

## 2015-2016 Public Interest Leadership Board



### **Michael Deutsch, JD'16-PILB Chair**

Michael Deutsch is a 3L, a Miami Scholar, and chair of the Public Interest Leadership Board. He received his B.A. in Government from Georgetown University, graduating cum laude in 2013. During his undergraduate career, he served as a legislative intern the Office of Congressman Ted Deutch and held several internships with Organizing for America. He continued his pursuit of a career in public interest at Miami Law, serving as a legal intern with Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) during his 1L summer. As a 2L, Michael served as a judicial intern with the Honorable Alicia M. Otazo-Reyes of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and participated in the University of Miami Health Rights Clinic. During his 2L summer, Michael was a HOPE Fellow with the United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section. He also serves on the School of Law's Honor Council, Trial Team, and is a member of the Society of Bar and Gavel.



### **Alie Rothman, JD '16-PILB Deputy Chair**

Alie Rothman is a 3L, a Miami Scholar, and deputy chair of the Public Interest Leadership Board. She graduated cum laude from American University with an interdisciplinary major in Communications, Law, Economics, and Government and a minor in Graphic Design. After her 1L year, Alie worked as the legal intern at the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability of The Arc of the United States, where she helped create the first national database that assists both victims and offenders with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As a 2L, she continued her advocacy and assistance for individuals with developmental disabilities as an intern with the Children and Youth Law Clinic. During her 2L summer, Alie was a summer associate with Greenberg Traurig, LLP. She is the co-founder of Alie's Fund for Children with MS, a fund which provides financial means to ensure a brighter future for children living with Multiple Sclerosis. She is the 2015-2016

Honor Council President, Vice President of The Society of Bar and Gavel, and Staff Editor for the University of Miami Inter-American Law Review.



**Sawyeh Esmaili, JD '17-PILB Deputy Chair**

Sawyeh Esmaili is a 2L, a Miami Scholar, and deputy chair of the Public Interest Leadership Board. She graduated from San Diego State University in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in International Studies. She studied abroad in Florence, Italy during her junior year of college. While there, she also taught English to middle school students. Following graduation, Sawyeh began volunteering with the Office of the State Attorney in West Palm Beach, Florida. She assisted attorneys with case management in County Court. In October 2012, she began working with the Urban League of Broward County in Fort Lauderdale. She started as an intern in the Communications and Community Relations Department, where she identified core issues affecting the organization and drafted a policy agenda. In January 2013, she was hired as a Program Assistant for the organization's College Tour Program. This program, which serves 100 low-income high school students, provides resources such as test preparation, self-development training, and community service opportunities to assist the students in achieving a post-secondary education. During her 2L summer, Sawyeh served as an intern with Planned Parenthood International.



**Feras Ahmed, JD '17**

Feras Ahmed is a 2L and a Miami Scholar. He graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with a B.A. in Political Science and minors in Global Studies and Philosophy. During undergrad, he participated in student government as a Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences and was founder and president of the FGCU Muslim Students Association. He also took part in FGCU's Model United Nations program at competed nationally. Following graduation, Feras served as a fellow with Emerge USA, a grassroots organization that engages underrepresented communities in the political process. At Emerge USA, he

channeled his passions for technology, innovation, and social justice, which helped guide to him to Miami Law. He is a member of the Society of Bar & Gavel, a Student Body Association (SBA) Senator, a Miami Law Ambassador, and a research assistant for the Law Without Walls Program. He has also been active as a volunteer in his local community, where he has worked with the Florida YMCA Youth in Government program as well as the Islamic Center of Southwest Florida. During his 2L summer, Feras worked as an executive intern with Carlos Martinez, the Public Defender for Miami-Dade County.



**Carmelina Forzisi, JD '17**

Carmelina Forzisi is a 2L who triple majored in Criminology Law and Society, Psychology and Social Behavior, and Social Ecology, with a minor in Educational Studies, at the University of California Irvine. During her last two years of undergrad, and the year following graduation, she worked at a law firm that specialized in criminal record relief. During her 1L summer, Carmelina served as a HOPE Fellow with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program in the Family Law Department. During her 2L year, she is serving as Vice President of the Children and Family Law Society, an intern with the Children and Youth Law Clinic and the Center for Ethics and Public Service, and a participant in Books and Buddies.



