

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **ESHA BHANDARI '10**

#### *Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project*

Esha Bhandari is a senior staff attorney with the ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, where she works on litigation and advocacy to protect freedom of expression and privacy rights in the digital age. She also focuses on the impact of big data and artificial intelligence on civil liberties. She has litigated cases including *Sandvig v. Barr*, a First Amendment challenge to the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act on behalf of researchers who test for housing and employment discrimination online, and *Alasaad v. Wolf*, a challenge to suspicionless electronic device searches at the U.S. border. Esha was previously an Equal Justice Works fellow with the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, where she litigated cases concerning a right to counsel in immigration proceedings and immigration detainer policies. She has argued before multiple federal district and appellate courts about constitutional issues affecting civil rights and liberties.

Esha is a graduate of McGill University, where she was a Loran Scholar and received the Allen Oliver Gold Medal in Political Science. She has an M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she received the Robert Noxon Toppan Prize in Constitutional Law and the Archie O. Dawson Prize for Advocacy. Esha was a member of the Columbia Human Rights Clinic, the Columbia Law Review, and the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law. Following law school, Esha served as a law clerk to the Hon. Amalya L. Kearsse of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

### **MOLLY BIKLEN '04**

#### *Deputy Legal Director, New York Civil Liberties Union*

Molly Biklen is the Deputy Legal Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union. As the Deputy Legal Director, she works with the Legal Director to supervise the litigation program of the NYCLU's Legal Department and to manage the Legal Department's staff. Prior to joining the NYCLU in January 2020, Biklen served as the Counsel for Wage and Hour at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of the New York Regional Solicitor, where she supervised litigation to enforce wage and hour laws in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Before she joined DOL as a trial attorney in 2009, she was a Skadden fellow and staff attorney at the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center, now TakeRoot Justice, where she litigated workers' rights cases and supported low-wage and immigrant workers seeking to organize and enforce their rights in the workplace. Biklen also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, then on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan of the District Court for the Southern District of New York. She holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **MICHAEL BOCHENEK '95**

#### *Senior Counsel, Children's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch*

Michael Garcia Bochenek is senior counsel to the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, focusing on juvenile justice and refugee and migrant children. He has researched and reported on criminal and juvenile justice systems and prison conditions, the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, the exploitation of migrant workers and other labor rights issues, the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and rights violations in armed conflict, including the use of children as soldiers. From 2006 to 2015, he was director of policy and then director of law and policy for Amnesty International's secretariat in London, where he oversaw strategic litigation, among other responsibilities. Earlier, he worked as counsel, senior researcher, and then deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Children's Rights Division in New York, directed a non-profit immigration legal services office in Washington State's Yakima Valley, and was the Leonard Sandler Fellow with Human Rights Watch's Americas Division in Washington, D.C. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a law degree from Columbia University. In addition to English, he speaks Spanish and Portuguese.



### **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 UN 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 UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the UN's joint response to women's access to justice. And in 2011 she joined the UN 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, a Law Degree from the University of New South Wales, and is a proud Columbia Law School LLM graduate from the class of '10.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **VALERIE P. DENT '93**

#### *Deputy Chief Operating Officer, State University of New York*

Valerie Dent is Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the State University of New York. Prior to joining the State University of New York, Ms. Dent was the First Deputy Commissioner for the New York State Division of Human Rights. In her role, she served as the chief administrative officer of the agency. During her tenure at the Division, she 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.



### **MARIA FOSCARINIS '81**

#### *Founder & Executive Director, National Homelessness Law Center*

Maria Foscarinis is founder and executive director of the National Homelessness Law Center, 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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **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 University 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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### 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 non-profit 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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **CAROLINA HOLDERNESS '06**

*Chief, Human Trafficking Response Unit & Deputy Chief, Special Victims Bureau, Manhattan District Attorney's Office*

Carolina Holderness is the Chief of the Human Trafficking Response Unit and the Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Bureau at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. In her roles at the District Attorney's Office, Ms. Holderness has prosecuted a variety of cases, including domestic violence incidents, sexual assaults, and homicides, in addition to sex and labor trafficking crimes. In addition, Ms. Holderness has spearheaded collaborations

with technologists, financial institutions, and social service providers to support survivors and to bring innovative prosecutions of violent crimes. These partnerships have resulted in long-term, evidence-based actions against trafficking organizations, and in better support for survivors participating in the criminal justice process.

Carolina has committed her career to addressing gender-based violence and combating exploitation of our community's most vulnerable members. In addition to her work at the DA's Office, Carolina has served as an expert in human trafficking prosecutions in both domestic and international contexts. She previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable L.M. McKenna in the Southern District of New York.

