

MIAMILAW



PUBLIC INTEREST RESOURCE CENTER

MIAMI SCHOLARS PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAM



“The Miami Scholars Public Interest Program represents dedicated and extraordinary students at Miami Law. Their passion for justice, intellectual curiosity and motivation drives them to effectuate change in agencies and communities near and far.”

~Marni Lennon, Esq.

*Assistant Dean for Public Interest and Pro Bono
Director, HOPE Public Interest Resource Center
Lecturer in Law*

MIAMI SCHOLARS PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAM

Established in 1997, the Miami Scholars Public Interest Program brings exceptional students with a passion for public service and social justice to the University of Miami School of Law. Miami Scholars are selected based on their outstanding academic credentials and demonstrated commitment to public service and advocacy.

The Miami Scholars Public Interest Program offers its students exclusive opportunities for legal advocacy training and advising from the HOPE Public Interest Resource Center team of attorneys, including individualized curriculum advising and career planning assistance. Miami Scholars receive mentoring by upper-class Scholars and public interest and pro bono attorneys.

Miami Scholars are awarded an annual scholarship and are provided with a stipend for public interest work that is performed during their first or second year summer. Tuition awards are automatically renewed if the scholar remains in good standing.

The Miami Scholars Public Interest Program connected me with a network of students and professionals who share a passion for public interest and social justice work. I know I will always have a support system with my colleagues and mentors through Miami Scholars.

~Nejla Calvo, JD '15

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Miami, FL

I was immediately welcomed by this small community and presented with unique viewpoints and opportunities. The Miami Scholars program has given me an outlet to apply in-class lessons to benefit the local community. I have done far more hands-on legal work than I would have otherwise been able to do had I not been invited to join this cohort.

~Bennett Blachar, Class of 2016

Only with the Miami Scholars did I find a program that prioritized a balance between my academic interests and my passion for public service. The Miami Scholars program challenges students to become well-rounded lawyers with a clear understanding of their values and goals. With the support and encouragement of the Miami Scholars program, I never feel alone on my law school journey.

~Linet Suarez, Class of 2017

The Miami Scholars Program gave me the ability to take internships in disability law and attend a dual degree program in my field of interest, Public Health. My reasons for my lifelong support of that program continue to multiply. Law school can be a challenging place for those who envision themselves as civil servants. The support of the other Miami Scholars and Dean Lennon kept me focused on my ultimate goals and helped me pinpoint one-of-a-kind opportunities that I would not have had otherwise.

~Kathy Walker, JD '13

*United States Department of Justice,
Disability Rights Section, Washington, D.C.*

I came to the University of Miami specifically to be a part of the Miami Scholars Program. I wanted to find a place where I would be unconditionally encouraged and assisted in my desire to practice public interest law. The Miami Scholars Program allowed me to do this along with a dedicated cohort of like-minded students.

~Abraham Rubert-Schewel, JD '14

Legal Aid Society, New York, NY

While I was attracted to Miami Law for many reasons, it was the school's commitment to developing and supporting the next generation of public interest lawyers through the Miami Scholars Program that solidified my decision to relocate from Washington, D.C. for law school. From judicial internships to exclusive networking opportunities, the experiences afforded to me through the Miami Scholars Program have had a tremendous impact on my professional development and have also resulted in meaningful ties to the bench and bar, great friendships and a supportive network across the public and private sector.

~Kevin Probst, JD '07

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Miami, FL



BENNETT BLACHAR

As part of the University of Miami Honors Program in Law, Bennett Blachar began law school after 3 years of undergraduate study at the University of Miami. While he pursued a double major in economics and psychology, he served as an Executive Intern at the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. Following his first semester in law school, Bennett earned the Dean's Certificate of Achievement Award in his Legal Communication and Research Skills Course. During his 1L summer, he interned with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, as well as with Judge Robert Scola in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. There, he gained exposure to the federal court system as he drafted a variety of memos and orders. During his 2L year, Bennett served as an extern with the Miami Regional Office of the SEC and participated in Miami Law's Immigration Clinic. Following his 2L year, he was a summer associate with Arnstein & Lehr LLP. He is serving as Co-Executive Editor of the Inter-American Law Review during his 3L year.



KELLY COX

Kelly Cox is a JD/MPS student studying Marine Affairs and Policy at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Kelly graduated from North Carolina State University with degrees in Natural Resources and Political Science. Before law school, Kelly worked with the Environmental Defense Fund where she focused on policy issues surrounding energy efficiency and public housing. She also worked with the U.S. Forest Service where her forestry and watershed research was used to advise the North Carolina General Assembly on Best Management Practices legislation. Since arriving to law school, Kelly has worked with the Florida Department of Transportation on land use legal issues and the Everglades Law Center on water quality and energy concerns. Kelly conducts research for the Center for Ethics and Public Service on local environmental justice issues and she has recently contributed pro bono legal research to Miami-Dade Reef Guard. She is the President of the Environmental Law Society and the newly formed Miami Law DiveBar Student Chapter. During her 2L summer, Kelly served as a HOPE Fellow with the City of Miami's Office of the City Attorney in the General Government Division.



