

2020 Public Interest Honorees

2020 Public Interest Honorees

Columbia Law School
Social Justice Initiatives

Distinguished Graduate

Brenda Pipestem '99

*Associate Justice,
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Supreme Court
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Supreme Court*

Columbia Law School Staff

Gillian Lester

Dean and Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law

Erica Smock

*Dean for Social Justice Initiatives & Public
Service Lawyering*

Haley Harvis

Part-time 1L and LL.M. Adviser

Maddie Kurtz

*Director of Public Interest Professional
Development*

Tory Messina

Senior Career Adviser: Grad Advising

Nadine Mompremier

*Assistant Director of Pro Bono and Summer
Programs*

Devi Patel

*Assistant Director, Public Interest/Public
Service Fellows Program*

Rachel Pauley

Director of Government Programs

Kiran Singh

Senior Career Adviser

Cassandre Theano

*Assistant Director of Human Rights and
Public International Law*

Natalie Stephenson

Assistant Director of Operations

Rebecca Hinde

*Coordinator for Communications and
Postgraduate Fellowships*

Iliana Ortega

Coordinator for Summer Programs

Diana Pedi

Programming Coordinator

Kathy Santana

*Coordinator for Pro Bono and the Public
Interest/Public Service Fellows Program*

Table of Contents

- I. 2020 Distinguished Graduate
- II. 2020 Public Interest Honors
 - a. Postgraduate Employment in Public Interest or Public Service
 - b. Two Public Interest or Public Service Summers
 - c. Completed 100 or More Hours of Pro Bono Service
 - d. In-House Pro Bono Project Leaders
 - e. Spring Break Caravan Leaders
 - f. Public Interest, Public Service, and Human Rights Mentors
 - g. Public Interest Law Foundation Board Members
 - h. Social Justice Initiatives All-Star Honorees
- III. Philanthropic Supporters of Pro Bono, Summer, and Postgraduate Work
- IV. Past Distinguished Graduate Honorees

2020 Distinguished Graduate*



BRENDA T. PIPESTEM '99, a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, has dedicated her life to empowering tribal communities and protecting the sovereignty of American Indian Tribes through education, law, policy, philanthropy, and support of the arts.

Pipestem serves as a Justice on the Supreme Courts of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. In addition, Brenda serves on the Advisory Circle of the Spirit Aligned Leadership Program for Indigenous Women elders. Brenda previously worked for the White House Commission on Race under President Bill Clinton, and the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, working with Tribes on national and local policy issues and serving a legislative detail with the U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and Related Agencies.

Brenda served consecutive three-year terms on the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees for two years and Chair of the Repatriation Committee for three years prior. Brenda currently serves on the Board for the Booker T. Washington Foundation for Excellence, the Board of Advisors for the University of Tulsa Center for the Humanities, and on the Tulsa United Way Board of Directors.

Brenda is an alumna of Duke University (Public Policy Studies, B.A. '90) and Columbia Law School (J.D. '99). Brenda and Wilson Pipestem parent four wonderfully strong-minded children. They moved to Oklahoma in 2013 from the Washington, DC area.

* Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Honors Dinner, Honorable Pipestem was unable to receive her award this year. We look forward to honoring her in 2021.

Postgraduate Employment in Public Interest or Public Service Honorees

The following **52** J.D. and **30** LL.M. students plan to work at public interest, government, or human rights organizations immediately after graduation or will be clerking for a judge.

J.D. 2020:

Meredith Abrams	Ibrahim Diallo	Tyler Lee
Sarah Al-Saadi	Emma DiNapoli	Jessica Marder-Spiro
Michael Altman-Lupu	Ellie Dupler-McClintock	Mary Marshall
Brandyn Arnold	John Finnegan	Bret Matera
Barak Bacharach	Judrick Fletcher	Elizabeth McAvoy
Tessa Baizer	Grant Gerard	Holli McClean
Isela Banuelos	Kaushik Guswami	Amanda McNally
Tyler Becker	Elizabeth Hayden	Olivia Morrison
Max Bernstein	Devyn Hebert	Anton Nemirovski
Elimelech Brander	Virginia Hill Butler	Andrea Nishi
Edward Brandt	Sarah Hong	Elizabeth Parizh
Tiffani Burgess	Eli Huscher	Karen Kadish Reitman
Audrey Chao	Nicandro Iannacci	Elizabeth Rivera Cruz
Alex Clavering	Vendarryl Jenkins	Jordana Signer
Edmund Costikyan	Hope Kerpelman	Zack Struver
Brian Cunningham	Allison Langley	Sudi Tasissa

