Welcome

Erica Smock  
*Dean for Social Justice Initiatives & Public Service Lawyering*

Susan Lindenauer  
*Columbia Law School Board of Visitors Member*

Gillian Lester  
*Dean, Columbia Law School (remarks in Absentia)*

Introduction to Honoree

Brandon Joseph ‘20  
*Columbia Law School*

Keynote Address

Distinguished Public Interest Graduate of the Year  
Maya Wiley ‘89  
*Senior Vice President for Social Justice & Henry J. Cohen Professor of Public & Urban Policy at The New School*

Presentation of Student Honors

Social Justice Initiatives Staff

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2018 Distinguished Graduate Honoree

Maya Wiley is a nationally renowned expert on racial justice and equity. She has litigated, lobbied the U.S. Congress, and developed programs to transform structural racism in the U.S. and in South Africa. Ms. Wiley is currently the Senior Vice President for Social Justice at the New School and the Henry Cohen Professor of Public & Urban Policy at The New School’s Milano School of International Affairs, Management & Urban Policy.

She is the Co-Chair of the New York City Department of Education’s School Diversity Working Group, the former Chair of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the independent oversight agency on police misconduct by officers in the New York Police Department, and formerly served as Counsel to the Mayor of the City of New York from 2014-2016. As Mayor Bill de Blasio’s chief legal advisor and a member of his Senior Cabinet, Wiley was placed at the helm of the Mayor’s commitment to expanding affordable broadband access across New York City, advancing civil and human rights and gender equity, and increasing the effectiveness of the City's support for Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises. During her tenure, she also served as the Mayor's liaison to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary.

Before her position with the de Blasio Administration, Ms. Wiley was the Founder and President of the Center for Social Inclusion. She has also worked for the Open Society Foundation in the U.S. and in South Africa, the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., the American Civil Liberties Union and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York.

Ms. Wiley appears regularly on MSNBC and has written numerous Opinion-Editorials for major news outlets, including The Guardian, Time Magazine, Essence.Com, Fast Company and the NY Daily News. In 2016 Good Housekeeping Magazine honored Ms. Wiley as one of 50 over 50. City and State Magazine named Ms. Wiley one of the 100 most powerful people in New York City in 2014 and in 2015. In 2011, Wiley was named one of “20 Leading Black Women Social
Activists Advocating Change" by TheRoot.com and a Moves Power Woman in 2009 by the magazine.

Ms. Wiley holds a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law and a B.A in psychology from Dartmouth College. She resides in Brooklyn with her two daughters and her partner.

Speaker

Brandon Joseph ‘20 is currently a first year student at Columbia Law School where he is a member of the Black Law Students Association, the American Constitution Society, and is an instructor in the High School Law Institute. From 2016 to 2017, he was a policy analyst at the Office of the Counsel to the Mayor, City of New York. In that role, Brandon supported the policy initiatives of the counsel which included gender equity, civil and human rights, universal and affordable broadband deployment in New York City, and Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) development. Brandon received his A.B. in History from Princeton University.

Honorees for postgraduate employment in public interest

The following 53 J.D. and 24 LL.M. students will be working at public interest organizations or government agencies immediately after graduation or clerkship:

J.D. ‘18:

Stephen Abrams-Downey
Beulah Agbabiaka
Arielle Algarin
Stefan Armstrong
Andrew Ayala
Jacob Bogart
Elise Bonine
Isaac Brooks
Deborah Capiro
Young Eun Choi
Nicola Cohen
David Crockett
Yasmin Dagne
Carina De La Paz

John DeBellis
Ricky Garza
Zhongmou Gu
Jisoo Han
Madeline Hopper
Jesse Hubbard
Maia Hutt
Scott Johnston
Rachel LaFortune
Shengxi Li
Peter Lu
Ray Martin
Casidhe McClone
Jose Miranda

