## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## PAUL BARKER '19

# Assistant District Attorney, Manhattan District Attorney's Office

Paul Barker earned his JD from Columbia in 2019. At CLS, he was an editor on the *Law Review*, a summer intern at the Knight First Amendment Institute, and a member of the Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration Clinic. Since law school, he has worked at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office as a prosecutor in the trial division, with secondary assignments in the Sex Crimes Unit and Human Trafficking Response Unit. In that job, he investigates and prosecutes some of Manhattan's most

serious felonies, including homicides, shootings, sexual assaults, and financial frauds. This past summer, he and a colleague secured the first-ever trial conviction under New York's child sex trafficking statute. Between undergrad and law school, he worked a variety of jobs. He sold waffles from a New York City food truck, taught improv comedy to Harlem high schoolers, and was a city reporter at a small newspaper in Harrisburg, Pa.



#### ESHA BHANDARI '10

Deputy Director, ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project

Esha Bhandari is the deputy director of 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. Kearse of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

# **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**

## **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.



#### **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.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **CAITLIN BOYCE '10**

### Policy Specialist, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Caitlin Boyce is a women's human rights lawyer and policy/programming professional, with a specialization in the area of women's access to justice, sexual reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence. She has more than 15 years of experience working in Australia, the Asia-Pacific, the United States and Africa, within government, the UN, national and international NGOs and in private legal practice. Caitlin currently works with UNDP as a gender and crisis specialist, to ensure

development programming aligns with UN Security Council mandates related to women peace and security. Prior to this she worked for UN Women as a human rights policy specialist, as well as with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the UN's joint response to women's access to justice. 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 2010.



## **BIANCA CHAVEZ-NORGAARD '22**

#### Law Clerk, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts

Bianca Chavez-Norgaard is serving as a law clerk to the Hon. Leo Sorokin, U.S. District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. Before starting her clerkship, Biance was a law fellow at Phillips Black: a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to capital representation. There, she assisted with capital appeals in the state and federal court systems. Bianca began working with Phillips Black in 2020 as part of Columbia's Capital Post-Conviction Practicum. Bianca earned a Bachelor's degree from Stanford University

in 2015. Prior to law school, Bianca worked on the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign. She also spent two years as a middle school teacher with Teach for America. Bianca earned a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she received the Pathways Public Interest Fellowship, Racial and Social Justice Fellowship and Lowenstein enhanced LRAP fellowship. Bianca has completed legal internships at Texas Defenders, Neufeld Scheck and Brustin LLP, and the Bronx Defenders. Bianca was also a member of the Max Berger '71 Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program, *Human Rights Law Review*, and the Native American Law Students Association Moot Court team.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **CARMEN CHEUNG '02**

### Executive Director, Center for Justice and Accountability

Carmen Cheung is Executive Director at the Center for Justice and Accountability, which is dedicated to working with impacted communities to seek truth, justice and redress for crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, and other core international crimes through innovative litigation and transitional justice strategies. An international litigator, Carmen has acted as counsel in significant public interest cases involving security and human rights, and has provided expert testimony before governments and international human rights bodies. Prior to joining CJA, she was a Professor of

Global Practice at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, where her research and teaching focused on security, terrorism, criminal justice reform, and human rights. Carmen began her legal practice as a litigation associate with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York. She received her JD From Columbia Law School and graduated with an AB in Social Studies from Harvard University.



#### **KINARA FLAGG'11**

## *Trial Attorney*, U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Housing and Civil Enforcement Section

Kinara Flagg is a trial attorney in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. Kinara focuses on investigating and prosecuting violations of civil rights laws that protect our access to housing, access to credit, and access to places of public accommodation, and that prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability status, among other protected classes. Kinara also works on cases involving

discriminatory zoning and land use. She is currently a member of the Civil Rights Division's AAPI Working Group and previously served as the Attorney Advisor to the Civil Rights Division's Fair Housing Testing Program, providing legal advice and guidance on testing investigations under the Fair Housing Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Kinara is a graduate of Columbia College and Columbia Law School, where she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, and was a James Kent Scholar. Kinara is the recipient of the 2011 Ellen P. Chapnick Award, the Holthusen-Schindler Scholarship, and the Max and Dale Berger Enhanced LRAP fellowship. Kinara clerked for Judge Rosemary S. Pooler on the Second Circuit, and for Judge Janet Bond Arterton in the District of Connecticut. Before law school, Kinara worked in homelessness services and advocacy in New York City at Homes for the Homeless and the Institute for Children and Poverty. Kinara is certified as a yoga instructor and is a retired cellist who lives in Washington DC with her family.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **MARGARET GARNETT '00**

#### Deputy U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York

Margaret Garnett is the Deputy U.S. Attorney in the office of U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Before assuming this role, she served at the Department of Investigations for 3 years after being nominated by Mayor Bill de Blasio in November 2018 and confirmed by City Council the same month. She took office on December 10, 2018 and led 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.

Garnett previously 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, 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, 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.