MICHAEL DEUTSCH

Michael Deutsch received his B.A. in Government from Georgetown University, graduating cum laude in 2013. While at Georgetown, Michael interned in the Office of Congressman Ted Deutch and worked as a Summer Organizer for Obama for America. At Miami Law, Michael serves as the Chair of the Public Interest Leadership Board and is a member of the International and Comparative Law Review, Honor Council, and the Society of Bar and Gavel. During his 1L summer, he served as an intern with Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, DC. As a 2L, Michael interned for the The Honorable Alicia M. Otago-Reyes, U.S. Magistrate, of the Southern District of Florida, and participated in the Health Rights Clinic. During his 2L summer, Michael was a HOPE Fellow with the United States Department of

Justice in the Criminal Division, Fraud Section, in Washington, DC, where he worked on a variety of issues relating to white-collar crime, including securities and financial fraud, health care fraud, and fraud under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. During his 3L year, Michael is interning with the United States Department of Homeland Security in Miami.



ERIN EVASHEVSKI

Erin Evashevski graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science. While there, she spent a semester abroad in Durban, South Africa, where her interest in human rights was ignited. After working with a number of non-profit organizations and spending a year working with Best Buddies International, Erin was motivated to pursue a degree in law in order to provide her with the platform to advocate for change. During her 1L summer, Erin was a legal intern with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division. Erin dedicated her second year at Miami Law to the Immigration Clinic, where she represented indigent non-citizens facing deportation. She is an editor of the Race & Social Justice Law Review and served as Vice President of the Student Organization for Human Rights. During her 2L summer, Erin worked for a private attorney, researching municipal law issues and assisting with civil litigation matters.



ELIZABETH FATA

Elizabeth Fata was born and raised in South Florida where she developed a love for the environment and an interest in environmental law. She attended the University of Florida, earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology and double minors in Environmental Science and Sustainability Studies. Upon graduation, Elizabeth worked as a legal intern for an engineering firm in Atlanta, learning about the legal work involved in energy production. She then became a member of the Student Conservation Association and travelled to southern Oregon to work as a park ranger for Oregon Caves National Monument, providing environmental education and guided cave tours to local children and adventurers. Her involvement in the Student Conservation Association and AmeriCorps then took her to Kodiak, Alaska, where she was involved in the remote monitoring and sustainable development of Alaskan salmon populations. Elizabeth then enrolled at Miami Law and, after completing her first year, worked as an intern for the Honorable Thomas Logue at the Florida Third District Court of Appeal. She then travelled to San Francisco to work as a summer law clerk for the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Regional Counsel. She has worked as an extern with the Everglades Law Center and, since her 2L year, has served as an intern with the Center for Ethics and Public Service's Environmental Justice Project. During her 2L summer, Elizabeth was a summer associate with Cozen O'Connor.



CAITLIN GILES

(Christina) Caitlin Giles 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. In addition to serving as a Miami Scholar and a member of the Public Interest Leadership Board, Caitlin has served as president of the Child Advocacy and Family Law Society, Dean's Cup Co-Chair, and an Empowered Youth tutoring program coordinator. The summer after her 1L year, Caitlin interned for both the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Florida and for Judge Robert Scola in the U.S. District Court for the South District of Florida. During her 2L year, Caitlin worked in the Children and Youth Law Clinic and served as a summer associate with Holland & Knight, a firm with a substantial pro bono practice.



SARAH HANNERS

Sarah Hanners graduated from the University of Miami in 2004 and entered Miami Law in 2013. In the interim she traveled widely, and in 2007, a fortuitous decision to volunteer for a few weeks at Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi, an Amazonian wildlife refuge, turned into a six-year-long adventure. During her time at the remote jungle outpost, she occupied the role of volunteer coordinator, and worked hands-on with the victims of rampant deforestation and international animal trafficking. Fed-up with lack of environmental justice in Bolivia, and throughout the Americas, she accepted a place at Miami Law, hoping that having a legal background would better equip her to fight for environmental justice. During her 1L summer, Sarah returned to Bolivia to volunteer for three weeks, and spent the remainder of the time working for The Office of the Public Defender of Miami-Dade County. As a 2L, Sarah was the co-President of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and continues her work with Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi remotely, helping with international fundraising efforts. She is on the staff of the Inter-American Law Review, and a full-year intern with the Children and Youth Law Clinic. She is focusing her studies on learning how to stand up for those without a voice—human and animal alike.



JONATHAN KORTE

Jonathan Korte graduated Summa Cum Laude from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 2012 with a double major in Spanish and Latin American studies. In his 1L year, Jonathan was elected President of the Environmental Law Society and worked for West Africa's largest law firm. Jonathan's work in Africa focused on the region's booming oil and gas and mining industries. His work included an ICC arbitration in which an African nation recovered the right to reclaim its mineral resources from a North American mining operation. In his final two years at Miami Law, Jonathan has focused on international finance and securities law.

He has worked with the law school's Investor Rights Clinic, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the SEC. He was the winner of the 2015 John F. Evans Memorial Scholarship for Litigation Skills and is a member of the UM Trial Team.



CAROLINE MCGEE

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Caroline McGee completed her undergraduate studies at the George Washington University and went on to receive her master's in Latin American Studies from American University. Prior to law school, Caroline spent five years in Central America, where she worked for two different non-profits that implemented education programs and health care initiatives for underserved populations. Upon returning to the United States in 2012, Caroline worked as a

legal assistant at a law firm specializing in workers' compensation. At Miami Law, Caroline has participated in the Immigration Clinic and is a member of University of Miami Law Review. During her 1L summer, she externed for Judge Andrew D. Hurwitz of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She spent her 2L summer as a HOPE Fellow with the Phoenix District Office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After graduation, Caroline will be clerking on the Arizona Court of Appeals.



