

**Social Justice Initiatives
Presents**

***The 2019
Public Interest
Honors Dinner***

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Celebrating

Columbia law students who have shown
EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION to public interest
or public service law,

Distinguished Columbia Law School alum
RAMZI KASSEM '03

Professor of Law, CUNY,
Director, Creating Law Enforcement
Accountability & Responsibility, and

Public interest and public service at
Columbia Law School.

2019 Public Interest Honors Dinner

Columbia Law School
Social Justice Initiatives
April 2, 2019

Greeting

Erica Smock

Dean for Social Justice Initiatives & Public Service Lawyering

Welcome Message

Gillian Lester

Dean and Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law

Remarks

Susan Lindenauer

Columbia Law School Board of Visitors Member

Introduction to Keynote

Olatunde Johnson

Jerome B. Sherman Professor of Law

Keynote Address

Ramzi Kassem '03

Professor of Law, CUNY & Director CLEAR

Presentation of Student Honors

Erica Smock, Nyaguthii Chege, Maddie Kurtz, Devi Patel, and Laren Spierer

Social Justice Initiatives Staff

Table of Contents

[2019 Distinguished Honoree & Keynote Speaker](#)

[Introduction to Keynote Speaker](#)

[Honorees for Postgraduate Employment in Public Interest or Public Service](#)

[Honorees for Two Public Interest or Public Service Summers](#)

[Honorees for 100 or More Hours of Pro Bono Work](#)

[Honorees for In-house Pro Bono Projects](#)

[Honorees for Spring Break Caravans](#)

[Public Interest SPIN Buddies](#)

[Honorees for Public Interest Philanthropy](#)

[Philanthropic Supporters of Pro Bono, Summer, and Postgraduate Work](#)

[Distinguished Honorees \(2003-2018\)](#)

2019 Distinguished Graduate Honoree & Keynote Speaker



Ramzi Kassem '03 is a Professor of Law at the City University of New York where he co-directs the Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic and is the founding director of the CLEAR Project. With his students, he represents prisoners held at Guantánamo and other secret or disclosed American facilities worldwide, New Yorkers of all stripes who find themselves in the crosshairs of the sprawling U.S. security state, as well as immigrants and asylum-seekers. Ramzi has litigated criminal, constitutional, immigration, civil rights, and wartime detention cases at all

levels of the federal judiciary, before military commissions and international tribunals, and in various administrative proceedings. Before joining the CUNY law faculty, Ramzi taught at Yale and Fordham law schools.

Introduction to Keynote



Olatunde Johnson is the Jerome B. Sherman Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, where she teaches legislation and civil procedure and writes about modern civil rights legislation, congressional power, and innovations to address discrimination and inequality in the United States.

Johnson clerked for David Tatel on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the Supreme Court. From 2001 to 2003, Johnson served as constitutional and civil rights counsel to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prior to that, Professor Johnson worked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), where she conducted trial and appellate level litigation to promote racial and ethnic equity in employment, health, and higher education.

In 2016, she was doubly honored with the Law School's Willis L.M. Reese Prize for Excellence in Teaching and Columbia University's Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching. She was appointed Vice Dean for Intellectual Life for the 2016–2018 term. In 2017, Johnson was elected a member of the American Law Institute. She joined the Columbia Law School faculty in 2006.

Johnson graduated from Stanford Law School in 1995 and from Yale University in 1989.

Honorees for Postgraduate Employment in Public Interest or Public Service

The following **57** J.D. and **24** LL.M. students will be working at public interest, government, or human rights organizations immediately after graduation or clerkship.

J.D. '19:

**Delia Addo-Yobo
Alan Adkisson
Phillip Andriole
Ayesha Audu
Paul Barker
Samuel Bean
Walter Preston Bell
Benjamin Bennett
Alexander Bernstein
Melissa Castillo
Lizette Ceja
Peter Claus
Nicole Collins
Matthew Conroy
Alissa Costello
Ashley Dalton
Theresa Dernbach
Matthew Duffy
Sukanya Dutta**

**Sijuwade Falade
Shane Ferro
Tyler Finn
Alma Gonzalez
Ashley Gregor
Avery Heisler
Nora Huppert
Joseph Isenstadt
Ankit Jain
Kaitlyn Karpenko
Olivia Li
Alexander Lloyd
Caroline Lowry
Hayley Malcolm
Nia R. Morgan
Jordan Murov-Goodman
Nicholas Narbutas
Ruth O'Herron
James Pedersen**

**Rachel Ramirez-Guest
Daniel Resler
Clarisa Reyes-Becerra
Hilary Rosenthal
Sabina Schmid
Noah Schwartz
Jennifer Sharpe
Alexandra Studwell
Julio Sharp-Wasserman
Edward Smith
Cassandra Snyder
Jeffrey Stein
Margaret Taylor
Andrew Walsh
Sarah Weitekamp
Dorothy Weldon
Adam Wilson
Sophia Wistehube
Pablo Zevallos**

LL.M. '19:

**Shahmeer Arshad
Annabella Bonnefont
Alicia Bowen
Marion Crepet
Rodrigo Delgado Capcha
Meher Dev
Archana Eliza George
Emanuel Ghebregergis**

**Nour Haidar
Eun Gi Hong
Rayna Lifson
Yardenne Kagan
Ayisha Kamara
Maria Jose Martinez
Alisha Mathew
Olivia Minatta**

**Anjori Mitra
Darshana Mitra
Sophie Molyneux
Diana Moreno
Laura O'Brien
Shira Palti
Sibel Uranues
Lara Wallis**

Honorees for Two Public Interest Summers

These **48** third-year students spent two summers in public interest or public service.

