

2017 Public Interest Honors Dinner

Columbia Law School
Social Justice Initiatives

April 20, 2017

Welcome

Ellen Chapnick

Dean for Social Justice Initiatives

Introduction

Jessica Alcantara '16, Skadden Fellow

Advancement Project

Keynote Address

Distinguished Public Interest Graduate of the Year

Judith Browne Dianis '92

Executive Director, Advancement Project

Presentation of Student Honors

Social Justice Initiatives Staff

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2017 Distinguished Graduate Honoree



Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director of Advancement Project, has an extensive background in civil rights litigation and advocacy in the areas of voting, education, policing, housing, and employment. She has protected the rights of people of color in the midst of some of the greatest civil rights crises of our modern times, including in Florida after the 2000 election and in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Known as the Godmother of the movement to end the school-to-prison pipeline, under Dianis' leadership, Advancement Project has done pioneering work in building and strengthening a grassroots movement to end harsh discipline that pushes out children of color and criminalizes them. Dianis has authored groundbreaking reports on the issue including: *Opportunities Suspended* (2000) and *Derailed: The Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track*, detailing the unnecessary criminalization of students by their schools. Working closely with grassroots organizations, Advancement Project's work has

significantly decreased student suspensions and arrests in Denver, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Buffalo and Florida.

Recently, Dianis and her team at Advancement Project have joined forces with the Journey for Justice Alliance, an alliance of grassroots groups in 22 cities, to challenge the growing trend of public school closures and privatization in communities of color. This cutting edge work has included filing civil rights complaints in Chicago, Newark and New Orleans. Dianis' commitment to racial equity in public schools carries over to her position as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of FairTest, which challenges the misuse of standardized testing. In recognition of Dianis' work on these issues, she was named a Black Male Achievement Social Innovator by the Leadership & Sustainability Institute.

Dianis' efforts to protect voters of color spans years of dedication. From filing one of the first-ever lawsuits to enforce the "Motor Voter" law to litigating on behalf of Black Floridians after the 2000 election, Dianis has established herself as an expert in voting rights. She continued her litigation efforts in 2004, stopping the Republican National Committee from engaging in voter suppression in Ohio and requiring Virginia in 2008 to ensure equitable allocation of voting machines. As Advancement Project has continued its aggressive voter protection efforts effectively blocking voter suppression efforts in 2012, Dianis has also been leading an effort to develop a campaign to secure an explicit right to vote in the U.S. Constitution. In 2013, she was

awarded a Prime Movers Fellowship for trailblazing social movement leaders to further develop this campaign.

Dianis joined Advancement Project at its inception in 1999, after serving as the Managing Attorney in the Washington, D.C. office of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. She is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, was awarded a Skadden Fellowship, served as a Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar at Florida State University Law School, and as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. She was named one of the “Thirty Women to Watch” by *Essence Magazine* and has written and commented extensively in the media about race, voting rights, and education issues, appearing often on MSNBC, CNN, BET, TVOne and various radio shows.

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Speaker

Jessica Alcantara '16 joined Advancement Project in 2016 as a Skadden Fellow Staff Attorney in the Quality Education program and the Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track program. Jessica supports black and Latino communities facing school closures, with the goal of increasing black and Latino students' access to quality, sustainable community schools. Jessica is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where she earned a B.A. in Geography and Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies, as well as a minor in Spanish Language and Literature. Following her time at Dartmouth she joined the Peace Corps, serving for two years as a Youth Development Volunteer in Azerbaijan. Jessica attended Columbia Law School, where she served as the Submissions Editor of the Columbia Journal of Race and Law. While at Columbia, Jessica also served as Admissions Chair of both the Black Law Students Association and the Latino Law Students Association, and was also involved with the Student Public Interest Network. She is an alumna of the Prep for Prep program in New York City, where she has also taught. Prior to law school, she earned a M.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies at Fordham University.

Honorees for postgraduate employment in public interest

The following 33 J.D. and 48 LL.M. students will be working at public interest organizations or government agencies immediately after graduation or clerkship:

JD '17:

Sara-Anne Alkhatib
Shahrad Ardaghi
Rebecca Azhdam
Katherine Barrett
Jocelyn Cazares
Rori Collins

Jessica Corey
Carolyn Cyrana
Leo Farbman
Simon Greenberg
Daily Guerrero
Nico Gurian

Christopher Helwig
Princeton Hynes
Channing Jones
Arielle Klepach
Kathleen Minton
Diana Nielsen

