

HOPE

PUBLIC INTEREST
RESOURCE CENTER

Summer Fellowship Program

2012

MIAMI**LAW**



MIAMILAW | **HOPE** Public Interest
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW | Resource Center

1311 Miller Drive B446 - Coral Gables, FL 33146

P: 305.284.2599 - F: 305.284.3646

Email: umhope@law.miami.edu

HOPE Fellowship Program

The HOPE Fellowship Program gives students with a commitment to public interest advocacy the opportunity to work at an organization of their choice and receive a stipend from the HOPE Public Interest Resource Center. HOPE Fellows work with domestic and international public interest organizations to provide much-needed legal advocacy. Over the years, the program has grown from just two fellows placed in local agencies to include local, national, and international placements.

The HOPE Fellows Program challenges students to identify host agencies and develop on-site projects to uniquely address the unmet needs of the organization's constituency. In addition, upon their return to Miami Law, HOPE Fellows design and implement initiatives to educate and engage law students in advocacy related to their area of concentration. HOPE is proud to support the public interest work of an increasing number of students who serve clients and communities in extraordinary ways.



“Never doubt
that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing
that ever has.”

— *Margaret Mead*

SARAH AKHTAR | CLASS OF 2014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC



Sarah graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) with degrees in biology and political science. She helped UMBC initiate a partnership with Health Leads, a nonprofit organization that places undergraduate volunteers in health clinics to provide low-income families with access to socioeconomic resources. After graduation, Sarah interned at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science where she worked on the President's polio eradication initiative, and then at the White House Council on Environmental Quality where she worked on a range of environmental issues. This summer,

Sarah will be working in Washington, DC at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

CRYSTAL BAKER-BURR | CLASS OF 2013

MIAMI DADE PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE, MIAMI, FL



Crystal provided teacher support and additional tutoring for two years in first grade classrooms in Harlem, and she taught Himalayan Art to juveniles incarcerated on Rikers Island. She also worked with NYU students in the Malcolm X Prison Debate Project where she taught public forum debate skills to juveniles. Inspired by these experiences, she found an alternative to incarceration programs in her neighborhood in Harlem and began tutoring the defendants in the program. She eventually became an assistant court advocate with the Andrew Glover Alternative to Incarceration Program. Crystal will be working with the Children and Youth Law Clinic in the fall. Crystal will work in the Juvenile Division of

the Miami Dade Public Defenders Office this summer. She will be working with direct file candidates and assisting their attorneys by traveling to schools, interviewing the defendants, their families, and friends, and compiling information that might keep them in juvenile court, where their chances for rehabilitation are much greater.

BRITTANY BROWN | CLASS OF 2013

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, MIAMI, FL



As part of the inaugural class of Miami Law's Investor Rights Clinic, Brittany helped provide an important resource to an under-served sector of investors, many of whom have suffered substantial financial losses at the hands of unethical brokers. Through the clinic, Brittany also works on community outreach programs designed to educate the public about common investment scams, as well as basic financial literacy. This summer, Brittany will be interning with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The mission of the SEC is to protect investors while maintaining efficient markets and facilitating capital formation in those markets. She looks forward to continuing her dedication to public

service through the unique experience she will gain over the summer.

BRENDAN CORRIGAN | CLASS OF 2014

LAMBDA LEGAL, INC., NEW YORK, NY



As a summer intern with Lambda Legal's Fair Courts Education & Advocacy Project, Brendan will play a vital role in ensuring that members of the LGBT community are ensured access to fair and impartial courts, which is a cornerstone of our democracy. The Fair Courts Project provides tools and information to counter harmful attacks on the courts that threaten LGBT and HIV-related civil rights and jeopardize the ability of our courts to make decisions based on constitutional and legal principles—not politics or popular opinion. Specifically, Brendan will play a direct role in outreach efforts aimed at ensuring that members of the LGBT community are apprised of not only their legal rights

but also the critical role that the judiciary serves in our progress towards full-equality. In addition to that work, Brendan will be performing legal research and composing persuasive memorandums that will be used to aid Lambda's staff attorneys with the litigation of LGBT and HIV-related civil rights cases.

NICOLE DEVINETTE | CLASS OF 2013

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, MIAMI, FL



Nicole began her 1L summer as an intern at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. where she worked in the Landlord/Tenant Division assisting indigent clients facing eviction and deplorable housing conditions. After discovering a passion for criminal defense, Nicole interned with The Office of the Federal Public Defender of the Southern District Florida. As a HOPE fellow, Nicole is staying on at the Federal Public Defender's Office where she will continue to dedicate her time assisting attorneys in the defense of indigent clients charged with federal criminal offenses.