Delia Addo-Yobo
Paul Barker
Walter Preston Bell
Benjamin Bennett
Juliana Bennington
Alexander Bernstein
Melissa Castillo
Lizette Ceja
Nicole Collins
Matthew Conroy
Alissa Costello
Ashley Dalton
Theresa Dernbach
Matthew Duffy
Sukanya Dutta
Shane Ferro

Tyler Finn
Alma Gonzalez
Ashley Gregor
Carol Guerrero
Avery Heisler
Nora Huppert
Joseph Isenstadt
Ankit Jain
Kaitlyn Karpenko
Olivia Li
Alexander Lloyd
Caroline Lowry
Hayley Malcolm
John McNairy
Nia R. Morgan
Jordan Murov-Goodman

Nicholas Narbutas
Ruth O'Herron
James Pedersen
Laura Peterson
Prathyum Ramesh
Daniel Resler
Clarisa Reyes-Becerra
Hilary Rosenthal
Sabina Schmid
Jennifer Sharpe
Jeffrey Stein
Margaret Taylor
Andrew Walsh
Sarah Weitekamp
Dorothy Weldon
Sophia Wistehube
Pablo Zevallos

Pro Bono Scholar Honorees

Announced by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in his 2014 State of the Judiciary address, the New York State Pro Bono Scholars Program allows students to devote their last semester in law school to a program that combines a dedicated law school class with pro bono service for the underserved. Columbia's 2018 Pro Bono Scholars are working with member organizations of the Legal Advocacy Partnership, a collaborative network of direct civil legal services providers. The Pro Bono Scholars took the February 2019 New York Bar exam and will be admitted very soon after graduation if they satisfy the Pro Bono Scholars Program Requirements.

Benjamin Bennett
Merilin Castillo
Argemira Flórez

Ernesto Hernandez
Angel Nwachukwu
Imani Phillips

Rachel Ramirez-Guest
Kelly Tieu
Taylor Wood

Honorees for 100 or More Hours of Pro Bono Work

The following **73** students have performed at least 100 hours of pro bono service since their first day at Columbia Law School.

Class of 2019:

Stephanie Adamakos
Delia Addo-Yobo
David Alpert
Caroline Armstrong
Beneel Babaei
Anna Baron
Juliana Bennington
Caelainn Carney
Melissa Castillo
Jung Min Cho
Peter Claus
Rajdeep Dhaliwal
Brendan Eng
Agatha Erickson
Shane Ferro
Tyler Finn
Avrohom Flinkenstein
Patrick Gallagher
Sophie Gandler
Evan Goldsher

Alma Gonzalez
Madison Grant
Heidi Guzman
Jessica Heymach
Ahamed Hossain
Nora Huppert
Mikyung Ji
Victoria Jimenez
Cameron Jones
Laura Keeley
David Kellam
Clara Kent
Charles Klug
Jennifer Lee
Sang Lee
Sang Ha Lee
Michael Lemanski
Armando Lozano
Tina Meng
Maxim Miroff

Zachary Morrison
Jordan Murov-Goodman
Baraka Nasari
Isabella Nolan
Ruth O'Herron
Ana Pirnia
Lee Rarrick
Katarzyna Robak
Christian Roberts
Emily Romeyn
Xochitl Romo
Hilary Rosenthal
Noah Schwartz
Jennifer Sharpe
Julio Sharp-Wasserman
Edward Smith
Cassandra Snyder
Yeden Um
Sean Wagnon
Sophia Wistehube

Class of 2020:

Max Bernstein
Emma DiNapoli
John Finnegan
David Fischer

Evan Gabor
Christen Hammock
Nicandro Iannacci
Preston Irace

Mary Marshall
Bret Matera
Elizabeth McAvoy
Zack Struver
Malina Welman

Honorees for In-house Pro Bono Projects

Columbia's student-run in-house pro bono projects are ongoing partnerships between Columbia Law School and legal services organizations and/or law firms in the community.

In 2018-2019, the following **27** in-house projects were led by the students named below:

Columbia Law School Military Association: Veterans Legal Assistance Project – New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG):

Law students will meet with veteran clients and their families to prepare benefits applications and develop the strongest cases possible. Students will have the opportunity to work on PTSD claims, Agent Orange-related disability claims, discharge upgrades, sexual assault claims, and appeals. Students will work simultaneously for multiple clients on various stages of the benefits application process. Students will be the main point of contact at NYLAG for each of their clients and will keep clients informed of case progress by telephone and in person.

