

2021 Public Interest Honorees

2021 Public Interest Honorees

Columbia Law School
Social Justice Initiatives

Table of Contents

- I. 2021 Public Interest Honors Categories**
 - a. Social Justice Initiatives All-Star Honorees
 - b. Postgraduate Employment in Public Interest or Public Service
 - c. Two Public Interest or Public Service Summers
 - d. Pro Bono Scholars
 - e. 100 or More Hours of Pro Bono Service Completed
 - f. Public Interest/Public Service Fellows
 - g. In-House Pro Bono Project Leaders
 - h. Spring Break Caravan Leaders
 - i. Racial and Social Justice Fellowship Recipients
 - j. Anti-Racism Grantmaking Program Awardees
 - k. Public Interest, Public Service, and Human Rights Mentors
 - l. Public Interest Law Foundation Board Members
- II. Philanthropic Supporters of Pro Bono, Summer, and Postgraduate Work**

Social Justice Initiatives All-Star Honorees

The following students have demonstrated their commitment to public interest and public service by being named in three or more of our honoree categories. There are 32 SJI All-Stars for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Emily Barber

Natalie Behr

David Berman

Katja Botchkareva

Bianca Chavez

Joanne Choi

Emily Claffey

Ross Dispenza

Raisa Elhadi

Rawda Fawaz

Samuel Fishman

Robert Gaines

Daimiris Garcia

Meg Gould

Freya Jamison

Eddie Kim

Suz Kroeber

Meghan Lucas

Shannon Marcoux

Bridgett McCoy

Magdalena Oropeza

Sarah Ortlip-Sommers

Sneha Pandya

Adi Radhakrishnan

Julia Rigal

Hannah Rosner

Gregory Smith

Corinna Svalien

Daniel Sweeney

Serena Taj

Brandon Vines

Anita Yandle

Postgraduate Employment in Public Interest or Public Service Honorees

The following 84 J.D. and 38 LL.M. students have been identified as students who plan to work at public interest, government, or human rights organizations or to clerk for a judge immediately after graduation.

J.D. Class of 2021:

Claire Abbadi	Matt Clifford	Meg Gould
Nolan Anderson	Ben Costanza	Gregory Graham
David Arom	Bryant Davis	Tara Hofbauer
Gerald Atkins	Matt Dial	Zach Horton
Emily Barber	Ross Dispenza	Freya Jamison
Natalie Behr	James Drueckhammer	Isabella Kendrick
David Berman	Kristen Dupard	Eddie Kim
Benjamin Bleiberg	Madeleine Durbin	Robert Kim
Susanna Booth	David Eil	Suz Kroeber
Samantha Braver	Jennifer El-Fakir	Taylor Larson
Alex Canzoneri	Jake Elkin	Jenna Lauter
Nicholas Campbell	Benjamin Feiner	Yong Jun Lee
Hunter Carrell	Katie Friel	Madison Levin
Joanne Choi	Robert Gaines	Callen Lowell
Emily Claffey	Nataliia Gillespie	Meghan Lucas
Matthew Clarida	Rebecca Goldberg	Claire MacLachian
John Clayton	Brenda Gonzalez-Rueda	Josh Malkin

Shannon Marcoux

Elie Peltz

Daniel Sweeney

John Martin

Adi Radhakrishnan

Serena Taj

David Mehl

Hannah Rosner

Ashley Taylor

Alyson Merlin

Karla Saenz

Sara Tofighbakhsh

Carlissa Milord

Sankeerth Saradhi

Adam Voron

Elizabeth Orem

Andrew Sgarro

John Waddill

Magdalena Oropeza

Marina Shew

Leo Weissburg

Sarah Ortlip-Sommers

Elliot Spector

Kelsey Rose Wiseman

Sebastian Osborn

Ezra Spiro

Wendy Xiao

Sneha Pandya

Wilson Stamm

Anita Yandle

Samir Paul

Corinna Svarlien

Hannah Yindra

LL.M. Class of 2021:

Bruno Acevedo

Constance Budaci

Lucía Falcón Palomar

Nevfel Akkasoglu

Pichrotanak Bunthan

Rotem Ben David Fix

Dhoha Al-Malki

Francisco Calvo

Rosario Grimà Algora

Sara Almohamadi

Yi Cheng Chan

Vidhi Gupta

Sania Anwar

Sin Ping Natalie Chu

Fahira Hasic

Muhammed Awais Arshad

Sara Collorio

Amr Jomaa

Justin Barnes

Ali Dawud

Ana Lenard

Tadd Blair

David Dayton

Laura MacKay

Will Breslin

Brenda Efurhievwe

Hillary Maduka

Lina Makhuli

Ximena Lopez Molina

Wanqin Shen

Antonio Ceasar Manila

Hui Helen Pang

Tadashi Tahara

Kate McFarland

Janine Prantl

Kevin Walker

Devranjan Mishra

Tejalben Rajput

Two Public Interest or Public Service Summers Honorees

These 65 third-year students have kicked off their public interest or public service careers by spending two summers in public interest or public service.

Emily Barber

Katie Friel

Alyson Merlin

Natalie Behr

Jack Furness

Ricardo Morales

Angela Bentley

Robert Gaines

Yang Ni

David Berman

Brenda Gonzalez Rueda

Elizabeth Orem

Susanna Booth

Meg Gould

Magdalena Oropeza

Annelise Brinck-Johnsen

Mara Greenberg

Sarah Ortlip-Sommers

Isabelle Canaan

Tara Hofbauer

Basil Oswald

Domenic Canonico

Freya Jamison

Elie Peltz

Hunter Carrell

Isabella Kendrick

Claire Postman

Joanne Choi

Eddie Kim

Adi Radhakrishnan

Emily Claffey

Suz Kroeber

Julia Rigal

Matt Clifford

Taylor Larson

Hannah Rosner

Ben Costanza

Jenna Lauter

Samier Saeed

Matt Dial

Michelle Lee

Karla Saenz

Ross Dispenza

Callen Lowell

Andrew Sgarro

James Drueckhammer

Meghan Lucas

Marina Shew

Madeleine Durbin

Claire MacLachlan

Gregory Smith

David Eil

Josh Malkin

Elliot Spector

Jennifer El-Fakir

Shannon Marcoux

Wilson Stamm

Jake Elkin

David Mehl

Corinna Svarlien

Anna Van Niekerk

Anita Yandle

Xingxin Zhang

Adam Voron

Hannah Yindra

Pro Bono Scholars Honorees

New York State Bar Pro Bono Scholars Program

Announced by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in his 2014 State of the Judiciary address, the Pro Bono Scholars Program allows students to devote their last semester in law school to a program that combines a dedicated law school class with pro bono service for the underserved. In the last two years, our Pro Bono Scholars have had placements at the Urban Justice Center, the Legal Aid Society, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Advocates for Children, the Bronx Defenders, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Sanctuary for Families, Start Small/Think Big, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and Volunteers for Legal Services Micro-Enterprise Project. The 2021 Pro Bono Scholars took the February 2021 New York Bar exam and will be admitted soon after graduation.

Ida Ayalew

Erin Callahan

Emily Claffey

Courtney D. Hauck

Parth V. Kalaria

Jenny Li

Magdalena Oropeza

Julia Rigal

Corey Elizabeth Schoellkopf

Chizoba D. Ukairo

Patrick Zinck

Honorees for 100 or More Hours of Pro Bono Work

The following 83 students have demonstrated their commitment to serving the public good by performing at least 100 hours of pro bono service since their first day at Columbia Law School.

J.D. Class of 2021:

Kerim Aksoy	Ruth Hirsch	Nicole Molee
Nolan Anderson	Megan Hirsh	Mie Morikubo
Emily Barber	Qifan Huang	Sarah Ortlip-Sommers
Natalie Behr	Hillary Hubley	Sneha Pandya
Samantha Braver	Isaac Hudis	Jenny Park
Sabrina Bremer	Freya Jamison	Kelly Petrillo
Kyle Buchoff	Nia Joyner	Adi Radhakrishnan
Isabelle Canaan	Maya Katalan	Lauren Reisig
Matthew Clarida	Artem Khrapko	Evan Rocher
Olivia Coates	Eddie Kim	Daniel Ruzi
Peter Cramer	Joyce Kim	Jessie Sennett
Clare Curran	Robby Koehler	Lidong Sheng
Bryant Davis	Mitchell Kohles	Jake Sidransky
Ross Dispenza	Suz Kroeber	Gregory Smith
Jack Furness	Stuart Levitin	Daniel Sweeney
Robert Gaines	Marcus Liang	Austin Todd
Shanelle Gordon	Daniel Loud	Elizabeth Weisfeiler
Meg Gould	Shannon Marcoux	Woodworth Winmill
Henry Guerra	Katelyn McNelis	Kelsey Wiseman