**Moshe Genet, JD '16**

Moshe Genet is a 3L and a returning member of the Public Interest Leadership Board. He graduated in 2012 from Yeshiva University, in New York City, with a degree in history. In 2013, he served the City of New York as a fellow in the NYC Civic Corps, an Americorps fellowship dedicated to service. During his 1L summer, Moshe interned with the Honorable Judge Spencer Eig of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida. As a 2L, Moshe served on the HOPE Day of Service planning committee and participated in the Tenants' Rights Clinic. He also worked as a team leader for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and as a

member of the Society of Bar and Gavel. During the summer of 2015, he worked as a law clerk in the construction law department of MasTec.



**Caitlin Giles, JD '16**

(Christina) Caitlin Giles is a 3L and a Miami Scholar. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Philosophy, graduating magna cum laude from the University of Miami. As an undergraduate student, Caitlin was passionate about service to her community, and assumed leadership roles in Student Government, served as President of Panhellenic, and was the founder of the first UM Women's Leadership Symposium. Realizing her passion for youth and women empowerment, the summer before her 1L year, she interned with The Door Legal Services Center, a non-profit in New York City that offers all-encompassing free services, food and shelter for at-risk youth. She specifically worked with young people to obtain lawful permanent residency through Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and completed extensive research on the foster care system. Caitlin also served as Child Advocacy and Family Law Society President and as Dean's Cup Co-Chair. During her 1L summer, Caitlin interned for both the US Attorney's Office in South Florida and for Judge Robert Scola in the US District Court of Southern Florida. During her second summer, she worked for Holland & Knight.



**Eli Gordon, JD '17**

Eli Gordon is a 2L and a Miami Scholar. He earned his B.S. in Sports Management from New York University in May 2013. He was a member of the Dean's List, the Undergraduate Law Society and the Sports Business Society. During the spring of 2012, he studied abroad in Prague. Later that summer he served as a law intern with the New York State Attorney General's Office Internet Bureau where he performed legal research related to online consumer fraud investigations and suspected Internet-based illegal activities. Following graduation, Eli joined City Year Miami as a Corps Member in English Language Arts. He worked as an assistant teacher in a ninth grade intensive reading class at Booker T. Washington High School and also served as the school's literacy coordinator and assistant basketball coach. Eli spent his 1L

summer as a judicial intern to the Honorable Vance Salter at Florida's Third District Court of Appeal. During his 2L year he is volunteering at Miami Carol City Senior High School as part of Miami Law's Street Law Program and is an extern with the City of Miami Beach in the Office of the City Attorney.



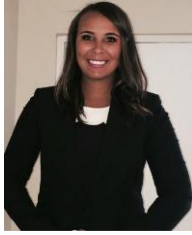
**Matt Haskin, JD '16**

Matt Haskin is a 3L from Potomac, Maryland. He graduated from Roger Williams University with a degree in Criminal Justice. His public service interests center around maritime law. Before law school, he worked for OCEANA in Belize, the world's largest international ocean conservation and advocacy organization. There, he advocated protecting and restoring coral reefs. At Miami Law, he has served on the E-Board of the Maritime Law Society (MLS) for two years and organized a MLS Regatta at the Shake-a-Leg Marina in Miami. Additionally, he works for a boutique maritime law firm, and he co-founded a non-profit organization, The Deblinger Foundation, which serves low-income families in Miami-Dade County.



**Ashley Jackson, JD '17**

Ashley Jackson is a 2L who received her B.S. in Political Science from Kennesaw State University in 2013. While there, she was an active member of Omega Phi Alpha, National Service Sorority. She also worked on projects such as Books For Africa, Light The Night, and City of Refuge and served as high school mentor assisting at-risk youth with the college application process. During her 2L year at Miami Law, she is President of the Children and Family Law Society and is participating in Street Law and the Historic Black Church Program. During her 1L summer, she served as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., where she focused on the rights of children.



**Stephanie MacLaughlin, JD '16**

Stephanie MacLaughlin is a 2L who graduated from Roger Williams University where she double majored in English Literature and Legal Studies. During her time as an undergraduate, her interest in public service was piqued when she participated in a legal advocacy clinic aimed at helping victims of domestic violence. She wrote a legal thesis on “No Child Left Behind” and received a Distinguished Thesis Award. Upon moving to Miami, Stephanie, concerned with the overwhelming amount of homeless people in the community, began volunteering at Feeding South Florida, the leading domestic hunger relief organization in South Florida. She participates in HOPE’s children’s literacy program “Books and Buddies” at Miami Law. During her 2L summer, Stephanie interned with Judge Sarah Zabel in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Family Division.



