2016 Public Interest Honors Dinner

Columbia Law School
Social Justice Initiatives
April 18, 2016

Welcome
Ellen Chapnick
Dean for Social Justice Initiatives

Gillian Lester
Dean, Columbia Law School

Susan Lindenauer
Columbia Law School Board of Visitors Member

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Chris Wilde ‘15, Herbert and Nell Singer Social Justice Fellow

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Distinguished Public Interest Graduate of the Year
Jin Hee Lee ‘00
Deputy Director of Litigation, NAACP LDF

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Distinguished Graduate Honoree of 2016: As Deputy Director of Litigation of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), Jin Hee Lee supervises LDF’s legal staff in the areas of criminal justice and education, including death penalty, police reform, desegregation, and affirmative action cases. She is lead counsel in *Davis v. City of New York*, a federal class action lawsuit challenging unlawful police practices in New York City’s public housing that is part of the court-ordered monitoring of the New York City Police Department. Jin is also lead counsel in *Brister v. Mississippi*, one of the first cases in the country to have a juvenile life without parole sentence declared unconstitutional under the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Miller v. Alabama*.

In addition, Jin represents death-sentenced prisoners in state and federal post-conviction proceedings in Arkansas, Alabama, and Texas, raising issues of racial discrimination, ineffective assistance of counsel, and coerced confessions. Jin has co-authored and supervised several *amicus curiae* briefs filed in state and federal appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. She speaks regularly on issues concerning race, criminal justice, and civil rights in law schools, conferences, and community meetings all across the country. Her articles have been published in the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* and the *Fordham Urban Law Journal*.

Jin earned her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in 1995, and she is a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship. She is a 2000 graduate of Columbia Law School, serving as Submissions Editor of the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law* and Executive Editor of *A Jailhouse Lawyers’ Manual*, published by the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. She was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and recipient of the Emil Schlesinger Labor Prize. Jin also served as law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Martha Vázquez in the District of New Mexico, worked as a Staff Attorney at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, and as an associate at Morrison & Foerster.

Speakers

Susan Badian Lindenauer, Smith College ’61 and Columbia University School of Law ’64, is the retired General Counsel of The Legal Aid Society of New York City. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York; as a member of the Board of Directors of Legal Momentum, the Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Board of Visitors of Columbia Law School, where she has served as president of the alumni association; on the Board of the Directors of the New York Bar Foundation and of the New York County Lawyers Association and its Foundation; and as co-chair of the New York State Bar Association Task Force on the Family Court. She has also served as a Vice President of the State Bar and is currently a member of its House of Delegates.

Christopher Wilds ’15 joined LDF as the inaugural Herbert and Nell Singer Social Justice Fellow in September 2015. In May 2015 Christopher graduated from Columbia Law School where he was honored as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar for superior academic achievement. Throughout law school he dedicated himself to public interest work, completing a summer internship with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights and, as an Anti-Discrimination Center fellow, working on employment discrimination cases at the public interest law firm Cuti Hecker Wang. In addition, Christopher served as Director of Community Service for the Black Law Students Association and Submissions Editor for the Columbia Journal of Race and Law.

Liliana Zaragoza ’13 joined LDF as the inaugural John Payton Appellate and Supreme Court Advocacy Fellow in June 2015. Prior to joining LDF, Lily was a 2013-2015 Skadden Fellow and Staff Attorney at the New York Legal
Assistance Group, where she represented low-wage domestic workers on federal and state employment claims. In 2012, she worked as a Law Clerk at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, where she worked on employment and civil rights litigation. Lily received her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Law Review and Director of the Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. She graduated with honors and distinction from the University of Chicago with an A.B. in International Studies and Human Rights.
Honorees for post-graduate employment in public interest

The following 39 J.D. and 45 LL.M. students will be working at public interest organizations or government agencies immediately after graduation or clerkship:

JD ‘16:

Joseph Abrams
Jessica Alcantara
Nicolas Bammer-Whitaker
Julia Bedell
David Bowen
Kathleen Coulson
Daniel Donadio
Amy Elmgren
Bianca Figueroa-Santana
Hager H Franklin
Alexander Gottfried
Jeffrey Hammons
Whitney Hood
Loretta Johnson
Jonathan Jonas
Angie Juarbe
Eleni Kyriakides
Joseph Landry
Jason Lebowitz
Nicholas Lombardi
Karman Lucero
Gena Miller
Linda Moon
Kate Morris
Cady Nicol
Keerthena Nimmala
Kevin Opoku-Gyamfi
Alexandra Rosen
Aderayo Sanusi
Surbhi Sarang
Yaa Sarpong
Melanie Scheible
Samantha Schlich
Prium Singh
Sarah Sloan
Kirby Tyrrell
Erika Vera Livas
Nicholas Wiltsie
Samuel Yellen
LLM '16:

Michael Adams
Andres Aguinaco
Ragini Ahuja
Daniel Allman
Francisco Berreta
Sarmila Bose
Hannah Canham
Analia Cascone
Esmeralda Colombo
Carolina Dalla Valle Bedicks
Amanda Davis
Yvette Dzakpasu
Hjalti Erlendsson
Lutiana Fernandes
Isabelle Glezer
Andre Glitz
Grace Goh
Maxence Guinand
Alonso Illueca
Yuichi Kawamoto
Angela Kintominas
Lillian Li

Carl Lundeholm
Nina Majoor
Michael Mbikiwa
Sofia Minieri
Reinmar Nindler
Modupe Odele
Elizabeth O'Shea
Anna Pogson
Anna Poukchanski
Felicity Quigley
Thiago Ramos Dias
Gulika Reddy
Courtney Robertson
Freya Sotiropoulos
Rebecca Thomson
Yuet Wan (Bonnie) Tong
Laura Upans
Tania Villarroel
Marit Vink
Lauren Waugh
Hila Wesa
Andrew Wilcock
Nofar Yakovi Gan-Or
Honorees for two public interest summers

These 37 students spent both law school summers working for public interest organizations or government agencies:

**Joseph Abrams**
- 2015  New York County District Attorney’s Office
- 2014  United States Attorney’s Office - Eastern District of New York: Criminal Division

**Jessica Alcantara**
- 2015  American Civil Liberties Union - Racial Justice Program
- 2014  Legal Resources Centre

**Sabria Cornish**
- 2015  Sabin Center for Climate Change Law
- 2014  Karamah

**Kathleen Coulson**
- 2015  Public Citizen
  - United States Department of Justice - Antitrust Division - New York Field Office
- 2014  United States Attorney’s Office - Southern District of New York: Criminal Division

**Daniel Donadio**
- 2015  The New Hampshire Public Defender
- 2014  Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division

**Amy Elmgren**
- 2015  American Civil Liberties Union - Immigrants’ Rights Project - CA Office
- 2014  Lawyers for Human Rights

**Bianca Figueroa-Santana**
- 2015  American Civil Liberties Union - National Headquarters - National Legal Department
- 2014  One Justice

**Hager Franklin**
- 2015  Legal Aid Society - Juvenile Rights Division
- 2014  Protect Our Defenders

**Jeffrey Hammons**
- 2015  United States Environmental Protection Agency - Office of the General Counsel
- 2014  United States Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Enforcement and Compliance

**Whitney Hood**
- 2015  Equality Now - New York
- 2014  Tahirih Justice Center
Loretta Johnson
2015  Legal Aid Society - Juvenile Rights Division
2014  Advocates for Children

Jonathan Jonas
2015  United States Attorney’s Office of New Jersey - Newark Office
2014  Kings County District Attorney’s Office

Angelica Juarbe
2015  Legal Aid Society - Immigration Law Unit
2014  Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund

Eleni Kyriakides
2015  American Civil Liberties Union
2014  Center for Democracy and Technology

Joseph Landry
2015  Altshuler Berzon LLP
2014  Communications Workers of America

Jason Lebowitz
2015  United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit - Staff Counsel Office
2014  United States District Court - District of Maryland