JESSICA NEER

Jessica Neer graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Latin American Studies and Political Science from the University of Florida. At Miami Law, she is active in the Charles C. Papy Moot Court Board, Federal Bar Association, Hispanic Law Student Association, Inter-American Law Review, Miami Law Women, Public Interest Leadership Board, Student Bar Association and Student Veterans of America. She also participated in the Investor Rights Clinic. Jessica has served

the Florida legal community through interning with the Northern and Southern Districts of Florida, teaching undergraduate students about state government, working as a law clerk with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and serving as a legislative assistant and chief of staff in the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate.



LINDSAY NELSON

Lindsay Nelson graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Honors English and a minor in French, and earned a commission in the United States Marine Corps, where she served on active duty for twelve years. While a Marine Corps officer, she earned an M.A. in English Literature from the Catholic University of America, deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, taught English at the United States Naval

Academy, and taught naval flight school. She continues to serve in the United States Marine Corps Reserves while in law school. During her 1L summer, she worked as a judicial intern in Miami and during her 2L year she interned with Miami Law's Health Rights Clinic. Following her second year, she was a summer associate with Gunster and is working as a research assistant to Professor Bascuas during her 3L year. She is particularly interested in helping children, veterans, and immigrants in Miami.



PAUL NUNEZ

Paul Nunez graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Environmental Studies from the Honors College at Florida International University. Paul has interned with two different environmental law firms during his time at Miami Law. While with these firms, he worked to oppose both the drilling of an oil well and the creation of a highway near the Everglades. Paul also interned with a judge in the Southern District of Florida, where he drafted orders on a variety of issues. His interest in the environment extends to his research and volunteer efforts. During the summer of 2012, Paul worked as a field research assistant studying wild orchid populations in southern China. Paul also researched the home energy use of Sweetwater, FL residents and organized an energy saving workshop as part of a community improvement effort. He has participated in various cleanup efforts including the Bayanza Beach Cleanup, South Beach and Everglades Cleanup initiatives. Through his studies he hopes to improve legal protections for the environment.



STEPHANIE ROSENDORF

Stephanie Rosendorf has had a passion for public service and social justice for many years. Active in the Florida College Democrats, as well as her local Democratic Party, Stephanie served as Delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention. She also worked on several political campaigns and gained valuable insight about the needs of the South Florida community. As an intern with the United Auto Workers, she learned about the struggles of the labor movement and the role of unions. During her 1L summer, Stephanie interned for the Florida Justice Institute, a Miami-based public interest law civil rights law firm. During her 2L year, she participated in the Immigration Clinic and the Historic Black Church Program. During her 2L summer, she was a HOPE Fellow at the Community Justice Project, where she worked on a variety of legal and policy issues related to racial and economic justice. Stephanie was also the Chair of the 2015 HOPE Day of Service. During her 3L year, she is serving as a Fellow with the Center for Ethics and Public Service, the Chief Articles Editor of the National Security & Armed Conflict Law Review, and a Member of the Charles C. Papy, Jr. Moot Court Board. She is also Secretary of the Society of Bar and Gavel and on the executive boards of the National Lawyers Guild, the ACLU, and Law Students for Reproductive Justice and is working part-time at a workers' compensation firm.



ALIE ROTHMAN

Alie Rothman 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, where she was awarded the Natasha Pettigrew Memorial Piranha for Children Award for her efforts throughout the year. During her 2L summer, Alie worked as a summer associate in the litigation department at Greenberg Traurig. She is the co-founder of Alie's Fund for Children with

MS, a fund that provides financial means to ensure a brighter future for children living with Multiple Sclerosis. Additionally, Alie sits on the board of Multiple Sclerosis Young Professionals and is the chairwoman of Team Alie, the largest MS Walk Team in South Florida. During her 3L year, she is serving as Honor Council President, The Society of Bar and Gavel Vice President, Public Interest Leadership Board Deputy Chair, and a University of Miami Inter-American Law Review Staff Editor.



STEVEN STRICKLAND

Steven Strickland was attracted to law school because law stands at the intersection of so many different industries, from venture capital to nonprofits to real estate, which can help stimulate economic growth and benefit communities. Steven earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Harvard. As an undergraduate, Steven worked for U.S. Senator John Kerry, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, the Harvard Law School Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs, and the John A. Hartford

Foundation. He was also involved with a number of Latino student organizations, such as the Boston Intercollegiate Latin American Network and the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy. Steven spent his 1L summer interning with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida in the Narcotics Division, as well as the Dade Legal Aid Venture Law Project. Following his 2L year, he served as a summer associate with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed in Orlando.



VALERIE TOTH

Valerie Toth graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in International Relations. As an undergraduate, she spent a year in Argentina where she pursued a specialization in Latin American studies. She then went to work for a global immigration law firm handling immigration matters for corporate employees being transferred to various countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. After completing a Master's in Public Administration, Valerie

joined the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), a foundation within the Organization of American States. Her work involved developing and strengthening public-private sector alliances in support of the organization's programs to create economic opportunities, strengthen communities and civil society, and respond to natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. While at PADF, Valerie launched a campaign to raise funds to rebuild neighborhoods destroyed by the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. After her 1L year, Valerie interned with the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, observing a wide range of cases in civil, family, appellate, criminal, and federal bankruptcy courts.



