

# 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

## ***Introduction***

**Liliana Zaragoza '13, Skadden Fellow**

**Chris Wilde '15, Herbert and Nell Singer Social Justice Fellow**

## ***Keynote Address***

**Distinguished Public Interest Graduate of the Year**

**Jin Hee Lee '00**

Deputy Director of Litigation, NAACP LDF

## ***Presentation of Student Honors***

Social Justice Initiatives Staff

## Table of Contents

[Distinguished Honoree](#)

[Honorees for post-graduate employment in public interest](#)

[Honorees for two public interest summers](#)

[Honorees for 100 or more hours of pro bono work](#)

[Honorees for in-house pro bono projects](#)

[Honorees for spring break caravans](#)

[Public interest peer mentors / SPIN buddies](#)

[Honorees for public interest philanthropy](#)

[Philanthropic supporters of pro bono, summer, and postgraduate work](#)

[Past honorees](#)

## Distinguished Graduate Honoree

---

**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

**Prium 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

Jailhouse Lawyers Manual - Human Rights Law Review

Legal Resources Centre

**Julie Hsia**

High School Law Institute

Public Defender Services of DC

**Dhruvit 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: Shahrاد 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**

#### **Human Rights Law Review--The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual**

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: Dhruvit 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 Gianni

## 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.

William F. Barron, Esq.	Mrs. Jane Hellawell
William S. Beinecke	Mr. Xing Hong
Max and Dale Berger	Sheila M. Howard
Vivian Berger	Ronald G. Isaac, Esq.
Bernstein, Litowitz, Berger & Grossmann LLP	Peter D. Isakoff
Mr. John A. Bick	Nobuhisa and Marcia Ishizuka, Esq.
Leah M. Bishop, Esq.	Phillip Isom IV
Ms. Frances E. Bivens	The John Paul Stevens Fellowship
Michael O. Braun, Esq.	Sharon T. Katz
Michael P. Carroll, Esq.	Mr. William M. Kelly
Ms. Annie Ang-Yee Chen	Daniel G. Kelly Jr., Esq.
Charles J. Conroy, Esq.	Kirkland & Ellis
Lloyd E. Constantine	Charles E. Knapp, Esq.
Barry J. Cutler, Esq.	Jay P. Lefkowitz, Esq.
Davis, Polk & Wardwell	Mr. Russell S. Light
Dentons LLP	Mrs. Susan B. Lindenauer
R. Bruce Dickinson, Esq.	Richard G. Liskov
Mary J. Eaton	Richard J. Mack
Ms. Nancy L. Evert	Christopher Mayer, Esq.
Ms. Linda A. Fairstein	James and Carolyn Millstein
David F. Freedman	Warren Motley, Esq.
The Futter Family	Alan S. Naar, Esq.
George M. Garfunkel, Esq.	NALSA
Gary F. Goldring, Esq.	Annette L. Nazareth, Esq.
Gerry H. Goldsholle, Esq.	Jay Newman
Evelyn and Bruce Greer	Noah B. Perlman, Esq.
Mr. Eugene C. Gregor	Irwin Pronin, Esq.
Barbara Treichler Gregor, Esq.	Theodore Rogers, Jr.
Mr. Edward A. Grossman	The Hon. Samuel I. Rosenberg
Ms. Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld	Bruce E. Rosenblum
Craig R. and Lori Bikson-Gurian, Esq.	Mr. Gregory S. Rowland
Robert H. Haines, Esq.	John Erik Sandstedt
Harold S. Handelsman, Esq.	Jonathan D. Schiller, Esq.
The Hebert & Nell Singer Foundation	Renee Gerstler Schwartz, Esq.
Carolyn M. Heft	Joan Scobey

Jaqueline W. Shapiro, Esq.  
Isaac Shapiro, Esq.  
Kenneth Siegel  
Sidney B. Silverman, Esq.  
Po Y. Sit, Esq.  
Professor Peter L. Strauss  
Christopher K. Tahbaz  
Alan Borden Vickery  
Christine M. Jorquera Vickery  
Anne Williams-Isom  
Howard L. Wolk  
Mrs. Helen Lowenstein  
Henry & Lucy Moses Fund, Inc.  
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**