Abigail Unger

Alyssa Weinstein

Ashwini Velchamy

Will Wilder

LL.M. 2020:

Bamisope Adeyanju

Chinmay Kanojia

Mihir Samson

Francisco Aras

Katie Lee

Clare Skinner

Fildza Nabila Avianti

Isabel Mejia Llano

Jonathan Michael Hall

Neshevida Balasubramanian

Namrata Basant Maheshwari

Spence

Nora Braun

Namrata Mukherjee

Sarah Stein

Zoe Bush

Ingrid Muller

Victoria Taban

Ian Ernst Chai

Alexandra Murphy

Jacob Taylor

Manel Chibane

Whitney-Martina Nosakhare

Allison Wong

Carolyne Clermont

Nishadee Perera

Eira Arb Zackrisson

Jorge Fernandez

Donald Rhodes

Alice Gardoll

Maria Rocha

Two Public Interest or Public Service Summers Honorees

These 56 third-year students spent two summers in public interest or public service.

Meredith Abrams	Ellie Dupler-McClintock	Elizabeth McAvoy
David Alpert	John Finnegan	Holli McClean
Sara Al-Saadi	Judrick Fletcher	Amanda McNally
Michael Altman-Lupu	Grant Gerard	Olivia Morrison
Brandyn Arnold	Kaushik Guswami	Andrea Nishi
Tessa Baizer	Elizabeth Hayden	Elizabeth Parizh
Isela Banuelos	Devyn Hebert	Stephen Piotrkowski
Tyler Becker	Virginia Hill Butler	Karen Kadish Reitman
Max Bernstein	Sarah Hong	Elizabeth Rivera Cruz
Elimelech Brander	Eli Huscher	Stephen Schmitt
Edward Brandt	Nicandro Iannacci	Jordana Signer
Tiffani Burgess	Esther Jaing	Zack Struver
Junqin Cai	Vendarryl Jenkins	Sudi Tasissa
Audrey Chao	Hope Kerpelman	Abigail Unger
Alex Clavering	Allison Langley	Ashwini Velchamy
Edmund Costikyan	Tyler Lee	Alyssa Weinstein
Brian Cunningham	Jessica Marder-Spiro	Will Wilder
Ibrahim Diallo	Mary Marshall	Daniel Yoon
Emma DiNapoli	Bret Matera	

Pro Bono Scholars Honorees

New York State Bar Pro Bono Scholars Program

Announced by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in his 2014 State of the Judiciary address, the Pro Bono Scholars Program allows students to devote their last semester in law school to a program that combines a dedicated law school class with pro bono service for the underserved.

Columbia's 2020 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 2020 New York Bar exam and will be admitted soon after graduation.

Kayla Butler

Jabari Julien

Dina Kang

Omobilaji Ogunsola

Krusheeta Patel

Chevaun Samuels

Honorees for 100 or More Hours of Pro Bono Work

The following 56 students have performed at least 100 hours of pro bono service since their first day at Columbia Law School.

Class of 2020:

David Alpert	Evan Gabor	Mary Marshall
Alexander Bavis	Emily Gerry	Bret Matera
Gelsey Beaubrun	Nicole Groysman	Elizabeth McAvoy
Max Bernstein	Timothy Hagan	Ian Meyer
Naomi Biden	Christen Hammock	Jun Nam
Emma DiNapoli	Virginia Butler Hill	Ryan Olson
Anuj Dixit	Nicandro Iannacci	Karen Kadish Reitman
Ellie Dupler-McClintock	Preston Irace	Emilie Schwarz
Daniel Fernandez	Alexander Kim	Zack Struver
Max Fiest	Idun Klakegg	Malina Welman
John Finnegan	Brendan Krinsky	Xiaotian Yao
David Fischer	Kathryn Kuethman	

