

THE CHAMPION FOR
EQUITY AWARD TO



**BELINDA SMITH WALKER
& JACK WALKER**

Social justice activists

For their dedication to igniting
social transformation through
community-based organizations



**21st Century Civil Rights:
PARTNERING
FOR CHANGE**

The Champion for Equity Award Jack Walker and Belinda Smith Walker

Advancement Project is honoring Belinda Smith Walker and Jack Walker with the Champion for Equity Award in recognition of their dedication to igniting social transformation through community-based organizations.

Belinda is a board member of New Village Charter School, the only all-girls high school created under the California Charter School Act. Located in the Rampart neighborhood, New Village provides an outstanding, highly innovative educational opportunity for young women who often have challenging lives. In 1997, Ms. Walker co-founded Girls & Gangs, a nonprofit organization providing young women in the juvenile justice system community reentry services. Ms. Walker served as Girls & Gangs volunteer executive director for over 10 years and currently serves on its board. She is a member of the Design Committee for Road to Success Academies, the pilot schools in the L.A. County probation camps, and of the Student Attendance Task Force of the L.A. County Juvenile Court. Ms. Walker also served on the founding boards of the Los Angeles Women's Foundation and of the California Women's Foundation.

Belinda has been a stalwart ally in Advancement Project's Urban Peace work, enriching those efforts with her special focus on helping women and girls affected by gang violence. More broadly, as one of L.A.'s invaluable "bridge people," Belinda has been a key member of Advancement Project's Leadership Council, consistently providing helpful insight on uniting diverse communities and fostering mutual understanding and respect. "Belinda leads a life of generous commitment to helping others. Her passion and effectiveness have inspired all of us for many years," says Founding Co-Director, Molly Munger.

Jack worked as a tax lawyer for 32 years. His first management position at Latham was as head of the firm's pro bono program in the 1970s. He served as managing partner from 1988 through 1994 and retired from law practice in 2003. Jack served on the Boards of Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and Public Counsel, where he served as Board Chair. He was a Board member of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and spent nine years on the Executive Committee. On the Chamber Board, he was active in jury system reform, L.A. city business tax reform, and L.A. City charter reform. Founding Co-Director Stephen English says "Jack has brought his financial expertise to Advancement Project and worked diligently to ensure our financial systems are sound."

The Walkers have worked closely with Advancement Project over the years to increase our visibility and bring attention to the social justice issues we tackle. These two social justice activists have dedicated their lives to the service of others and to championing the rights of underserved communities in Los Angeles for nearly 40 years. For this we are proud to honor them with Champion for Equity Award.