

Annie Benson Bio

A transplant from rural Ohio, Annie's 30 years of West Coast living, from Guatemala to Alaska, long ago transformed her from a Catholic Young Republican into a queer social justice lawyer. Annie participates in the immigrant rights and criminal legal system movements for change. She devotes her work to defending and expanding the civil rights of immigrants and people accused of crimes. She has worked throughout Washington State, first as Legal Director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, then as the Founding Director of the Washington Defender Association's (WDA's) Immigration Project. Currently she is a Senior Directing Attorney at WDA. Annie has been a board member of the National Immigration Project, the Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women and OneAmerica. She taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Washington's School of Law and is a long-standing member of Washington State's Minority and Justice Commission. In recognition of her work, Annie has been honored to receive the Lexis Nexis Daniel Levy Memorial Award; the National Lawyers Guild Carol King Award; the NW Immigrant Rights Project's Golden Door award; and the Washington Women Lawyers Association's Friend of the Judiciary award. The wonders of the earth, Marcel Proust and a fascination with big history help Annie think in geologic time...a useful skill when doing movement work! Annie lives in Port Townsend Washington, traditional lands of the S'Klallam People, and regularly comes to Seattle.