Annie Xie

Janna Yu

J.D. Class of 2022:

Annelise Brinck-Johnsen

Yardena Katz

Rachel Seller

Andrew Faisman

Howard Kim

Abby Shamray

Rawda Fawaz

Peter Landau

Quentin Ullrich

Daimiris Garcia

Mengxuan Ma

Reno Varghese

Jake Glendenning

Kan Ni

Elizabeth White

Jona Hoxha

Alexander Padilla

Roselyn Wu

George Hsu

Emily Park

Shidi Wu

Anita Kapyur

Rachel Rein

Ece Yagci

Public Interest/Public Service Fellows

Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program

Launched in 2019, the Public Interest/Public Service (PI/PS) Fellows Program brings together and supports a community of students who are committed to pursuing careers in the public interest, human rights, and government sectors immediately upon graduation. The three-year program is built on four intersecting pillars: community, mentoring, professional development and reflective learning, and career and curricular counseling.

PI/PS Fellows benefit from a diverse cohort of peers and receive in-depth support, guidance, and experience as they explore the many facets of public interest and public service work in the United States and abroad. PI/PS Fellows meet regularly and use their time in the Program to consider notions of justice and equity and think critically beyond the letter of the law. The following 54 1Ls and 2Ls are PI/PS Fellows.

J.D. Class of 2022:

Katja Botchkareva

Daimiris Garcia

Anahi Mendoza

Bianca Chavez

Abie Green

Stephanie Nnadi

Susannah Cohen

Ailee Katz

Sana Shahzad

Diana Costin

Hyun Kim

Isaiah Strong

Emily Drake

Kate Kobriger

Roger Tejada

Raisa Elhadi

Geesu Lee

Brandon Vines

Adaeze Eze

Gus Leinbach

Dante Violette

Samuel Fishman

Bridgett McCoy

Oren Vitenson

J.D. Class of 2023:

Terresa Adams

Stephanie Gusching

Austin Owen

Christopher Alter

Fatima Hasanain

Lee Rea

Hunter Baehren

Chakshu Hurria

Tyler Ritchie

Madhuri Belkale

Emily Katz

Emma Shumway

Molly Bodurtha

Will Leo

Julianna Simms

Likhitha Butchireddygar

Eileen Li

Allison Jeanne Spindler

Grace Crandall Coleman

John Lowry

P. Elizabeth Stewart

Kat Dabdoub

Laura McFeely

Imani Thornton

Allie Doyle

Anna Belle Newport

Katherine Wilkin

Nkechi Erond

Jasmin Ouseph

In-House Pro Bono Project Leaders Honorees

Columbia's student-run in-house pro bono projects are ongoing partnerships between Columbia Law School and legal services organizations and/or law firms in the community. In 2020-2021, our students demonstrated their continued commitment to service through numerous remote in-house projects registered with SJI's Pro Bono Office:

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

U-Visa Project:

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

Student Leader: Tamuz Avivi

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Courtroom Advocates Project:

Students served as advocates in Family Court for domestic violence victims. Under the supervision of Sanctuary for Families, students helped victims draft and file petitions for Orders of Protection, educated them on their rights and safety precautions, and advocated for them during court appearances.

Student Leaders: Aneesa Mazumdar and Woody Winmill

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Human Trafficking Intervention Court:

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

Student Leader: Tamuz Avivi

Empowering Women of Color

Domestic Violence Coronavirus Response Project:

The pandemic has exacerbated the many issues survivors of intimate partner violence face. New York City Family Courts have been operating on an emergency basis since March 2020 and this has affected the types of matters that can be heard in court; thereby limiting a clients access to courts. Since the Family Courts have been operating on an emergency basis and with limited capacity, many legal service providers like Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project have stepped in to provide assistance. This particular project involved interacting and assisting individuals with limited resources who cannot afford counsel and may have had difficulty receiving help directly from the court.