**Jessica Neer, JD '16**

Jessica Neer is a Miami native, third-year law student and Miami Scholar. At Miami Law, she is active in various leadership roles including the Charles C. Papy Moot Court Board, Hispanic Law Student Association, Inter-American Law Review, Society of Bar and Gavel, and Student Bar Association. She also participated as a student intern in the Investor Rights Clinic. Jessica graduated magna cum laude from the University of Florida with majors in Latin American Studies and Political Science. While at UF, she founded UF’s club fast-pitch softball team, was Vice President of the Sport Clubs Council, served as an Ambassador to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and worked with the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. Jessica has served the Florida legal community by interning in the Northern and Southern Districts of Florida and United States Attorney's Office, teaching undergraduate students about state government, and working in the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate as a Legislative Assistant and Chief of Staff.



**Stephanie Rosendorf, JD'16**

Stephanie Rosendorf is a 3L and a Miami Scholar. She graduated with a degree in political science in May of 2009 from Florida Atlantic University. She is currently the President of the UM Chapter of Law Students for Reproductive Justice and the President of the UM Law chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. She is also the Chief Articles Editor of the National Security & Armed Conflict Law Review, Secretary of the Society of Bar & Gavel, Historian of the UM-ACLU, and a member of the Charles C. Papy, Jr. Moot Court Board. During her 1L summer, Stephanie was an intern with The Florida Justice Institute. During her 2L year, she worked in Miami Law's Immigration Clinic and the Historic Black Church Program's Civil Rights Project. During the summer of 2015, she served as a HOPE Fellow with Florida Legal Services Community Justice Project, helping to empower low-income communities to fully realize their rights. During her 3L year, she served as Chair of HOPE Day of Service and is a fellow in the Historic Black Church Program.



**Kelly Shami, JD'16**

Kelly Shami is a 3L from Lubbock, Texas. She earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. At SMU, she realized her interest in law while volunteering for the Innocence Project of Texas at SMU. Since enrolling at Miami Law, Kelly has participated in the Leipzig Exchange Program and Books and Buddies, and held a leadership role with HOPE Day of Service. During her 2L summer, Kelly worked at the Public Defender's Office in the Domestic Representation Unit through the HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellowship program. Additionally, Kelly is the Society of Bar and Gavel Treasurer for 2015-2016, Health Law Association's 3L Member-at-Large, a research assistant for Professor Markus Wagner, and incoming Editor-in-Chief for the International and Comparative Law Review. During the Fall of her 3L year, she is participating in the Health Rights Clinic. During her 2L summer, Kelly served as a HOPE Fellow with the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and worked on issues including women's rights, reproductive freedom and youth rights.



**Lauryn Suarez, JD '16**

Lauryn Suarez is a 3L, Vice President of Miami Law Women, and a returning member of the Public Interest Leadership Board. As a 1L, she received the HOPE Pro Bono Challenge Award for the most hours volunteered by a first-year student. She participated in the Children and Youth Law Clinic during her 2L year and returned as a fellow in Fall 2015. She has volunteered with Guardian ad Litem and clerked for Legal Services of Greater Miami and the City Attorney of Sunny Isles. She continued with the City Attorney's Office during the summer of 2015. She also serves as a research assistant to Professor Kele Stewart, working on a project for foster care youth.



**Sofia Tarafa, JD'16**

Sofia Tarafa is a 3L who graduated from Florida State University in 2012 with a dual degree in English Literature and Communications. Before attending Miami Law, Sofia taught writing at Miami- Dade College in a course designed to help underprivileged students transition to college. During her 1L summer, Sofia interned with external affairs at Bacardi, U.S.A. and had the opportunity to help shape the company's charitable initiatives. She worked with the Children and Youth Law Clinic during her 2L year, where she advocated for clients in the foster care system. During the summer of 2015, Sofia served as a HOPE Fellow with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, where she assisted in the representation of indigent persons in collateral civil matters arising out of criminal charges.