Ahmed Mori
Elizabeth Murphy
Kevin Ngai
Chijindu Obiofuma
Patricia Okonta
Ted Olds
Samuel Parnell
Joseph Payne
Kimberly Plemel
Luke Rebecchi
Carolina Rivas
Rosa Saavedra
Mitchell Schwartz
Hanna St. Marie
Honorees for two public interest summers

These 36 students spent both law school summers working for public interest organizations or government agencies:

**Stephen Abrams-Downey**
- 2016 New York City Public Advocate
- 2017 New York Legal Assistance Group

**Beulah Agbabiaka**
- 2016 Zhicheng Public Interest Law Firm
- 2017 Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

**Stefan Armstrong**
- 2016 Kings County District Attorney’s Office
- 2017 United States Air Force, JAG Corps

**Andrew Ayala**
- 2016 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
- 2017 District Attorney, Los Angeles

**Jacob Bogart**
- 2016 Legal Defense and Assistance Project
- 2017 Human Rights Watch
Elise Bonine  
2016 United Nations Mechanism for international Criminal Tribunals  
2017 Kings County District Attorney’s Office

Young Choi  
2016 Georgia Legal Services Program, Farmworker Division  
2017 Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Nicola Cohen  
2016 Legal Aid Society, Prisoners' Rights Project  
2017 Southern Center for Human Rights

David Crockett  
2016 United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division  
2017 Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Competition

Yasmin Dagne  
2016 United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson  
2017 NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Carina De La Paz  
2016 Asylum Protection Center  
2017 LatinoJustice

John Debellis  
2016 Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division  
2017 The New Hampshire Public Defender

Ricardo Garza  
2016 New York Legal Assistance Group  
2017 Texas Civil Rights Project

Zhongmou Gu  
2016 The Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School  
2017 New York State Attorney General’s Office, Antitrust Bureau

Jisoo Han  
2016 New York State Attorney General's Office  
2017 Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Competition

Maia Hutt  
2016 Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs  
2017 Earthjustice, New York
Scott Johnston
2016 Special Tribunal for Lebanon
2017 Human Rights First, Washington D.C.

Rachel LaFortune
2016 Destination Justice
2017 Human Rights Watch, Women's Rights Division

Casidhe Mcclone
2016 Santa Clara County District Attorney Office
2017 California Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Division

Jose Miranda
2016 Legal Services for New York City, Bronx
2017 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Elizabeth Murphy
2016 United States Attorney's Office, Central District of California, Civil Division
2017 United States Department of Justice, National Security Division

Kevin Ngai
2016 Office of the Public Defender, Orange County
2017 Office of the Public Defender, Orange County

Patricia Okonta
2016 United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Office of Policy and Legislation
2017 NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Kimberly Plemel
2016 New York University School of Law, Policing Project
2017 Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

Carolina Rivas
2016 Sylvia Rivera Law Project
2017 American Civil Liberties Union, LGBT Project

Rosa Saavedra Vanacore
2016 Earth Rights International
2017 Center for Constitutional Rights

Mitchell Schwartz
2016 New Orleans Public Defenders
2017 Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division
Samantha Shalowitz  
2017 Legal Aid Society, Immigration Law Unit  
2018 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Catherine Urbanelli  
2016 New York Legal Assistance Group  
2017 Catholic Charities, Immigrant and Refugee Department

Alexandra Valdez  
2016 Los Angeles County Public Defender  
2017 Bronx Defenders, Criminal Defense Project

Caroline Voldstad  
2016 Center for Court Innovation  
2017 Lawyers for Children

Jennifer Westphal  
2016 Queens County District Attorney's Office  
2017 Kings County District Attorney’s Office

Kyle Wilson  
2016 Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, Civil Legal Team  
2017 Office of the District Attorney, Sonoma County

Phoebe Wolfe  
2016 Brooklyn Family Court, Judge Judith Waksberg  
2017 Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division

Haoyang Zhang  
2016 Human Rights Now  
2017 United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, Judge Juan R. Torruella

Yilin Zhu  
2016 New York State Supreme Court  
2017 New York State Department of Financial Services

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**Honorees Pro Bono Scholars Program**

*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. Columbia's 2018 Pro Bono Scholars are working with member organizations of the Legal Advocacy Partnership, a collaborative network of direct civil legal services providers. The Pro
Bono Scholars took the February 2018 New York bar exam and will be admitted very soon after graduation if they satisfy the Pro Bono Scholars Program Requirements.