Student Leader: Iqra Ashgar

Environmental Law Society

New York Lawyers for Public Interest Energy Justice:

The goal of this project was to assess the influence of industry into regulatory decisions as it affects the development of renewable energy policy to support local New York City campaigns to close polluting power plants located in communities of color, particularly in Brooklyn and Queens.

Student Leader: Bridgett McCoy

High School Law Institute (HSLI)

Participants spent their Saturday mornings and early afternoons teaching high school students a legal curriculum based on criminal law, constitutional law, moot court, and mock trial. The knowledge the student-teachers gained in their classroom and extracurricular settings contributed directly to their lesson plans.

Student Leader: Adia Davis

Human Rights Law Review

The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual (JLM)

The JLM is a handbook of legal rights and procedures distributed to thousands of prisoners across the country each year by Columbia's *Human Rights Law Review*. Student volunteers write, update, edit, and cite check discrete sections of the JLM and its various state supplements. Students interested in immigration law could also work on the JLM Immigration Law Supplement.

Student Leader: Katelyn McNelis

Latinx Law Students Association (LaLSA)

Trafficking and Human Rights:

The Human Trafficking Legal Center (HT Legal) is a public interest law organization that works with highly skilled pro bono legal representation for human trafficking victims. Students in the capacity as volunteers conducted legal research and writing memorandum on human trafficking cases in the Supreme Court and the Southern District of New York.

Student Leader: Daimiris Garcia

If/When/How

Abortion Decriminalization Project:

Students helped the volunteers who run abortion funding and practical support hotlines by creating a guide to common legal issues, such as navigating liability for volunteer drivers, arranging transportation for undocumented immigrants, and helping minors navigate judicial bypass laws in parental consent states. This project is student-run and was supervised by the New York Abortion Access Fund.

Student Leader: Anita Yandle

Latinx Law Students Association (LaLSA)

Cada Voto Cuenta:

Volunteers worked on a non-partisan election protection project to protect Latinx voting rights. Volunteers focused on four battleground states: Florida, Georgia, New York, Pennsylvania. LatinoJustice trained students on how to be poll site monitors and provided information about rights under the federal Voting Rights Act and general voting and election laws.

Student Leaders: Daimiris Garcia and Nina Jaffe-Geffner

Outlaws and Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC)

Transgender Legal Defense Fund:

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

Student Leader: Maya Ghose

Mentoring Youth Through Education

Debate and Mock Trial Program:

Columbia Law School students served as debate coaches and were paired with one to two New York City high school students. Coaches met with their students three times per semester. During these meetings, coaches helped their students, worked through provided fact patterns and case law, organized written argument outlines, and prepared for oral arguments.

Student Leader: Daniel Sweeney

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Latinx Law Students Association (LaLSA)

Immigration Court Helpdesk (ICH):

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

Student Leaders: Lauren Wyatt, Domenic Canonico, and Daimiris Garcia

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Pro Se Asylum Self-Help Workshop:

Students helped asylum applicants complete and prepare their application for review by a Catholic Charities attorney. Students interacted with and interviewed clients.

Student Leaders: Lauren Wyatt, Domenic Canonico, and Daimiris Garcia

Suspension Representation Project (SRP)

SRP is a student organization and a pro bono project in which law students represent New York City public school students at their suspension hearings. SRP's mission is to safeguard the right to public education and due process by providing high-quality advocacy services to New York City public school students facing superintendent's suspensions, which can range from ten days to a full year. SRP advocates developed meaningful legal skills—including interviewing clients and conducting direct and cross-examinations—and SRP's clients gained valuable assistance and support.

Student Leaders: Maggie Hadley and Ashley Taylor

Spring Break Caravan Leaders Honorees

While Columbia law students could not travel over spring break to work on projects, several student groups and their student leaders worked tirelessly to organize remote caravans for legal service organizations and public interest organizations across the U.S. and abroad, providing much-needed legal assistance to underserved communities.