Nicholas Lombardi
2015  United States Attorney’s Office - Eastern District of New York - Criminal Division
2014  Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office

Karman Lucero
2015  United States Department of Treasury - Office of Foreign Assets Control
2014  United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials - Office of the Co-Investigating Judges

Kathryn Meares
2015  Humane Society of the United States
2014  National Employment Lawyers Association - Illinois Chapter

Gena Miller
2015  New York Civil Liberties Union
2014  Peter Cicchino Youth Project

Linda Moon
2015  United States Department of Justice - Officer of the Solicitor General
2014  Campaign for Educational Equity

Kate Morris
2015  NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
2014  Capital Appeals Project

Woon Jeong Nam
2015  New York State Department of Financial Services - Consumer Protection
2014  Yirenping

Cady Nicol
2015  Legal Aid Society - Criminal Appeals Bureau
2014  Planned Parenthood Federation of America - New York

Keerthana Nimmala
2015  United States Department of State
2014  International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Daniel Ravitz
2015  Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation - Legal Services Office
2014  Manhattan Borough President’s Office

Alexandra Rosen
2015  Federal Trade Commission - Northeast Region
2014  Securities and Exchange Commission - Enforcement Division

Surbhi Sarang
2015  Earthjustice - Northeast Office
2014  Environmental Defense Fund (Boulder)

Melanie Scheible
2015  King’s County District Attorney’s Office
2014  Chapter Four Uganda

Samantha Schlich
2015  New York County District Attorney’s Office
2014  Queens County District Attorney’s Office

Priyum Singh
2015  New York County District Attorney’s Office
2014  New York State Attorney General - Taxpayer Protection Bureau

Sarah Sloan
2015  Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP
2014  Legal Aid Society - Criminal Division

Nicole Tortoriello
2015  American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania
2014  United States Department of Education

Kirby Tyrrell
2015  Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division
2014  New York Legal Assistance Group - Domestic Violence

Erika Vera Livas
2015  Outten & Golden LLP
2014  New York Attorney General’s Office

Nicholas Wiltsie
2015  Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division
2014  Federal Defenders of New York

Samuel Yellen
2015  New York County District Attorney’s Office
2014  Buffalo City Court
Honorees for 100 or more hours of pro bono work

Pro Bono Scholars Program
Announced by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in his 2014 State of the Judiciary address, the Pro Bono Scholars Program (PBSP) allows students in their final year of law school to devote their last semester to a program that combines a dedicated law school class with performing pro bono service for the underserved. Columbia’s 2016 Pro Bono Scholars are working under the supervision of professors Alexandra Carter and Shawn Watts providing mediation services to low-income federal employees at the EEOC. The Pro Bono Scholars took the February 2016 New York bar exam and will be admitted very soon after graduation if they satisfy the Pro Bono Scholars Program Requirements.

Allen Davis  
Yelei Kong  
Avni Mehta  
Abhijit Nagaraj  
Melanie Scheible

The following 73 students have performed at least 100 hours of pro bono service since their first day at Columbia Law School (as of April 1):

Class of 2016:

Stephanie Annunziata  
United States Department of Justice - Antitrust Division

Vicken Antounian  
Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia  
Wisconsin Judicare

Israel Augenstein  
Kings County Supreme Court - Civil Court

Julia Bedell  
DNA People's Legal Services  
Four Directions - Native Vote  
New York Department of Financial Services
Mark Beinhorn  
Kings County Supreme Court  

Alexander Berg  
Special Commissioner of Investigation for the NYC School District  

Madeleine Brumley  
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund - South Central Regional Office  
National Lawyers Guild  

Wei Cai  
United States Court of International Trade  

Zoe Carpou  
United States District Court - Northern District of California  

Michael Cassel  
Professor Bernard Harcourt  

Mark Cherry  
Attorney General, New York  
Morningside Heights Legal Services  

Andrew Chesley  
High School Law Institute  
Wisconsin Judicare  

Kelsey Clark  
Human Rights Watch - NY  
Rightslink  
United States Court of International Trade  