ALISSA GOLD | CLASS OF 2013

U.S. COAST GUARD, MIAMI, FL



Alissa received her B.A. in American Studies from Wellesley College where she became particularly interested in women's legal issues after taking a class on women's legal history in the United States. She furthered this interest during her college summers by interning for Miami law firm Kluger, Peretz, Kaplan & Berlin and for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida. During her 1L summer, Alissa worked for the Defense Appellate Division of the United States Army JAG Corps in Arlington, Virginia. Alissa serves as the co-chair of the Communications and Outreach committee of the Miami Law Public Interest Leadership Board and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Psychology, Public Policy & Law Journal*. This summer, she

will be working in Miami, Florida with the U.S. Coast Guard.

BETH GORDON | CLASS OF 2013*OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER, MIAMI, FL*

Beth's volunteer experiences since beginning law school awoke in her a passion for assisting disadvantaged members of the Miami community who are in great need of zealous advocates for their legal rights. While working at the Legal Aid Society of the Dade County Bar Association, Beth assisted in the defense of indigent clients facing eviction. This summer, Beth will be working at the Public Defender's Mental Health Division assisting indigent defendants who are at a particular disadvantage due to mental illness or impairment. Beth aims to continue utilizing the skills she acquires in law school to provide legal representation to underprivileged individuals.

PAULINE GREEN | CLASS OF 2014*LET HAITI LIVE, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI*

Pauline graduated from Loyola University with a B.A. in English. Pauline's drive to become a well-trained advocate for children stems from her AmeriCorps teaching position at the Holy Names of Mary Catholic School (HNM) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon joining the HNM faculty, Pauline saw firsthand the chaos and botched federal initiatives present in the post-Katrina New Orleans school system. She soon developed Project Aspire, a tutoring program in which nearly 30% of HNM's students are tutored by local law students, medical students, artists, and business professionals. This summer, Pauline will be working in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with Let Haiti Live, a comprehensive program for Haiti working to strengthen the independence and self-determination of the Haitian people.

SHANELLE JOHNSON | CLASS OF 2013*PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER, BALTIMORE, MD*

Shanelle attended the University of Maryland where she majored in Criminal Justice & Criminology and Psychology. It was during her undergraduate studies that she dedicated herself to ensuring a justice system that serves all citizens equally and fairly. Last summer, Shanelle volunteered as a law clerk at the Office of the Public Defender, working to provide effective assistance and counsel to indigent defendants in felony proceedings. This summer she will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, MD. She will be a part of the Just Kids Juvenile Justice Project

which focuses on eradicating the automatic prosecution of youth as adults and reducing the number of youth in the adult criminal justice system through grassroots organizing and legislative policy advocacy.

CHARLOTTE JOSEPH | CLASS OF 2014

VOICES FOR IMMIGRANT DEFENSE AND ADVOCACY, MIAMI, FL



Upon her graduation from Barnard College in 2007, Charlotte moved to San Francisco to work in the research unit at the AIDS Health Project, a mental health care organization dedicated to providing culturally sensitive services to HIV+ men in the Bay area. In 2009, she returned to New York to complete a Master's in public health at Columbia University. Charlotte worked in the public affairs department of Planned Parenthood - New York City, where she developed a survey that was used to assess the impact of crisis pregnancy centers on women. A Miami Scholar, Charlotte intends to pursue a career in reproductive health policy, with an emphasis on policies and legislation that protect and empower women and their health. Charlotte will spend the summer interning at VIDA, where she will work with immigrant women who have been victims of domestic violence.

ERIN LEWIS | CLASS OF 2013

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM, MIAMI, FL



Prior to law school, Erin was a teacher in a high-needs elementary school in Miami and worked for Big Brothers Big Sisters. In law school, Erin has continued her community involvement through a summer internship with Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. During her second year of law school, she worked in the Human Rights Clinic where she helped advocate for the halt of deportations to Haiti, and was also President of the Student Organization for Human Rights. This summer, Erin will intern with Miami's Guardian ad Litem Program (GAL). GAL represents the abused, abandoned, or neglected children in the juvenile court system. As the presence of children in the courtroom increases, Erin hopes to document and research how and when the voices of children are considered in the dependency process.

GRANT LYONS | CLASS OF 2013

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, KIGALI, RWANDA



Following the Rwandan genocide in 1994, the Rwandan government received a large influx of cases and realized its need to improve the fairness and efficiency of its legal system. This summer, Grant will assist the Ministry of Justice by researching and drafting new and existing laws for the nation. He will also recommend measures for improving the legislative and judicial processes from the standpoint of capacity building. Through his experience, Grant hopes to more fully understand the obstacles that have hindered the nation's development and to propose realistic, long-term solutions for them.

LIANA NEALON | CLASS OF 2013*OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER, MIAMI, FL*

After studying journalism, political science, and Spanish throughout her undergraduate career, Liana came to law school determined to create positive change in the lives of others. Last summer, Liana was a Summer Public Interest Fellow at the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center in the Workplace Justice Program. With a newly realized passion for criminal law, Liana is eager to work with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. With her placement in the felony division, Liana will assist convicted felons with restoring their civil rights through clemency applications.