SYDNEY TOWNE

Sydney graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, magna cum laude, with a degree in Journalism and the belief that an informed citizenry is an essential part of a democracy. That belief led her to cover local governments for the Miami Herald. Immediately after graduating college, she joined Teach For America in Stamford, CT. During her 2L year at Miami Law, she edited and wrote sections of a collateral consequences guide with the Office of the Miami-Dade Public

Defender. She also served as an intern with the Domestic Violence Court in Miami-Dade County. During her third year she is working as a law clerk with a family law firm.

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FERAS AHMED

Feras Ahmed graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University in May of 2013 with a B.A. in Political Science and minors in Global Studies and Philosophy. At Florida Gulf Coast he participated in student government as a senator for the College of Arts and Sciences, founded the FGCU Muslim Students Association, and also competed nationally as a member of the university's Model United Nations team. Following graduation, Feras served as a fellow with Emerge USA, a grassroots organization that engages underrepresented communities in the political process. There he organized civic education and engagement workshops across Florida, created leadership training seminars, and handled complex database and digital marketing tasks. At Miami Law, Feras is interested in exploring the intersection of law and technology. He is a member of the Society of Bar & Gavel, Inter-American Law Review, and Public Interest Leadership Board. During his 1L year, Feras worked as a Research Assistant to Professor Michelle DeStefano and the Law Without Walls program, a position he continued during his 1L summer. Feras also worked as an Executive Intern at the Office of the Miami-Dade Public Defender following his 1L year. He is an ambassador for the South Florida Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel and during his 2L year will intern for United States Circuit Judge Adalberto J. Jordan.



JESSICA BRAUTIGAM

Jessica Brautigam completed her undergraduate studies at Grand Valley State University in Michigan in 2005 and went on to earn a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Science in Mass Communication in 2011. Since arriving in Miami, she has worked closely with the Friends of Miami Dade Detainees to implement a visitation program at Krome Detention Facility aimed at ending isolation and connecting detainees with resources. Following her 1L year, Jessica served as a fellow in the 2015 Summer Human Trafficking Institute at Children at Risk, a Houston based non-profit advocacy organization. During her 2L year she is participating in the Immigration Clinic, serving as a staff editor on the Race and Social Justice Law Review, and working as a legal intern with the Center for Ethics and Public Service's Social Enterprise Project.



SAWYEH ESMAILI

Sawyeh Esmaili graduated from San Diego State University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in International Studies. Following graduation, Sawyeh began volunteering with the Office of the State Attorney in West Palm Beach, FL. She assisted attorneys with case management in County Court. In October 2012, she began working with The Urban League of Broward County in Ft. 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. She was then 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. She acted as a counselor and mentor and helped each student create his

or her own path to college. During her 1L summer at Miami Law, Sawyeh interned with Planned Parenthood Global's Latin America Regional Office. As a 2L, she is serving as an extern with the Florida Justice Institute and as an intern in the Immigration Clinic. She is also a member of the Race and Social Justice Law Review.



ELI GORDON

Eli Gordon 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. In both Miami

and New York, Eli has been an active member of Chai Lifeline, an organization that provides emotional support to children with life-threatening illnesses. 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. He also served as the school's literacy coordinator and assistant basketball coach. Eli currently is a member of City Year Miami's Alumni Leadership Board. Eli will be furthering his efforts to assist underprivileged schools during his 2L year by working at Miami Carol City Senior High School as part of Miami Law's Street Law Program. Eli spent his 1L summer as a judicial intern to the Honorable Vance Salter at Florida's Third District Court of Appeal.



PATRICK MCGEE

Patrick McGee earned his B.A. in History from the University of Arizona in 1992. During college, he received an NROTC Scholarship and upon graduation, he entered service in the United States Marine Corps. During his 22-year career, he served as a helicopter pilot, an air officer, and a Marine Attaché, completing overseas tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, Japan, and Georgia. He also served at-sea with deployments to Africa and the Mediterranean. His personal awards include the Bronze

Star, the Air Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Upon retirement from active duty, Patrick embarked on obtaining a legal education to pursue a fundamentally different second career where he could again make a difference. During his 1L summer, he attended summer school at Miami Law and worked part-time at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. There he was assigned to the Veteran's Advocacy Program and assisted a former Miami Scholar in the pursuit of discharge upgrades for administratively separated service personnel and obtained public benefits for at-need veterans.



LETICIA MORA

Leticia Mora graduated from Florida State University in May 2013 with degrees in Theatre and Psychology. She was on the Dean's List, received the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Award and the Humana Academic Scholar Achievement Award, and was recognized for her extensive outstanding work with the Model United Nations program. During undergrad, she served as an intern with the Center for the Advancement of

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Human Rights with specific emphasis on sex trafficking. While at FSU, she also helped create a theatre troupe Latinos In Performance whose mission was to advance the rights of marginalized groups and create a forum through which issues could be addressed. In 2011, Leticia was awarded a Hubbard Fellowship to attend the University of Iowa School of Law Summer Undergraduate Program which aims to enhance diversity in the legal field. Following graduation from FSU, Leticia served as a fellow with Humanity in Action in Amsterdam where she participated in programs pertaining to human rights and minority issues from a European context. During her first year of law school, Leticia worked on Medicaid issues with Florida Legal Services and served as a Summer Public Interest Fellow with the United States Attorney's Office in Miami. During her 2L year, Leticia is participating in the International Moot Court Program, Street Law, and the Tenants' Rights Clinic.



