

M I A M I L A W

HOPE Public Interest Resource Center

# 2010 HOPE SUMMER FELLOWS



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever does."*

- Margaret Mead

## Introduction to the HOPE Fellows Program

HOPE Fellows work with domestic and international public interest organizations to provide much-needed legal advocacy to those in need. Over the years, the program has grown from just two fellows placed in local agencies to include the local, national and international placements represented in the Fellows Class of 2010. The HOPE Fellows Program challenges students to identify host agencies and develop on-site projects to uniquely address unmet needs. In addition, upon their return to Miami Law, HOPE Fellows design and implement initiatives to educate and involve law students in advocacy related to their area of concentration.

In 2010, HOPE is proud to support the public interest work of an increased number of students who will serve clients and communities in need in extraordinary ways.

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### Daryl Bloomberg, Class of 2011

**Placement:** Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)

*Johannesburg, South Africa*



Daryl Bloomberg has been involved in many different facets of public interest work. In 2006, when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, she immediately volunteered with Common Ground Collective to repair and reconstruct homes. This past summer, she worked as an intern for the Children and Youth Law Clinic where she advocated for children within the Miami foster care system. This summer, Daryl will work for the Southern African Litigation Centre (SALC), whose mission is to provide on-going support and assistance to lawyers in Southern Africa who are litigating human rights, constitutional and public interest cases. While working for SALC, Daryl will focus her efforts on the HIV/AIDS Program.

*“I wish to pursue my passion for human rights in a country that has seen many instances of human rights violations. I will gratefully return to the University of Miami School of Law eager to educate my peers about the extensive human rights violations in the South African region and how the academic and legal community can become involved and assist in the relief efforts.”*



### **Erin Boatman, Class of 2011**

**Placement:** Miami Law African Neutral Trial Observer Initiative  
*Windhoek, Namibia*

Erin Boatman is a Miami Scholar who is interested in comparative legal systems and public international law. Prior to attending UM Law, Erin obtained her undergraduate degree in Human Rights Studies and acquired field experience documenting human rights abuses in Chiapas, Mexico. Last summer, Erin was an intern at the Office of the Public Defender for the 11th Circuit, where she worked in the felony division. Recently, Erin traveled to The Hague to represent UM Law at the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition and her team placed second in the world. Erin spent her spring break at the Bahamas Crisis Center, as the leader of a Legal Aid Alternative Break (LAAB), where she performed legislative research regarding spousal abuse and rape. She is excited to travel to Namibia, and to collaborate with Lawyers Without Borders, as a part of the Miami Law Africa Neutral Trial Observer Initiative.

*“I chose to attend law school to pursue a career in international human rights and it seems that this dream is becoming a reality. I welcome the opportunity to work with the HOPE team in the creation of ongoing exchange programs and courses that provide students with the opportunity to obtain hands on experience in the area of international human rights.”*



### **Sophie Brion, Class of 2013**

**Placement:** Miami Law African Neutral Trial Observer Initiative  
*Windhoek, Namibia*

Prior to graduate school, Sophie Brion directed the Women’s Advocacy Project, an initiative of the Women’s Fund of Miami-Dade. As an advocate for social justice and women’s empowerment, she worked to build collaborative efforts to improve women’s economic security, achieve reproductive justice and reduce violence against women. She has served for three years on the Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board, and is the Vice President of the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU. Before the Women’s Fund, Sophie worked for Planned Parenthood and the ACLU of Florida. As a participant in the Miami Law Africa Neutral Trial Observer Initiative, she hopes to expand her skill set as an advocate and gain a greater understanding of international human rights work. Sophie feels very fortunate to have the opportunity to go to Namibia for this exciting and unique pilot program with the University of Miami School of Law and Lawyers without Borders and join a bigger global effort to ensure justice and human rights.

*“I believe that the opportunity to participate in this project will help me find my path as an attorney, making me a better lawyer and a more effective advocate for social change.”*





**Scott Edelsberg, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Bet Tzedek Legal Services  
*Los Angeles, CA*

Scott Edelsberg is dedicated to helping individuals navigate our complex legal system to avail themselves of their rights and access to justice. During his internship at the Public Defender's Office, Scott took pride in being able to assist clients who were unfamiliar with the legal system by providing them with a sense of security and fostering cooperation with the attorneys. Similarly, Scott aims to assist the countless individuals who are unable to afford representation through Bet Tzedek Legal Services, an organization that provides free legal services to thousands of people. Although founded on Jewish principles, Bet Tzedek serves all eligible residents of Los Angeles County who are in need of assistance, regardless of their race or religious background. Ensuring that all individuals receive adequate and equitable representation is a priority for Scott as he works to address disparities in the legal system.

