

Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2019-2020)



CAITLIN BOYCE '10

Policy Specialist, UN Women

Caitlin Boyce is a women's human rights lawyer and policy/programming professional, with a specialization in the area of areas of women's access to justice, sexual reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence. She has more than 15 years' experience working with the Australian government, the United Nations, national and international NGOs, and in private legal practice in Australia, the Asia-Pacific, the United States and Africa. Currently Caitlin works with U.N. Women as a Human Rights Legal Policy Specialist, advising on discriminatory law reform and

gender-based violence prevention and access to justice programming.

Prior to this she worked with UNDP and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the U.N.'s joint response to women's access to justice. And in 2011 she joined the U.N. Mission in Liberia as a Gender Officer, advising the Liberian government on gender-sensitive constitutional reform, gender-based violence prevention, and the new domestic violence bill. Admitted to the bar in Australia, Caitlin has previously practiced as an anti-discrimination attorney in Sydney as well as for the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission. She holds first-class honors degrees in Religion and Gender Studies from the University of Sydney and a Law Degree from the University of New South Wales, and is a proud Columbia Law School LL.M. graduate from the Class of '10.



VALERIE P. DENT '93

First Deputy Commissioner, NYS Division of Human Rights

Valerie P. Dent was appointed as First Deputy Commissioner for the New York State Division of Human Rights in June 2013. In her role, she serves as the chief administrative officer of the agency. During her tenure at the Division, she has brought much needed attention to implementing efficiencies and maximizing resources and productivity while continuing to strengthen the agency's presence around the State.

Throughout her career, Ms. Dent has sought opportunities to work within the intersection of the public/private sphere, including serving as Associate Counsel of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, where she oversaw grant and loan closings for the multi-million dollar economic development organization; as Associate Counsel at three of the largest business improvement districts (BIDs) in New York City (the Grand Central Partnership, 34th Street Partnership, and Bryant Park Restoration Corporation); as Vice-President of Clear Channel Adshel where she worked with municipalities on providing public amenities subsidized by outdoor advertising; and as an Associate in the Public Finance department of the law firm Mudge Rose Alexander Guthrie and Ferdon.

Ms. Dent, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Columbia Law School, is married to David Dent, a Professor of Journalism at New York University.

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MARIA FOSCARINIS '81

Executive Director, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Maria Foscarinis is founder and executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, a not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., and the only national organization dedicated to using the power of the law to end homelessness in America. Ms. Foscarinis has advocated for solutions to homelessness at the national level since 1985, when she left her career at a major law firm to become an advocate for homeless people. She is a primary architect of the McKinney-Vento Act, the first major federal legislation addressing homelessness, and has led successful litigation to secure the legal rights of homeless persons. Ms. Foscarinis has published dozens of articles, book chapters, and opinion pieces; speaks regularly about legal and policy issues affecting homeless and poor persons; and is frequently quoted in national and local media.

She is a graduate of Columbia Law School, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Barnard College. Ms. Foscarinis is the recipient of the 2006 Public Interest Achievement Award from the Public Interest Law Foundation at Columbia Law School and the 2016 Katharine and George Alexander Law Prize from Santa Clara University's School of Law. She serves on the Board of Advisers of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project and holds an adjunct appointment at Columbia Law School, where she teaches a seminar on law and policy of homelessness.



MARGARET GARNETT '00

Commissioner, NYC Department of Investigation

Commissioner Garnett was nominated by Mayor Bill de Blasio in November 2018 and was confirmed by City Council the same month. She took office on December 10, 2018, and leads one of the oldest municipal anti-corruption agencies in the country, rooting out corruption, wrongdoing, negligence, and abuse from New York City; furthering integrity; and upholding New Yorkers' confidence in government.

Commissioner Garnett most recently served as Executive Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice in the Office of the New York State Attorney General, where she supervised more than 150 prosecutors and 130 criminal investigators while advising the Attorney General on criminal justice policy. Prior to her time with the New York State Attorney General, Commissioner Garnett spent 12 years as a federal prosecutor in the office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where she was responsible for prosecuting gang violence, racketeering, organized crime, violent crime, financial crimes, and tax fraud.

At the U.S. Attorney's Office, she served as Chief of Appeals and Chief of the Violent and Organized Crime Unit, among other roles. In 2011, Commissioner Garnett received the Director's Award for Outstanding Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney, the second-highest award in the Department of Justice. In 2016, Ms. Garnett received the Stimson Medal, given annually by the Association for the Bar of the City of New York.