Enrique Colón-Bacó
Lauren Cullen
Hope Daily
Jose Miranda
George Najjar
Ariel Rivera
Rosa Saavedra-Vanacore

Honorees for 100 or more hours of pro bono work

The following 62 students have performed at least 100 hours of pro bono service since their first day at Columbia Law School (as of March 15):

**Class of 2018:**
Beulah Iyabo Agabiaika
Jonathan W. Allen
Chloe Bootstaylor
Nathan J. Bu
Alexandra G. Chelesnik
Christine W. Chen
Yilin Chen
Marieugenia Cardenas
Barbara Carina De La Paz
Katherine Y. Ebright
Thomas Enering
Oyere Etta
Hayley Farmer
Rachel M Fleig-Goldstein
Cristell Fortune
John William Fraser
Hui Zhen Gan
Jack L. Hill
Colin O. Hill
Alexander P. Hoffman
Madeline Kelsey Hopper
Jesse Hubbard
Maia Danaid Hutt
Amna Ilyas
Michael Benjamin Kahn
Peter J. Kanellias
Yun Li
Hannah R. Lutz
Rachel E. MacDonald
Casidhe B. McClone
Patricio Martinez-Llompart
Amy L McMahon
Ariella Esther Muller
Julie-Irene A. Nkodo
Rebecca Marie Nocharli
Colleen A. O'Donnell
Patricia N. Okonta
JiHyun Park
Samuel C. Parnell
Joseph Robert Rausch
Jillian L. Ruben
Maxwell C. Schechter
Madeleine Ulrikke Skeid
Dylan G. Swanson
Adam Swingle
Alexia Ageliki Syrmos
Maxwell Colin Tobin
Alexandra C. Valdez
Phoebe M. Wolfe
Xuan Wu
Rucheng Yang
Christina M. Zhang

**Class of 2019:**
Melissa Castillo
Jung Min Cho
Shane Kathryn Ferro
Evan H. Goldsher
Maxim A. Miroff
Ana Sofia Pirnia
Lee C. Rarrick
Emily Frances Romeyn
Yeden Um
Honorees for in-house pro bono projects

Columbia’s 26 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 2017-18, the following in-house projects were led by the students named below:

**Black Law Students Association/Latino/a Law Students Association**
**Resilience Advocacy Project**: Students work with 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, public benefits and education, in order to help teens build social-justice-focused youth advocacy clinics in their communities. **Student Leader: Tomi Williams**

**Columbia Law School Military Association**
**Veterans Legal Assistance Project – New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)**: Law students meet with Veteran clients and their families to prepare benefits applications and develop the strongest cases possible. Students work on PTSD claims, Agent Orange-related disability claims, discharge upgrades, sexual assault claims and appeals. Students work simultaneously for multiple clients on various stages of the benefits application process. Students are the main point of contact at NYLAG for each of their clients and will keep clients informed of case progress by telephone and in person. **Student Leader: Jessie Feng**

**Columbia Law Women’s Association**
**CLWA/HerJustice Intake project**: Students engaged in the project assist HerJustice staff in conducting intake for potential clients seeking to receive legal services. Participation in the project requires a commitment of at least three four hours shifts per semester. Students are trained in conducting phone intakes with clients, entering the information into our web based database, and writing a summary for our attorneys to review. Students also assist with drafting documents for divorce or immigration cases. Students have direct client contact, developing intake interviewing skills, basic education in family, matrimonial and immigration law and experience working with a legal database. **Student Leader: Andrea Metz**