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. Garnett lives in Brooklyn with her husband and their twins.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **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.



#### **MADELINE GOMEZ'15**

#### Policy Counsel, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Madeline Gomez is Policy Counsel in the Public Policy, Litigation and Law Department at Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Prior to joining PPFA, she was an associate at a national plaintiff-side law firm, a litigation fellow in the U.S. Legal Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights, and an If/When/How federal policy fellow at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice. Madeline clerked for the Honorable Martha Craig Daughtrey on the United States Court of Appeals for the

Sixth Circuit and currently serves as Board President for Tamizdat, a New York-based non-profit that facilitates and advocates for international cultural mobility and exchange. She holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. from New York University.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



#### **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.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## HON. CAROLINA HOLDERNESS '06

### Judge, Criminal Court of the City of New York

Hon. Carolina Holderness is a Judge for the Criminal Court of the City of New York. Prior to her appointmen, she was 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.



## **MAYRA JOACHIN '15**

#### Staff Attorney, ACLU of Southern California

Mayra Joachín is a Staff Attorney at the ACLU of Southern California where she works on the Immigrants' Rights, Criminal Justice, and Police Practice projects. She utilizes advocacy and litigation to address immigration detention issues, challenge practices that result in overcriminalization, and combat abusive law enforcement practices. Prior to joining the ACLU, Mayra worked at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC). At NILC, she advanced the rights of low-income immigrants through impact litigation,

administrative advocacy, and technical assistance. She was counsel on cases challenging rescissions to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA"), changes to the public charge admissibility rule, and discriminatory public utilities policies. She also worked with medical providers to prevent immigration enforcement at health care facilities. Mayra holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She graduated from Columbia Law School in 2015. Her passion for her work stems from her experiences as a Salvadoran immigrant.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## AKSHAYA KUMAR '13

### Director of Crisis Advocacy, Human Rights Watch

Akshaya is a human rights advocate with a special interest in addressing the complex challenges presented by moments where collective action could help prevent mass atrocities. She currently oversees Human Rights Watch's crisis advocacy globally from its offices in New York where she's focused on Sudan, Myanmar, Israel and Palestine and other situations of crisis and conflict. Akshaya travels extensively to support the organization's work on crisis and is passionate about taking an intersectional approach

to crisis response and combating climate change. Akshaya is also a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School where she teaches a seminar on the Law and Practice of the United Nations and directs the United Nations Externship program, organizing experimental learning opportunities for about two dozen JD and LLM students every year. Akshaya joined Human Rights Watch as Deputy United Nations Director and served as one of the organization's principal representatives in New York and uses this experience to inform her law teaching. Akshaya is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She's frequently quoted in the press and has appeared as a legal commentator on CNN, MSNBC, PBS, BBC, Al Jazeera and many other international outlets. She's written opinion pieces published in the New York Times, Washington Post, NY Daily News, Newsweek, and Time magazine, among others.



#### **TYLER ANNE LEE '20**

# Attorney, Appellate Section, Criminal Division, US Department of Justice

Tyler Anne Lee is an attorney in the Appellate Section of the U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division. In that role, she briefs and argues cases in the federal courts of appeals, drafts briefs for the Solicitor General for filing in the U.S. Supreme Court, and makes recommendations to the Solicitor General as to whether further review is warranted on adverse decisions in the district courts and courts of appeals. Tyler also

assists U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country on a wide variety of federal criminal law issues. She joined the Department through the Attorney General's Honors Program after serving as a law clerk to the Hon. Dana M. Sabraw of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Tyler received her A.B. from Princeton University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was a James Kent Scholar and the Executive Editor of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **OSCAR LOPEZ '13**

Senior Staff Attorney, Mental Health Practice Group (MHPG), Disability Rights California

Oscar Daniel Lopez is a Senior Staff Attorney in the Mental Health Practice Group (MHPG) at Disability Rights California (DRC). The MHPG works to increase community mental health treatment and housing for individuals to avoid unnecessary institutionalization or homelessness. Prior to joining DRC, Oscar was the Interim Director of the Education Advocacy Clinic at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), a partnership with

Berkeley Law School. The Education Advocacy Clinic advocates for students, primarily youth of color with disabilities, who are pushed out of school and into the juvenile legal system. Oscar also partnered with grassroots community organizers to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline through local policy and statewide legislative efforts. He previously worked at Public Counsel in California and Advancement Project in Washington, DC, where he served as a Skadden Fellow. Oscar is a graduate of UCLA and Columbia Law School.