Class of 2021:

Adnane Ayeb	Hunter Carrell	Jacob Elkin
Tal Ben-Moshe	Connor Clerkin	Hanna Jeon
Jaime Brosnan	Benjamin Dale	Hanna Lauritzen

Jenna Lauter

Conrad Noronha

Natalie Roy

Bou Lee

Stephen Piotrkowski

Megan Sullivan

Jia LingLi

Michelle Reichman

Samuel Truesdell

Ilana Madorsky

Julia Rigal

Victoria Taban

Class of 2022:

Anita Kapur

In-House Pro Bono Project Leaders Honorees

Columbia's student-run in-house pro bono projects are ongoing partnerships between Columbia Law School and legal services organizations and/or law firms in the community. In 2019-2020 the following in-house projects were led by the students named below:

Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

Alliance of Families for Justice (AFJ)

AFJ's work focuses on legal issues that affect the rights, concerns and quality of life of incarcerated people and their families. These issues may include a family member denied or banned from visiting their loved one, or allegations made by incarcerated persons of physical abuse by staff members.

Student Leader: Hunter Carrell

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

U-Visa Project:

Participants represent undocumented low-income victims of domestic violence seeking a path to U.S. 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: Jeeyoon Chung and Ellie Brinck-Johnsen

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

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 Leader: Sarah Ortlip-Sommers

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

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 gain 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 (who is able to serve

the papers, when must the papers be served, etc.) and filing.

Student Leader: Stephen Hogan-Mitchell

The Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Human Trafficking Intervention Court:

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

Student Leader: Prakriti Luthra

EHHOP Legal Clinic:

Students interact directly with clients at the intake stage by screening and collecting information about their legal concerns. Students then conduct research into ways to assist the clients.

Students draft memos about their research and submit it to their attorney partner. Students may also assist clients who need further assistance such as filing petitions, going to court, etc.

Students work with their attorney partner as necessary to provide these services.

Student Leader: Samantha Hawkins

High School Law Institute (HSLI)

Participants 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 gain in their classroom and extracurricular settings contributes directly to their lesson plans.

Student Leader: Hunter Carrell

Human Rights Law Review

The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual (JLM)

The JLM is a handbook of legal rights and procedures distributed to thousands of prisoners across the country each year by Columbia's *Human Rights Law Review*. Student volunteers write, update, edit, and cite check discrete sections of the JLM and its various state supplements.

Students interested in immigration law can also work on the JLM Immigration Law Supplement.

Student Leader: Delia Arias De Leon

Human Rights Law Review

"Trump Tracker"

Students compile a record of human rights violations committed by the current administration, with a list of the rights violated by each action. This is grounded in a knowledge of human rights law. Before each post is published on the website, the HRI supervisor ensures that it accurately describes the situation and that the description of the rights violated conforms with human rights law.

Student Leader: Farah Mokhtar

If/When/How

Abortion Decriminalization Project

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

Student Leader: Anita Yandle

Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Working with attorneys from the City Bar Justice Center, students staff a legal clinic at a homeless shelter, and 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: Annie Xie

Outlaws and Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC)

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, supervised by attorneys from Sullivan and Cromwell. Students learn valuable written and oral advocacy skills and gain firsthand experience interacting with clients.

Student Leader: Brett Donaldson

Prison Healthcare Initiative (PHI)

PHI helps people who are incarcerated and cannot afford counsel access healthcare in prison. Students help people in prison navigate the administrative requirements of the prison healthcare system and complete occasional research tasks. This project involves supporting Professor Harcourt's client.

Student Leader: Hannah Rosner

Rightslink

Research and Advocacy Program (RAP)

The Rightslink Research and Advocacy Program (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 Columbia Law School.

Student Leader: Meg Gould

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)**Church World Service (CWS):**

A prominent nonprofit in the fields of global development and immigrant and refugee rights, CWS was founded in 1946 and now has offices all over the world. Its headquarters are right next to campus at 475 Riverside Drive. CWS's low-fee and pro bono programs are open to all immigrants and refugees, regardless of their religious affiliation. Columbia Law students assist CWS's senior staff attorneys with its immigration and refugee program, doing anything from advocacy to managerial work.