SONYA RANDOLPH

Sonya Randolph received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Miami in December 2013. Prior to that she spent approximately eight years on active duty with the United States Air Force and later moved to the Air Force Reserves while she was earning her undergraduate degree. Sonya served in Japan, South Korea, and North Carolina, and most recently has served at the Homestead Air Reserve Base near Miami. During her various deployments she has spent time in countries such as Thailand, Philippines, Qatar and Honduras. Sonya has been recognized by the Air Force for her outstanding leadership qualities and has received numerous awards. She also engaged in community service around the world while serving her country, including volunteering as an English teacher and with a teen center in Japan, at soup kitchens and hospitals in the United States, and with the Veterans Student Organization at the University of Miami. During her 1L summer, she worked with the Children and Youth Law Clinic, assisting current and former foster youth with immigration and dependency issues, as well as health and housing benefits.



BRITTANY STOCKMAN

Brittany Stockman graduated with honors from the University of Miami in 2011 with B.A. degrees in Marine Affairs & Policy and Spanish, and a Minor in Economics. She continued her studies at UM's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, and earned an M.S. in Marine Affairs in 2013. She has studied in Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador and the Galapagos, where she witnessed the conflict between marine conservation and the needs of people who derived their living or sustenance from the seas. In 2010, Brittany began working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where she assisted project managers in assessing and minimizing the detrimental environmental effects of various developmental activities. She then moved on to The International SeaKeepers Society, a non-profit organization that deals with ocean conservation, working her way up to her current position as Director of Programs and Policies. She has partnered with influential ocean conservationists to challenge the current state of ocean policy and has been able to research critical ocean issues, evaluate proposed solutions and recommend actions for improvement. During the summer after her first year in law school, Brittany worked as a law clerk in the Economic and Environmental Crimes Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.

**LINET SUAREZ**

Linet Suarez graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2013 with a B.A in Political Science and a minor in Anthropology. During college she was a member of the Pre-Law Society, a board member of Bryn Mawr Buzzing 4 Change Charity and Chapter President of Democracy Matters. She also worked as a Peer Mentor Advisor and a Resident Advisor. During the summer of 2011, Linet served as an intern with the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship in Mexico. She worked at a support center for women along with a group of female lawyers focused on addressing domestic violence. During her summer in Mexico she also worked as a migration program intern, aiding refugees with housing and education. Since graduation, Linet has been a volunteer and after school care leader at Rockway Elementary School in Miami. During her 1L summer, Linet served as a Summer Public Interest Fellow with Florida Legal Services. She focused on Medicaid expansion and increasing access to health care for members of low-income communities. During her 2L year, she is serving as an intern with the Health Rights Clinic.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead



IAN BERTSCHAUSEN

Ian Bertschausen graduated from Wagner College in Staten Island, New York in May 2015 with a B.A. in Government and Politics and a minor in History. He is a member of two national honor societies, one for leadership and the other for political science, and sang in the Wagner College Choir. He served as a Government and Politics tutor and also worked with the college's Office of Institutional Advancement. Ian held several leadership roles with *Generation Citizen*, a national program in which undergraduate students teach a civics course at a low-income high school and assist the high school students in creating a project they can use to solve pressing issues in their community. As a Democracy Coach, he led students through the process of making tangible, systemic changes in the community, while also teaching them lifelong advocacy skills. He also served as Advocacy Director and Chapter Executive Director for *Generation Citizen*. Most recently, Ian served as a Citizenship Intern with the YMCA Center for New Americans. In addition to leading a weekly citizenship class, he assisted immigrants with completing paperwork necessary for the citizenship process. Ian hopes to use his law degree to advance social justice and serve his community.



LAURA CONNOR

Laura Connor graduated from the University of Missouri in May 2015 with a B.A. in English. She was a Walter Williams Scholar, a recipient of an Honors Certificate, and a member of the University of Missouri Leadership Academy. She was president and founder of the campus chapter of the International Justice Mission, which is dedicated to eradicating modern-day slavery and forced labor around the world while planning local events and educational efforts to bring awareness to the surrounding community. In addition, she organized *Mizzou Stand for Freedom*, an event that raised over \$2,000 and gathered thousands of signatures to enhance a national effort to end human trafficking. She was also a member of the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition, a community organization that works to raise awareness and money in order to prevent and end forced labor through advocacy, education, and community engagement. During the summer of 2013, Laura worked in Dublin, Ireland as a corporate fundraising intern for the Children's Medical and Research Foundation. She assisted with research and marketing. She also served as a tutor and a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club. Laura plans to use her law degree to continue her commitment to public service and advance human rights globally.



ELLEN DEGNAN

Ellen Degnan graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Economics in May 2012. While at Yale, she was a co-coordinator of *Jews for Justice*, which linked the Jewish community to social justice causes through activism and education. She was also a member of *Fierce Advocates*, a student organization working for equality in the LGBTQ community, and participated in the Community Voter Project with the Connecticut Center for a New Economy. During the summer of 2010, Ellen served as an intern with Catalyst Miami, where she worked on

the *Penny Wise Campaign*, an effort to mobilize Miami-Dade voters against county budget cuts to jobs and social services. She coordinated media and messaging strategy, presented to stakeholder organizations, and facilitated leadership training workshops on themes of poverty, civil engagement, and community activism. The following summer she served as an intern with the Detention Unit of Americans for Immigrant Justice in Miami. She worked alongside attorneys and law students to provide pro se assistance to immigrant women detained at a Broward County detention center. Beginning in 2012, Ellen worked full time as a research analyst with Innovations for Poverty Action, a non-profit dedicated to rigorous evaluation of social programs and policies. She cleaned, managed, and performed econometric analysis of data from field experiments in South America and West Africa on topics including microfinance, education, and health. Ellen intends to use her law degree to focus on the intersection of technology, data, and access to justice.