Commissioner Garnett was previously an associate at Watchell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; has served as an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School and Brooklyn Law School; and clerked for the Honorable Gerard E. Lynch in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. She received her B.A. at the University of Notre Dame, her M.A. from Yale University, and her J.D. from Columbia University. Commissioner Garnett lives in Brooklyn with her husband and their twins.

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LEE GELERNT '88

Deputy Director, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project

Lee Gelernt is a lawyer at the ACLU national office in New York. During the past two years, he has argued several of the highest profile challenges to Trump Administration policies. He is the lead lawyer in a national class action against the Administration's unprecedented practice of separating immigrant families at the border, which resulted in a nationwide injunction holding the practice unconstitutional and requiring the Administration to reunite the approximately 2,800 separated families. In July 2018, his work on the family separation issue was featured prominently in a *New York Times Magazine* cover story about the ACLU. Mr. Gelernt also argued the first case challenging the president's travel ban on individuals from certain Muslim-majority nations and the first challenge to the president's asylum ban. Mr. Gelernt also successfully argued *Rodriguez v. Swartz*, involving the fatal cross-border shooting of a Mexican teenager in Mexico by a U.S. border patrol officer firing into Mexico from U.S. soil through the border fence in Nogales, Arizona. The Court of Appeals ruling in August 2018 in favor of the boy's family was the first ever federal court decision to hold that the Fourth Amendment applies beyond our nation's borders.

Over his career, Mr. Gelernt has argued dozens of other notable civil rights cases at all levels of the federal court system, including in the U.S. Supreme Court and virtually every federal court of appeals in the country. He has also testified before both the Senate and House as an expert on civil rights issues. He is a frequent guest speaker around the country and regularly appears in the national and international media. Mr. Gelernt has received numerous honors for his work over the years and has been recognized as one of the 500 leading lawyers in the country in any field. In addition to his work at the ACLU, he is an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School, and previously taught as an adjunct at Yale Law School.



FARHANG HEYDARI '11

Executive Director, Policing Project

Farhang Heydari is the Executive Director of the Policing Project at New York University School of Law, a nonprofit organization that partners with communities and police across the country to promote public safety through transparency, equity, and democratic engagement. Farhang also serves as an adjunct professor at NYU Law School and Columbia Law School, teaching various civil rights courses. Farhang began his legal career at the civil rights law firm Neufeld, Scheck and Brustin, where he represented numerous individuals who had been victims of police, prosecutor, and other official misconduct.

Farhang is a graduate of Harvard University and Columbia Law School, where he served as the editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Law Review* and director of the Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. He previously clerked for Judge Kimba Wood of the Southern District of New York and Judge Diana Gribbon Motz of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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ADRIENE HOLDER '91

Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Practice, The Legal Aid Society

Adriene serves as Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice of the Legal Aid Society and has devoted her entire professional career to challenging poverty and racial injustice for the advancement of equal rights. Adriene is responsible for managing the provision of comprehensive civil legal services through a network of neighborhood offices, courthouse-based offices, and specialized city-wide units serving all five boroughs of New York City with more than 500 staff working on nearly 49,000 cases each year. Prior to her appointment to Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil

Practice, Adriene served as Attorney-in-Charge of the Harlem Office; practiced law as a staff attorney in the Law Reform Unit of the Civil Practice; and began her career as a staff attorney in the Harlem Office Housing Law Unit.

In addition to her formal duties, Adriene also serves as a member of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and is an executive board member for Housing Court Answers, and previously served as a Tenant Representative on the New York City Rent Guidelines Board for 10 years. Adriene has also served as an adjunct professor at The New School and as a volunteer instructor at Columbia Law School.

Often called upon to work on the Society's legislative agenda, Adriene frequently testifies before legislative bodies on the city and state levels. She also is consulted on various legal and policy matters impacting low-income communities by the media, law schools, and policy or governmental agencies.

She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Thurgood Marshall Award, recognition of service as pro bono counsel to an individual under a sentence of death; the Legal Aid Society Pro Bono Award for work on the Alabama Pro Bono Death Penalty Project; New York Moves Magazine – Power Woman; Earl Warren Legal Scholar and a Reginald L. Lewis Fellow by her law school; and a Melvin C. Steen Fellow by the Legal Aid Society when she started her employment. Adriene received her B.S. in Political Science from Spelman College, and received her J.D. from Columbia Law School.