**The Domestic Violence Project**
**U-Visa Project**: 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, 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: Emily Tu and Stephanie Colorado**
The Domestic Violence Project
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: Sophie Gandler and Erika Vanhorne**

The Domestic Violence Project
Uncontested Divorce Workshop: Law student volunteers participating in the Uncontested Divorce Workshop help victims of domestic violence attain uncontested divorces from their abusers. Under the supervision of attorneys from Sanctuary for Families, each two-student team meets with a client and helps the client prepare and file papers for the divorce process. From this process, students can get experience working directly with a client while developing a better understanding of the issue of domestic violence. Completion of the project also involves learning and executing the procedure for filing for an uncontested divorce in the state of New York. This includes learning to draft and revise initial and final papers, as well as learning the rules around service and filing. **Student Leader: Yerin Pak**

The Domestic Violence Project
Human Trafficking Intervention Court Project: Students work with Sanctuary for Families attorneys to interview foreign-born individuals with cases before the Human Trafficking Intervention Court and identify any trafficking-based or other immigration remedies potentially available to them. **Student Leader: Natalie Cha**

High School Law Institute (HSLI)
HSLI has law school students spend 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 our student-teachers learn in their classroom and extracurricular settings plays directly into their lesson plans. **Student Leader: Clara Kent**

If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Through If/When/How’s Legal Research Initiative (LRI), volunteer law students and legal professionals are matched with partner organizations around the country to complete a wide variety of legal research projects. Projects can be short-term or longer-term, can be completed remotely, and have flexible time commitments. Legal research is supervised either by the partner organization’s legal staff or by If/When/How’s in-house Legal Fellow. **Student Leader: Juliana Bennington**

The Jailhouse Lawyer’s Manual
The Jailhouse Lawyer’s Manual (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: Mitchell Schwartz**

Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Working with attorneys from the City Bar Justice Center, students are assigned a client at a local homeless shelter and advocate for the resolution of various legal issues on their client’s behalf.
Students commonly work on issues related to public assistance, immigration, employment, and family law. **Student Leader: Mitchell Schwartz**

**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 establish a strong mentoring relationship with individual students through one-on-one tutoring and guidance. They also adjudicate a series of four exciting debates, all conducted at CLS. **Student Leader: Katherine Nunez**

**Public Defender Students of CLS**

**Columbia Bail Fund (CBF):** Designed in partnership with the Bronx Freedom Fund, CBF participants work on the frontlines of bail reform in New York City and make a real impact in the lives of low-income clients. Members train to become licensed bail bond agents in New York state, working closely with the Bronx Freedom Fund and building knowledge of the criminal justice and bail systems inside and out. Students conduct client interviews, contribute legal research, and help the Freedom Fund in their mission to minimize the collateral consequences of criminal prosecution and demonstrate that our current system of cash bail is unjust and unnecessary. **Student Leaders: Victoria Xie and Dorothy Weldon**

**Queer and Trans People of Color**

**Transgender Legal Defense 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. This involves both helping the client file name change documents and representing them in a hearing before the court. Students learn valuable written and oral advocacy skills and gain firsthand experience interacting with clients. **Student Leader: Ed Costikyan**

**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 Leader: Tim Cuffman**

**The Rightslink Research and Advocacy Program (RAP):** RAP gives students (J.D.s and LL.M.s) the chance to join a dedicated human rights advocacy community and participate in exciting human rights research ongoing at CLS. **Student Leader: Jacob Bogart**

**Society or Immigrant and Refugee Rights**

**International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP):** CLS students partner with attorneys to help refugees primarily located in the Middle East navigate the refugee resettlement process. Students volunteer to take on a case under the supervision of attorneys at major New York law firms, assisting a client with the preparation of submissions to and interviews with UNHCR, IOM, and DHS through the case’s completion (likely a multi-year commitment) or assist IRAP
National with their client intake process by screening potential new clients (a one-year commitment). **Student Leader: Tyler Finn**

