
LAVEA BRACHMAN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, Detroit, MI

Vice President of Programs

2016 to 2021

Improve quality of life in Southeast Michigan (Detroit) & Western New York (Buffalo & Rochester)

- Oversaw team developing investment and grant-making strategies to address economic and workforce inequality for \$1.2 billion, 20-year spend-down foundation.
- Directed annual multi-million grant-making portfolios to build inclusive economies and create upward mobility opportunities for working families, including: increase capital access for minority and women small-businesses owners; build commercial corridors in distressed neighborhoods; fund cultural institutions as economic drivers; develop community colleges initiative; and advance youth apprenticeship programs in underprivileged areas.
- Developed multiple economic development and workforce projects in conjunction with mayors' staffs, state policymakers, and corporate leaders.
- Designed and launched \$10-20 million, multi-year program to build community development financial institutions and small business entrepreneurial ecosystem for women and minorities.
- Directed multiple neighborhood-based, collaborative philanthropic investment initiatives to spur equitable and inclusive economic development (Detroit and Pontiac, MI; Buffalo and Rochester, NY)
- Led Foundation (board/grantees/staff) Israel Mission exploring Israeli social entrepreneurship activities and non-profit startups
- Managed bi-regional signature \$200 million foundation investment in urban parks and regional trails.

Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC), Columbus, OH

Co-Director/Executive Director

2006 to 2016

Champion urban revitalization and sustainable and equitable growth

- **Policy Development:** Managed research and policy development staff to advance economic regrowth non-partisan agenda. Authored local, state and national reports to influence key policy areas: addressing neighborhood disinvestment through land banks, leveraging property reuse for equitable community growth, addressing transportation reforms to overcome workforce inequities, enacting sewer and water infrastructure regulations to balance regrowth, and identifying best reuse practices.
- **Organizational Leadership:** Founded and grew statewide non-profit organization from startup to nationally recognized "think and do" tank to transform Ohio's distressed neighborhoods cities through state policy and advocacy. Successfully fundraised annually from state and national philanthropies, private and public sector funders. Partnered with local officials on statewide initiatives. Formed and led collaboratives with other non-profits, financial institutions, universities, local and state officials.
- **Advocacy:** Educated legislators, executive branch and local officials through testimony and research. Presented keynote speeches, panels at local, state, national and international conferences. Engaged in regular media interviews and published in local, state, national print, social media outlets.

Delta Institute, Chicago, IL

Associate Director & Ohio Director

1998 to 2005

Build resilient environments and economies through sustainable solutions

- Created land use, urban revitalization, air and water quality projects in partnership with local stakeholders for non-profit organization covering Midwest region.
- Developed conservation and restoration master plans for highly urbanized Midwest watersheds, brownfield sites and other blighted areas in city of Chicago and ChicagoLand region.

Greenfield/Environmental Trust Group, Cambridge, MA

Principal and Vice President

1993 to 1994, 1996 to 1998

- Advised Fortune 500 companies on strategies and solutions integrating reuse into site remediation. Conducted feasibility studies, created master plans and managed complex, multi-stakeholder projects.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Washington, D.C.

Special Projects, Office of Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

1994 to 1996

- Led community-based planning process to identify future land uses for decommissioned DOE facilities.
- Developed institutional controls guidelines for future property uses.
- Advised \$6 billion strategic plan for environmental restoration/reuse of decommissioned sites.

Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC), Boston, MA

Project Manager

1991 to 1992

- Evaluated absentee owner impact on Fenway neighborhood. Developed neighborhood stabilization strategies.

Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., Washington, D.C.

Attorney

1988 to 1991

- Counseled corporate clients on environmental law compliance. Researched and wrote briefs on clean air, clean water, superfund and land use regulatory matters. Served as *pro bono* associate.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & FELLOWSHIPS

Resident Fellow. The University of Chicago Institute of Politics. Chicago, IL

2016

Selected from national pool of civic, business leaders and journalists. Taught seminar on equity and economic development challenges facing U.S. legacy cities.

Nonresident Senior Fellow. Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program.

Washington, D.C.

2008 to 2014

Advised on state revitalization policies. Co-authored *Restoring Prosperity to Ohio* blueprint report for economic recovery. <https://www.greaterohio.org/publications/2017/6/20/restoring-prosperity-to-ohio>.

Fellow (Urban and Regional Policy). German Marshall Fund. Washington, D.C.

2010 to 2013

Launched GMF “Cities in Transition” initiative. Planned and participated in fact-finding missions to European industrial cities. Researched and analyzed European urban practices for American application.

Fellow/Resident Visiting Fellow. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Cambridge, MA

2001 to 2005

Led research partnership on revitalization policies and practices. Authored brownfield reuse case study projects. Developed national workshops on leveraging vacant properties for community wealth-building.

Visiting Professor/Lecturer. Department of Urban Studies and Planning,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA

1992 to 1994, 2005

Developed and taught course on brownfield and neighborhood reuse strategies, using Boston-area non-profit organizations cases. Taught U.S. Supreme Court role in Constitutional/public policy debates course.

Adjunct Professor. City and Regional Planning Program, The Ohio State University.

Columbus, OH

1998 to 2001

Taught survey courses on environmental regulations and impact on city planning.

EDUCATION

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Master in City Planning (1993). Received *Cram Award* for outstanding master’s thesis, “Institutional Contributions to Firm Growth in University-Related Research Parks (URRPs).”

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL

Juris Doctor (1988). Symposium Editor, *The University of Chicago Legal Forum*. Member, State of Pennsylvania Bar.

HARVARD COLLEGE

B.A. Social Studies (1984). Graduated with honors. Senior honors thesis: “The Integration of North African Jews in France.” Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies thesis research award. Harvard College Academic Scholarship, Dean’s List. Opinion Page Editor and staff reporter, *The Harvard Crimson*.

SELECT PROFESSIONAL/CIVIC LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Current

Open4 Fund Advisory Council Co-Chair. Western New York Funding minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE), community development financial institutions (CDFIs), business services organizations.	2020 to 2021
Henry Ford Community College President’s Advisory Council. Detroit, MI	2020 to 2021
Pontiac Funders Collaborative Co-Chair. Pontiac, MI	2020 to 2021
Workforce Matters Funders Network Steering Committee Co-Chair (national).	2018 to 2020
New Economy Initiative (NEI) Steering Committee. Detroit, MI Catalyze minority and women-owned small business growth and inclusive economic investments for metropolitan region.	2017 to 2020
Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue Board of Directors. Detroit, MI Chair, Staffing and Human Resources Committee.	2018 to current
Harvard Hillel Board of Directors. Cambridge, MA Member, Executive Committee; Chair, Strategic Planning Committee. Led board/staff visioning and strategic planning process resulting in <i>Harvard Hillel Strategic Plan 2020-2025</i> .	2017 to current
<i>Previous</i>	
Columbus School for Girls Board of Trustees. Columbus, OH Independent School. Board Chair, 2013 to 2016. Co-chair, Head of School search, 2014 to 2015. Chair, Strategic Planning Committee.	2006 to 2017
Delta Institute Board of Directors. Chicago, IL	2015 to 2016
Clean Ohio Council. Columbus, OH. Gubernatorial appointee (multiple Administrations) to legislatively created entity governing allocation of \$400+ million for brownfields site reuse statewide.	2001 to 2013