Lauren Packard
Brian Payne
Ry Ravenholt
Elena Rodriguez
Michael Rosenbloom

Yaa Sarpong
Morgan Saunders
Shawn Shariati
Zal Shroff
Reilly Steel

Angelo Tannuzzo
Angelica Tillander
Rachel Wagner
Alice Wang
Jason Yee

LLM '17:

Hiba Akbar
Louise Brown
Anita Das
Natalia Ferreira de
Andrade Moraes
Suraj Girijashanker
Sopfia Gay Guira
David Hammond
Monique Hurley
Kenneth Hyle
Sofia Jaramillo Otoyoy
Mashita Kamilia
Arundhati Katju
Vardhman Kaushik
Ramya Krishnan
Su Anne Lee
Yu Hui Lim

Maria Mamberti
Julio Martinez Rivas
Mpendulo Tokyo Mbetse
Colette Mintz
Gina Mitchell
Dania Mukhtar
Nicholas Mull
Noy Naaman
Daniel Napier
Rocio Naranjo Sandalio
Amy Nieman
Benjamin Nussberger
Jacqueline Pitt
Shen Qinmin
Mutty Reza
Chiara Richichi
Sowjhanya Shankaran

Gabriel Silva
Alexandra Sinclair
Jagtaran Singh
Ria Singh Sawhney
Marc Jia Renn Tan
Netsanet Tesfay
Zoi Thanasouli
Angela Uria
Andres Velez
Maria Vizdoaga
Sarah Lisa Washington
Assaf Weiss
Pornpan Wichawut
Mehek Zafar
Eike Zahn

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Honorees for two public interest summers

These 34 students spent both law school summers working for public interest organizations or government agencies:

Arielle Algarin

2015 Lambda Legal
2016 New York Civil Liberties Union

Sara-Anne Alkhatib

2015 Palestine Works

2016 United Nations Development Programme – Bureau for Policy
and Programme Support

Jonathan Allen

2015 Sabin Center for Climate Change Law

2016 New York State Attorney General, Environmental Protection Bureau

Shahrad Ardaghi

2015 Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

2016 Center for Law & Education

Rebecca Azhdam

2015 Lawyers for Children

2016 Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Izaak Bruce

2015 Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission

2016 New Jersey Division of Law

Jocelyn Cazares

2015 Los Angeles County Public Defender

2016 Los Angeles County Public Defender

Jessica Corey

2015 Federal Defender Program

2016 Dekalb Public Defenders

Carolyn Cyrana

2015 Legal Resource Center – South Africa

2016 Vasa Prava

Simon Greenberg

2015 Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau

2016 Federal Defenders of New York

Daily Guerrero

2015 Latino Justice (PRLDEF)

2016 Human Rights First

Christopher Helwig

2015 Oregon Law Center

2016 Queens Legal Services

Princeton Hynes

2015 U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

2016 NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund

Channing Jones

2015 New York City Law Department
2016 National Resources Defense Council

Rebecca Kim

2015 Arch City Defenders
2016 ACLU

Seung Eun (Joann) Kim

2015 Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division
2016 International Rescue Committee

Soo Jee Lee

2015 AIRE Centre in London
2016 Sanctuary for Families

Kathleen Minton

2015 Human Rights Watch
2016 New York University Center for Human Rights

Diana Nielsen

2012 UN Assistance/Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
2014 UN Office of Drugs & Crime
2016 Karen Environmental & Social Action Network

Lauren Packard

2015 U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
2016 California Attorney General's Office, Land Law and Environment Sections

Brian Payne

2015 ACLU Capital Punishment Project
2016 Orleans Public Defenders/Louisiana Capital Assistance Center

Naomi Prodeau

2015 Legal Resource Center – South Africa
2016 United Nations Development Programme – Regional Hub Europe and Central Asia

Ry Ravenholt

2015 Global Witness
2016 Landesa

Trevor Reed

2015 The Nakwatsvewat Institute
2016 Columbia Copyright Office

Elena Rodriguez

2015 Housing Works
2016 ACLU Racial Justice Program/New York Civil Liberties Union

Michael Rosenbloom

2015 Berkman Center Cyberlaw Clinic
2016 Electronic Frontier Foundation

Morgan Saunders

2015 Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law – Voting Rights Project (DC)
2016 Department Of Justice Civil Right Division

Shawn Shariati

2015 Orleans Public Defenders
2016 Legal Aid Society Criminal Practice

Julia Sherman

2015 International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague
2016 HIAS

Deborah Tang

2015 Attorney General's Chambers, Singapore
2016 Legal Aid Society Exploitation Intervention Project

Angelo Tannuzzo

2015 Nassau County District Attorney's Office
2016 Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity

Angelica Tillander

2015 NYC Administration for Children's Services
2016 Social Security Administration

Rachel Wagner

2015 Orleans Public Defenders
2016 Alaska Public Defender Agency

Alice Wang

2015 ACLU Women's Rights Project
2016 Legal Aid Society Exploitation Intervention Project

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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 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 2017 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 2017 New York bar exam and will be admitted very soon after graduation if they satisfy the Pro Bono Scholars Program Requirements.

