

Slate of Candidates

Officers nominated to be elected by Chapters of The Arc

President: Burt Hudson – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Vice President: Sumeet Seam – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Treasurer: Chris Rodriguez – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Secretary: Russell Lehmann – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Immediate Past President: Meredith Sadoulet (no action required)

Directors to be elected by Chapters of The Arc for a four-year term of 2026-2030

There are five available director openings and six candidates. Chapters will need to select five of the six candidates listed below.

Linda Brown – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Ruth Colker– recommended by The Arc’s Board

KiloMarie Granda– recommended by The Arc’s Board

Brooks Greene – recommended by The Arc’s Board

David Richard – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Cobey Meyer – self-nominee running against the slate

Directors renewing for a second four-year term – No Action Required

Frank Adu – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Yvette Pegues – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Pablo Juárez – recommended by The Arc’s Board

Chloe Rothschild – recommended by The Arc’s Board

NCE Designees to the Board

Stanfort Perry, Incoming Chair, NCE Steering Committee

Jean Phelps, Immediate Past Chair, NCE Steering Committee

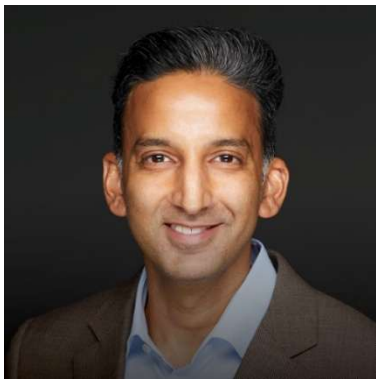
Officer Candidate Biographies

Burt Hudson



Hudson is the Chief Operating Officer of LeadingAge, an association of non-profit aging service and long-term care providers. He is responsible for the association's human resources, business development, finance, and information technology departments. Hudson is both a father and brother of individuals with disabilities. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Arc of the US Board and the Treasurer of the board of directors of The Arc of Virginia, an organization he has served since May of 2011.

Sumeet Seam



As the chief legal officer at the National Geographic Society, Sumeet Seam leads the organization's legal and business affairs function and is involved in shaping the Society's business model and growth strategy. Mr. Seam joined the Society with 20 years of experience successfully developing high-performing legal and risk departments. He served as general counsel for Save the Children, overseeing all legal affairs and key operations functions. He also spent 12 years at Discovery Communications, where he managed the U.S. corporate legal department. As a public speaker, Mr. Seam has addressed board governance; crisis management; enterprise risk management; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and workplace culture. He currently serves as the chair of the Governance Committee of the Arc of the US Board.

Chris Rodriguez



Rodriguez has an extensive history advocating alongside and on behalf of individuals with disabilities at the local, state, and national levels. Before becoming the President and CEO of Ability360, Rodriguez served as the Executive Director of Disability Rights Louisiana, Director of Public Policy for National Disability Institute, Director of Governmental Affairs and Media Relations for the Michigan Protection and Advocacy, and Director of Chapter Services at The Arc of Texas.

Rodriguez received his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley. He earned his graduate degree in Public Affairs at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin. Rodriguez’s passion for advocating comes from his experiences as the younger sibling to a person with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities. He currently serves as the chair of the Audit Committee of the Arc of the US Board.

Russell Lehmann



Lehmann is an award-winning and internationally recognized public speaker, thought leader, and poet with a platform on autism and mental health. After Lehmann’s diagnosis at age 12, he became increasingly isolated from the outside world due to the pain and hurt of not being understood. His journey took many twists and turns, and he found solace in writing poetry, participating in athletics, and becoming an advocate. A graduate of MIT’s “Leadership in the Digital Age” course, Lehmann’s name and story are known worldwide, and his workshops,

keynote speeches, and performances reach thousands of students, teachers, legislators, policy makers, business leaders, and service providers each year. He was recently recognized by the Autism Society of America as the “2022 Advocate of the Year”.

Board-Recommended Director Candidate Biographies



Linda Brown, the parent of an adult son with autism, became involved with The Arc of Tennessee in 2014 and later played a key role in establishing The Arc Rutherford County, a local chapter organization. She has held leadership positions on the boards of both the state and local chapters, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to advancing opportunities and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Brown has served as Chair of the Developmental Disabilities Planning & Policy Council (TN Department of Disability and Aging) and has contributed extensively through numerous volunteer, leadership and advocacy roles. In her professional capacity, she serves as a Statewide Information and Referral Coordinator at TN Disability Pathfinder (Vanderbilt University Medical Center).

Brown seeks to serve on the national board because of the profound impact The Arc of Tennessee has had on her family. She credits the organization with helping her develop into a confident advocate and empowering her son to become more independent and an effective self-advocate. In her application, she shared that, without The Arc, her family might never have fully recognized the importance of advocacy or experienced the personal growth that enabled them to support their son in developing the skills and confidence necessary to thrive.