Student Leader: Samuel Truesdell

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) and Latinx Law Students Association (LaLSA)**Immigration Court Helpdesk (ICH):**

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

Student Leader: Brenda Gonzalez Rueda

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)**International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP):**

Students partner with attorneys to help refugees primarily located in the Middle East navigate the refugee resettlement process. Students get involved with one of two exciting IRAP opportunities: (1) as an intake volunteer to help IRAP's National Office identify clients for resettlement, and (2) as a caseworker, working in-depth with a client on their resettlement case.

Student Leaders: Meg Gould and Sana Singh

Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)**New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG):**

Students participate in Key to the City "immigration clinics." These clinics are typically held on Saturday mornings and give students the opportunity to conduct an initial screening of potential immigrant clients under the supervision of NYLAG staff.

Student Leader: Samuel Truesdell

Tenants' Rights Project**SRO Law Project, The Legal Aid Society and NMIC Legal Services:**

Students assist attorneys at local community organizations with 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: Jacob Elkin

Tenants' Rights Project (TRP)

Manhattan Legal Services Housing Intake Clinic:

Manhattan Legal Services (MLS) holds a weekly housing intake clinic on Fridays during the fall semester. During intake sessions, students conduct one-on-one intake interviews with potential low-income clients, helping assess legal issues presented in the case as well as potential defenses and evidence for litigation. All work is performed under the supervision of MLS housing attorneys. Students must complete a two-hour training at the beginning of the semester, which will cover basic New York City housing law and client interviewing skills.

Student Leader: Jacob Elkin

Tenants' Rights Project (TRP)

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

Lawyer-for-the-Day Clinic at the Harlem Community Justice Center: students participate in a pilot program providing brief legal services to public housing tenants. By the end of the semester, students will have had the opportunity to enter into a limited-scope retainer allowing them to negotiate with attorneys for the New York City Housing Authority and/or appear in front of the housing court judge. Students will also conduct intakes and provide legal advice and counsel to public housing tenants.

Student Leader: Sabrina Bremer

Tenants' Rights Project (TRP)

Legal Aid Society - Queens Office

Students primarily perform legal research and writing, with potential opportunities for client contact or shadowing in court.

Student Leader: Jacob Elkin

Spring Break Caravan Leaders Honorees

Groups of Columbia Law students were scheduled to 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. While the Caravans were canceled due to Covid-19, the student leaders worked tirelessly to ensure that the Caravans would have been successful.

Al Otro Lado: Border Rights Project

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

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

Student Leader: Bridgett McCoy

Anti-Violence Project

Sponsored by OutLaws

Students were to integrate into the Legal Services Department of the Anti-Violence Project. They would have worked in small groups of two, where they would have the opportunity to conduct legal intakes, accompany attorneys and clients to court appearances, and participate in trainings around working with LGBTQ survivors of violence. Students would have also had the opportunity to participate in community outreach, as well as work on research projects as needed.

Student Leader: Paige Pauline Oostdyk

Bronx Defenders

Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

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

Student Leader: Ian Miller

California Appellate Project (CAP)

Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The California Appellate Project of San Francisco (CAP-SF) is a nonprofit public interest law firm funded by the California Supreme Court to provide assistance to private attorneys appointed by the Court to represent condemned prisoners on death row. CAP-SF's mission is to assist court-appointed counsel, provide professional training, publish litigation resource materials, research and draft pleadings, and investigate claims. Under the supervision of an experienced post-conviction attorney, Caravan participants were to assist with documentary support, record collection, investigative review, or research for counsel who are appointed to represent indigent persons incarcerated on California's death row. When possible, CAP-SF aims to match specific CAP-SF projects to individual Caravan students, and thus make use of their interests and unique talents.

