

Panelist Bios

Bobby Clark

Deputy Director, Progress Now

Bobby was one of the earliest staff members on Howard Dean's presidential campaign, helping pioneer their novel use of the Internet to raise awareness for a little-known candidate and bring in more than \$25 Million online in 14 months. Prior to DFA, Bobby served as Deputy Director of a statewide initiative in Colorado.

Lisa Durán

Director, Rights for All People

Lisa Durán is the Director of Rights for All People, an immigrant rights organizing project. Lisa is a co-founder of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, and RAP is its current fiscal sponsor. She chairs the board of the Colorado Progressive Coalition and serves on the Campaign for Community Values National Campaign Council, a project of the Center for Community Change (CCC). She is also active in the CCC's Fair Immigration Reform Movement and with the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. She recently ended five years of service on the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, Tennessee.

Lisa's prior experience also includes serving as the Executive Director of the Clínica Tepeyac at our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Denver. She also developed and taught a course on immigration at the University of Colorado at Denver. She has published work on the nonprofit sector and was a researcher/writer with the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training. She has a master's degree in political science and is currently finishing her Masters of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Paul Larmer

Executive Director and Publisher of High Country News

Paul Larmer has worked for High Country News, a non-profit media organization that has covered the one-million-square mile American West for nearly four decades, since 1992. He first came to HCN as an editorial intern in 1984 and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan. From there, he worked for five years for the national Sierra Club in San Francisco, before returning to High Country News as an assistant editor in 1992. Paul founded the Writers on the Range

syndicated op-ed columns service for Western newspapers in 1997, has written numerous feature stories and essays for the magazine on endangered species, land-use and cultural change in the region, and served as High Country News' Editor in 2001 and 2002. Since then he has served as the executive director and publisher. Paul, his wife Lisa Cook, and their two children, Zoe and Zachary, live on a small ranch in Western Colorado.

Wendy Norris

National Partnerships Manager, Center for Independent Media Managing Editor, Colorado Confidential

Wendy Norris joined the Center for Independent Media with an eclectic background in social work, public relations and fundraising with a short stint as a phlebotomist in a medium security prison. She began blogging in 2003 at a variety of progressive sites and founded the group blog, Unbossed, to provide smart analysis and original investigative reporting with an emphasis on public policy. Wendy manages national partnerships for CIM and serves as the managing editor of Colorado Confidential. She is also the political columnist for the Rocky Mountain Chronicle, an independent weekly in northern Colorado.

David Sirota

Author, Columnist, Senior Editor for *In These Times*

David Sirota is a political journalist, nationally syndicated weekly newspaper columnist and bestselling author living in Denver. He is widely known for his reporting on political corruption, globalization and working-class economic issues often ignored by both of America's political parties. The New York Times has called him a "populist rabble-rouser" with a "take-no-prisoners mind-set," while the Philadelphia Daily News labeled him "a progressive powerhouse." His weekly column, which was launched by Creators Syndicate in the Fall of 2007, now appears in newspapers with a combined daily circulation of more than 1.3 million readers.

Sirota's first book, *Hostile Takeover: How Big Money & Corruption Conquered Our Government – And How We Take It Back*, was released by Crown Publishers in 2006 and quickly became a New York Times best seller. Sirota is now working on his second book for Crown, entitled "The Uprising." The book is a tour of the populist political movement growing in response to severe economic pressure on America's middle class. The book is due out in the spring of 2008.

Sirota is also a senior editor at *In These Times* magazine; contributes regularly to *The Nation*, the *American Prospect* and the Huffington Post; is the full-time blogger at www.credoaction.com; and publishes a newsletter at www.davidsirota.com that is e-mailed to thousands of subscribers each day. He serves as a co-chair of the Progressive States Network, a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that provides legislative analysis to state lawmakers. He is also a senior fellow at the Campaign for America's Future, a non-profit research and advocacy organization.