Ruth Colker is a Distinguished University Professor emerita at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She is a member of The Arc and the parent of a young adult son with disabilities. She successfully sued her school district to get him the support he needed for a fully integrated education. Colker is one of the country's leading disability law scholars. Her ability to bridge scholarship, policy, and advocacy would make her an invaluable strategic voice on The Arc's Board at a time when disability rights face both new challenges and critical opportunities.

Colker has held major academic leadership roles, worked collaboratively across disciplines, mentored generations of lawyers and advocates, and engaged directly with policymakers and courts. Her experience serving on national committees (including the ACLU National) and contributing to public debates demonstrates that she understands governance, strategy, and long-term organizational impact.

KiloMarie Granda demonstrates a strong combination of lived experience (she identifies as a self-advocate), disability advocacy expertise, policy leadership, and nonprofit governance experience that aligns closely with The Arc's mission and strategic priorities. As an individual with a physical disability, ADHD, and autism, and as a family member of individuals with disabilities, Granda brings authentic lived experience to board service. She has also dedicated much of her career to advancing opportunities and protections for individuals with disabilities and other marginalized populations.

Granda has served in leadership roles on numerous statewide and national committees, councils, and workgroups, including disability policy organizations, assistive technology initiatives, and criminal justice reform efforts. She currently serves on multiple disability-related advisory and policy bodies and has experience collaborating with policymakers and community stakeholders. As a first-generation Latina and former nonprofit executive, she has extensive experience working with culturally diverse

communities and intentionally including historically marginalized populations, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.



Brooks Greene brings a combination of financial expertise, disability-services leadership experience, advocacy knowledge, and a long-standing commitment to The Arc's mission. He spent nearly 13 years in executive leadership at The Arc of Central Alabama and has remained actively involved with The Arc network through auditing, consulting, advocacy, and chapter engagement.

A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), Greene is currently a Partner with Haynes Downard LLP, where his work includes audit and advisory services for nonprofit organizations. His experience includes both auditing nonprofit organizations and serving in executive leadership within the disability-services field, giving him perspective from both financial oversight and organizational operations.

Greene also brings experience in nonprofit governance and board leadership. He serves with National Conference Executives (NCE), where he leads finance-related work, and has served on the board of Project SHARE for six years.



David Richard is a senior vice president on McGuireWoods Consulting's North Carolina government relations team, focusing on healthcare issues related to state and federal government, payors and providers.

Richard has over 40 years leading non-profit and government healthcare organizations, including the last eight years leading the North Carolina's \$20 billion Medicaid program. Prior to serving as deputy secretary for Medicaid, he was the deputy secretary for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Richard joined DHHS as director of the Division of Mental Health in 2013. Before joining the Department, he was executive director of several statewide chapters of The Arc, including The Arc of Delaware, Louisiana and North Carolina, where he led the advocacy and service delivery for people with disabilities.

Richard has worked for both Republican and Democrat administrations and was unanimously confirmed to his Medicaid position by the North Carolina General Assembly. During his tenure at North Carolina Medicaid, he led the program's transformation from fee for service to managed care, supported the provider community through the COVID pandemic and successfully maintained a balanced budget throughout his service.

Richard has served on numerous state and national boards and committees, including the National Association of Medicaid Directors. He has presented to legislative and other governmental entities and to local, state and national meetings on health policy throughout his career.

Board Director Candidate Running Against the Slate



Cobey Meyer is a self-advocate, disability rights leader, and graduate of an Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) program who is currently pursuing a degree in Social Work at Bergen Community College. He is passionate about advancing inclusion, belonging, and leadership opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Through national, state, and local leadership roles, Cobey works to promote inclusive higher education, community participation, and systems change. He has served as a Think College Policy Advocate, participated in the Disability Policy Seminar and the AUCD Leadership Academy, and is a member of the 2026-2027 NJLEND cohort. Cobey has also collaborated with Microsoft and the AI disability committee as an advisory board member, completed an internship with Disability Rights New Jersey, serves as Region 7 Representative for Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), and serves as SABE's Board Secretary.

In 2025, Cobey led a coalition effort that resulted in New Jersey's first Inclusive Postsecondary Education Day proclamation being signed by the Governor. He is also honored to be the recipient of the 2026 Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Laura Lee Leadership Award from the State of the Art Conference.

As a self-advocate and emerging leader, Cobey is committed to building a future where people with disabilities are recognized as leaders, decision-makers, and valued members of every community. He believes that inclusion and belonging are strengthened when people with disabilities help shape the policies, programs, and systems that affect their lives.