Kathleen Coulson  
Public Citizen - Global Trade Watch  

Steven Czurlanis  
New York State Attorney General - Real Estate Finance Bureau  

Daniel Donadio  
Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division  
Manhattan Legal Services
Amy Elmgren
Lawyers for Human Rights - Strategic Litigation Unit
Political Asylum Workshop - Columbia Law School/Davis Polk
Rightslink

Alexander Ely
State Department - Office of the Legal Adviser

Kelly Freund
High School Law Institute
National Employment Law Project
Resilience Advocacy Project

Seth Genende
United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York

Melanie Grindle
Public Defender Services of DC
Superior Court of California - San Diego County

Jacob Grubman
Center for Court Innovation
DNA People’s Legal Services

Jeffrey Hammons
Environmental Protection Agency

David Hong
United States District Court - District of New Jersey

Whitney Hood
Domestic Violence Project - Courtroom Advocates Project
Human Rights First NY - The Asylum Program
Sanctuary for Families - Battered Immigrant Women’s Project
Spanish Jailhouse Lawyer’s Manual

Jonathan Jonas
Kings County District Attorney’s Office

Benjamin Kastner
Securities and Exchange Commission

Jason Lebowitz
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit - Staff Counsel Office

Chandni Luhar
Adalah - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

William Malone
Federal Trade Commission

Avni Mehta
Columbia Law School - Immigrants’ Rights Clinic
Pro Bono Scholars Program
Public Defender - Los Angeles County
Rightslink

Gena Miller
New York Civil Liberties Union

Linda Moon
American Civil Liberties Union - National Headquarters
Campaign for Educational Equality

Woon Jeon Nam
New York State Department of Financial Services

Sarah Nasser
United States District Court - District of Columbia

Brent Nesbitt
United States District Court - Western District of Pennsylvania

Joseph Niczky
Environmental Law Clinic - Columbia Law School
San Jose State University Record Clearance Project

Elizabeth Parvis
United States District Court - Eastern District of New York

Morgan Petkovich
United States District Court - Eastern District of California

**Jameyson Price**  
New York State Supreme Court

**Solomon Rotstein**  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Small Business Legal Academy  
Securities and Exchange Commission

**Joel Salomon**  
Florida State Supreme Court  
United States Bankruptcy Court - Southern District of Florida

**Eric Santos**  
National Lawyers Guild

**Aderayo Sanusi**  
United States District Court - Eastern District of New York

**Pelin Serpin**  
United States District Court - Eastern District of New York

**Abigail Shaw**  
Mississippi Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel  
Sanctuary for Families - Center for Battered Women’s Legal Services - Battered Immigrant Women’s Project

**Prium Singh**  
New York Attorney General - Criminal Prosecutions

**Nicholas Spar**  
New York State Inspector General

**Tyler Stahl**  
Texas Civil District Courts

**Thomas Swanson**  
Institute for Justice

**Nicole Taykhman**
American Civil Liberties Union - National Headquarters
DNA People's Legal Services
Sanctuary for Families - Battered Immigrant Women’s Project

**Kirby Tyrrell**
DNA People's Legal Services
New York Legal Assistance Group
Political Asylum Workshop - Columbia Law School/Davis Polk
Sanctuary for Families - Immigration Intervention Project

**Alice Wang**
Software Freedom Law Center

**Alexander Weaver**
PEN American Center

**Eric West**
United States Court of Appeals - Second Circuit
High School Law Institute

**Qingliu Yang**
International Refugee Assistance Project

**Brian Yin**
Columbia Law School - Immigrants’ Rights Clinic
Legal Resources Centre

**Class of 2017:**
**Kaitlin Bergin**
United States District Court - Eastern District of Pennsylvania

**Roger Bond Choquette**
Human Rights Institute - Columbia Law School
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs

**Michael Dibattista**
High School Law Institute
United States District Court - Southern District of New York - Office of Pro Se Litigation