**Daily Guererro
Blessing Havana
Ashley Lherisson
Camila Rodriguez
Deborah Tang**

The following 80 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 2017:

Suzan Abebe	Arielle Z. Feldshon	Lillian S. Morgenstern
Katie R. Aber	Elise C. Funke	Anyia Olsen
Shaya Sean Afshar	Margaret A. Girard	Trevor M. O'Neill
Jonathan W. Allen	Chase Isaac Gorland	Hilary Jaqueline Oran
Anoushka N. Asgari	Thomas James Herron	Lauren S. Packard
Rebecca Azhdam	Julie Lew Hsia	Kyung Ho Paik
Josephine S. Bae	Channing R. Jones	Brian M. Payne
Kaitlin A. Bergin	Dhruvit D. Joshi	Elena M. Rodriguez
Traci A. Biedermann	Andrew Kim	Kathryn Campbell Saba
Cassie L. Black	Clara Yeehyun Kim	Morgan E. Saunders
Roger Bond Choquette	Hyun Young Kim	Matthew S. Scarano
Elizabeth Ann Brody	Rebecca N. Kim	Eve Lise Shabto
Justin J. Calderon	Janice J. Lee	Julia Alexandra Sherman
Jocelyn Betsabe Cazares	Soo Jee Lee	Rachael Elizabeth Siegel
Jace A. Cearley	Joel H. LeoGrande	Daniela Stephen
Lindsey B. Cherner	Michael Andrew Linneman	Jason M. Sugarman
Soolean Choy	Lianchen Liu	Christian William Termyn
Abigail Q. Cooper	Elizabeth Mary Marden	Angelica Tillander
Jessica Christine Corey	Philip Alexander Mayer	Alexander H. Tran
Michael Sean Dibattista	Chris E Mendez	Catherine Mary Walsh
Joel H. Feigenbaum	Kathleen T. Minton	Jiaman Wang

Class of 2018:

Chloe Bootstaylor	Amna Ilyas	Madeleine Ulrikke Skeid
Rachel Marieclare Fleig- Goldstein	Yun Li	Elizabeth H. Snow
Colin O. Hill	Rachel Elizabeth MacDonald	Alexandra C. Valdez
Jack L. Hill	Amy L. McMahon	Phoebe M. Wolfe
Alexander P. Hoffman	Rebecca Marie Nocharli	Xuan Wu
Jesse Hubbard	Jillian L. Ruben	

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Honorees for in-house pro bono projects

Columbia's 27 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 2016-17, 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: Mari Cardenas**

Columbia Law and Entrepreneurship Society

Students research small business clients participating in Start Small Think Big's Food Business program, review their files, conduct client interviews, then prepare and submit an intake summary for SSTB's pro bono attorneys. **Student Leader: Nathalie Russell**

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: Alex Chelesnik**

Columbia Law Women's Association

Students engaged in the CLWA/HerJustice Intake 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: Sunny Kim**

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: Cathy Zhu and Christina Zhang**

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: Shelly Kim**

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: Daniel Klein**

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: Katy Urbanelli**

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 Leaders: Anu Akinbamidele and Norian Watson**

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: Mia Hutt**

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: Shawn Shariati**

Latino/a Law Students Association

NYLAG Immigration Clinics: Students work with attorneys in New York Legal Assistance Group'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 Leader: Ricky Garza**

Law in Africa Student Society

Students research and write memos about relevant international legal frameworks around extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and discrimination against ethnic/religious groups by state forces. They compare the international legal frameworks with national laws and compile data from human rights reports about the number of extrajudicial killings occurring, and other details for an Amnesty International report looking at extrajudicial killings in Kenya. **Student Leader: Anjli Parrin**

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: 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 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: Chris Mendez**

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: Audrianne Doucet**

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: Jacob Bogart and Rachel LaFortune**

The Rightslink Research and Advocacy Program (RAP): RAP gives students (JDs and LLMS) the chance to join a dedicated human rights advocacy community and participate in exciting human rights research ongoing at CLS. **Student Leaders: Jacob Bogart and Rachel LaFortune**

Society for 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 Leaders: Rebecca Nocharli and George Najjar**