Student Leader: Matthew de Bernardo

Criminal Justice Action Network and Public Defender Students of CLS: Prisoners' Rights Project

Law students will draft Article 78 Petitions for incarcerated folks to appeal disciplinary tickets in court that they'll then file pro-se. Students will identify whether an administrative agency failed to perform a duty enjoined upon it by law; if the agency proceeded in excess/without jurisdiction; whether determination was made in violation of procedure, was capricious, or was marred by abuse of discretion or error of law.

Student Leaders: Shannon Zhang and Elizabeth Parizh

The Domestic Violence Project: U-Visa Project

Participants represent undocumented low-income victims of domestic violence seeking a path to U.S. citizenship through a petition for U non-immigrant status. Students are assigned a client and complete the petition application from beginning to end and learn skills such as interviewing and drafting affidavits. This project includes a thorough training curriculum that exposes students to aspects of both immigration and family law in New York City.

Student Leaders: Vanessa Ajagu and Ally Gao

The Domestic Violence Project: Courtroom Advocates Project

Students serve as advocates in Family Court for domestic violence victims. Under the supervision of Sanctuary for Families, students help victims draft and file petitions for Orders of Protection, educate them on their rights and safety precautions, and advocate for them during court appearances. Interested students must attend a training before they can participate.

Student Leaders: Kathryn Kuethman and Stephen Schmitt.

The Domestic Violence Project: Uncontested Divorce Workshop

Law student volunteers participating in the Uncontested Divorce Workshop help victims of domestic violence attain uncontested divorces from their abusers. Under the supervision of

attorneys from Sanctuary for Families, each two-student team meets with a client and helps the client prepare and file papers for the divorce process. From this process, students can gain experience working directly with a client while developing a better understanding of the issue of domestic violence. Completion of the project also involves learning and executing the procedure for filing for an uncontested divorce in the state of New York. This includes learning to draft and revise initial and final papers, as well as learning the rules around service (who is able to serve the papers, when must the papers be served, etc.) and filing.

Student Leader: Elizabeth Levin

The Domestic Violence Project: Human Trafficking Intervention Court:

Columbia students will work with Sanctuary for Families attorneys to interview foreign-born individuals with cases before the Human Trafficking Intervention Court in order to identify any trafficking-based or immigration remedies potentially available to them.

Student Leader: Grant Gerard

High School Law Institute (HSLI)

HSLI has law school students spend their Saturday mornings and early afternoons teaching high school students a legal curriculum based on Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Moot Court, and Mock Trial. The knowledge our student-teachers learn in their classroom and extracurricular settings plays directly into their lesson plans.

Student Leader: Christen Hammock

The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual (JLM)

The JLM is a handbook of legal rights and procedures distributed to thousands of prisoners across the country each year by Columbia's *Human Rights Law Review*. Student volunteers write, update, edit, and cite check discrete sections of the JLM and its various state supplements. Short assignments are available (up to 6 hours), but volunteers who complete longer assignments may be eligible for "by-line" writing credit. Students interested in immigration law can also work on the JLM Immigration Law Supplement.

Student Leader: Melissa Castillo

Latino/a Law Student Association (LALSA): Know Your Rights Series / Spanish Street Law

Law students will be tasked with conducting research on substantive areas of the law (immigration law, housing law, labor law, consumer rights, etc.) and they will be expected to make powerpoint presentations that will allow them to present their findings in a succinct and intelligible manner. They will have the opportunity to work with attorneys who specialize in those areas of the law and work with them to develop the knowledge needed to then present this information to large groups in various locations in our NYC Latino communities.

Student Leader: Nestor Almeida

Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Join a team of Columbia students staffing a legal clinic at a local homeless shelter. Working with attorneys from the City Bar Justice Center, students will be assigned a client and advocate for the resolution of various legal issues. Students commonly work on issues related to public

assistance, immigration, employment, and family law.

Student Leaders: Andrew Howard and Hope Kerpelman

Mentoring Youth Through Legal Education: Debate & Mock Trial Program

CLS students work with attorneys from major New York firms in coaching New York high school students for constitutional law debates. The year-long constitutional law debate program is a key part of Legal Outreach's effort to inspire and prepare young people to go to college. Student coaches will establish a strong mentoring relationship with individual students through one-on-one tutoring and guidance. They will also adjudicate a series of four exciting debates.

Student Leader: Katherine Nunez

Outlaws and Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC): Transgender Legal Defense Fund

Through the Transgender Name Change Project, law students assist transgender clients in petitioning to have their names legally changed to match their gender identity. This involves both helping the client file name change documents and representing them in a hearing before the court, supervised by attorneys from Sullivan and Cromwell. Students learn valuable written and oral advocacy skills and gain firsthand experience interacting with clients.

Student Leader: Ed Costikyan

Public Defender Students of CLS: Columbia Bail Fund (CBF)

Designed in partnership with the Bronx Freedom Fund, CBF participants will work on the frontlines of bail reform in New York City, making a real impact in the lives of low-income clients. Members will become licensed bail bond agents in New York State, working closely with the Bronx Freedom Fund and building knowledge of the criminal justice and bail systems inside and out. Students can expect to conduct client interviews, contribute legal research, and help the Freedom Fund in their mission to minimize the collateral consequences of criminal prosecution and demonstrate that our current system of cash bail is unjust and unnecessary.