**Elise Funke**
Brooklyn Family Defense Project
High School Law Institute
Legal Resources Centre

**Julie Hsia**
High School Law Institute
Public Defender Services of DC

**Dhrumit Joshi**
Wisconsin Judicare

**Clara Kim**
Kings County District Attorney’s Office

**Lianchen Liu**
United States Court of Appeals - Third Circuit

**Lillian Morgenstern**
United States District Court - District of Columbia

**Trevor O’Neill**
United States District Court - District of New Jersey

**Hilary Oran**
United States District Court - Eastern District of New York

**Lauren Packard**
Center for Climate Change Law
United States District Court - Northern District of California

**Kyung Ho Paik**
Commodity Futures Trading Commission - Eastern Region

**Tyler Roberts**
Civilian Complaint Review Board
New York Legal Assistance Group

**Kathryn Saba**
High School Law Institute
Wisconsin Judicare
Rachael Siegel
The Door
Jane's Due Process
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Sanctuary for Families - Uncontested Divorce Workshop

Angelica Tillander
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
High School Law Institute
Honorees for in-house pro bono projects

Columbia's 18 in-house pro bono projects, some of which are student-run, are ongoing partnerships between Columbia Law School and legal services organizations and/or law firms in the community. In 2015-16, the following in-house projects were led by the students named below:

The Domestic Violence Project
U-Visa Project: Under the supervision of Sanctuary for Families, participants represent undocumented low-income victims of domestic violence seeking a path to US 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: Joanne (Seung Eun) Kim and Suzan Abebe**

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. **Student Leaders: Daniel Sack and Anoushka Nicole Asgari**

Uncontested Divorce Workshop: Under the supervision of Sanctuary for Families, law students represent clients in obtaining uncontested divorces. Students work in teams of two and are assigned a client; representation includes meeting with the client, drafting divorce documentation, and going to court with the client. **Student Leaders: Abigail Hathaway and Penina Moisa**

Human Trafficking Intervention Court Project: Columbia students doing this pro bono project work with Sanctuary for Families attorneys to interview foreign-born individuals with cases before the Human Trafficking Intervention Court to identify any trafficking-based or other immigration remedies potentially available to them. **Student Leader: Whitney Hood**

Educational Law and Policy Society
Education Advocacy Project (EAP): Students work with Legal Aid attorneys specializing in education issues relating to children in foster care, often utilizing the Birth to Three and Early Intervention Federal Programs. **Student Leader: Shahrad Ardaghi**
The Annenberg Institute for School Reform: The Annenberg Institute for School Reform (AISR) works to promote quality education for all children, especially in urban communities. In New York City, AISR community and youth organizing groups and coalitions work with community groups to provide the tools and knowledge they need to advocate for change in their schools. CLS students conduct legal and policy research on New York City, New York State, and federal education laws and policy -- including topics like charter schools and restorative justice practices -- to help inform AISR's work with community groups. Students leverage their legal knowledge to assist AISR attorneys and staff in working on education policy recommendations in coordination with AISR’s partners. **Student Leader: Shahrad Ardaghi**

High School Law Institute (HSLI) is a year-long program that serves low-income high school students from throughout New York City. Columbia Law students teach courses in criminal law, constitutional law, mock trial, and moot court. The year culminates with Graduation, which includes a mock trial competition against our sister organization at NYU. **Student Leader: Janice Lee**

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. **Student Leader: Lydia Deutsch**

Legal Clinic for the Homeless
A team of Columbia students staff a legal clinic at a local homeless shelter. Working with attorneys from the City Bar Justice Center, students are 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 Leader: Rebecca Azhdam**

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, all conducted at CLS. **Student Leader: Chris Mendez**
Outlaws

Transgender Legal Defense and Education 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 under the supervision of attorneys from Sullivan & Cromwell. This involves both helping the client file name change documents and representing them in a hearing before the court. Therefore, students learn valuable written and oral advocacy skills, as well as gaining firsthand experience interacting with clients.  
Student Leader: Bram Schumer

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: Thorvald J Petersen and Candy Ofime