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: Katy Urbanelli**

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: César Rivière**

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: César Rivière**

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 are interested in youth, education, or school-to-prison pipeline issues. **Student Leader: Jillian Ruben**

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 Leaders: Christopher Helwig, Abigail Hopper, Leon Huang and Stephen Patrick**

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 Leaders: Christopher Helwig, Abigail Hopper, Leon Huang and Stephen Patrick**

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 Leaders: Komal Patel and Laura Pond**

Workers' Rights Student Coalition

The Employment Unit of the Legal Aid Society has partnered with the Columbia Law Worker's 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**

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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 2017, 120 students participated in the following 20 caravans, led by the students named below:

Alaska Legal Services Corporation Bethel, AK

Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)

Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission is to "provide high quality civil legal services to low income and disadvantaged people and communities to protect their safety, their health and promote family stability." In the rural community of Bethel, Alaska, ALSC clients are often Alaska Natives. Caravan participants drafted wills, helped clients with power-of-attorney issues, and learned about other forms of legal advocacy to support rural, underserved populations.

Student Leader: Komal Patel

Arch City Defenders St. Louis, MO

Sponsored by Public Defender Students of Columbia Law School (PDS)

The Caravan assisted the Arch City Defenders in their representation of people who have been overly criminalized with traffic citations. Participants also assisted with performing interviews and preparing discovery for the Defenders' class action lawsuits alleging a violation of due process. **Student Leader: Maggie Taylor**

Bishop Paiute Water Rights Caravan Bishop, CA

Sponsored by Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) & Environmental Law Society (ELS)

Caravan participants volunteered on the Bishop Paiute Indian Reservation in the foothills of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Participants worked with the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, an intertribal organization that works to protect and restore indigenous people's water rights in the Owens Valley. Participants assisted with legal and policy research on water law, indigenous water rights, and natural resource law. **Student Leader: Molly Wolfe**

The Bronx Defenders Bronx, NY

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 on not just getting people out of jail, but on 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 worked on projects in one of three areas: criminal defense, family defense or civil litigation. **Student Leader: Jennifer Sharpe**

California Appellate Project San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN)

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 Leader: Hayley Farmer**

California Women's Law Center El Segundo, CA

Sponsored by Columbia Law Women's Association (CLWA)

Students researched statutes and case law related to gender discrimination and used the collected information to create and update resources on behalf of CWLC in the form of a publishable report on laws governing gender discrimination. The report will be organized in an accessible fashion for the public to learn about their rights, responsibilities and available remedies under federal and California law. **Student Leader: Sunny Kim**

Dilley, Texas: Immigrant Detention Center Dilley, TX

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR) & Empowering Women of Color (EWOC)

Students on this caravan worked 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 prepared clients for their Credible Fear Interviews, represented clients at their bond hearings, and prepared bond packets for detained clients. **Student Leader: Ruth O'Herron**

Domestic Violence Project Spring Break Caravan Austin, TX

Sponsored by Domestic Violence Project (DVP)

Texas Advocacy Project's 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 developed 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.

Student Leader: Jessica Bernhardt, Arielle Trapp

Immigration and Civil Rights El Paso, TX

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Students on this caravan partnered with two local civil rights organizations, Las Americas Immigration Advocacy Center and Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project, to provide direct legal services and conduct research projects on novel issues. **Student Leader: Chui-Lai Cheung and Colin O. Hill**

International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) Amman, Jordan

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Students traveled to Amman, Jordan to provide direct legal assistance to Iraqi and Syrian refugees with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). Students learned how to interview victims of torture and conduct client intakes with vulnerable refugees referred to IRAP by partner NGOs. Students attended outreach meetings with local NGOs to learn more about the situation facing refugees on the ground in the Middle East. **Student Leader: Robin Gimm**

Jane's Due Process/Judicial Bypass Project Austin, TX

Sponsored by If/When/How

Jane's Due Process is 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 providing judicial bypass representation for minors seeking to terminate pregnancies without parental involvement and assistance in filing for orders of protection and emancipation. They also helped run a toll-free legal hotline. **Student Leader: Rachel Ross**

The Justice Center New Orleans, LA

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN), Black Law Students Association (BLSA) & Public Defender Students of Columbia Law School (PDS)

Students were split between the Promise of Justice Initiative (PIJ) and Capital Appeals Project (CAP), which are both located at the Justice Center. At CAP, students worked on the organization's challenge in Louisiana to the death penalty. At PIJ, students worked on medical issues that may arise from conditions of confinement in the Louisiana prison system. The Caravan also included lunch sessions where attorneys in the two offices share their experiences and additional project they are working on. **Student Leader: Patricia Okonta**

