

2022

EISENHOWER FELLOWS



USA Justice Program



Geneva Campbell Brown | PHILADELPHIA, PA
Senior Counsel • Cigna

Geneva Campbell Brown is lead attorney for corporate governance, shareholder engagement and philanthropy for Cigna, a 225-year-old managed health care and insurance company with more than 70,000 employees and 180 million customers and patient relationships that operates in 30 countries and jurisdictions. She also works to advance social justice as president of the legal department's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council. On fellowship in Jordan and South Africa, she wants to explore how fitness and wellness programs contribute to students' overall health and well-being and address the link between racial injustice and poverty.



Nicole Brown | LOS ANGELES, CA
Policy Manager • Urban Peace Institute

In her policy role at the Urban Peace Institute, a nonprofit organization that works to improve community health, reduce trauma and lower urban violence, Nicole Brown creates connections across coalitions, tracks justice-related funding streams and serves as an advocate for investments that promote opportunities for low-income communities of color in Los Angeles. In addition, she coordinates communication strategies for the L.A. Youth Uprising Coalition, a direct-action organizing and policy-advocacy group. On fellowship in Ireland and Northern Ireland she wants to explore alternatives to incarceration and in New Zealand she wants to study its restorative-justice model based largely on the practices of the country's minority Maori population.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Rachel Conrad | BOSTON, MA

Director of Young Adult Mental Health • Brigham and Women's Hospital

As director of Massachusetts' premier clinic for young adults with severe mental illness, Dr. Rachel Conrad rapidly expanded mental health treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her work focuses on the decline of mental health of young adults and the skyrocketing demand for psychiatric services and barriers to mental health treatment. On fellowship in Australia and Malaysia she wants to meet leaders of similar programs to explore ways of improving equal access to youth mental health treatment.



Jermaine Harris | CHICAGO, IL

Sergeant • Chicago Police Department

As a supervisor with the second largest municipal police department in the United States, Jermaine Harris oversees patrol officers in a city that tallied 797 homicides in 2021, its highest annual total in 30 years. The toll, he says, hits hardest on Black residents, who make up 30 percent of Chicago's population and 81 percent of its murder victims. On and off duty, Harris has been instrumental in efforts to address patterns of police misconduct and repair community trust. On fellowship in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom, he will explore how law enforcement address the challenges of community policing and respond to use-of-force incidents.



Ben Johnson | ST. LOUIS, MO

Vice President, Programs • BioSTL

An executive with a leading technology-focused, economic development group, Ben Johnson has raised venture capital for start-ups, launched research parks and recruited new firms to bolster St. Louis' reputation as a bioscience hub. He implements BioSTL's policies on diversity, equity and inclusion, and in 2016 he and a dozen colleagues formed the St. Louis Equity in Entrepreneurship Collective to ensure that the systems built to support new entrepreneurs operate equitably regarding race and gender. On fellowship in Brazil and Chile he hopes to discover successful models that drive social-justice outcomes for historically excluded populations.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Jasmine McGhee | DURHAM, NC

Special Deputy Attorney General/Director of Public Protection · North Carolina
Department of Justice

Jasmine McGhee directs public safety and civil rights policy for the North Carolina Department of Justice, where 800 employees work to prevent crime, support law-enforcement training and standards, safeguard consumers and defend the constitutional rights of the state and its people. She also is lead counsel for the Governor’s Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, which in 2020 published 125 recommendations to improve fairness in the state’s criminal justice system. On fellowship in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Ghana, she wants to understand how other countries undertake criminal justice reform and approach racial equity issues.



Jason Purnell | ST. LOUIS, MO

Vice President, Community Health Improvement · BJC HealthCare

Jason Purnell is a senior executive at one of the nation’s largest nonprofit healthcare organizations, serving the greater St. Louis area, southern Illinois, and southeastern Missouri. In that role, he has highlighted the importance of the social determinants of health. Purnell led a team that published the landmark “For the Sake of All” report on the health and wellbeing disadvantages experienced by African-Americans in St. Louis in 2014. On fellowship in Spain and Rwanda he will explore the underlying causes of gaps in health equity and the connection between public health and primary care.



Murisiku Raifu | LOS ANGELES, CA

CEO · Talamus Health, Inc.

Neurosurgeon Murisiku Raifu developed the online Talamus Platform to combine health services under one umbrella. The company provides middle- and low-income residents of Ghana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe with digital information about telemedicine and clinical-care appointments, billing, prescriptions, radiology, insurance and hospital-bed availability. Since 2018, he has been the lead surgeon for the Brain Project, a nonprofit that provides free surgical services in Ghana and Cameroon. On fellowship in Spain and Rwanda, Dr. Raifu will study best practices in delivering care to rural, migrant and other underserved communities.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Reginald Streater | PHILADELPHIA, PA
Member and Director • The Philadelphia Board of Education

As a member of the Philadelphia Board of Education since 2021, Reginald Streater helps oversee an annual public school district budget of roughly \$3.5 billion and the academic development and welfare of some 200,000 students. An attorney with extensive experience in private practice and expertise in diversity, equity, inclusion and employment discrimination, he was vice president of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania. He also serves on the executive board of the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, a 1,000-member organization of Black lawyers, law students and jurists working to advance justice and equal opportunity. On fellowship in Finland and Kenya, he wants to gain an international perspective on ways to improve public education, particularly in low-resource urban settings that are routinely challenged by crumbling infrastructure, divestment and apathy.



Adrian Talbott | CHICAGO, IL
Associate Dean for Civic Engagement • University of Chicago

As leader of the university's Crown Family School Office of Community Partnership and Impact, Adrian Talbott recognizes the historic tensions between his institution and the South Side of Chicago, where the U of C is the largest employer. The programs he runs launch and grow minority-owned micro-businesses and tackle racial and economic inequities. On fellowship in South Africa and Colombia he will explore the ways that universities there have addressed these issues. His goal is the creation of new community-based support programs, similar to ones at the University of Cape Town and Universidad de Los Andes.



Maria Toler Velissaris | ATLANTA, GA
Founding and Managing Partner • SteelSky Ventures

Maria Toler Velissaris founded SteelSky Ventures in 2020 to improve access to women's health care by finding investment opportunities in innovative medical devices and delivery models. Today her firm has \$72 million in assets under management. A joint program by two of SteelSky's portfolio companies exemplifies her approach, delivering period underwear via drones to more than 2,000 girls in remote areas of Ghana and Rwanda. "Providing these products allows these girls to stay in school [and change] the financial trajectory of their lives," she said. On fellowship in Rwanda she will study how to advance the state of care in a majority Black population and in Spain she will study the country's single-payer health insurance system.

Leaders bettering the world around them.