



# Our Staff



**Jason Sullivan-Halpern, J.D.**

Executive Director

Jason is the Director of the California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association (CLTCOA) and joined the Purple Tree Café team in July 2023. As Director of CLTCOA, Jason is a current member of the CA Elder & Disability Justice Coordinating Council (CEDJCC), the CA Elder Justice Coalition (CEJC), and the CA Aging & Disability Alliance (CADA). He works on a daily basis to support older and dependent adults -- including adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities -- through providing legislative advocacy and technical assistance to CA's 35 regional long-term care ombudsman programs. Jason obtained his B.A. in Philosophy & Political Science from UC Davis in 2014, received his J.D. with concentrations in Advocacy and Public Interest Law cum laude in 2021 from Penn State.



**Kelsey Fortune, Ph.D.**

Associate Director & Operations Manager

Kelsey recently received their Ph.D. in economics at UC Davis where their research focused on energy and transportation policy. They have degrees in mathematics and economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. They also volunteer as a board member for two other local nonprofits, Bike Davis and Cool Davis. Their passion for creating community brought them to Purple Tree, and Purple Tree has changed their life. As a person with disabilities, Purple Tree has provided an opportunity to grow in that identity and introduced them to the thriving disability community in Davis.



# Our Board of Directors



**Pamela Cohen, J.D.**

Founder & Board Chair

Pam is an attorney with more than thirty years of experience representing people with disabilities. She is currently a Senior Attorney Mediator at California's civil rights agency, the department of Fair Employment and Housing. Pam cofounded Purple Tree Café in the spirit of her legal advocacy to help people with disabilities live independently and make meaningful contributions to their communities. In that same spirit, she also volunteers as coleader of the Team Davis Singers, a disability-inclusive singing group that participates in Purple Tree's monthly Hootenanny music events. She was Purple Tree's first Executive Director and moved to the Board of Directors in 2023. She earned her B.A. from Vassar College and a law degree from Columbia University.



**Jai Patel**

Treasurer

Jai is currently the Manager of Financial Analysis at the San Francisco Foundation. Jai began his career working with the special assets/loan workout group for Wells Fargo Bank. However, after 2 years at the bank, Jai decided to spend some time backpacking across Southeast Asia, Europe, and Latin America. During that time, Jai decided to utilize his understanding of finance to better the communities that he lived in. When he returned to the states, he entered the world of affordable housing and community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and has been striving to help build more equitable communities.



**Elaina DaLomba, Ph.D., M.A.**

Secretary

Elaina has been an occupational therapist for over 25 years, working with individuals with disabilities in the neonatal intensive care unit through adulthood. She is currently Associate Professor and Associate Program Director for the U.S. Army Baylor Doctor of Science in Occupational Therapy Program at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. She teaches in pediatrics, research methods and appraisal, and mental health. As a military spouse she has moved all over the country and world, teaching and working as a clinical therapist. Her prior volunteer work includes the City of Benicia Human Services Board, the American Occupational Therapy Association's Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section Editor, Royal Air Force Lakenheath's Special Families Support Group Leader, and Operation Homefront. Elaina has a Ph.D. in occupational therapy from Texas Woman's University, a Master of Science in occupational therapy from Tufts University, and a Master of Social Work degree from Tulane University."

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## **Jesus Mata**

Development Director & Board member

Jesús has worked in development and community relations for other local nonprofits and currently works for Everyday Impact Consulting. He has also volunteered as an interpreter for court cases in San Francisco. Jesús holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political and Latin American Studies from the University of San Francisco.