Carolina is a 2006 graduate of Columbia Law School, where she interned with Sanctuary for Families and the ACLU Women's Rights Project and participated in a clinic addressing the family rights of incarcerated individuals. Carolina is a member of LeGaL, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **PERNILLE IRONSIDE '02**

*Deputy Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring, UNICEF*

Pernille Ironside is a humanitarian, human rights advocate and international civil servant with the United Nations.

Since January 2020, she has been serving as UNICEF's Deputy Director of the newly established Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring (DAPM) at UNICEF Headquarters in New York and oversees the work on Strategic Planning, Monitoring, Implementation and Reporting. Prior to that, she was UNICEF's Deputy Representative in Nigeria, which is amongst UNICEF's largest programmes for development and humanitarian response. During this time, she led the development of a new 5-year country programme (2018-2022) for UNICEF as well as a new UN Strategic Development Partnership Framework (2018-2021) for the United Nations with the Government of Nigeria. Previously, she was UNICEF's Chief of Field Operations in Iraq based in Baghdad, where she led efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable children and their families across Iraq, particularly in relation to the Anbar and Mosul humanitarian crises. From 2013-2015, she served as UNICEF's Chief of Field Office in the Gaza Strip for which she and her team were awarded an internal UNICEF staff team award for their humanitarian action during the 51-day conflict in Gaza in 2014.

Since joining the UN in 2002, Ms. Ironside has also served in Tacloban leading UNICEF's emergency child protection response in the immediate aftermath of super-typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines in 2013; in Yemen as Chief of Child Protection; in Goma, DRC as a Child Protection Specialist; and in UNICEF global Headquarters in New York during which she advised UNICEF child protection staff and management working in 20 countries affected by armed conflict and/or natural disaster involving frequent deployments to the frontlines. She is specialized in negotiating the release of children associated with armed forces/groups and supporting their community reintegration.

In addition to her work with UNICEF, Ms. Ironside has held positions with the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in Goma, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in New York, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

A licensed lawyer, Ms. Ironside holds Canadian degrees in Commerce and Law, as well as a Masters in Law from Columbia University in New York with a specialization in International Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, Comparative Law and Transitional Justice. Pernille was born and raised in Edmonton, Canada.



# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **MAYRA JOACHIN '15**

#### *Staff Attorney, National Immigration Law Center*

Mayra Joachin is a Staff Attorney at the National Immigration Law Center. She focuses on advancing the rights of low-income immigrants through impact litigation, direct work with affected individuals, administrative advocacy, and technical assistance. Her passion for immigrants' rights stems from her experiences as a Salvadoran immigrant. Her main areas of work involve expanding immigrants' access to status and crucial services, including access to health care and to public utilities, for all individuals regardless of race, status, or national origin. Ms. Joachin has appeared as counsel on: *Batalla Vidal v. Wolf*, a lawsuit challenging the DACA rescission which resulted in the Supreme Court setting aside the 2017 Duke Memorandum that ended DACA, allowing hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients to continue to apply for protection from deportation and work authorization; *GA State Conference of the NAACP v. City of LaGrange*, a lawsuit in Georgia challenging two discriminatory utility policies that disproportionately affect Black and Latino residents in LaGrange; and *La Clinica de la Raza v. Trump*, the first lawsuit on behalf of organizations challenging the Trump Administration's public charge regulation. Ms. Joachin holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.



### **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 University 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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **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.



### **PATRICIA OKONTA '18**

#### *Skadden Fellow, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund*

Patricia Okonta is 2018 graduate of CLS who is now working at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) as a Skadden Fellow. While at CLS, Patricia served as the Executive Editor of the 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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **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 University School of Law.



### **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 (NMAI) 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, BA '90) and Columbia Law (JD '99). Brenda and Wilson Pipestem parent four wonderfully strong-minded children. They moved to Oklahoma in 2013 from the Washington, DC area.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **SUSAN BUTLER PLUM**

#### *Senior Advisor, Skadden Foundation*

Susan Butler Plum is the senior adviser for the Skadden Foundation. Before transition to this role, Ms. Butler Plum served as 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.

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **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).

# Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

## Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program Advisory Board (2020-2021)



### **CLAIRE WOODS '11**

#### *Senior Attorney, NRDC*

Claire Woods litigates cases in state and federal court to prevent pollution, preserve the environment, and protect communities from environmental contaminants and health hazards. Woods has worked on cases to clean up chromium, lead, and volatile organic compounds from 1950s-era sludge lagoons, abate excess and unlawful air emissions from power plants and other industrial polluters, remediate polluted groundwater aquifers, and hold manufacturers accountable for unlawful and harmful chemical releases. Most recently, she served as lead counsel in litigation brought by residents of Newark, New Jersey against public officials for their violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, which led to astronomical levels of lead in residents' drinking water. Prior to joining NRDC, Woods served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, where she represented federal agencies in civil litigation to enforce environmental statutes against polluters. Woods holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. She is based in NRDC's Santa Monica office.