



# POLLYANNA

Every Voice Matters.

## **RENA ANDOH**

Rena Andoh is a litigation partner with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in New York. Her broad practice ranges from complex commercial and trade secret/restrictive covenant enforcement cases to False Claims Act cases to intellectual property cases arising out of government contracts. Rena acts as first chair trial counsel in jury trials and arbitrations, and argues in appellate courts, including the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals and the First Department of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division.

Rena is an active supporter of Sheppard Mullin's diversity and inclusion initiatives. She serves as vice-chair of the Attorneys of Color Success Initiative Committee ("ACSIC"), convened by the chair of Sheppard Mullin to advance the firm's practices and programs to recruit, retain and promote attorneys of color and LGBTQ attorneys. She also vice-chairs Sheppard Mullin's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Rena is a 2015 Leadership Counsel for Legal Diversity ("LCLD") Fellow, and is an active alumni and mentor in the LCLD organization.

## **RYAN EWERS, M.A.**

Ryan Ewers is a consultant and strategist whose approach to life and work is greatly influenced by the intersection of history, social science, business and social responsibility. Ryan's methods explore the balance of commonalities and differences as they occur individually, inter-personally,

and culturally. Understanding that the only constant is change, Ryan views himself not as an expert, but as a resource collaborator.

Ryan founded his company Ewers & Mine, Inc. in 2010 and has been working in the organizational change space ever since. He has worked in public, private and academic institutions that continue to provide the drive to partner with clients in the pursuit of sustainable growth and change.

Ryan has also worked as a research and development practitioner where he co-created strength-based assessments and taught their applications. These tools leveraged creative and inclusive problem-solving techniques that helped start conversations along the path to growth.

Ryan received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University in psychology and history. He went on to receive his Master of Arts in organizational psychology from Iona College. His wife Maggie is a Mental Health Counselor and Doula who serves women and birthing partners throughout NYC and the Hudson Valley region. They enjoy travel, kayaking, time with friends and getting involved in community projects.

## **ERICA PETTIS**

Erica Pettis is a fundraising professional based in New York, NY. She began her career working in development offices in schools out of a strong desire to offer increased access to educational opportunities.



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Erica is currently a Senior Consultant with Graham-Pelton Consulting, a fundraising and management consulting firm dedicated to elevating philanthropy so that non-profits flourish.

Erica received a BA in history and communication from Hamilton College and lives in NYC with her husband Jerome.

## **ASHLEY SMYTH**

Ashley has over twenty years of experience in not-for-profit and public sector management. Most recently, she played a leadership role in the creation and launch of FAIR Health, a national not-for-profit organization founded to improve transparency in healthcare cost information. In her eight years at FAIR Health she oversaw strategic planning, internal and external communications, media relations, consumer product development and grants administration.

Ashley has held senior management positions in organizations throughout the healthcare sector including the administrations of New York City Mayors Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg, the Mount Sinai Medical Center and a private foundation.

Ashley currently serves on the Board of Trustees of The Dalton School, the International Preschools, and Power of Two. She advocates for children in the New York City foster care system through the New York chapter of CASA. She also previously worked as a first grade classroom volunteer in a charter school run by the Harlem Children's Zone.

Ashley is a graduate of Bowdoin College and holds masters degrees in public health and public administration from Columbia University. She lives with her husband and three sons in New York City.

## **MARJORIE VAN DERCOOK**

Marjorie L. Van Dercook was the Executive Director of the School of American Ballet from 2004-2017 where she initiated and implemented the School's first Diversity Initiative. She served as a member of the board of directors of the New York City Ballet from 1995 through 2003, where she was on the Executive Committee and was co-chair of the Development Committee.

Margie was a co-chair of the Friends of Concerts and Lectures of the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 2000-2009 and currently serves on The Fund for the Met. She served as a Trustee of the Trust for Cultural Resources of the City of New York and was a member of the New York Women's Forum.

She was an associate in the litigation and entertainment departments of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and Franklin, Weinrib, Rudell & Vassallo as well as a law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence W. Pierce of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Margie holds a J.D. degree from Fordham University School of Law, an M.A. in Political Science from Columbia University, and a B.A. from Vassar College. She is married and has three children.