BASSAM KHAWAJA '15

Senior Advisor to U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Center for Human Rights & Global Justice

Bassam Khawaja is a human rights lawyer and Senior Advisor to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. He previously worked for Human Rights Watch, where he was the Lebanon and Kuwait researcher in the Middle East and North Africa division and the Leonard H. Sandler Fellow in the children's rights division. His work has focused on refugee and migrant rights, torture, education, free speech, women's rights, the right to health, and

environmental rights. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Bassam conducted legal research and advocacy on U.S. targeted killings and drone strikes in the Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic. He received a bachelor's degree from Macalester College and a law degree from Columbia Law School, where he was a James Kent Scholar and Editor-in-Chief of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. He sits on the Advisory Committee of the children's rights division at Human Rights Watch.

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SUSAN B. LINDENAUER '64

Fmr. General Counsel, The Legal Aid Society

A magna cum laude graduate of Smith College and cum laude graduate of Columbia Law School, Lindenauer began her legal career as an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. She spent the next 38 years with the Legal Aid Society, first as a staff attorney in the Society's Civil Division, and later serving as assistant for legal affairs to the executive director, counsel to the executive director, and counsel to the president and attorney-in-chief. She worked on issues that disproportionately affected poor women in their role as mothers and caregivers.

Within the State Bar, Lindenauer is a member of the House of Delegates and currently co-chairs the Family Court Task Force. She served on the Bar's Executive Committee for seven years as a vice-president of the 1st Judicial District and as a member-at-large. She previously chaired the Criminal Justice Section and the Special Committee on Grand Jury Project. She received the Criminal Justice Section's Special Recognition for Service to the Bar and the Community Award in 2001. She is chair of the fellows of the New York Bar Foundation and has served on its board of directors since 1999.

Lindenauer is a member of the board of directors of Legal Momentum and the New York County Lawyers' Association Foundation, Inc. She previously served as president of the Columbia Law School Association and chaired the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Admission of First Women to Columbia Law School. She was the recipient of the Columbia University Alumni Medal in 1998 and the Law School Medal of Excellence in 2002. She also was appointed by then-Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye to the New York State Commission on the Jury in 2003.



NANCY NORTHUP '88

President & CEO, Center for Reproductive Rights

Nancy Northup, President & CEO, has led the Center for Reproductive Rights since 2003. Under Ms. Northup's leadership, the Center's game changing litigation work—combined with its unparalleled expertise in the use of constitutional, international, and comparative human rights law—have transformed how reproductive rights are understood by courts, governments, and human rights bodies. She has led the organization's exceptional growth: tripling its operating budget over the course of a decade; opening four overseas offices; conceiving and implementing its strategic focus on ensuring reproductive health and freedom as a fundamental human right; and establishing the Center as an international resource for litigation strategy and innovation. She was previously the founding director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law; a prosecutor and Deputy Chief of Appeals in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York; and a law clerk to the Honorable Alvin B. Rubin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She has taught human rights and constitutional law as an adjunct professor at NYU Law School and Columbia Law School and appears frequently in leading media and press. She is a graduate of Brown University and Columbia Law School, where she was a Kent Scholar and Managing Editor of the *Columbia Law Review*.

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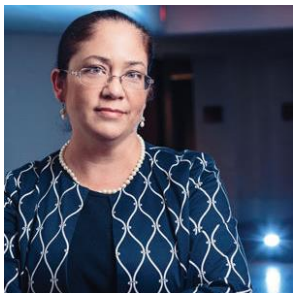


PATRICIA OKONTA '18

Skadden Fellow, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund

Patricia Okonta is 2018 graduate of Columbia Law School who is now working at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund as a Skadden Fellow. While at Columbia, Patricia served as the Executive Editor of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, the Community Service Chair of the Black Law Students' Association, co-president of the Student Public Interest Network, and a co-coach of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team. She is passionate about public service, civil rights, and social justice issues and has dedicated her academic and professional pursuits to understand pragmatic solutions to urban issues especially those concerning eradicating poverty and the intersection of race and access to justice.

Patricia graduated with distinction from Yale College with a double major B.A. in Economics and Political Science with an interdisciplinary concentration in Urban Public Policy.



NINA PERALES '90

Vice President of Litigation, MALDEF

Nina Perales is Vice President of Litigation for MALDEF, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In that role, Ms. Perales supervises the legal staff and litigation docket in MALDEF's offices throughout the United States. Ms. Perales is best known for her work in voting rights, including redistricting and vote dilution cases. Her litigation has included successful statewide redistricting cases in Texas and Arizona including *LULAC v. Perry* (2006), a Voting Rights Act challenge to Texas congressional redistricting which Ms. Perales led through trial and argued successfully in the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Perales also led the challenge under the National Voter Registration Act to an Arizona voter law and secured a favorable ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in *Arizona v. ITCA* (2013) and the challenge to Texas legislative redistricting in which the U.S. Supreme Court found racial gerrymandering of Latino voters in 2018 (*Abbott v. Perez*). Ms. Perales also specializes in immigrants' rights litigation, including leading the case striking down an anti-immigrant housing ordinance in Farmers Branch, Texas and the defense of DACA in a multi-state challenge to that initiative. Ms. Perales earned a Bachelor's degree from Brown University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

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BRENDA T. PIPESTEM '99

*Justice, Supreme Courts of the Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*

Brenda Toineeta Pipestem, a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, has dedicated her life to empowering tribal communities and protecting the sovereignty of American Indian Tribes through education, law, policy, philanthropy, and support of the arts.