**Kids in Need of Defense (KIND):** KIND serves children facing deportation who would not otherwise have legal representation. The project includes court observation, legal research, and client interviews. **Student Leader: Hilary Rosenthal**

**Immigration Equality:** Students assist attorneys at Immigration Equality with asylum applications for LGBT immigrants. Students can sign up to 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 also apply to work on an entire asylum application over the course of a semester under the supervision of an attorney from Immigration Equality. **Student Leader: Victoria Fydrych**

**Church World Service:** A prominent non-profit in the fields of global development and immigrant and refugee rights, Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946 and now has offices all over the world. CWS's low-fee and pro bono programs are open to all immigrants and refugees, regardless of their religious affiliation. Students assist CWS’s senior staff attorneys with its immigration and refugee program. **Student Leader: Argemira Florez**

**Asylum Seekers Advocacy Project (ASAP):** Columbia students collaborate with law school students from around the country to assist in creating two guides focused on asylum claims: (1) A guide focused on expedited removal proceedings; and (2) A start-to-finish toolkit/guide on assisting pro se applicants with asylum applications. Additionally, students can pick up discrete assignments to contribute various aspects to an ASAP client’s case, like writing letters to the court, helping draft motions, and doing translation work. **Student Leader: Victoria Fydrych**

**Suspension Representation Project**
The Suspension Representation Project is a pro bono project in which law students represent New York City public school students at their suspension hearings. This project is ideal for students looking for practical litigation experience and/or interested in youth, education, or school-to-prison pipeline issues. **Student Leaders: Maeghan Murphy and Justin Metz**

**Tenants’ Rights Project**
**SRO Law Project and NMIC Legal Services:** Students assist attorneys at local community organizations 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: Victoria Xie**

**Manhattan Legal Services Housing Intake Clinic:** During housing intake clinic sessions, students conduct one-on-one intake interviews with potential low-income clients, helping to assess legal issues presented in the case, as well as potential defenses and evidence for litigation. Work is performed by students under the supervision of housing attorneys at Manhattan Legal Services. **Student Leader: Ashley Dalton**
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
The Animal Legal Defense Fund fights to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. This project provides a chance to complete legal research, writing, and fact investigation on pending animal litigation issues and cases. Animal law permeates most traditional areas of the law — including tort, contract, criminal, and constitutional law. The animals involved range from companion animals and wildlife, to animals used in entertainment, research, and raised for food. **Student Leader: Ashley Gregor**

Workers’ Rights Student Coalition
The Employment Unit of the Legal Aid Society has partnered with the Columbia Law Workers' Rights Student Coalition to create a pro bono opportunity for students to complete discrete research assignments remotely or at the Legal Aid Office. The research assignments range in content and are immediately useful to the unit in its endeavors. Tasks include investigating developments in the city, state, and federal levels of employment law and updating "Know Your Rights" materials for workers in New York City. **Student Leader: Dan Richards**

Honorees for Spring Break Caravans
Groups of Columbia Law students spent 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 2018, 138 students participated in the following 23 caravans, led by the students named below:

**Alaska Legal Services Corporation**
*Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) and If/When/How*
Students worked with Alaska Legal Services in their Anchorage office and surroundings, along with possibly some work in rural Alaska, to help provide direct legal services, particularly with the Native Law Unit. Students had the opportunity to work with the Unit to help represent Alaskan tribal government clients, help with direct legal services such as will writing and family law, developing a Know Your Rights project under the Indian Child Welfare Act, and other projects centering on Alaska Native issues and reproductive rights. **Student Leader: Agatha Erickson**