KATHRYN DELLA FERA

Kathryn Della Fera graduated cum laude from the University of Florida in 2011 with a B.S. in Psychology. She was on the Dean's List/President's Honor Roll and an active member of the Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, completing 35 hours of community service each semester through blood drives, beach cleanups, tutoring and feeding the homeless. She also worked as a research assistant in the Health Psychology Research Lab and studied abroad in both Panama and Rome.

Upon graduation, Kathryn joined Teach for America and became a middle school science teacher in Miami. Her students earned the second highest scores in the district on interim exams and she was nominated for New Teacher of the Year after creatively implementing lessons and procedures to ensure a productive classroom. After two years, she took a position as an Instructional Science Coach. She built the capacity of science teachers through strategic coaching and developed a science intervention program. She then decided to relocate to Madrid, Spain where she became a language and culture assistant at a secondary school. For this work she received the CIEE Teach in Spain Grant. Kathryn hopes to pursue an M.S.Ed. in Law, Community and Social Change along her with J.D. in order to effectuate change in the country's education system.



NALANI GORDON

Nalani Gordon graduated from the University of Central Florida, summa cum laude, in 2013 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. She was also awarded certifications in Criminal Profiling and Victim Advocacy. She received her Master of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida in May 2015. Throughout her time at UCF, she was on the President's Honor Roll, received numerous awards and scholarships, and became a member

of several honor societies. As part of *Knight Advocates*, she was involved in clothing and food drives, safety fairs and service projects. She was also a member of the Student Advisory Council and the Student Conduct Review Board. In the community, Nalani volunteered at a United Cerebral Palsy charter school, where she tutored students and completed a *Teachers-in-Action* project to improve the school's library. She also worked with the Palm Beach County Health Department to initiate *Reading Counts*, an incentive program that encouraged reading in a 4th

grade classroom. She continued her volunteer work with the Health Department by participating in toy drives, clerical work and interpretation services. While in the classroom, and through her volunteerism, Nalani was struck by the vast disparity in educational resources and support for students across the school district. Nalani hopes to use her legal education to address educational access barriers for children.



JORDAN GRAY

Jordan Gray graduated from Johns Hopkins University in December 2014 with a major in Psychological and Brain Sciences and a minor in Music. During her sophomore year, she was a finalist for the Mt. Sinai Medical School Humanities and Medicine Program. She served as performance director and president of *The JHU Sirens*, an all-female cappella group, was a teaching assistant for a class entitled *Psychological Profiling of the Mass Murderer*, and worked on numerous community service initiatives as a student leader. She also served as a mentor/tutor for local Baltimore students. In 2013, Jordan interned with the Mother and Infant Care sector of the Baltimore City Health Department and, during the summer of 2014, she worked with the Baltimore City Law Department. As an intern, she assisted in drafting and editing motions and depositions and helped to draft a paper on social media in the municipal law workplace that was published and distributed at the International Municipal Lawyers Conference. She also created the *In Good Health Blog*, a healthy living blog for which she is the primary writer. Jordan hopes to blend her interests in law and psychology to serve the public through a career in criminal defense.



JOSH GUTTER

Josh Gutter graduated summa cum laude from The University of Florida in May 2009 with both a B.S. and an M.S. degree from the Fisher School of Accounting. He was a student ambassador with the Florida Cicerones, a research participant in the University Scholars Program, and upon graduation, he became a Certified Public Accountant. Shortly thereafter, Josh began volunteering with the human rights organization *Calling All Crows*. As its Development and External Affairs Intern, he researched grants, assisted with communication, and collaborated with other nonprofit organizations. This experience led to his position as an AmeriCorps member with *City Year Miami*, where he served as a mentor and tutor at Miami Jackson Senior High. At City Year's graduation, he received the "Ubuntu" Award, which is named after a South African proverb meaning "I am a person through other people. My humanity is tied to yours." The spirit of Ubuntu represents respect, human dignity, compassion, and community. The following year, he participated in Jewish Federation of Broward County's Horizons Leadership Program, and in 2013, he served as Director of Community Outreach for *AIGA Miami*, a professional association for design. This latter opportunity led to his engagement in Miami's start-up ecosystem, and since then, he has continued to be an active supporter of South Florida's growing tech community. Josh hopes to use his law degree to pursue his interests in intellectual property, technology law, and social justice.



DANIEL HALES

Daniel Hales graduated from the University of Maine in 2014 with a B.S. in Marine Sciences and a concentration in Marine Biology. He was a member of the Track and Field team and a student coordinator of Male Athletes Against Violence (MAAV). Through MAAV, he served as a peer educator, creating and presenting workshops to college students and engaging in outreach to area schools. The emphasis of the program was to stop domestic abuse and harmful stereotypes about masculinity. After spending time in Australia, during the Fall of 2012, Daniel served as an intern with the Marine Animal Rehabilitation and Conservation Program at the University of New England, where he educated, inspired, and engaged the public in conservation efforts. He also served as a resident assistant and worked at the Bar Harbor Whale Museum and the local YMCA. Daniel plans to pursue a joint degree through the law school and the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and hopes to use his education to protect marine ecosystems and global environmental health.