Asian American Bar Association of New York Remote Clinic

Student group sponsor: Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY)

Since 2015, AABANY's pro bono clinic has provided free walk-in legal consultations to those with limited English proficiency. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, all pro bono clinics were closed. In response to the needs of the community, AABANY established the remote clinic, which provided legal information and referrals over the phone to LEP callers who cannot afford a private attorney or do not have access to legal representation. Students listened to these calls with volunteer attorneys to help with translation, to spot the caller's legal issues, and to research useful legal referrals to provide to the caller. Students also helped update AABANY's resource website and contributed as interviewers to a podcast series.

Student Organizer: Jenny Park

Al Otro Lado: Border Rights Project

Student group sponsor: Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Latinx Law Students Association (LaLSA)

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

Student Organizer: Annel Becerra

The Bronx Defenders

Student group sponsor: Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The Bronx Defenders annually represents 27,000 low-income Bronx residents in criminal, civil, child welfare, and immigration cases, using its unique model of "holistic defense." Each client is assigned a support team that includes not simply an attorney but also a social worker, in an effort to identify the causes of the client's criminal justice involvement and to protect them from the enmeshed penalties associated with their case. The focus is on not just getting people out of jail, but keeping them out. This year, caravan participants assisted with a range of matters, including preparing for hearings and trials; locating, compiling, or transcribing evidence; conducting legal research; writing legal motions and memoranda; and connecting clients with key services and resources.

Student Organizer: Brandon Vines

California Appellate Project

Student group sponsor: Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The California Appellate Project of San Francisco (CAP-SF) is a nonprofit public interest law firm funded by the California Supreme Court to provide assistance to private attorneys appointed by the Court to represent condemned prisoners on death row. CAP-SF's mission is to assist court-appointed counsel, provide professional training, publish litigation resource materials, research and draft pleadings, and investigate claims. Under the supervision of an experienced post-conviction attorney, caravan participants assisted with documentary support, record collection, investigative review, or research for counsel appointed to represent indigent persons incarcerated on California's death row.

Student Organizer: Brandon Vines

California Women's Law Center

Student group sponsor: Columbia Law Women's Association (CLWA)

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

Student Organizer: Suzi Kondic

Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals - New York (CCLP)

Student group sponsor: Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Students assisted lawyers with organizing legal advice sessions and conducting initial client interviews on a variety of legal matters. Students also had the opportunity to write about the legal sessions for the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals' newsletter, The Gavel. CCLP has worked on matters related to tenants' rights, immigrants' rights, and "credit and debt" problems in the past.

Student Organizer: Ahlia Bethea

Domestic Violence Project Spring Break Caravan with Texas Advocacy Project

Student group sponsor: Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Students participating in the DVP Spring Break Caravan worked with the Texas Advocacy Project (TAP), an organization that provides legal services to survivors of domestic abuse. During the spring break, students worked closely with staff attorneys on assisted pro se cases, affording them extensive direct client contact as well as the opportunity to draft pleadings and correspondence under the supervision of an attorney. Students were also involved in helping staff attorneys with trial and/or hearing preparation, as well as discovery. In addition to research and writing, they had the opportunity to assist with large projects, such as helping to investigate how the protective order laws are being implemented in all 254 counties in Texas, something

TAP would not have the workforce to systematically explore without their help. Students were encouraged to shadow each of the staff attorneys and request feedback on assignments. They were also encouraged to assist with case strategy and the use of technology in a statewide legal practice.

Student Organizer: Mingqian Ding

Global Migrations: Refugee Law in Germany

Student group sponsor: Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL)

Students worked with a local law clinic to help with the asylum process and see how Germany is handling migration flows, especially as the American administration was taking steps to further restrict migration. Students worked through the hot points of the asylum process in Germany -- arrival, application, relocation, and appeal.

Student Organizer: Tianxing Lan

Immigration Legal Services: Catholic Charities

Student group sponsor: Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

Students worked remotely with Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services (ILS) to assist clients with humanitarian and family-based immigration applications and petitions. Students received overall immigration law training with the ILS Removal Defense team. Specific responsibilities included prepping pre-hearing briefs and conducting research for open cases.