Student Leader: Matthew Zhu

CLWA Spring Break Caravan at California Women's Law Center

Sponsored by Columbia Law Women's Association (CLWA)

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

Student Leader: Mie Morikubo

Domestic Violence Project Spring Break Caravan

Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Students participating in the DVP Spring Break Caravan would have traveled to Austin, Texas to work with the Texas Advocacy Project, an organization that provides legal services to survivors of domestic abuse. Texas Advocacy Project's mission is to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout Texas by providing free legal services, access to the justice system, and education. Students participating in this caravan would have the opportunity to develop their research and writing skills, while also assisting with larger drafting projects and client interviews. Students would also be able to assist staff attorneys working on *pro se* projects with hearing or trial preparations, as well as discovery.

Student Leader: Chenyu (Sandy) Hao

Global Migrations: Refugee Law in Germany

Sponsored by Columbia Society of International Law (CSIL)

Students were to travel 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 would have worked through the hot points of the asylum process in Germany—arrival, application, relocation, and appeal.

Student Leaders: Hillary Hubley

Immigration Defense: Social Justice Collaborative

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Social Justice Collaborative works with many clients who are applying for immigration benefits, either in court (deportation proceedings) or out of court. Students were to gain experience in immigration litigation. Students would have assisted staff attorneys in casework, and coordination of services, and worked closely with attorneys, other staff and interns. Students would also have had the opportunity to meet independently with clients and manage a few cases under supervision, completing forms and declarations, gathering supporting documents, and going to court with attorneys.

Student Leader: Natalia Gillespie

Immigrant Justice: Dilley Pro Bono Project

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

Students were to work with the CARA Pro Bono Project to represent immigrant and refugee mothers and their children at the largest family detention center in the United States. Students would prepare clients for their Credible Fear Interviews and would have had the opportunity to represent clients at their bond hearings, as well as prepare bond packets for detained clients. Additionally, students would have attended debriefing meetings with CARA staff and other volunteers.

Student Leaders: Ekaterina Botchkareva and Susanna Booth

Immigrant Legal Services

Sponsored by Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

Students were to work with Immigration Legal Services to assist clients with humanitarian and family-based immigration applications and petitions. Students would have the opportunity to interview clients, translate documents, draft motions and legal memos, and prepare evidence. They may also be able to attend immigration court proceedings.

Student Leader: Jessica Lim

Louisiana Death Penalty Caravan

Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Students would be hosted by the Capital Appeals Project (CAP). The organization provides representation to all indigent defendants sentenced to death in Louisiana. Students were to work on individual cases researching issues for direct appeals, state post-conviction, and federal habeas petitions for our capital clients on death row in Louisiana. Work would have included

writing legal memos, reviewing and summarizing case files, editing claims and other necessary tasks related to each client.

Student Leader: Nicola Hill

Massachusetts Climate Action Caravan

Sponsored by Environmental Law Society (ELS)

The Massachusetts Climate Action Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit that facilitates municipal-level action to combat the climate crisis. Students were to work on legal projects related to mitigating fossil fuel reliance at the municipal level. Students were to gain exposure to the interplay between local government and the law in addressing climate-related issues.

Student Leader: Gregory Smith

MELSA Caravan: Legal Reform in Tunisia

Sponsored by Middle Eastern Law Students Association (MELSA)

Following the Jasmine Revolution of 2011, Tunisia passed a new constitution in 2014 that includes robust protections for freedom of expression and freedom of conscience. However, due to the fact that the Constitutional Court, which will have the power of judicial review, has not been installed yet, many pre-revolutionary laws remain on the books that are incompatible with the new constitution. Under the supervision of Tunisian NGO Watch Organisation, participants were to draft memos arguing why certain laws, such as those curtailing freedom of expression and freedom of belief, are incompatible with the constitution. Participants were to also meet with Tunisian political and civil society actors who are working in the areas of freedom of expression and legal reform to learn about their role in Tunisia's ongoing democratic transition.

Student Leader: Eddie Grove

Miami Dade Public Defender

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office handles approximately 70,000 cases per year, with around 10,000 cases open at any given time. It is divided into several divisions that concern appellate review, felony litigation, juvenile delinquency litigation, misdemeanor, and traffic court matters. Students were to offer research assistance to Miami Dade's trial attorneys, and would have had the opportunity to speak with clients and observe hearings and trials.