BRADLEY JARRETT

Bradley Jarrett graduated cum laude from The Citadel-The Military College of South Carolina in 2008 with a B.A. in Political Science: International and Military Affairs. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate. Following graduation, he began his career with the United States Army. He took part in the United States Army Basic Officers Leaders Course and the Naval School for Explosive Ordnance Disposal before deploying to Iraq in 2009 as an Operations Officer and Platoon Leader. He spent a year in Iraq, coordinating all combat operations for his company and engaging in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From 2010 to 2012, he served as a Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, and Security Manager at Ft. Drum, NY, where he oversaw EOD programs and supported military personnel throughout the country. He later served as Commander of the 761st Ordnance Company in Ft. Sill, OK, and Zabul Province, Afghanistan. He directed operations for a 6,000 person task force during 16 multinational operations, oversaw training, and served as a mentor and liaison officer to Afghan National Army personnel. Captain Jarret has received many awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and medals for his service overseas. He hopes to use his law degree to continue his lifelong commitment to public service.



JOSHUA MANDEL

Joshua Mandel is a December 2012 graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio. He received a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Law and Society. He was the quarterback of the Oberlin College Varsity Football team and received the Yeomen Academic Excellence Award, a high honor for student-athletes. While at Oberlin, he volunteered as a fifth grade tutor with the *America Counts* program, assisting at-risk students in math and English. He also served as a team leader with Habitat for Humanity. During the summers he worked as a legal intern with a Ft. Lauderdale law firm. Upon graduation, Joshua returned to Ft. Lauderdale

to work as a paralegal at that firm and then became a project assistant with the firm of Norton Rose Fulbright in Austin, Texas. He was an active member of the Life Sciences, Health Care & Pharmaceutical/ Product Liability Mass Tort Defense Litigation team. He completed research regarding the Food and Drug Administration and the Securities Exchange Commission and prepared scientific, legal and statistical reports for the law firm. During his time at the firm, Joshua also served as a teaching assistant for a civil litigation course at the University of Texas School of Law. Joshua hopes to use his law degree to act as a voice for impoverished communities through policy work.



SARAH MCCONNELL

Sarah McConnell graduated from the University of Florida in May 2015 with a B.A. in English. She was on the Dean's List and a member of an International English Honor Society. She previously attended George Washington University, where she was a member of the Honors Program and the Dean's List. She was also involved with *GWU Invisible Children* and College Democrats. During the summer of 2010, Sarah interned with *Project Vote Smart* in Montana whose mission is to increase

the accessibility of free, unbiased information about local and national political candidates. Her work included researching political candidates in order to promote transparency in the political process. As an intern with *No Labels*, a Washington, D.C. agency focused on government accountability, she worked to mobilize citizens and government officials in the interest of bipartisanship. Both of these internships have highlighted the importance of equal access. In 2012 and 2013, Sarah served as a Press and Events Intern with *Dewdrop DC*, a Washington, D.C. agency offering a platform for local charitable organizations to emphasize sustainability. Sarah hopes to use her law degree to increase the availability of legal services to low-income clients and to further her commitment to serving women and their unique legal issues.



HALEY MOSS

Haley Moss graduated from the University of Florida in May 2015 with a B.A. in Criminology & Law, a B.S. in Psychology, and a minor in Disabilities in Society. She was in the Honors Program and was awarded the Anderson Scholarship for her academic achievements. She served as a member of UF Student Government and received the *Gators of Tomorrow* award, which was given to the top 25 campus and community leaders in her freshman class. She also served as

a research and teaching assistant. Haley has written two books and many articles about her experiences with autism and is committed to furthering awareness and education in order to help disabled individuals and their families. In 2013, Haley was recognized with the *South Florida Young Leader in Philanthropy Award* for serving the disability community via fundraising, advocating and published works. She currently serves as an ambassador for Project Lifesaver, where she educates law enforcement about disabilities. She is also on the Board of Directors of Unicorn Village Academy, a high school tailored to students with developmental differences. Haley hopes to use her law degree to engage in public service by assisting individuals with disabilities.



PATRICK PIJLS

Patrick Pijls earned a B.A. in economics and history from Northwestern University. He spent his first two years after college working with Teach For America in Miami, where he taught Algebra 1 at Miami Central Senior High School. There, he led almost 90% of his students to pass the state's standardized test. Patrick then worked on behalf of actress Goldie Hawn, speaking to teachers and parents around the world on the topic of emotional intelligence. He deeply believes all people, but especially children, deserve to find success through happiness. In his senior year of college, Patrick sat on Northwestern's disciplinary board. This furthered his interest in law, specifically how fair outcomes are heavily dependent on fair procedure. After law school, regardless of the path he chooses, Patrick wants to litigate cases pro bono on behalf of school choice and economic liberty. In 2014, Patrick served as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Argentina.



