnerships, Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, and the Housing Trust Fund. He is in his twentieth year of employment at New Hampshire Housing. Bill has particular expertise in grant writing and navigating federal regulations

Victoria Horrock is one of New Hampshire Legal Assistance's Fair Housing Project Co-Directors. She represents low income individuals who are the victims of housing discrimination. Prior to joining NHLA, Victoria represented nonprofit organizations, primarily assisting them with tax and corporate governance issues. During law school she was a summer associate at the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center. She received her J.D. from Tulane University Law School and her B.A. from Oberlin College.

Chief Andrew Lavoie is a veteran of the US Navy. He is a 31-year veteran of the Nashua Police Department. He has held every rank in the Nashua Police Department, from Patrolman, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and was sworn in as the 34th Chief of the Nashua Police Department on January 1st, 2015. His career has included extensive experience in Patrol, Detectives, Problem Oriented Policing, Crime Prevention, Criminal Investigations as well as Professional Standards and Accreditation. Chief Lavoie has commanded many specialty units, including Crisis Negotiations Unit, Crime Scene Unit, Traffic Unit, Media Relations Unit and was the Nashua Police Department representative to the NH Anti-Terrorism task force. He has graduated from many supervisory programs at every rank; to include the NE Law Enforcement Executive Development program, Standard and Advanced Police Executive Development sponsored by Penn State and FBI New England Executive Development. Chief Lavoie holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Western New England University and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Franklin Pierce University. Chief Lavoie is a member of many community organizations to include the Nashua Community Conversation on Race and Justice, the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative, the Nashua Race & Ethnic Disparities group, and the Nashua Welcoming City Vision Council.

Elizabeth Lahey is the Director of the Civil Rights Unit at the New Hampshire Department of Justice, which works to end discrimination and violations of civil and constitutional rights based on age, sex, race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, and national origin. In this newly-created position, Elizabeth investigates and prosecutes allegations of discrimination and civil-rights violations, and works with community members and law enforcement to provide civil-rights education. Prior to her Director position, Elizabeth practiced civil litigation in private practice and for the Department of Justice. Elizabeth is a New Hampshire native. She is a graduate of University of New Hampshire School of Law and Kent State University.

Ahni Malachi was named Executive Director of the New Hampshire Human Rights Commission in April 2018. Previously, Ms. Malachi was the Public Service Manager for six years at WMUR, a Hearst Television station and a local ABC affiliate in the Boston media market. During her tenure there, she has worked cooperatively with local New Hampshire non-profit and community organizations to assist them with media messaging around fundraising efforts and awareness campaigns.

As a member of NATSAS (New England National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences) Ahni was part of a 2018 Emmy-winning team of PSA producers for WMUR in partnership with the New Hampshire Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). A public service (PSA) campaign was created to bring awareness to the DEA's nation-wide 'Drug Take Back Days' in 2017 to encourage people to safely dispose of any unwanted prescription pills from their homes. Along with her Emmy award, Ahni has also won many Public Service awards for PSA production from the New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters (NHAB), with organizations ranging from the New Hampshire Food Bank, to the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD), to the Toys for Tots Charity which is a part of the United States Marine Corps (USMC).

In 2017, Ahni received an official commendation from the New Hampshire Department of Safety/State Police for the “I am a New Hampshire State Trooper” PSA in support of recruitment efforts for the organization. By demonstrating the diversity of languages, ethnicities, and aptitudes already present in the New Hampshire State Police this PSA went on to become “one of the greatest marketing and public relations initiatives in the history of the organization” as stated on the plaque presented at the ceremony.

Although the position of Executive Director is new to Ahni, lending her creativity to work with and give a voice to various New Hampshire organizations as they serve populations in need is not.

Major John Marasco has been a member of the New Hampshire State Police for the past twenty-two years and he is currently assigned as the department’s Administrative Major. In his current assignment, Major Marasco is responsible for the oversight of the NH Office of Highway Safety, the State Police Recruitment and Training Unit, the Support Services Bureau, and the Investigative Bureau, which is comprised of the Major Crime Unit, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Narcotics Investigation Unit. Major Marasco also has the privilege of coordinating public-relations initiatives, facilitating community outreach events, and he works closely with the department’s social media/internship liaison to further the public safety mission.

Prior to being promoted to his current position, Major Marasco served as a Captain providing oversight to the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety, which is focused on saving lives on New Hampshire’s roadway’s throughout the state. Major Marasco also served as the Lieutenant of the agency’s Recruitment and Training Unit, during which time he conducted the hiring process for State Trooper candidates, collaboratively developed marketing strategies, such as the WMUR Public Service Announcement “I am a NH State Trooper”, which featured foreign languages spoken by Troopers within the organization, provided for a social media presence, developed on-line training solutions for the department, and acting as the agency’s Human Resources point of contact for over 600 employees. Prior to his promotion to Lieutenant in 2013, Major Marasco served for thirteen-years as a State Police Detective during which time he investigated numerous violent crimes, crimes against children, and cybercrimes. Major Marasco concluded his investigative career as a Sergeant/lead investigator within the State Police Major Crime Unit.

One of Major Marasco’s passions is working to empower community members through the coordination of events that bring law enforcement and the public together. John holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University and a Master of Science degree in International Business from Southern New Hampshire University. In addition to his State Police responsibilities, John has also worked for many years as an Adjunct Professor within the Justice Studies Program at Southern New Hampshire University and he is proficient in Mandarin Chinese.

Steven McKinney is the Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist for the Northern New England District Office of the United States Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division. Steven started working for the Department of Labor in 2010 as a Wage and Hour Investigator. Over the next 6 years, Steven obtained direct experience enforcing the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, and other Federal labor laws. Prior to becoming an investigator, Steven worked as an attorney for the Law Offices of Ferris & Ferris in Chesterfield, Virginia.

Basra Mohamed is an immigration attorney at Catholic Charities. Basra leads the *Victims of Violence* program through which she represents and advocates for immigrant victims of crime. Basra works out of Manchester and Nashua.

Christine Wellington is an attorney with over twenty-five years of experience, Chris has spent most of her legal career in legal services and has developed an expertise in housing law, domestic violence and immigrant rights. Her primary caseload involves representing clients in landlord-tenant matters, housing discrimination cases and in other housing-related matters. She has served as a commissioner on the New Hampshire Human Rights Commission, a board member of the New Hampshire Board of Licensure of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the New Hampshire Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. She has provided training and expertise throughout New Hampshire and New England on a number of topics. Chris has been involved in writing and producing New Hampshire's Analyses of Impediments to Fair Housing Reports as well as a fair housing guidebook for municipal and regional planners.