Student Organizer: In Young Kim

Legal Reform in Tunisia

Student group sponsor: Middle Eastern Law Student Association (MELSA)

Following the Jasmine Revolution of 2011, Tunisia passed a new constitution in 2014 that includes robust protections for freedom of expression and freedom of conscience. However, due to the fact that the Constitutional Court, which will have the power of judicial review, has not been installed yet, many pre-revolutionary laws incompatible with the new constitution remain on the books. Under the supervision of Tunisian Youth Leaders Organization, participants conducted legal research and writing, advocating for why certain laws, such as those curtailing freedom of expression and freedom of belief, are incompatible with the constitution and ought to be reformed by parliament. Participants met remotely with Tunisian political and civil society actors who are working in the areas of freedom of expression and legal reform to learn about their role in Tunisia's ongoing democratic transition.

Student Organizer: Eddie Grove

Louisiana Death Penalty Caravan

Student group sponsor: Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Students placed at Capital Appeals Project (CAP) had a wide variety of experiences. Students conducted research and sometimes drafted writing for Louisiana capital or non-unanimous jury cases, but also contributed to investigation projects like transcribing custodial statements, researching witnesses, or compiling and summarizing important mitigation records for CAP's clients. Students also joined team and staff meetings, as well as other events taking place during spring break.

Student Organizer: Ahlia Bethea

Orleans Public Defender Caravan

Student group sponsor: Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

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

Student Organizer: Ahlia Bethea

Paltrek: Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Student group sponsor: Columbia Law Students for Palestine

This project directly deals with issues of human rights in the Occupied Territories. The organization serves people living under Israeli occupation and advocates on the rights of prisoners, juveniles, refugees, and any Palestinian whose been displaced or unjustly treated/arrested as a result of aggressive tactics that breach human rights laws. Students participated in remote legal research with supervising attorneys focused on imprisonment by the Israeli state.

Student Organizers: Rawda Fawaz & Serena Taj

Protecting Liberty

Student group sponsor: Federalist Society

Caravan participants worked with attorneys at the Institute for Justice in order to protect constitutional rights and promote freedom. Students worked on cases in four specific areas: economic liberty, private property rights, educational choice, and the First Amendment. While working remotely, students were able to employ their legal research and writing skills by working on a wide variety of legal issues in cases all over the country.

Student Organizer: Richard Ong

Public Defenders Service for the District of Columbia

Student group sponsor: Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

Students at Public Defenders Service provided research and writing support for attorneys representing clients in criminal matters. The students drafted and supported compassionate release motions for incarcerated clients. Students also had the chance to work in the civil practice on a range of issues, including housing, public benefits and family law.

Student Organizer: Brandon Vines

Public International Law Caravan

Student group sponsor: Latinx Law Students Association (LaLSA) and Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Independent International Legal Advocates (IILA) works with small / developing States (SDS) to enhance their capacity, and therefore facilitate their effective participation, in the creation and application of international law. Students had the opportunity to work with IILA's lawyers on the full range of IILA's work, including projects for IILA's state clients, researching/developing

content in the training of SDS legal teams, and IILA's engagement with academic, practitioners, government legal advisers and other members of the international legal community in order to further IILA's mission. Topics included examining the human rights aspects of sea level rise; international treaty negotiations on protecting the oceans and equitably sharing its resources; matters of peace and security at the United Nations Security Council; and further aspects of IILA's broad range of public international law support for small/developing States.

Student Organizer: Daimiris Garcia

Rightslink 2021 Environmental Rights Caravan

Student group sponsor: Rightslink

Frente de Conservación Vida Cahuasquí (COVICA) is an activist organization located in Cahuasqui, Ecuador, that fights to defend the area from foreign companies seeking to mine the mountains surrounding Cahuasqui for precious minerals. Cahuasqui is a small town of less than 2000 people located in the north of Ecuador, whose livelihood depends almost entirely on agriculture. Mining not only devastated the mountains and the abundant ecosystems that inhabit them, but threatened the water source upon which Cahuasqui and neighboring towns depend for drinking and irrigation. Participants helped COVICA in their legal fight against corporations who seek to mine the mountains in northern Ecuador and threaten its water source. Participants conducted legal research on similar battles fought against mining in other parts of Ecuador, South America, and the world. They also investigated the corporations involved in this mining endeavor as well as assisted with research for and drafting of legal documents.