Student Leader: Dorothy Weldon

Rightslink

Leveraging the vast research resources available to Columbia students, Rightslink provides free legal research services to human rights groups that lack the capacity or political freedom to conduct their own research. Students interested in human rights gain the opportunity to contribute to research projects covering both domestic and international issues ranging from language discrimination to human trafficking.

Student Leaders: Emma DiNapoli and Amanda McNally

Rightslink: Research and Advocacy Program

The Rightslink Research and Advocacy Program will give students the chance to join a dedicated human rights advocacy community and participate in exciting human rights research.

Student Leader: Tessa Baizer

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Aldea—Credible Fear Monitoring

This project is a remote project working with families detained at the Berks detention center in Pennsylvania who have applied for asylum based on fear of returning to their own country. Volunteers are present on the phone during the 1 - 2.5 hour-long interviews to listen in and make sure the family is being afforded a fair interview and to offer a closing statement in support of the family's claim at the end. The day or evening before the interviews are set to happen, we send out a request for volunteers, and once a volunteer confirms availability, we send the family's case summary and provide the closing statement that should be read by the volunteer at the end. The Asylum Office will call the volunteer directly. Volunteers do not have to commit to doing any amount of interviews per day, week, or month, so it is a very flexible opportunity.

Student Leaders: Quinn Leary and Emma DiNapoli

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Asylum Seekers Advocacy Project (ASAP)

Starting in the spring, Columbia students can collaborate with law school students from around the country to assist in creating two guides focused on asylum claims: (1) A guide focused on expedited removal proceedings; and (2) A start-to-finish toolkit/guide on assisting pro se applicants with asylum applications. Additionally, students can pick up discrete assignments to contribute various aspects to an ASAP client's case, like writing letters to the court, helping draft motions, and doing translation work.

Student Leaders: Emma DiNapoli and Quinn Leary

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Church World Service (CWS)

A prominent nonprofit in the fields of global development and immigrant and refugee rights, CWS was founded in 1946 and now has offices all over the world. CWS's low-fee and pro bono programs are open to all immigrants and refugees, regardless of their religious affiliation. Columbia Law students may apply to assist CWS's senior staff attorneys with its immigration and refugee program. Students may decide to assist CWS in a great many ways, from advocacy to managerial work. **Student Leader: Emma DiNapoli**

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Immigration Court Helpdesk (ICH)

The Immigration Court Helpdesk (ICH) program was created by the Department of Justice to assist immigrants in removal proceedings in understanding their rights and learning to navigate the immigration system effectively. Unlike in criminal court, immigrants facing removal from the United States are not appointed free or low-cost lawyers. ICH attorneys from Catholic Charities provide immigrants facing removal with information about the immigration court process, how to access and utilize available resources, and referrals to competent representation. Volunteers assist at the New York Immigration Court, providing one-on-one screenings, and also assist particularly vulnerable immigrants fleeing persecution during our pro se asylum clinics.

Student Leaders: Quinn Leary and Emma DiNapoli

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Immigration Equality

Students assist attorneys at Immigration Equality with asylum applications for LGBT immigrants. Students can sign up to write country conditions reports, which support an asylum application by providing information about the applicant's country of origin to corroborate their claim of persecution. Students may also apply to work on an entire asylum application over the course of a semester under the supervision of an attorney from Immigration Equality.

Student Leaders: Quinn Leary and Emma DiNapoli

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)

CLS students partner with attorneys to help refugees primarily located in the Middle East navigate the refugee resettlement process. CLS students can get involved with one of two exciting IRAP opportunities: (1) as an intake volunteer to help IRAP National identify clients for resettlement and (2) become a caseworker and work in-depth with a client on his/her resettlement case. Working with IRAP is a great learning experience that can be very fulfilling and rewarding, but it is also a serious commitment that requires time and energy

Student Leader: Amanda Chuzi

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights/New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

Students participate in Key to the City "immigration clinics." These clinics are typically held on Saturday mornings and give students the opportunity to conduct an initial screening of potential immigrant clients under the supervision of NYLAG staff.

Student Leaders: Emma DiNapoli and Quinn Leary

Suspension Representation Project (SRP)

SRP is a pro bono project in which law students represent New York City public school students at their suspension hearings. SRP's mission is to safeguard the right to public education and due process by providing high-quality advocacy services to New York City public school students facing Superintendent's suspensions, which can range from ten days to a full year. SRP advocates develop meaningful legal skills—including interviewing clients and conducting direct- and cross-examinations—and SRP's clients gain valuable assistance and support. This project is ideal for students who are looking for practical litigation experience and/or who are interested in youth, education, or school-to-prison pipeline issues. Attending a training session is required to take on cases.

Student Leaders: Christine Rua and Emily Gerry

Tenants' Rights Project: SRO Law Project, The Legal Aid Society and NMIC Legal Services

Students assist attorneys at local community organizations in all aspects of low-income tenant representation. Work includes legal research, motion and memorandum drafting, client intake, and court appearances. Cases range from eviction defense to living condition complaints.