**Bronx Defenders**
*Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)*
The Bronx Defenders are credited with pioneering the concept of the “holistic defense.” Clients defended by the Bronx Defenders aren’t just given an attorney: they’re assigned to a team, which includes not only attorneys but also social workers, to help them resolve not just their case but a host of problems. The focus is not just getting people out of jail, but keeping them out. The Bronx Defenders has criminal attorneys, family attorneys (who represent parents whose children have been taken away), and a housing attorney. Caravan participants will work on projects in one of 3 areas: criminal defense, family defense or civil litigation. **Student Leader: Shikha Pandey**
California Appellate Project
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)
Student projects in the past have included marshaling facts and research for habeas petitions; reviewing client files and transcripts as necessary to research and obtain critical life history records for the representation of a capital defendant; creating a life chronology of existing client records to assist attorneys and investigators representing a capital client; assisting with legal research concerning prison or records-gathering issues on an as-needed basis; drafting an update to CAP’s website publication using the results of this research and/or drafting an advocacy letter on behalf of a client or clients; performing factual research concerning a California prison or jail or juvenile detention facility to assist with institutional failure claims; ordering legislative materials; performing web research & legal research into lawsuits against the prison; contacting local newspapers & libraries for information; drafting an authoritative memorandum about that particular prison to be published on website; performing substantive research into an institutional failure related topic -- e.g. prison gangs; client advocacy: performing legal research into a client and/or prison related issue; assisting client with pursuing a grievance or court case.
Student Leader: Armando Lozano

CLWA Spring Break Caravan at California Women’s Law Center
Sponsored by Columbia Law Women’s Association (CLWA)
California Women’s Law Center (CWLC) has served as a unique advocate in California, working in collaboration with others 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. The work CWLC does varies from gender discrimination, campus sexual assault, reproductive justice, women's health, and violence against women. Students have worked on assignments that included researching Title IX issues, conducting intake interviews, and drafting letters relating to intake.
Student Leader: Andrea Metz

Domestic Violence Project Spring Break Caravan
Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project (DVP)
The Texas Advocacy Project mission is to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout Texas through free legal services, access to the justice system, and education. Students participating on this caravan had the opportunity to develop research and writing skills while also assisting with larger drafting projects and client screening. Students also assisted staff attorneys working on pro se projects with hearing or trial preparations, as well as discovery. The board worked tirelessly to raise funding to ensure that students were able to attend this caravan, earn pro bono experience, and enjoy their Spring Break in Austin.
Student Leader: Rachel Guest

Global Migrations: Refugee Law in Germany
Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law
Students traveled to Hamburg to help with the asylum process and to see how Germany is handling migration flows, especially as the American administration takes steps to further restrict migration. Students worked through the hot points of the asylum process in Germany—
arrival, application, relocation, and appeal.

**Student Leader: Caroline Wattenmaker**

**Hurricane Harvey Environmental Legal Relief Efforts**
*Sponsored by Environmental Law Student Association*
Students researched on mass and toxic torts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

**Student Leader: Radhika Kannan**

**Hurricane María Legal Assistance – Puerto Rico**
*Sponsored by Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)*
The Caravan focused on providing legal services to citizens in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane María. The initiative focused on assisting attorneys with cases involving (1) FEMA Relief requests; (2) labor and employment law; and (3) housing law.

**Student Leader: Patricio Martínez Llompart**

**Immigrant Family Detention: Berks, PA**
*Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)*
Students worked with ALDEA to fight for the rights of asylum-seeking families in extended detention in Berks, PA. Currently the population there includes many fathers with their children, in addition to some families who have notoriously been detained for as long as two years. Students helped prepare new arrivals for their Credible Fear Interviews before an Asylum Officer and also had opportunities to assist ALDEA attorneys with impact litigation work regarding long-term immigrant detention. Berks is the oldest and smallest of three family detention centers in the U.S.