*"I learned that the power of public defense is founded on the idea that every individual deserves a voice in our legal system, regardless of his or her financial ability, race, gender or religion. The inherent shortcomings of public defense encouraged me to better understand the limitations of the legal system and fight to overcome them."*



**Christopher Franich, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Miami-Dade Public Defenders Office  
*Miami, FL*

After completing his undergraduate education, Chris realized he wanted to better understand and address imbalance in our justice system. This compelled him to volunteer for over two years in Honduras as a civil engineer for the Peace Corps, building potable water systems and led him to law school and the Miami Scholars Program. Chris approached law school with a determination to learn about the prevention of marginalization with an eye for the opportunity for systemic reform. This summer, he will be working with the Ensuring Equal Justice Initiative, a unique pro bono project established by the Miami-Dade Public Defender. Chris will dedicate himself to ensuring that indigent clients have effective, prompt legal representation and are fully informed as to their rights.

*"I am able to make the biggest contribution to the constitutional mandate of PD-11 by working face to face with clients in the Indigent Defense Project and in being able to work with them in Spanish or English."*



**Lauren Hirshowitz, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Society for Democratic Initiatives

*Freetown, Sierra Leone*



*“One of the main reasons that I would like to work for SDI is its tripartite approach that encompasses not only working at the government level to draft policy changes, but also working on the community level.”*



**Erika Kane, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, *Longwood, FL*

As an intern for the Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, Erika Kane plans to focus on providing services relating to foreclosure actions, tenant evictions and guardianships. Erika’s passion for public interest is apparent through her undergraduate work. For example, she was able to organize a petition drive, stressing the necessity for Israel to have defined borders and the right to defend itself against terrorist attacks. The petition she organized was ultimately published in the college newspaper with more than 1,000 signatures. She was also involved in *Acting Against Rape: Every Student’s Taskforce* (ARREST), an organization that provides educational programming about the devastating effects of rape and sexual assault. Erika is determined to continue her public interest work in Law School to strengthen and support her community, particularly through her work at the Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society.

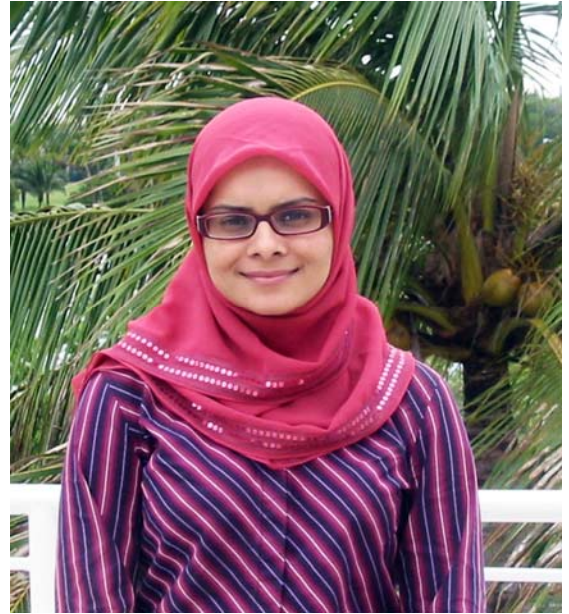
*“I believe that legal representation for civil matters should not be luxury, With education comes responsibility, and I believe that providing legal support and representation for those that are unable to represent themselves is a civic responsibility, especially for members of the bar association.”*



### **Irma Khoja, Class of 2011**

**Placement:** U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,  
*Miami, FL*

Irma Khoja will continue her dedication to public interest by working with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) litigation department. Irma feels that the EEOC's mission to eradicate workplace discrimination compliments her interest in civil rights. As a current HOPE fellow, she has focused her energy on increasing awareness about domestic violence. Irma has been featured numerous panels addressing the prevalence of domestic violence in the Muslim community. Moreover, for the past two years she has also served as a volunteer for Sahara, a South Asian domestic violence group in South Florida. Irma looks forward to continuing her advocacy and promote fair treatment for all through her work at the EEOC.