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

International Refugee Assistance Project: CLS students partner with attorneys at major New York firms in order to help Iraqi families currently living in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, or Jordan. Students work as teams and follow the client’s case through its completion. Students have the opportunity to interview families (telephonically), assist them with the preparation of submissions to and interviews with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, and the Department of Homeland Security. Student Leaders: Mara Sanders and Calleen Wallace

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND): In the United States, children who are undocumented do not have a right to counsel in their proceedings in immigration court. KIND works to provide representation for undocumented children in deportation and other immigration matters. Students participate in client intake sessions and are assigned to work on a case from beginning to end with a small team of two or more attorneys from large law firms and/or the general counsel office of major corporations. Student Leaders: Cathy Liu and Sarah-Anne Alkhatib.

Immigration Equality: Students assist attorneys at Immigration Equality with asylum applications for LGBT immigrants. Students 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 work on an entire asylum application over the course of a semester. Student Leaders: Cathy Liu and Sarah-Anne Alkhatib
Suspension Representation Project
The Suspension Representation Project (SRP) has successfully reduced or overturned Superintendents’ suspensions of students in virtually every case in which its advocates have been involved. Students review documents provided by the school, interview clients, conduct legal research and appear at suspension hearings where they negotiate with school officials and/or question witnesses. **Student Leaders: Elise Funke and Tara Raam**

Tenants’ Rights Project
Students assist attorneys at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation and the Goddard-Riverside SRO Law Project in all aspects of low income tenant representation. Types of work include legal research, motion and memorandum drafting, client intake, and court appearances. Cases range from eviction defense, to living condition complaints. **Student Leader: Drumit Joshi**

Resilience Advocacy Project
Students work with RAP attorneys to provide information in various areas to youth in schools and youth organizations. Students lead “Know Your Rights” and advocacy workshops for youth around issues ranging from dating violence to reproductive rights, to public benefits and education, in order to help teens build social justice focused youth advocacy clinics in their communities. **Student Leader: Chris Mendez**
Honorees for spring break caravans

Groups of Columbia Law students spend 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 2016, 93 students went on these 18 caravans led by the students named below:

**Las Americas/Paso del Norte Immigration Advocacy Caravan** El Paso, TX  
*Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights*  
Las Americas is a non-profit serving the legal needs of low-income immigrants, including refugees and battered women in El Paso, Texas near the port of entry with the second highest number of land crossings into the United States. The Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project provides legal representation for victims of civil rights violations and victims of domestic violence. Students worked on a variety of legal pleadings and research memos, including helping to draft declarations for VAWA/U-Visa packets, assisting with requests for evidence, and investigating complex immigration issues, including some involving civil rights issues.  
**Student Leaders: Deborah Capiro and Matthew Doyle**

**Anishinabe Legal Services** Cass Lake, MN  
*Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project & Native American Law Students Association*  
Anishinabe Legal Services is a non-profit organization that provides free legal services to low-income individuals living on or near the Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth Reservations in Northwestern Minnesota. Students will work with ALS attorney's to provide direct services to clients with regard to their civil legal needs and complete other related projects serving the reservation communities with a particular focus on assisting victims of domestic violence.  
**Student Leader: Vanessa Racehorse**

**Appalachian Citizens' Law Center** Whitesburg, KY  
*Sponsored by Environmental Law Society*  
Students traveled to Whitesburg, Kentucky to work with the Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center in its mission to provide justice for the people of a region deeply affected by extractive industries. The students assisted the Center with a number of legal projects, such as a standing clinic to educate citizens about the requirements necessary to establish standing in environmental cases. Students also performed legal research and drafted sections of briefs for ongoing cases. **Student Leader: Channing Jones**
ArchCity Defenders  St. Louis, MO  
*Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)*  
ArchCity Defenders strives to prevent homelessness by providing holistic criminal and civil legal services. Students worked with clients in the St. Louis area on criminal and civil cases by representing low income members of the community. Students focused on working with members of the Ferguson community who are facing violations of their 1st and 4th Amendment rights following the events of last summer. **Student Leaders: Marc Holloway and Aaron Macris**

