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Michael received his B.A. from Holy Cross College; his M.A. in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University, England; and his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, where he was the executive editor of the Law Review. He has served on the Paintings Conservation Council at the J. Paul Getty Museum and on the LGBT community funding committee for the Liberty Hill Foundation. He has served on the board of directors of Common Ground and Project New Hope, both of which he founded in Santa Monica, California.