Student Organizer: Raisa Elhadi

Racial and Social Justice Fellowship Recipients

As part of its ongoing efforts to advance racial justice in the Columbia community and beyond, the Law School invited applications from second-year J.D. students for the inaugural Racial and Social Justice Fellowships for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Law School's Anti-Racism Steering Committee, created this past summer by Dean Gillian Lester, established the Columbia Law School Racial and Social Justice Fellowships in recognition of the unique role that lawyers can play in addressing structural racism and social inequality and of the desire of many Columbia students to use their law degrees in furtherance of this work. The goal of this new fellowship is to provide financial assistance during law school to facilitate students' pursuit of careers in racial justice, as well as to enhance opportunities for students of color in public interest careers. We congratulate the inaugural fellows.

Bianca Chavez

Raisa Elhadi

Ailee Katz

Roger Tejada

Brandon Vines

Anti-Racism Grantmaking Program Awardees

Columbia Law School created the Columbia Law School Anti-Racism Grantmaking Program (ARGP) in recognition of the continuing need to combat structural racism in our society and of the unique role that law and legal institutions can play in accelerating this change. The goal of the ARGP is to provide both financial and non-financial assistance to members of the Law School community for projects that will help dismantle racially subordinating policies, structures, or systems or otherwise help promote racial equity and inclusion. The Selection Committee received more than a dozen excellent applications from all sectors of the Law School community, and we congratulate the inaugural grantees.

The Black Men's Initiative @ CLS

The Black Men's Initiative will provide "support and community to combat systemic racism and historic exclusion, and build on and build out the living legacy bequeathed to us by [Paul] Robeson and by the generations of Black male CLS alums before and after him."

Grantees: Paul Riley (2L), Damonta Morgan (2L)

Columbia Law School and the Legacies of Slavery

Professor Franke is leading a research team at Columbia University documenting the relationship of the law school to slavery and its contemporary legacies. The team will address the following questions: what relationship did our founding faculty, students, curriculum, and financing bear to slavery? What have been the enduring legacies of anti-Black racism at the Law School?

Grantees: Katherine Franke (faculty), Black Law Students Association (student group), Empowering Women of Color (student group)

Global Movements for Black Lives: Deepening Columbia Law School's Engagement with Activism, Justice, and Law on Both Sides of the Atlantic

This project aims to advance racial justice by deepening opportunities for Columbia Law School affiliates to learn about, engage with, and advance global movements for Black lives by: (1) supporting the development of a reading group on global racial justice issues; (2) advancing efforts to increase diversity at CLS; and (3) increasing experiential and practical opportunities for CLS students to work in sub-Saharan Africa.

Grantees: Lauren Richardson (1L), Udodilim Nnamdi (3L), Nancy Stephen (2L), Anjli Parrin (postdoctoral research scholar)

Law School Pathways Program

The Columbia Law School Pathways Program is designed to aid first generation, low-income, and minority students from the Harlem/Bronx/Uptown area who are considering attending law school. The mission of the Columbia Law School Pathways Program is to foster ties between Columbia and its surrounding communities, increase true diversity and representation within the legal profession, and uplift traditionally forgotten groups.

Grantees: Iris Carbonel (2L), Stacy Okoro (2L), Stephanie Nnadi (2L)

Lawyering and the Quest for a Multiracial Democracy

This project will result in the taping of a podcast series of conversations alongside an evergreen website of resources meant to capture an important conversation in the current moment and address the question of how we might build a multiracial democracy and maintain it, in the truest sense, as members of the legal profession.

Grantees: Marica Wright (2L), Sneha Pandya (3L), Olatunde Johnson (faculty)

Public Interest, Public Service, and Human Rights Mentors

The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) Mentoring Program and Public Interest/Public Service (PI/PS) Fellows Mentoring Program provide first-year students with the opportunity to get the “inside scoop” about classes and faculty from second- and third-year students. In 2020-2021, these 36 students made themselves available as peer mentors to first-year students interested in public interest careers, classes, and activities.