Student Leader: Andrew Sun

New York Environmental Justice Caravan

Sponsored by Environmental Law Society (ELS)

The Environmental Justice Initiative/New York Environmental Law and Justice Project is a non-profit public interest organization based in Manhattan which counsels and represents groups and individuals concerned with the preservation and improvement of community environmental justice conditions. Students will work with the organization on projects related to

environmental law and community health. Likely projects include assisting in the representation of NYCHA residents and the drafting of a Model Restatement for Environmental Law.

Student Leader: Jake Elkin

NYLAG Immigrant Protection Unit

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Students were to work 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, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or Temporary Protected Status.

Student Leaders: Julia Ghahramani

Orleans Public Defender Caravan

Sponsored by Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

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 would have gotten the opportunity to help further the mission of OPD by working on legal projects with the team.

Student Leader: Chizoba Ukairo

Palestine Trek: Human Rights Abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Sponsored by Columbia Law Students for Palestine (CLSP)

Palestine Trek would have allowed students to work with Palestinian legal organizations in Ramallah on human rights abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The work would have covered issues such as prisoners' rights and the illegality of settlements. Participants would be based in Ramallah but students would have the opportunity to meet with a variety of speakers, go on field visits, and go to cities such as Jerusalem and Hebron. Students would have worked from Sunday - Thursday (the work week in Palestine), but the official caravan would have begun on Saturday with a day in Jerusalem and end the following Saturday afternoon.

Student Leaders: Fatima Bishtawi and Emma DiNapoli

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 of indigent adults and children in the District of Columbia. PDS is a federally funded, independent organization, governed by an eleven-member Board of Trustees. Caravan participants were to provide research and writing assistance to attorneys in the Trial Division

and Civil Legal Services Division, and would have an opportunity to attend brown bag lunches and demonstrative trial trainings.

Student Leader: Claire Postman

Rightslink Caravan: Human Rights Monitoring in Lebanon

Sponsored by Rightslink

ALEF - Act for Human Rights is a human rights monitoring organization based in Beirut, Lebanon. Students would have had the opportunity to work on a variety of ongoing projects, including work on humanitarian and international law, fair trials, and the protection of Syrian refugees. Students were to conduct pro bono work and background research with ALEF prior to the spring break trip.

Student Leaders: Meg Gould and Raisa Elhadi

State Attorney's Office for Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

The State Attorney's Office for Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit oversees prosecution of all crimes committed in Duval, Clay, and Nassau counties. The office investigates and prosecutes cases across a spectrum of criminal activity, including murder and violent crimes; sexual assault; drug trafficking; and public corruption, among others. Caravan participants were to offer research and other assistance to Assistant State Attorneys (ASAs) in the Office's Special Victims Unit, Human Trafficking Division, and/or Homicide Cold Case Initiative, and would assist with legal research and writing in connection with upcoming trials. Participants would have had the opportunity to shadow an ASA in misdemeanor court, and to observe first appearances in court, calendar calls, depositions, hearings, and trials.

Student Leader: David Leys

Wisconsin Wills

Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)

The NALSA Wisconsin Wills Caravan works with Wisconsin Judicare to provide wills and power documents for elders on reservations throughout the state of Wisconsin. The Caravan was to travel across the state writing over 100 wills for federally enrolled tribal members. This Caravan is anticipated by the tribes every year and provides much-needed legal services.

Student Leader: Harlea Perdue

Public Interest, Public Service, and Human Rights Mentors

The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN) Mentoring 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 2019-2020, these students made themselves available as peer mentors to first-year students interested in public interest careers, classes, and activities.