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers  Atlanta, GA  
*Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project*  
Students worked to help survivors of domestic violence under the supervision of the Safe and Stable Families Project at the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Students will be trained on how to handle intakes for clients seeking protective orders. They will also be able to go to court to observe 12-month temporary order of protection hearings. Students will also help with legal research and other tasks. **Student Leader: Melissa Fedornak**

The Bronx Defenders  Bronx, NY  
*Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network*  
The Bronx Defenders are credited with pioneering the concept of the “holistic defense.” Clients defended by the Bronx Defenders are assigned to a team including attorneys and social workers to help them resolve not just their case but a host of problems with the ultimate goal of keeping them out of jail. Caravan participants worked on one criminal defense project, one family defense project and one civil practice project. **Student Leaders: Regina Wang and Hyo Min Kim**

California Appellate Project of San Francisco  San Francisco, CA  
*Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network*  
The California Appellate Project in San Francisco (CAP-SF) is a non-profit corporation established by the State Bar of California in 1983 as a legal resource center to implement the constitutional right to counsel for indigent persons facing execution. CAP serves the largest population of condemned individuals in the country and is funded primarily by a contract with the Judicial Council of California. Students worked on a variety of projects. **Student Leaders: Vishakha Joshi and Hyo Min Kim**

California Women’s Law Center  El Segundo, CA  
*Sponsored by Columbia Law Women’s Association*  
The California Women’s Law Center focuses on Title IX enforcement, equal pay initiatives, educational rights of pregnant teens, and legal assistance to women veterans. Students conducted legal research and drafted memoranda relating to Title IX litigation, compliance reports for Title IX settlements, engaged in policy research and policy brief writing related to
equal pay issues and other workplace protections, and drafted memos relating to individual cases. **Student Leader: Ashley Lherisson**

**DNA People’s Legal Services** Monument Valley, AZ  
* Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project and Native American Law Students Association  
DNA People’s Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm in the Southwestern United States that provides low-income communities with free civil legal services. The organization’s name comes from a Navajo phrase meaning “attorneys who work for the economic revitalization of The People.” Students participated in direct client services, legal trainings for community members, and clinics targeting specific issues burdening low-income families (such as predatory lending practices, mobile home repossessions, or domestic abuse). **Student Leader: Christian Termyn**

**International Refugee Assistance Project** Amman, Jordan  
* Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Students traveled to Amman, Jordan to provide direct legal assistance to Iraqi and Syrian refugees with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). Students participated in training on how to interview victims of torture and conducted client intake interviews for IRAP with refugees in urgent situations. Students conducted outreach meetings with local NGOs to learn more about the situation facing refugees on the ground in the Middle East, met with representatives from the UN Mission in Amman, and participated in a training hosted by the U.S. government for refugees resettling in the United States. **Student Leader: Mara Sanders**

**Jane’s Due Process** Austin, TX  
* Sponsored by Law Students for Reproductive Justice  
Jane’s Due Process is an organization dedicated to providing legal services to pregnant minors in Texas. Students assisted supervising attorneys in one or more of the services the organization provides, including: judicial bypass representation for minors seeking to terminate pregnancies without parental involvement, assistance in filing for orders of protection and emancipation, and operation of a toll-free legal hotline. **Student Leaders: Anya Olsen and Francesca Cocuzza**

**Legal Resources Centre** Grahamstown, South Africa  
* Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law  
LRC is South Africa’s leading public interest law center. Students traveled to South Africa to work with the LRC to aid in their work involving the right to education and land rights issues. Students conducted research and draft legal documents to help the LRC institute legal action. **Student Leaders: Pauline Abijaoude and Anya Olsen**
Miami-Dade Public Defender Service Miami, FL
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network
MDPD strives to have a public defender’s office that is a national model, provide quality legal representation, and treat clients with dignity and respect. Students split their time between helping MDPD update their training sessions and training materials in DUI cases and observing trials, then participating in feedback sessions between the training attorneys and the trial attorneys. **Student Leaders: Beulah Agbabiaka and Hyo Min Kim**