Student Leader: Zack Struver

Tenants' Rights Project: Manhattan Legal Services Housing Intake Clinic

At Manhattan Legal Services weekly housing intake clinic on Fridays during the fall Semester, students will conduct one-on-one intake interviews with low-income potential clients, helping

to assess legal issues presented in the case, as well as potential defenses and evidence for litigation. All work will be performed by students under the supervision of housing attorneys at Manhattan Legal Services. Students will be required to complete a 2-hour training at the beginning of the semester which will cover basic NYC housing law and client interviewing skills. Students are asked to commit to 3 to 6 shifts per semester.

Student Leader: John Finnegan

Tenants' Rights Project: Lenox Hill Neighborhood House

At the Lawyer-for-the-Day Clinic at the Harlem Community Justice Center, 3-5 students to participate in a pilot program providing brief legal services to public housing tenants. By the end of the semester, students will have the opportunity to enter into a limited-scope retainer, allowing them to negotiate with attorneys for the New York City Housing Authority and/or appear in front of the housing court judge. Students will also conduct intakes and provide legal advice and counsel to public housing tenants.

Student Leader: Zack Struver

Tenants' Rights Project: Tenant Advice Clinics

At the Tenant Advice Clinic, students provide weekly assistance at tenants' rights clinics and to assist the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House housing advocacy team with diverse projects. Students will attend four tenants' rights clinics where they will conduct intakes and, after consultation with a housing attorney, provide legal advice and counsel to tenants. On the weeks without a tenants' rights clinic, students will have the opportunity to assist Lenox Hill housing attorneys with legal research and writing projects, participate in home visits, and conduct phone intakes with low-income tenants.

Student Leader: Zack Struver

Honorees for Leading a Spring Break Pro Bono Caravan

Groups of Columbia Law students spent spring break working on projects organized by student groups and SJI at legal services and public interest organizations across the U.S. and abroad, providing much-needed legal assistance to underserved communities.

In 2019, **139** students participated in the following **23** caravans, led by the students named below:

African American Policy Forum | Town Hall Spring Break Pro Bono Caravan

Sponsored by Empowering Women of Color (EWOC)

The African American Policy Forum (AAPF) is an innovative social justice think tank that promotes frameworks and strategies to address a vision of racial justice that embraces the intersections of race, gender, class, and the array of barriers that disempower those marginalized in society. AAPF hosts town halls to raise issues about the exclusion of women

and girls of color from prevailing social justice discourses about violence and mass incarceration, housing, and health. The project is national in scope, having been jointly organized with local advocacy partners across the country. Five years since their debut, the town halls aim to elevate intersectional erasures, evaluate existing legal protections, and advance avant-garde interventions. Los Angeles was among the first of 13 such events and will be the site of an event to assess the present-day status of women and girls of color come March 2019. Students will work with the AAPF and its local partners to assess the current face of these issues through partnering with local advocacy organizations. The town halls will produce data that goes before a governing board. Tasks involve summarizing relevant information, helping to prepare the presentation of survivors of various forms of intersectional inequalities, and refining policy demands/refining legal obligations.

Student Leader: Kayla Hardimon

Al Otro Lado

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)

Students will work on a range of important advocacy issues affecting immigrants in the border cities of San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico. Students will provide information to and conduct interviews with individuals in Tijuana who wish to seek asylum at the port of entry. Students will also assist with family reunification issues and litigation concerning individuals who were returned at the port of entries without the opportunity to apply for asylum.

Student Leader: Carolina Gonzalez

Anti-Violence Project

Sponsored by OutLaws

Columbia Law School students will be integrated into the Legal Services Department's work in small groups of two and will have the opportunity to conduct legal intakes, accompany our attorneys and clients to court appearances, participate in trainings around working with LGBTQ survivors of violence and participate in community outreach, as well as work on research projects as needed.

Student Leader: Andres Gutierrez

Bronx Defenders

Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The Bronx Defenders are credited with pioneering the concept of the "holistic defense." Clients defended by the Bronx Defenders aren't just given an attorney: they're assigned to a team, which includes not only attorneys but also social workers, to help them resolve not just their case but a host of problems. The focus is not just getting people out of jail, but keeping them out. The Bronx Defenders has criminal attorneys, family attorneys (who represent parents whose children have been taken away), and a housing attorney. Caravan participants will work on projects in one of 3 areas: criminal defense, family defense or civil litigation.

Student Leader: Kevin Smith

California Appellate Project (CAP)

Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

CAP is as a legal resource center to implement the constitutional right to counsel for indigent persons facing execution. Projects include: research for habeas petitions; reviewing client files and transcripts as necessary to research and obtain critical life history records for the representation of a capital defendant; creating a life chronology of existing client records; assisting with legal research to update CAP's website or draft an advocacy letter; performing factual research concerning a prison, jail, or juvenile detention facility; performing substantive research into an institutional failure related topic; updating reference material related to prison advocacy; client advocacy.

Student Leader: Marina Shew

CLWA Spring Break Caravan at California Women's Law Center

Sponsored by Columbia Law Women's Association (CLWA)

California Women's Law Center (CWLC) works in collaboration with legal services offices, pro bono attorneys, and other allies to protect, secure, and advance the comprehensive civil rights of women and girls. CWLC prides itself on forging novel approaches to the problems that confront women and girls, proposing unique strategies to implement those approaches, and recasting issues in new terms. CWLC has advocated for and achieved policy change on a wide range of issues, including gender discrimination and equality, Title IX enforcement, women's health and reproductive justice, economic security, and violence against women. Students have worked on assignments that included researching issues around Title IX and sexual harassment, conducting intake interviews, and drafting letters relating to intake.