Pipestem serves as a Justice on the Supreme Courts of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. In addition, Brenda serves on the Advisory Circle of the Spirit Aligned Leadership Program for Indigenous Women elders. Brenda previously worked for the White House Commission on Race under President Bill Clinton, and the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, working with Tribes on national and local policy issues, and serving a legislative detail with the U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and Related Agencies.

Brenda served consecutive three-year terms on the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees for two years and Chair of the Repatriation Committee for three years prior. Brenda currently serves on the Board for the Booker T. Washington Foundation for Excellence, the Board of Advisors for the University of Tulsa Center for the Humanities, and on the Tulsa United Way Board of Directors.

Brenda is an alumna of Duke University (Public Policy Studies, B.A. '90) and Columbia Law School (J.D. '99). Brenda and Wilson Pipestem parent four wonderfully strong-minded children. They moved to Oklahoma in 2013 from the Washington, DC area.



SUSAN BUTLER PLUM

Senior Advisor, Skadden Foundation

Susan Butler Plum is the founding director of the Skadden Foundation, which awards two-year grants to 28 public interest attorneys per year. The foundation was established in April 1988 and has made grants to 849 attorneys who provide civil legal services to the poor. Prior to joining Skadden, Ms. Butler Plum was the director of the Botwinick-Wolfensohn Foundation and program director of the Booth Ferris Foundation. She also was the associate director for the Environmental Defense Fund. She is a graduate of the University of Miami. Among her board affiliations are

trusteeships of the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation, where she is president, and of the Community Opportunity Fund. She is also a board member of Deaf Legal Advocacy Worldwide, which was founded by a former Skadden Fellow. Ms. Butler Plum is also a board member of Justice Labs, a Hong Kong-based public interest legal organization, and of Partners for Justice. She also is a member of the Foundation Board of Stella and Charles Guttman Community College of CUNY, the International Advisory Council of the Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative, the Harvard Law School Venture Fund Advisory Group, the New York Weill Cornell Council, and the Columbia Law School Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board.

In 2008, she received the annual North Star Award, Honoring New Yorkers Committed to Social Justice. In 2013, she received a special Lifetime Achievement Award from the *New York Law Journal*, shared with the Skadden Fellowship Foundation. In 2015, Ms. Butler Plum was selected as one of 50 inspiring change makers worldwide by the Harvard Law and International Development Society and the Harvard Women's Law Association. In 2017, Ms. Butler Plum was honored by the Center for Popular Democracy.

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CAMILLA TAYLOR '96

Director of Constitutional Litigation, Lambda Legal

Camilla B. Taylor is the Director of Constitutional Litigation for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of all lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people, and people with HIV. She spearheads Lambda Legal's litigation challenging the Trump/Pence administration's assault on LGBT rights.

Taylor was the National Marriage Project Director at Lambda Legal from 2011 through 2015. In 2015, the Marriage Project concluded its work as a result of victory in the consolidated cases titled *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Taylor has been counsel in numerous cases challenging the constitutionality of marriage bans around the country, including, most significantly, *Obergefell v. Hodges* and *Varnum v. Brien*. In addition to her work as a litigator, Taylor has contributed to legislative efforts concerning marriage and parenting around the country and has testified multiple times before state legislatures in support of marriage bills and in opposition to measures that would permit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Prior to joining Lambda Legal, Taylor was a staff attorney with the Criminal Appeals Bureau of the Legal Aid Society of New York City and a litigation associate with Shearman & Sterling.

Taylor received her J.D. from Columbia Law School and her B.A. from Yale College. She has taught LGBT law at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and the University of Chicago Law School, is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and serves on the American Constitution Society Chicago Chapter Board of Advisors. In 2009, she was named one of Crain's Chicago Business's "40 under 40." Recognition for her work also includes induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame (2015), the American Constitution Society Ruth Goldman Award (2012), Columbia Law School Public Interest Initiative Distinguished Graduate award (2012), Laurel School Young Alumna of Distinction Award (2009), and Matthew Shepard Scholarship Award for Leadership (2009).