Tessa Baizer

Emily Barber

Natalie Behr

David Berman

Annelise

Brinck-Johnson

Alex Canzoneri

Joanne Choi

John Clayton

Maddi Durbin

Brenda Gonzalez Rueda

Meg Gould

Christen Hammock

Tara Hofbauer

Nicandro Iannacci

Isabella Kendrick

Suz Kroeber

Allison Langley

Jenna Lauter

Tyler Lee

Madison Levin

Caitlyn Lowell

Meghan Lucas

Claire MacLachlan

Josh Malkin

Jessica Marder-Spiro

Mary Marshall

Elizabeth McAvoy

Amanda McNally

Olivia Morrison

Udodilim Nnamdi

Sarah Ortlip-Sommers

Stephen Piotrkowski

Claire Postman

Julia Rigal

Hannah Rosner

Sankeerth Saradhi

Zack Struver

Corinna Svarlien

Ashley Taylor

Will Wilder

Jillian Williams

Anita Yandleb

Hannah Yindra

Lanlie Zheng

Public Interest Law Foundation Board Members Honorees

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

James Barnett

Xinrui (Alex) Li

Terry Wong

Rachel Berkovitz

Emma Shreve

Daniel Yoon

Benjamin Covington

Gregory Smith

Christopher Dinkel

Kathleen Telfer

Maya Katalan

Brandon Vines

Social Justice Initiatives All-Star Honorees

The following students were named in three or more of our honoree categories. There are **20** SJI All-Stars.

Tessa Baizer '20

Allison Langley '20

Max Bernstein '20

Tyler Lee '20

Emma DiNapoli '20

Jessica Marder-Spiro '20

Ellie Dupler-McClintock '20

Mary Marshall '20

Jacob Elkin '21

Elizabeth McAvoy '20

John Finnegan '20

Amanda McNally '20

Meg Gould '21

Olivia Morrison '20

Virginia Hill Butler '20

Karen Kadish Reitman '20

Eli Huscher '20

Zack Struver '20

Nicandro Iannacci '20

Will Wilder '20

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.

Reed and Adrienne Auerbach

The Estate of William S. Beinecke

Dale and Max Berger

Vivian Olivia Berger

Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP

Vineet Bhatia

John A. Bick

Leah Bishop and Gary Yale

Frances E. Bivens

Robert L. Book

John M. Brickman

An Ken Chen

Annie Ang-Yee Chen

Charles J. Conroy

Jennifer Tolson Curtis

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

The Honorable Gray Davis

Andrew R. Dominus

Matt J. Epstein

Linda A. Fairstein

David F. Freedman

Eugene S. Friedman

Elizabeth Shea Fries

The Futter Family

Samir A. Gandhi

George M. Garfunkel

The Herman Goldman Foundation

Gary F. Goldring

Gerry H. Goldsholle

David B. Goroff

Evelyn and Bruce Greer

Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld

The Marc Haas Foundation

Robert H. Haines ▲

Harold S. Handelsman

Jane B. Hellowell

Nobuhisa and Marcia Ishizuka

Christian A. Iwasko

The Honorable Herman N. Johnson, Jr.

Cathy M. Kaplan

Daniel G. Kelly, Jr.

Charles E. Knapp

Brian Krisberg

Philip Allen Lacovara

David Lebenbom
Jay P. Lefkowitz
Susan B. Lindenauer
Jon Lindsey, Esq.
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
Helen Lowenstein
Louis Lowenstein
Dale W. Lum
George W. Madison
Gertrude G. Michelson
Ira M. Millstein
James and Carolyn Millstein
Morrison & Foerster
The Henry & Lucy Moses Fund
Warren Motley
The New York Bar Foundation
Jay H. Newman
Noah B. Perlman
Edward F. Petrosky, Jr.
Bernard M. Plum
Robert D. Rosenbaum
The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenberg

Bruce E. Rosenblum
The Leo Rosner Foundation
David E. Ross
Thomas E. Rothman
Gabriel Saltarelli
Louise Schiller
Jonathan D. Schiller
Michael J. Schmidtberger
Renee Gerstler Schwartz
Daniel L. Serota
Joan Scobey
Isaac and Jacqueline Weiss Shapiro
Sidley Austin LLP
Kenneth Siegel
Sidney B. Silverman
Herbert & Nell Singer Foundation
**The John Paul Stevens Fellowship
Foundation**
Christopher K. Tahbaz
Mark S. Vecchio
The Venable Foundation
Howard L. Wolk

Distinguished Honorees (2003 - 2019)

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.

2019 Ramzi Kassem CLS '03

Professor of Law, City University of New York
Director, Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR)

2018 Maya Wiley CLS '89

Senior Vice President for Social Justice & Henry J. Cohen Professor of Public & Urban Policy at The New School

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**