Student Leader: Rachel Horn

Domestic Violence Project Spring Break Caravan

Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Texas Advocacy Project mission is to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout Texas through free legal services, access to the justice system, and education. Students participating on this caravan will have the opportunity to develop research and writing skills while also assisting with larger drafting projects and client screening. Students will also assist staff attorneys working on pro se projects with hearing or trial preparations, as well as discovery. Our board is working tirelessly to raise funding to ensure that students are able to attend this caravan, earn pro bono experience, and enjoy their Spring Break in Austin.

Student Leader: Yesenia Rascon

Environmental Law Society Caravan

Sponsored by Environmental Law Society (ELS)

Students will do environmental justice work in Robeson County, North Carolina, which has a history of environmental justice problems and is the center of the Lumbee tribe, a strongly self-organized Native American community. Students will help build capacity for environmental justice work in the county alongside local groups and private attorneys. Students will work with legal issues caused by a proposed liquid natural gas facility and pipeline.

Student Leader: Ben Lewson

Global Migrations: Refugee Law in Germany

Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL)

Students will travel to Hamburg to help with the asylum process and to see how Germany is handling migration flows, especially as the American administration takes steps to further restrict migration. Students will work through the hot points of the asylum process in Germany—arrival, application, relocation, and appeal.

Student Leaders: Fanta Kamara and Caroline Wattenmaker

Immigration Defense: Social Justice Collaborative

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Students will gain experience in immigration litigation. We partner with Social Justice Collaborative which works with many clients who are applying for immigration benefits, either in court (deportation proceedings) or out of court. Students will assist staff attorneys with research and writing for litigation cases and manage a few cases under supervision, completing forms and declarations, gathering supporting documents, and going to court with attorneys. Students will also have the opportunity to meet independently with and interview clients.

Student Leader: Carolina Gonzalez

Immigrant Rights in Portland, OR

Sponsored by Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

Students will work with Immigration Legal Services to assist clients with humanitarian and family-based immigration applications and petitions. Students will have the opportunity to interview clients, translate documents, draft motions and legal memos, and prepare evidence. They may also be able to attend immigration court proceedings.

Student Leader: Lila Nojima

Immigrants' and Civil Rights Advocacy: El Paso, TX

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)

Students will work on a range of important advocacy issues in the border city of El Paso, Texas, with two local organizations—Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center and Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project. Most students will go to Las Americas to provide direct legal services to immigrants, including interviewing, research, visits to clients in detention, and assistance with bond hearings, which you will have the chance to attend. A few students will go to Paso del Norte to research and write on voting rights, racial and criminal justice issues, and novel constitutional questions affecting detained immigrants and the broader immigrant community. All students will have the opportunity to tour the U.S.-Mexico border fence.

Student Leader: Carol Guerrero

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Sponsored by Latino/a Law Student Association (LaLSA)

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) protects unaccompanied children who enter the U.S. immigration system alone to ensure that no child appears in court without an attorney.

Students will assist attorneys with intake interviews, conduct legal research, assist in writing asylum briefs as well as cover letters for prosecutorial discretion, and will also have the opportunity to go to court.

Student Leader: Yuanyuan Lu

LGBTQ Justice Project

Sponsored by OutLaws

Students will be hosted by Lambda Legal and the National LGBTQ Task Force in New York City. Students will have an opportunity to use a variety of strategies to advocate for justice for LGBTQ people, including immersing themselves in three organizations that use policy advocacy, direct services, and impact litigation as key strategies. Participants will be placed at one of the two organizations, and will also have opportunities through programming to connect with a broad community of attorneys working for LGBTQ rights in NYC.

Student Leader: Nia Morgan

Louisiana Death Penalty Caravan

Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Capital Assistance Project & Promise of Justice Initiative aim to end the death penalty, inhumane conditions, and racial discrimination in Louisiana. The organization operates as both policy reformers and a legal/trial-representation for capital defendants. Students will work on policy and legal assignments for the organizations.

Student Leader: Caleb King

Miami Dade Public Defender

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office handles approximately 85,000 cases each year, with approximately 10,000 cases open at any given time. It is divided into several major divisions concerning appellate review, felony litigation, juvenile delinquency litigation and misdemeanor and traffic court matters. Students will work on research projects that include involvement for every student with open trial cases and client contact.

Student Leader: Richard Minzberg

NALSA Pro Bono Caravan in Oklahoma

Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)

The Native American Law Students Association will facilitate a caravan comprised of 5-6 law students willing to offer pro bono legal services to tribal citizens and tribal communities in Oklahoma. Participants will work with attorneys at Oklahoma Indian Legal Services to offer will-writing and estate planning services directly to tribal citizens through community clinics.

Student Leader: MariKate Hulbutta

NYLAG Immigrant Protection Unit

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Students will work with attorneys in NYLAG's community-based immigration clinics to conduct legal screenings or provide specific application assistance. Some clinics are focused on providing

general legal immigration screenings to help individuals to determine eligibility for various forms of immigration relief, including family based petitions, deferred action, T and U visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and asylum, while others are designed to provide specific application assistance for some immigration benefits like Naturalization or Temporary Protected Status.