**Student Leader: Alma Gonzalez**

**Immigrant Family Detention: Karnes, TX**
*Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)*
Students worked with attorneys at RAICES to represent asylum-seeking mothers and their children at the second largest family detention center in the U.S. in Karnes City, Texas. Students took a trauma-based approach in assisting with the weekend clinic, where they interviewed women before or after their Credible Fear Interviews. Students also assisted in drafting advocacy declarations with the policy director about the conditions at Karnes Detention Center and at the border. Students also had the opportunity to work with RAICES attorneys on important immigrants' rights projects such as their Humanitarian Parole Project, their Unaccompanied Minors Project, or their U-Visa project.

**Student Leader: Ruth O’Herron**

**Immigrants’ and Civil Rights Advocacy: El Paso, TX**
*Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)*
Students worked on a range of important advocacy issues in the border city of El Paso, Texas, with two local organizations—Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center and Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project. Most students went to Las Americas to provide direct legal services to immigrants, including interviewing, research, visits to clients in detention, and assistance with bond hearings, which they had the chance to attend. A few students went to Paso del Norte to
research and write on voting rights, racial and criminal justice issues, and novel constitutional questions affecting detained immigrants and the broader immigrant community. All students had the opportunity to tour the U.S.-Mexico border fence.

**Student Leader: Andrea Roman-Gonzalez and Baldemar Gonzalez**

**International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP): Amman, Jordan**

*Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)*

Students had the opportunity to see, first hand, what IRAP and its partner organizations are doing on the ground in Amman, Jordan. Students met with agencies and NGOs assisting refugees in the broader Middle East, and learned how to interview refugees in order to conduct 1–2 in-person intake interviews with potential IRAP clients. Columbia students with existing IRAP clients may have had the unique opportunity to meet them in person.

**Student Leader: Kasia Robak**

**Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)**

*Sponsored by Latino/a Law Student Association (LaLSA)*

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) protects unaccompanied children who enter the U.S. immigration system alone to ensure that no child appears in court without an attorney. Students assisted attorneys with intake interviews, conducted legal research, assisted in writing asylum briefs as well as cover letters for prosecutorial discretion, and also had the opportunity to go to court.

**Student Leader: Paul Baker**

**Louisiana Death Penalty Caravan**

*Sponsored by Black Law Students Association*

Capital Assistance Project & Promise of Justice Initiative aim to end the death penalty, inhumane conditions, and racial discrimination in Louisiana. The organizations operate as both policy reformers and a legal/trial-representation for capital defendants. Students worked on policy and legal assignments for the organizations.

**Student Leader: Tomi Williams**

**Miami Dade Public Defender**

*Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)*

The Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office handles approximately 85,000 cases each year, with approximately 10,000 cases open at any given time. It is divided into several major divisions concerning appellate review, felony litigation, juvenile delinquency litigation and misdemeanor and traffic court matters. Students worked on research projects that included involvement for every student with open trial cases and client contact.

**Student Leader: Andrew Howard**

**NYLAG Immigrant Protection Unit**

*Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)*

Students worked with attorneys in NYLAG’s community-based immigration clinics to conduct legal screenings or provide specific application assistance. Some clinics are focused on providing general legal immigration screenings to help individuals to determine eligibility for various forms of immigration relief, including family based petitions, deferred action, T and U visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and asylum, while others are designed to provide
specific application assistance for some immigration benefits like Naturalization or Temporary Protected Status.

Student Leader: Irnya Malakhouskaya

Orleans Public Defender Caravan
Sponsored by Black Law Students Association
The Orleans Public Defenders (OPD) 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 this mission by working on projects with OPD team members.
Student Leader: Tomi Williams

Procedural Asylum Assistance: Messina, Italy
Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)
Students worked with law professors and local NGOs in Messina, Italy, to help improve the asylum procedures through which refugees arriving from North Africa are being processed in Sicily and nearby islands. Students researched EU asylum law and African country conditions in order to prepare Know Your Rights materials for the refugees, most of whom speak English. Students also assisted with preparing guidance documents for government officials and "guardians" of unaccompanied refugee minors, and had the chance to assist local lawyers with appeals.
Student Leader: Jessica Heymach