#### **PATRICIA OKONTA '18**

#### Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Patricia Okonta serves as Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). At LDF Patricia works on a variety of racial justice issues across the country including, desegregation litigation, advocacy against anti-CRT legislation, federal death row relief, parole advocacy, and challenging grooming policies that target Black people for wearing their natural hair. Prior to joining LDF as Assistant Counsel Patricia severed as a law clerk for Chief Judge Margo K. Brodie of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern

District of New York and the Honorable Jane B. Stranch in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Before clerking, Patricia was a Skadden Fellow at LDF. Patricia's Skadden project utilized public education, legislative reform, and impact litigation to successfully compel an Atlanta-area subsidized housing provider to change housing restrictions that disproportionately affected individuals of color with criminal records. At Columbia Law School, Patricia served as the Executive Editor of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review, clinical student in the Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration Clinic, executive board member of the Black Law Students' Association (BLSA), and competitor and coach of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court. She was also a research assistant for Professor Katherine Franke.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **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.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



### SUSAN BUTLER PLUM

### Senior Advisor, Skadden Foundation

Susan Butler Plum is the senior adviser for the Skadden Foundation. Before transitioning 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.



#### AMI SHAH '15

#### Deputy Director, Housing Unit, Manhattan Legal Services

Ami has dedicated her career to advocating for the housing rights of low-income New Yorkers. She has successfully defended tenants in administrative tribunals and state and federal courts, led anti-displacement focused impact litigation to counter gentrification in Manhattan neighborhoods, partnered with community-based organizations to provide multilingual resources and Know-Your-Rights trainings to the public, and assisted in the implementation of New York City's Right to Counsel law,

the first law in the nation to guarantee access to a free attorney for all low-income individuals facing eviction. She currently helps manage a housing practice of over fifty attorneys and legal workers engaging in an anti-poverty, community lawyering model of advocacy. While in law school, Ami was one of four students selected as part of the inaugural class of Pro Bono Scholars and began her career as a Poverty Justice Solutions Fellow. She received her B.A. from Boston University in 2012 and J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2015.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **JEFF STEIN '19**

#### Associate Attorney, Earthjustice

Jeff Stein is an associate attorney with the Sustainable Food & Farming Program at Earthjustice where his advocacy focuses on the climate, environmental, and public health impacts of industrial animal agriculture. He has rejoined Earthjustice after previously serving as a legal fellow with Earthjustice's Sustainable Food & Farming Program. Before returning to Earthjustice, Jeff spent time as litigation counsel to the PETA Foundation, focusing on animal protection, animal rights, consumer protection,

and freedom of speech litigation. Before his fellowship, Jeff served as a law clerk to two federal judges: the Hon. Leo T. Sorokin, U.S. District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and the Hon. Diana Gribbon Motz, U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. During law school, Jeff was an editor of the Columbia Law Review, a James Kent Scholar, and a recipient of the E.B. Convers Prize.



## **CAMILLA TAYLOR '96**

#### Director of Constitutional Litigation, Lambda Legal

Camilla B. Taylor is the Litigation Director for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people living with HIV. Taylor previously served as Director of Constitutional Litigation and Marriage Project Director for Lambda Legal. She has served as counsel on a variety of groundbreaking matters, including *Obergefell v. Hodges* (striking down all remaining laws banning same-sex

couples from marriage); *Bogan v. Baskin* (striking down Indiana's marriage ban and holding that all laws targeting people based on their sexual orientation now warrant elevated scrutiny); *Robicheaux v. Caldwell* (striking down Louisiana's marriage ban); *Varnum v. Brien* (striking down lowa's marriage ban); *Diversity Center v. Trump* (enjoining the Trump administration's ban on training and acknowledgement of systemic racism by federal contractors and grantees); *County of Santa Clara v. HHS* (vacating the Trump administration's "Denial of Care" rule that privileged religious objections over patient health care); *Karnoski v. Trump* (challenging the constitutionality of the Trump administration's ban on military service by transgender people); *Marouf v. Azar* (challenging discrimination in a federal child welfare program against foster parent applicants). Prior to joining Lambda Legal, Taylor was an attorney with the Criminal Appeals Bureau of the Legal Aid Society of New York City and a litigation associate with Shearman & Sterling. She 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 Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and serves on the American Constitution Society Chicago Chapter Board of Advisors and the Columbia Law School Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Advisory Board.

## **Practitioner Advisory Board Members**



## **BRANDON VINES '22**

### Leonard Sandler Fellow, Human Rights Watch

Brandon Vines is the Leonard Sandler Fellow with the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch, where he is focused on the US system for investigating and prosecuting genocide, war crimes, the use and recruitment of child soldiers, and other serious human rights crimes. Before law school, Brandon worked for The Carter Center monitoring the Syrian conflict and electoral violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While at Columbia Law, Brandon was a John Paul Stevens Fellow with the

Federal Defenders for the Middle District of Alabama. He spent the first half of his 2L summer as a capital intern with the Georgia Resource Center and the second half with WITNESS. Brandon was the captain of the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Moot Court, executive articles editor of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual, co-president of Columbia Law School Public Defenders, and board president of the Public Interest Law Foundation. He supported post-conflict truth-finding in the Central African Republic as a member of the Smith Family Human Rights Clinic. Brandon is a Max Berger '71 Public Interest/Public Service Fellow, inaugural Racial and Social Justice Fellow, Academic Scholar Fellow, and James Kent Scholar. He holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. in World History from Kennesaw State University.