Student Leader: Mari Zaldivar

Orleans Public Defender Caravan

Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

The Orleans Public Defenders (OPD) provides the citizens of New Orleans with the highest quality client-centered legal representation in Louisiana's criminal and juvenile justice system. On this caravan, students will get the opportunity to help further this mission by working on projects with OPD team members.

Student Leader: Caleb King

PalTrek: Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Sponsored by Columbia Law Students for Palestine

Participating students will support the Palestinian Human Rights Council in creating a report on how the current administration's changes in laws and policies towards Palestine, including significant revocation of funding, have affected Palestinian life and potentially violated fundamental human rights principles as outlined by international law. Students will work with Al-Haq, a renowned human rights fact-finding organization, as well as organizations focusing on prisoners' and children's rights, refugees, and settlement building.

Students will also have the opportunity to meet community organizers, Palestinian Authority officials and diplomats, and to experience traditional Palestinian culture.

Student Leaders: Fatima Bishtawi and Emma DiNapoli

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) provides and promotes quality legal representation to indigent adults and children facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia and thereby protects society's interest in the fair administration of justice. PDS is a federally funded, independent organization, governed by an eleven-member Board of Trustees. Typical projects for law clerks include drafting motions for trials, crafting strategy for cases, and/or drafting appellate briefs for the D.C. Court of Appeals. In general, students will be working on appeals, trial or parole.

Student Leader: David Eil

Rightslink Caravan: Human Rights Monitoring in Lebanon

Sponsored by Rightslink

ALEF - Act for Human Rights is a human rights monitoring organization based in Beirut, Lebanon. Students will work on a variety of ongoing projects, including work on migrant domestic workers, fair trials, and the protection of Syrian refugees. Students will be expected to conduct pro bono work and background research with ALEF prior to the spring break trip.

Student Leader: Meg Gould

Wisconsin Wills

Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)

The NALSA Wisconsin Wills Caravan works with Wisconsin Judicare to provide wills and power documents for elders on reservations throughout the state of Wisconsin. The caravan will travel across the state writing over 100 wills for federally enrolled tribal members. This caravan is anticipated by the tribes every year and provides needed legal services.

Student Leader: Idun Klakegg

Public Interest SPIN Buddies

The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) Buddies Program and the Public Interest Peer Mentoring Program provide first-year students with the opportunity to get the inside scoop about classes and faculty from second- and third-year students. In 2018-2019, these students made themselves available as peer mentors to first-year students interested in public interest careers, classes, and activities.

Tessa Baizer

Isela Banuelos

Benjamin Bennett

Megan Brennan

Tiffani Burgess

Lizette Ceja

Ashley Dalton

John Finnegan

Diana Carolina Gonzalez

Christen Hammock

Elizabeth Hayden

Tyler Holbrook

Sarah Hong

Nicandro Iannacci

Tyler Lee

Benjamin Lewson

Jessica Marder-Spiro

Mary Marshall

Olivia Morrison

Nia R. Morgan

Sean Murphy

Jordan Murov-Goodman

Julia Nelson

Ruth O'Herron

Hilary Rosenthal

Edward Smith

Zack Struver

Abigail Unger

Alyssa Weinstein

William Wilder

Pablo Zevallos

Honorees for Public Interest Philanthropy

The following **25** students led Columbia Law student campaigns to raise funds for public interest legal work by their classmates and/or grassroots legal organizations.

Natalie Behr
Katy Berk
Samantha Braver
Alex Clavering
Benjamin Covington
Christopher Dinkel
Thomas Flament
Andres Gutierrez
Rachel Higgins

Kristin Johnson
Laura Lee
Benjamin Lewson
Alex Xinrui Li
David Mehl
Nicole Molee
Shiv Patel
Francoise Perrick
Daniel Rosenfeld

Marina Shew
Gregory Smith
Konrad Thallner
Terry Wong
Daniel Yoon
Justin Yun
Hedwig Zheng

SJI All-Star Honorees

The following **20** students were named in three or more of our honoree categories. There are 20 SJI All Stars.

Delia Addo-Yobo '19
Benjamin Bennett '19
Juliana Bennington '19
Melissa Castillo '19
Lizette Ceja '19
Ashley Dalton '19
Emma DiNapoli '20
Shane Ferro '19
John Finnegan '19
Alma Gonzalez '19

Nora Huppert '19
Benjamin Lewson '20
Nia R. Morgan '19
Jordan Murov-Goodman '19
Ruth O'Herron '19
Hilary Rosenthal '19
Edward Smith '19
Zack Struver '20
Sophia Wistehube '19
Pablo Zevallos '19

Philanthropic Supporters of Pro bono, Summer, and Postgraduate Work

We are deeply grateful to the following firms, foundations, organizations and individuals for their financial support of Columbia Law School's public interest and pro bono programs.