*“My project is an ambitious one, and I strongly believe that if it goes as planned, it will benefit the reputation of our school, enhance the educational experience of our students, and provide resources to the community. I want to continue my work in advocating for people’s human and civil rights, therefore I need HOPE to assist me in my endeavors.”*

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### **Daniel Koosed, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda  
*Arusha, Tanzania*

As an undergraduate at Brandeis University, working on his honors thesis, Daniel interned for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). His work was focused on assessing the implications of the Tribunal's work on international legal institutions and those in East Africa. The Tribunal's mission is to facilitate peace and reconciliation in Rwanda by prosecuting those who are most responsible for the 1994 genocide. Recognizing the unprecedented complexity of the global community's legal response to the Rwandan tragedy, Daniel is committed to increasing awareness and understanding about the mission of the ICTR. He hopes to fully immerse himself in ongoing cases, legal research, and drafting of judgments as a HOPE Fellow with the ICTR.



*“I feel that efforts to further the development of international criminal law are humanity’s only hope for not just punishing genocide and crimes against humanity, but some day preventing them.”*





### **Theodore Massey III, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Legal Services of Greater Miami, Military Legal Advocacy Project  
*Miami, FL*

As a Marine Corps Lieutenant and Founder of the Military Law Society, Theodore Massey is eager to translate his skills to action on behalf of disabled veterans in South Florida. As a HOPE Fellow at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Ted will work with the Military Legal Advocacy Project to assist disabled veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The aim of the project is to educate the local veteran population about their rights and to provide assistance with appeals for disabled veterans free of charge. Ted will be doing legal research, processing new cases and clients through in-take, and assisting with outreach programs to local institutions.

*“Military Law Advocacy Project (MLAP) is a new program and is the only pro bono program for disabled veterans that wish to appeal their disability claims. My position at MLAP will be beneficial since I will help grow the client base of the organization and help educate the South Florida veterans about their rights to appeal.”*

### **Ashley Matthews, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Florida Legal Services, Community Justice Project  
*Miami, FL*

Miami Scholar, Ashley Matthews, will work with the Florida Legal Services Community Justice Project this summer a HOPE Fellow. The mission of the Community Justice Project (CJP) is to provide legal support to community organizations fighting for racial and economic justice in Miami’s low-income communities of color. This program is driven by the need to instill and encourage leadership and help communities to organize and become informed. Through this project, Ashley will play an integral role in evaluating and documenting some of the key cases the CJP is addressing and focus on issues including the rights of those in public housing, day laborers, and those who are victims of wage theft. Utilizing her experience in journalism and activism, as well as her passion for social justice, Ashley hopes to make a significant impact by mobilizing low-income neighborhoods through her work with CJP.



*“I plan to use my reporting and writing skills this summer to spark change, motivation, and action in low-income, marginalized communities. Education is gained through observation and participation, and I plan for this project to be a vehicle of both.”*



**Nicholas McCallum, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Miami-Dade Public Defenders Office  
*Miami, FL*

While an undergraduate at Sacred Heart University, in Fairfield, Connecticut, Nicholas was heavily involved with community service. His service ranged from volunteering at soup kitchens to establishing a program called “Real Men Read”, which promoted literacy and education in schools. Nicholas is committed to utilizing legal research and writing to support attorneys dedicated to indigent defense. This summer, he will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the Ensuring Equal Justice Initiative at the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office. In this role, he will strive to increase access to representation for indigent clients and will have the opportunity to provide much-needed support on pending cases.



*“I feel that my eagerness to learn and succeed will contribute greatly to the constitutional mandate of PD -11. I will use this eagerness to do everything I can to make sure that the indigent client is given proper representation in order to maintain their liberty and preserve their rights.”*

**Will Mount, Class of 2011**

**Placement:** United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda  
*Arusha, Tanzania*

As an intern at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Will plans to assist in conducting substantial legal research and writing, and assisting with trials. He will draw upon his experience in both criminal law and international affairs through his prior work at the Miami Dade State Attorney’s Office, Miami Dade Public Defender’s Office, and the United State Department of Justice: International Prisoner Transfer Unit. After his fellowship, Will intends to design and implement an international law mentorship program for UM students. Through his efforts, Will hopes to educate students about international opportunities as well as the ways they can give back to the community.



*“For the program, I will attempt to link students who are interested in international law and to introduce attorneys in Florida, the US and across the World..”*







**Masimba Mutamba, Class of 2013**  
**Placement:** World Service Authority  
*Washington, D.C.*

Masimba has always been interested in advocating for the rights of immigrants, who are often unaware of their liberties. Originally from Zimbabwe, Masimba has traveled extensively and seen first-hand people's basic rights disregarded. His experience includes working as a family counselor and transitional living specialist for children and adolescents in Tennessee. A Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar who studied and received his Master of Laws in Glasgow, Scotland, Masimba continues to build upon his experiences through coursework and the immersion in systems evaluation and problem-solving. This summer he will work this summer at The World Service Authority (WSA) in Washington D.C. Founded by in 1954, the World Service Authority (WSA) is a non-profit organization seeking as its mission the furtherance of global human rights and citizenship. The WSA is the primary organ for the registration of World Citizenship as well as the issuance of the World Passport.