National Center for Lesbian Rights San Francisco, CA
Sponsored by Outlaws
The National Center for Lesbian Rights, an impact litigation organization, partnered with caravan students to work on research for Know Your Rights-style publications, legal research for federal administrative advocacy, and support (legal research, memo writing, cite checking) for ongoing appellate litigation. **Student Leaders: Adam Swingle and Bram Schumer**

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia Washington, DC
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network
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. Students worked on a variety of projects including short term parole appeals, research and writing assignments within the context of the appellate practice, work with the general counsel, and generalized trial assignments. **Student Leaders: Mitchell Schwartz and Hyo Min Kim**

San Jose State University Record Clearance Project San Jose, CA
Sponsored by Society for Chinese Law
Students were trained in expungement law and helped clients to complete petitions for dismissals of all eligible criminal convictions in court. Law students worked in partnership with Record Clearance Project, and assisted students interviewing their clients and completing their cases. Students attended an expungement court hearing and engaged in discussions with former clients, state and federal judges, criminal justice officials and others who highlighted the importance of clearing individuals’ criminal records. **Student Leaders: Qingzhen Zhu and Hyo Min Kim**
**Vaša Prava** Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)  
*Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law*

Vaša Prava is Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) first and largest free legal aid organization. Students assisted Vaša Prava's team of twenty-seven attorneys to compile client cases in two main areas. First, students assisted lawyers in compiling asylum cases for Middle Eastern and North African migrants in BiH on route to the EU. Second, students conducted legal research to develop anti-discrimination cases, which Vaša Prava will use for strategic litigation. Students partnered with faculty at the University of Sarajevo to deliver a lecture to local law students on professional responsibility in the legal profession. **Student Leader: Jacob Arber and Ari Ruffer**

**Wisconsin Judicare** Wausau, WI  
*Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association*

Students worked with Judicare staff attorneys to conduct a series of Will Clinics for American Indians residing throughout Wisconsin. To prepare for the Clinics, students received training on Indian Law, Basic Estate Planning, the American Indian Probate Reform Act, and the procedures and processes for the Clinics. After training, students traveled with staff attorneys to different reservations or tribal communities in Wisconsin to conduct day-long will clinics. **Student Leader: Dhrumit Joshi**
Public interest peer mentors / SPIN buddies

The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) Buddies Program provides first-year students with the opportunity to have fun and learn the inside scoop about classes and faculty from second- and third-year students. In 2015-16, these students made themselves available as peer mentors to first-year students interested in public interest careers, classes, and activities.

Rebecca Azhdam
Katherine Barrett
Clava Brodsky
Jocelyn Cazares
Jessica Corey
Daniela Dekhtyar
Elise Funke
Jeffrey Hammons
Christopher Helwig
Joanne Kim
Andrea Kozak
Soo Jee Lee

Will Mattessich
Brian Payne
Morgan Saunders
Melanie Scheible
Bram Schumer
Julia Sherman
Rachael Siegel
Sarah Sloan
Ella Stephen
Kirby Tyrrell
Rachel Wagner
Nicholas Wiltsie
Honorees for public interest philanthropy

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

**Dean’s Cup**
Erensu Altan
Eliazar Chacha
Lydia Deutsch
Brian Mulhall
Roger Yang

**Public Interest Law Foundation Board**
Beulah Agbabiaka
Vicken Antounian
Erica Che
Zidong Liu
Patricia Okonta
Dan Pedraza
Victoria Recalde
Rachael Siegel
Liz Taylor
George Tepe
Angelica Tillander
Hannah Weichbrodt
Stephen Yanni
Philanthropic supporters of pro bono, summer, and postgraduate work

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Ms. Frances E. Bivens
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The New Land Foundation
Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP
Jay Sandack (Singer Foundation)
Venable LLP
Distinguished honorees (2003 - 2015)

SJI annually honors public service lawyers, usually Columbia graduates, for their leadership, achievements on issues of current importance, and for serving as inspirational models for Columbia Law Students seeking to do public interest and substantial pro bono work after graduation. (This list identifies the positions they held at the time the award was conferred.)

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**