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) Baltimore, MD

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 had the opportunity to go to court. **Student Leaders: Mari Cardenas and Paul Barker**

The Legal Resources Centre Grahamstown, South Africa

Sponsored by Columbia Society for International Law

The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) is South Africa's leading public interest law center. Students worked with the LRC to aid in their work around education rights. Students also conducted research and drafted legal documents to help the LRC institute legal action. **Student Leader: Sean Wagnon**

Miami Dade Public Defender Miami, FL

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 will work on research projects that include involvement for every student with open trial cases and client contact. **Student Leader: Mitchell Schwartz**

New York Legal Assistance Group Immigration Law Caravan New York, NY

Sponsored by Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (SIRR)

Students worked with attorneys in New York Legal Assistance Group's community-based immigration clinics to conduct legal screenings and provide specific application assistance. Some clinics 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 provide specific application assistance for some immigration benefits, like Naturalization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or Temporary Protected Status. **Student Leader: Deborah Capiro and Natasha Newman**

Orleans Public Defenders New Orleans, LA

Sponsored by Criminal Justice Action Network (CJAN) & Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Working with attorneys to provide client-centered, community-oriented defense for a fair and just New Orleans. Pro bono volunteers will assist attorneys in all aspects of criminal litigation including performing legal research, conducting factual investigation, and drafting legal memos.

Student Leader: Rachel Wagner

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia Washington, DC

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. Students' projects included drafting motions for trials, crafting strategy for cases, and/or drafting appellate briefs for the D.C. Court of Appeals. **Student Leader: Laura Pond**

San Jose State University Record Clearance Project San Jose, CA

Sponsored by Society for Chinese Law (SCL)

The San Jose State University Record Clearance Project (RCP) assists eligible people in clearing their criminal records. Students were trained in expungement law. As part of training, former RCP clients and a judge talked about criminal record expungement and public interest law in general. Students were then paired with SJSU students and completed a client's petition in court for dismissals of eligible criminal convictions. Additional activities included educating and advising people in custody regarding their next steps toward expungement once they are released, attending a specially set court hearing for RCP clients, etc. **Student Leaders:**

Zhongmou Gu and Dielai Yang

Workers Defense Project Austin, TX or Dallas, TX

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—it is 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 supported individual casework by meeting with Project members, conducting legal research, and assisting with case management, completed legal research projects to strengthen our legal services program and support policy initiatives, participated in membership meetings and case review meetings, and took part in other ongoing activities and projects. **Student Leaders: Ricardo Garza and Daniel Richards**

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Public Interest Peer Mentors / 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 2016-2017, these students made themselves available as peer mentors to first-year students interested in public interest careers, classes, and activities.

Katie Aber	Emily Hush	Morgan Saunder
Rushant Badani	Maia Hutt	Daniel Sack
Kate Berry	Courtney Irons	Anjli Parrin Shah
Beulah Beulah	Eva Jimenez	Shawn Shariati
Jacob Bogart	Channing Jones	Rachael Siegel
Elise Bonine	Jonathan Knowles	Melissa Takara Fedornak
Chloe Bootstaylor	Soo Jee Lee	Hanna St. Marie
Alex Carvajal	Whitney Lee	Deborah Tang
Christine Chen	Shengxi Li	Alex Valdez
Young Choi	Cynthia Luo	Caroline Voldstad
Nika Cohen	Kyla Magun	Alice Wang
Yasmin Dagne	Patricia Okonta	Meron Werkneh
Carlos Estevez	Ted Olds	Lily Westergaard
Tony Fares	Komal Patel	Alexandra Widas
Kristen J. Ferguson	Joseph Payne	Kathryn Witchger
Cristell Fortune	Anthony Raduazo	Molly Wolfe
Elise Funke	Luke Rebecchi	Luming Zhu
Chris Helwig	Tyler Roberts	
Madeline Hopper	Rosa Saavedra-Vanacore	

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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

Beulah I. Agbabiaka	Rachel Elizabeth MacDonald	Torie Recalde
Amanda B. Barkin	Nicole E. Nance	Kathryn N. Salvaggio
Rachel K. Higgins	Brandon Che Nesfield	Rachael Elizabeth Siegel

George Tepe
Angelica Tillander

Emily An-Li Tu
Mariah M. Vitali

Caroline Margaret Voldstad
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Dean's Cup

Erensu Altan
Amanda Cioffi
Clara Kim

Maria LaGumina
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Daniel Rosenfeld

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Hannah Weichbrodt
Roger Yang

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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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Distinguished honorees (2003 - 2016)

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.

- 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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