*"I have always been interested in ensuring that the law remain vigilant in advocating for those individuals who are either in countries where individual liberties are not sufficiently recognized or who find themselves refugees from such countries in a new country where they do not know or understand the protections offered by their new status."*



**Tom Oglesby, Class of 2011**  
**Placement:** Kristi House, Project GOLD,  
*Miami, FL*

Rising 3L Tom Oglesby, is a passionate advocate who continues to work diligently to find systemic solutions to ongoing problems in our community. This summer, in partnership with Kristi House's Project Gold, Tom will work to combat domestic minor sex trafficking practices in South Florida. He will develop and implement educational outreach programs for court personnel, law enforcement and First Responders, to raise awareness of domestic minor sex trafficking in South Florida. By helping first responders to identify these children earlier, children can be promptly referred to the necessary services and treatment. Tom has demonstrated his commitment to ensuring victims of sexual exploitation are provided with legal service through involvement in the South Florida Commercially Sexually Exploited Minors working group and the Physicians for Human Rights organization at the Miller School of Medicine.

*"I will be working with Kristi House to begin the educational outreach, and to develop a sustainable outreach program here at the University."*





**Brian Sperber, Class of 2011**

**Placement:** Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)  
*Johannesburg, South Africa*

Brian Sperber, former President of Outlaw, Miami Law's LGBT student organization, is dedicated to ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. His longstanding commitment has led him to pursue varied opportunities with a common goal of promoting equal rights for all. While studying at the University of Cape Town, Brian worked with an HIV/AIDS education project and learned how to best overcome cultural differences. This summer, Brian will be working with the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), an organization that promotes rule of law and human rights through litigation support in various countries in Southern Africa, including Zambia, Namibia, Malawi and Swaziland.

*"...at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre, I will not only work to foster ties within the organization, but also work to build connections that will lead Miami Law to developing service-based study abroad opportunities and other legal internship programs throughout Southern Africa."*

**Omer Subhani, Class of 2011**

**Placement:** Department of Children and Families  
*Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*

Omer Subhani continues to explore the ways in which he can provide legal services to those who most need assistance. His experience as a Florida Bar Fellow in 2009 provided Omer with the opportunity to assist indigent clients in need of family law assistance including dissolution of marriage, custody and support. Omer also worked on behalf of clients seeking temporary injunctions against domestic partners. In addition, Omer has worked with the Council on American Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights organization, serving the victims of hate crimes and discrimination. As a HOPE Fellow, he will dedicate his energy to the Broward Department of Children and Families (DCF), working to serve juveniles aging out of foster care.



*"I believe this fellowship is my opportunity to do something I have wanted to do since entering law school: be a real and active part of HOPE. I am honored and extremely grateful to serve."*





**Nneka Utti, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Nou Kab  
*Miami, Florida*

Nneka Utti is passionate about providing support and assistance to Haitian women through the LUCHA program at the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC). LUCHA provides assistance to immigrant women who are experiencing abuse at home by helping them resolve their immigration status without the assistance of their abusive partner. This project, run through the FIAC, also provides assistance to victims of violent crimes, sexual assault, and human trafficking. This summer Nneka will work with to provide these resources to Haitian women through Nou Kab. Nneka is committed to ensuring that the needs of this group are not forgotten.

*“I have seen the effects of people silenced by oppression and feel an ethical obligation to continue helping my community.”*

**Fernando Wytrykusz, Class of 2012**

**Placement:** Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Wage Theft  
Task Force *Miami, Florida*

Fernando’s commitment to social justice has propelled him to become involved in numerous initiatives throughout his first year of study at Miami Law, including mentoring and guiding youth in detention, immigrant advocacy work and leadership in community outreach programs. This year, Fernando volunteered with the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) on two projects, LUCHA and the Wage Theft Project. With LUCHA he assisted in a project designed to provide immigration relief to victims of domestic violence. He also worked to translate affidavits, birth certificates and other federal documents. Fernando will continue this critically-needed work to assist those who are underpaid for their labor because of shaved hours, withheld tips or pay below the minimum wage. Given that wage theft is estimated to cost American workers approximately \$10 billion a year in lost wages, Fernando will explore the development of a cooperative or worker-run industry to prevent human rights abuses and ensure that profits are reinvested into the company, employees and community.



*“Justice should not be reserved only for those who can afford it’, if that were so it would not be justice at all.”*