NICOLE PORTNOV

Nicole Portnov graduated from Boston College in 2007 with a B.A. in International Studies and Philosophy and received an M.A. in Social Studies Education from Hunter College in 2011. While at Boston College, she held leadership positions in a number of public service and mentoring organizations including the Gonzaga Residence Hall Council, Undergraduate Government, the GLBT Leadership Council, and the Mentoring Leadership Program. In 2007, she organized a service trip to New Orleans to provide Hurricane Katrina relief, and served as a program leader and English teacher during service trips to Bosnia in 2007 and 2011. Nicole began her teaching career as a student teacher in Brooklyn in 2011 and later taught social sciences and humanities in both the New York City School system and at ASA College. She has contributed to policymic.com, an online news source for young people, and has served as a volunteer docent with the Museum of Tolerance in New York. In 2015, she helped start the New York City chapter of Days for Girls International, an organization dedicated to providing sustainable sanitary products and health education to women around the world. Nicole hopes to use her law degree to focus on education law and policy.



CARLI RABEN

Carli Raben graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in May 2011 with a B.A. in History and a focus on Race and Gender in America. While at Berkeley, she served as a Peer Educator for the Gender Equity Resource Center. She developed original programming on prevention of sexual violence and stalking and presented workshops to campus organizations. She also served as a mentor with the SHINE Youth Mentorship program. During the summer of 2009, Carli worked as a research intern with The Raben Group, a Washington, DC-based public affairs consulting firm. She monitored legislation and maintained judicial and congressional information for clients. During the summer of 2010, she worked in the Washington, DC office of Florida Representative Ted Deutch. She handled constituent issues, represented the congressman at briefings, and wrote a speech delivered on his behalf for Florida's Democratic LGBT summer caucus. Upon graduating from

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Berkeley, Carli was selected for the Teach for America program in New Orleans. She initially served as an elementary school math teacher but stayed beyond her two-year Teach for America commitment and taught at East St. John High School. Most recently she served as a Special Education Case Manager. She created, implemented, and oversaw the individualized education plans for 10-15 students with disabilities each year, and worked with counselors, teachers, administrators and parents. She previously taught algebra using the special education inclusion model. Carli hopes to use her law degree to improve access to justice for children and other underrepresented communities.



BLAINE REMMICK

Blaine Remmick graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Economics, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) in December 2011. He participated in various Honors Programs, was on the Dean's List and Chancellor's List, received a number of scholarships and was the Outstanding College of Business Administration Economics Major for 2011-2012. He served as a UNO volunteer tutor, a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters, and received the President's Volunteer Service Award from the Obama Administration. Since 2010, Blaine worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, first as an intern and then as a full-time economist. He worked on issues such as flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water control, environmental quality and social justice. He also served on the executive board of Year of the Start Up, a non-profit that selects entrepreneurs to live in a communal house and assists them with getting their businesses started while saving capital. Blaine hopes to use his law degree to continue his public service work in the community.



CHRISTINA ROBINSON

Christina Robinson graduated magna cum laude from the University of Miami in 2013 with a major in Neuroscience and a minor in Chemistry. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, received the President's Scholarship, and was on the President's and Provost's Honor Rolls. She worked as a tutor in the Academic Resource Center and as a research assistant in the areas of psychology, mindfulness, and Parkinson's disease. While at Miami, Christina was actively involved with *Spectrum*, the university's undergraduate LGBT organization, serving as Support Group Chair. She took part in *Tunnel of Oppression*, directing the LGBT portion of this sensory-based, experiential program that challenges perceptions of oppression, discrimination, and hatred. She also served as an LGBT Issues Site Leader for the Alternative Breaks Program and led a service trip to New York to volunteer with the *Trevor Project*, a national LGBT youth suicide prevention program. Since graduation, Christina has volunteered with *SAVE*, a Florida-based LGBT rights organization, and the *Yes Institute*, a Miami-based non-profit dedicated to educating young people on the issues of gender and sexual orientation. She hopes to use her law degree to continue her commitment to public service and provide a voice for those who often go unheard in the legal system.



ASHLEY RODON

Ashley Rodon earned her B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Florida in 2011 with a major in Marketing and a minor in English. She was a Florida Academic Scholar and a member of the Dean's List and the Golden Key Honor Society. During college, she served on the Women's Leadership Council and worked with the Reitz Union Board Entertainment and Student Upstart Films. She was also a research assistant and a teaching assistant for a *Legal Environment in Business* course. Following graduation, Ashley joined Teach for America and taught high school math for three years at North Miami Senior High School. She created a curriculum derived from data of past student deficiencies and led students to proficiency on standardized testing. She has also volunteered with the Guardian ad Litem program. In 2014-2015, Ashley worked as a litigation assistant with a family law firm in Austin, Texas. She hopes to use her law degree to continue her commitment to public service by defending clients, and particularly juveniles, in the criminal justice system.



CARLY STARKEY

Carly Starkey graduated magna cum laude from Florida State University in May 2013 with a B.S. in Social Work and earned an M.S. in Social Work from FSU in August 2014. While in Tallahassee, she used her education and experience to serve children and families in a number of capacities. She worked with homeless children, and volunteered with an elementary school where she tutored at-risk students. She also spent many hours volunteering with her church, at a local homeless coalition, and through mission trips to Nicaragua and Guatemala. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she became a researcher with the Florida Center for Reading Research. In this position, she assessed children with developmental disabilities to gather research data and help with the exploration of new teaching strategies. While in graduate school, she interned with the Institute for Family Violence Studies, assisting with research, writing, and developing toolkits for families and communities. She became Project Coordinator, upon receiving her master's degree, and developed and implemented trainings, worked on proposals to encourage policy changes, and engaged in fundraising to further the goals of ending family violence. Carly brings her social work background, dedication to collaboration and commitment to facilitating change to the study of law.

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