David Berman

Katja Botchkareva

Alex Canzoneri

Bianca Chavez

Joanne Choi

Susannah Cohen

Diana Costin

Emily Drake

Raisa Elhadi

Adaeze Eze

Samuel Fishman

Abie Green

Meg Gould

Kate Kobriger

Suzi Kondic

Gus Leinbach

Megan Liu

Tanner Lockhead

Meghan Lucas

Shannon Marcoux

Bridgett McCoy

Udodilim Nnamdi

Sarah Ortlip-Sommers

Hannah Rosner

Tyler Ross

Emma Shreve

Victoria Sigle

Corinna Svarlien

Daniel Sweeney

Serena Taj

Ashley Taylor

Praveen Varanasi

Brandon Vines

Oren Vitenson

Kevin Walker

Katie Weng

Public Interest Law Foundation Board Members Honorees

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

James Barnett

Chris Dinkel

Emma Shreve

Gregory Smith

Kathleen Telfer

Brandon Vines

Philanthropic Supporters of Pro Bono, Summer, and Postgraduate Work

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

Anonymous

Rosemary E. Armstrong

Reed and Adrienne Auerbach

The Estate of William S. Beinecke

Dale and Max Berger

Vivian Olivia Berger

Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP

Vineet Bhatia

John A. Bick

Leah M. Bishop and Gary Yale

Frances E. Bivens

Robert L. Book

An Ken Chen

Annie Ang-Yee Chen

Mr. and Mrs. William David Cohan

Charles J. Conroy

Lloyd E. Constantine

Donald Crawshaw

Jennifer Tolson Curtis

Sara M. Darehshori

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Gary S. Davis

The Honorable Gray Davis

Andrew R. Dominus

Mitchell S. Eitel

Linda A. Fairstein

David F. Freedman

Elizabeth Shea Fries

Ellen V. Futter

Samir A. Gandhi

George M. Garfunkel

Herman Goldman Foundation

Gerry H. Goldsholle

David B. Goroff

Jerome L. Greene Foundation

Evelyn and Bruce Greer

The Marc Haas Foundation

Robert H. Haines ▲

Harold S. Handelsman

Jane B. Hellawell

Nobuhisa and Marcia Ishizuka

Christian A. Iwasko

Reverend Gregory A. Jacobs

The Honorable Herman N. Johnson, Jr.

Cathy M. Kaplan

Daniel G. Kelly, Jr.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Charles E. Knapp

Brian Krisberg

David A. Kurzweil

Harvey Kurzweil

Philip Allen Lacovara

David Lebenbom ▲
Jay P. Lefkowitz
Raymond Y. Lin
Susan B. Lindenauer
Jon Lindsey
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
Helen Lowenstein
Louis Lowenstein ▲
Dale W. Lum
George W. Madison
The Honorable Kerrie E. Maloney Laytin
Christina McInerney
Gertrude G. Michelson ▲
Ira M. Millstein
James and Carolyn Millstein
Morrison & Foerster
Henry and Lucy Moses Fund
Warren Motley
The Honorable Peter H. Moulton
Annette L. Nazareth
The New York Bar Foundation
New York Council of Defense Lawyers
Jay H. Newman
Noah B. Perlman
Edward F. Petrosky, Jr.
Bernard M. Plum
Edgar Rios
River Star Foundation
Carmen and Carlos Rodriguez
Ronald S. Rolfe
Robert and Susan Rosenbaum
The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenberg

Bruce E. Rosenblum
Leo Rosner Foundation
David E. Ross
Tom Rothman
Gabriel Saltarelli
Susan Saltztein and Steve Fallek
Jonathan D. Schiller
Louise Schiller
Michael J. Schmidtberger
Renee Gerstler Schwartz
Joan Scobey
Daniel L. Serota
Isaac and Jacqueline Shapiro
Sidley Austin LLP
Sidney B. Silverman
The Herbert & Nell Singer Foundation
The John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation
Christopher K. Tahbaz
Judith Reinhardt Thoyer
Athmaram Vasudevan
Mark S. Vecchio
Venable Foundation
Jonathan L. Walcoff
Howard L. Wolk

▲ Deceased