RACHEL OOSTENDORP | CLASS OF 2013*CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI*

As an Ella Baker Summer Intern for the Center of Constitutional Rights, Rachel will be working to advance human rights through legal and field advocacy work in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Advocacy initiatives have been conducted in areas such as gender-based violence in internally displaced persons camps, prison rights, housing and forced evictions, and accountability regarding the cholera epidemic. This summer will be an opportunity for Rachel to utilize her background in public health and human rights. Throughout graduate school, Rachel participated in both community-based health education programs and global health initiatives such as HIV/AIDS prevention. As an intern in the

Human Rights Clinic, she has worked on gender justice projects, including violence against women and reproductive rights. As a HOPE Fellow, Rachel will continue to advocate within the intersection of health and legal justice.

MITCHELL L. O'REILLY | CLASS OF 2014*MIAMI BEACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, MIAMI, FL*

Prior to moving to Florida, Mitch served on active duty in the U.S. Army and worked as an engineer after graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a volunteer at the VITA tax clinic where he prepares tax returns for low-income households. Additionally, Mitch continues to advocate on behalf of veterans and he remains in active volunteer with the Veterans Affairs. This summer, he will work for the Miami Beach Community Development Corporation (MBCDC). The MBCDC works to preserve historic resources, stabilize residential neighborhoods, and develop safe, decent, and affordable housing for low and moderate-

income residents. Mitch will work on developing an Asset Management Guide for their real estate holdings.

MEGHAN PARASCHAK | CLASS OF 2013

LEGAL AID SOCIETY, NEW YORK, NY



As a Miami Scholar, Meghan Paraschak has been involved in numerous HOPE programs, from serving as a Program Chair on the Public Interest Leadership Board to interning at the Children & Youth Law Clinic. Through the Pro Bono Legal Research Project, Meghan has advocated for the mandatory appointment of counsel for children in dependency hearings in Florida. As a HOPE Fellow this summer, Meghan will intern with the Appellate Division of the Juvenile Rights Department of the Legal Aid Society of New York. Dedicated to juvenile rights issues, Meghan looks forward to broadening her exposure with dependency and delinquency cases in New York, where appointment of attorneys to children is mandatory in both cases.

ABRAHAM RUBERT-SCHEWEL | CLASS OF 2014

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER, MIAMI, FL



Abe attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned his degree in Religious Studies. Following graduation, Abe joined the Mississippi Teacher Corps where he was awarded a Masters of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Mississippi as part of his two-year commitment to teach in a critical needs district. In addition to teaching, Abe led a group of students in creating the Striving for Justice Club, which provided students the opportunity to discuss political and civil rights issues. After completing his service with the Mississippi Teacher Corps, Abe worked with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, working closely with attorneys on death penalty appeals.

In his first semester at Miami Law, Abe joined Empowered Youth as a tutor and participated in the Books and Buddies program. This summer, Abe will be working in Miami at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

KATHLEEN SCHULMAN | CLASS OF 2013

AMERICANS FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE, MIAMI, FL



As a legal intern for Americans for Immigrant Justice, Kathleen will be providing legal representation to immigration detainees at under-served facilities in South Florida. Additionally, she will be working on a project investigating, evaluating, and challenging the violations of constitutional law caused by the partnership between Immigration and Customs Enforcement and state or local authorities. Kathleen comes to Americans for Immigrant Justice with experience from the University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic, where she represented individual clients in immigration proceedings and also advocated at local, national, and international levels.

SHANE SHANNON | CLASS OF 2013

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC



This summer, Shane will be working at the SEC Division of Trading and Markets. He will be assisting the SEC in executing its responsibility for maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets. He will also be involved in reviewing and issuing interpretations on new rules affecting the securities markets, particularly, the recently enacted Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Last summer, Shane interned with the Honorable Raymond B. Ray, where he developed fluency in the Rothstein Ponzi scheme. Shane then went on to intern at the SEC Division of Enforcement in Miami, where he assisted in investigations of potential securities law violations. More recently, Shane was in the inaugural class of the Law School's Investor's Rights Clinic, where he represented investors of modest means with claims against their brokers in arbitration and mediation proceedings.

JOSHUA TRUPPMAN | CLASS OF 2014

FLORIDA LEGAL SERVICES, MIAMI, FL



Joshua Truppmann is a Miami Scholar who is dedicated to empowering communities. As an undergraduate student in Saint Louis, MO, he worked with tutoring and community outreach programs. He decided to pursue a legal education to provide high quality representation to those who cannot afford it. This summer he will be working with the Community Justice Project (CJP) at Florida Legal Services to provide legal support to low-income communities throughout Miami. The CJP works closely with community organizers and grassroots groups to advocate for affordable housing opportunities and to protect workers' rights. Joshua will play an integral role in expanding existing CJP initiatives, strengthening collaboration between CJP and low-income communities, and assisting clients throughout Miami-Dade.



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