Alan B. Exelrod, Esq.
Alan Borden Vickery and Christine M. Jorquera Vickery
Alan S. Naar, Esq.
Alisa D. Shudofsky, Esq.
An K. Chen
Annette L. Nazareth, Esq.
Arnold J. Levine, Esq.
Barbara Treichler Gregor, Esq.
Barry J. Cutler, Esq.
Bernstein, Litowitz, Berger & Grossmann LLP
Bjorn Bjerke
Bruce E. Rosenblum
Carolyn M. Heft
Chaim Wachsberger, Esq.
Charles E. Knapp, Esq.
Charles J. Conroy, Esq.
Christopher K. Tahbaz, Esq.
Christopher Mayer, Esq.
Craig R. and Lori Bikson-Gurian, Esq.
Daniel G. Kelly Jr., Esq.
Daniel N. Davis
Daniel Norman Davis, Esq.
Davis, Polk & Wardwell
Dorchen Leidholdt
Edward A.K. Adler
Eleanor S. Applewhaite
Elizabeth K. Kellner
Evelyn and Bruce Greer
Gary F. Goldring, Esq.
George M. Garfunkel, Esq.
Gerry H. Goldsholle, Esq.
Harold S. Handelsman, Esq.
Howard L. Wolk
Irving Scher, Esq.

Irwin Pronin, Esq.
Isaac Shapiro, Esq. and Jaqueline W. Shapiro, Esq.
James and Carolyn Millstein
Jay Newman
Jay P. Lefkowitz, Esq.
Joan Scobey
John Erik Sandstedt
John K. Knight, Esq.
Jonathan D. Schiller, Esq.
Louise Schiller
Julia T. Wood
Kate Lutz
Kenneth Siegel
Leah M. Bishop, Esq.
Lloyd E. Constantine
Lloyd Hong
Lowell Gordon Harriss, Esq.
M. James Spitzer, Jr., Esq.
Margaret E. Tahyar
Margie Matchen
Mark N. Kaplan
Mark S. Vecchio
Marlene Alva, Esq.
Mary J. Eaton
Matthew Lemle Amsterdam
Max and Dale Berger
Michael D. Ratner
Michael H. Barnett, Esq.
Michael J. Schmidtberger
Michael O. Braun, Esq.
Michael P. Carroll, Esq.
David F. Freedman
Edward A. Grossman
Eugene C. Gregor
Gregory S. Rowland

John A. Bick
Russell S. Light
William M. Kelly
Xing Hong
Helen Lowenstein
Jane Hellowell
Susan B. Lindenauer
Annie Ang-Yee Chen
Dennine Bullard
Frances E. Bivens
Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld
Kerrie E. Maloney Laytin
Laurie Magid
Linda A. Fairstein
Maria A. Raptis-Kosmidis
Marsha W. Yee
Nancy L. Evert
Sheila M. Howard
Nancy L. Sanborn, Esq.
New Jersey Alumni Association
Nicholas R. Williams, Esq.
Noah B. Perlman, Esq.
Nobuhisa and Marcia Ishizuka, Esq.
Peter D. Fischbein, Esq.
Peter D. Isakoff
Peter S. Davis, Esq.
Philip A. Lacovara
Phillip Isom IV and Anne Williams-Isom
Po Y. Sit, Esq.
Professor David Phillips
Professor Peter L. Strauss

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Sharon T. Katz
Sidney B. Silverman, Esq.
The Futter Family
The Hebert & Nell Singer Foundation
The Honorable Gray Davis
The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenberg
The John Paul Stevens Fellowship
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Theodore Rogers, Jr.
Timothy J. Alvino, Esq.
Vivian Berger
Warren Motley, Esq.
William F. Barron, Esq.
William Josephson, Esq.

Distinguished Honorees (2003-2018)

SJI annually honors public service lawyers, usually Columbia graduates, for their leadership, their achievements regarding issues of current importance and their service as inspirational models for students seeking to do public interest and substantial pro bono work after graduation.

2018 Maya Wiley

Senior Vice President for Social Justice & Henry J. Cohen Professor of Public & Urban Policy at The New School

2017 Judith Browne Dianis CLS '92

Executive Director, The Advancement Project

2016 Jin Hee Lee CLS '00

Deputy Director of Litigation, NAACP LDF

2015 Nancy Northup CLS '88

President and CEO, Center for Reproductive Rights

2014 Theodore M. Shaw CLS '79

Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia University School of Law

2013 Lee Gelernt CLS '88

Deputy Director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project;
Director of the Project's Program on Access to the Courts

2012 Camilla Taylor CLS '96

National Marriage Project Director, Lambda Legal

2011 Robin Alexander CLS '78

Director of International Affairs, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

2010 Catherine Albisa CLS '89

Executive Director & Co-Founder, National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

2009 Juan Cartagena CLS '81

General Counsel, Community Service Society for New York

2008 Michael Rothenberg

Executive Director, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

- 2007 Karen Lash**
Senior Program Counsel, Equal Justice Works;
National Pro Bono Coordinator, Mississippi Center for Justice
- 2006 Bill Goodman**
Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights
- 2005 Shavar Jeffries CLS '99**
Associate Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School
- 2004 Adriene Holder CLS '91**
Attorney-in-Charge of the Legal Aid Society Greater Harlem Office
- 2003 10th Anniversary Gala**