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)
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. PDS is a federally funded, independent organization, governed by an eleven-member Board of Trustees. Typical projects for law clerks include drafting motions for trials, crafting strategy for cases, and/or drafting appellate briefs for the D.C. Court of Appeals. Students worked on appeals, trial or parole.
Student Leader: Tyler Lee

San Jose State University Record Clearance Project
Sponsored by Society for Chinese Law (SCL)
Participants received training on expungement law and assisted their individual clients to complete petitions for dismissal of eligible criminal convictions in court. Early in the week, participants participated in a court hearing regarding Records Clearance cases. Students also attended talks by former clients and a judge on the importance of clearing criminal record. This is a repeat caravan that has been held successfully for the past 5 years.
Student Leader: Gary Li

Vaša Prava
Sponsored by Rightslink
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 across a
range of areas. The content of the work and cases was determined by the interests of the students selected to attend the caravan, but generally covered anti-discrimination law, refugee law, and European law.

**Student Leader: Jacob Bogart**

**Wisconsin Wills**  
*Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)*  
Students traveled to Wisconsin to work with non-profit Wisconsin Judicare to draft wills, powers of attorney, and provide other basic estate planning services on different Native American reservations throughout the State of Wisconsin.  
**Student Leader: Juliana Bennington**

**Workers Defense Project- Houston Harvey Relief**  
*Sponsored by Workers' Rights Student Coalition*  
Workers Defense Project is a membership-based organization that empowers low-income workers in Texas to achieve fair employment, with a focus on the construction industry. Texas is ground zero for workers' rights -- we are the only state in the country that does not require workers compensation, one in five construction workers reports experiencing wage theft, and overtime pay is not required under state law. Students had the opportunity (1) to support individual casework by meeting with our members, completing legal research, and assisting with case management, (2) to complete legal research projects to strengthen our legal services program and support policy initiatives, (3) to participate in our weekly membership meetings and case review meetings, and (4) participate in other ongoing activities and projects.  
**Student Leader: Whitney Lee**

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**Public Interest SPIN Buddies**

The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) Buddies Program and the Public Interest Peer 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 2017-2018, these students made themselves available as peer mentors to first-year students interested in public interest careers, classes, and activities.

Benjamin Bennett    Ngozi Esomonu    Andrew Kuntz  
Juliana Bennington    Alma Gonzalez    Shengxi Li  
Katherine Berry    Ashley Gregor    Claire Marsden  
Jacob Bogart    Carol Guerrero    Nia Morgan  
Elise Bonine    Rachel Guest    Jordan Murov-Goodman  
Meaghan Brennan    Mitchell Hokanson    Palvasha Shahab  
Lizette Ceja    Madeline Hopper    Edward Smith  
Alex Carvajal    Emily Hush    Hanna Lang St. Marie  
Melissa Castillo    Ankit Jain    Jeffrey Stein  
Theresa Dernbach    Kaitlyn Karpenko    Emily Tu
Honorees for public interest philanthropy

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

Public Interest Law Foundation Board

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Riley Hanrahan
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Shiv Patel
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Konrad Thallner
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Terry “TJ” Wong
Daniel Yoon

Dean’s Cup

Claire Marsden
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Krushee Patel
Daniel Rosenfeld

Justin Yun

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.

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Alan Borden Vickery and Christine Vickery
Anne Williams-Isom
Distinguished Honorees (2003 - 2016)

SJI annually honors public service lawyers, usually Columbia graduates, for their leadership, their achievements regarding issues of current importance and their service as inspirational models for students seeking to do public interest and substantial pro bono work after graduation.

2017  Judith Browne Dianis, CLS ‘92
       Executive Director, The Advancement Project

2016  Jin Hee Lee, CLS ’00
       Deputy Director of Litigation, NAACP LDF

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

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