



Columbia
Law School

Office of Development and Alumni Relations

The Dale and Max Berger Public
Interest Law Fellowship

The Bernstein Litowitz Berger &
Grossmann Fellowship



BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER & GROSSMAN FELLOWS

Established in 1998 by the firm of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP. Public Service Fellowships are awarded to students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and promise for leadership in public interest law work.

BRENDA TOINEETA PIPESTEM – CLASS OF 1999



Brenda is a 1999 graduate of Columbia Law School, where she was recognized as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar during her first and final year of school. In April 1999, she was awarded the Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman LLP Fellowship for Public Interest Law. While at the Law School, Brenda completed a judicial clerk externship with the Honorable Robert W. Sweet, United States District Court, Southern District of New York. She also co-chaired the Columbia's Native American Law School Association.

Brenda's career is marked by her significant service on tribal courts, as well as her experience in both the executive and legislative branches of federal government. Brenda spent seven years working in the federal government in Indian affairs, beginning her federal service working with President Clinton's Initiative on Race before moving to the Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs' office in Washington, D.C. Brenda started her tenure at the BIA in the Office of Tribal Services working on 638 contract support issues but served the majority of her time as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs and the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, working with tribes on various issues including trust reform and inter-agency matters. Brenda served as senior staff for the Trust Policy and Procedures Project, drafting and implementing Departmental reform for Indian trust management policies, regulations, and procedures. During her tenure with the federal government, she also worked a one-year legislative detail in 2002 on the U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and Related Agencies, where she assisted the Democratic Majority Staff in the preparation and editing of legislation related to appropriations for the Department of Interior and other agencies.

Brenda is of counsel at Pipestem Law. She presently serves as an Associate Justice on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Supreme Court, a position she has held since 2000, as well as Chair of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees. She has also served as an Associate Justice on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Supreme Court since 2008. Previously, she served as an Appellate Court Justice on the Lower Sioux Indian Community Appellate Court and as an Alternate Supreme Court Justice on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Supreme Court.

SHAVAR JEFFRIES – CLASS OF 1999



Shavar is a member of the 1999 graduating class of Columbia Law School. Raised by his grandmother in the South Ward of Newark, New Jersey, he received scholarships to Seton Hall Preparatory School, Duke, and Columbia Law School. Upon graduation, Shavar moved back to Newark with the firm belief that his path to success—through high-quality education—should not be the outlier for students in Newark, but rather the rule.

Shavar has been extensively involved in the Newark community and has tirelessly advocated to improve the city's schools. He was the founding Board President of TEAM Academy Charter School, Board President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark, and a board member of Seton Hall Preparatory School. From 2008 to 2010, Shavar was Counsel to New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram. In that role, he oversaw all multistate investigations, spanning a range of issues from securities and consumer fraud to environmental protection and human trafficking. In 2010, he was elected to the Newark Public Schools Advisory Board, and was then unanimously selected by his colleagues to serve as Board President. Shavar ran as a candidate for Newark mayor in 2014 in a campaign that attracted national attention, during which he made improving Newark's schools a cornerstone of his campaign. Despite being a first-time municipal candidate, Shavar gained broad support, obtaining over 46 percent of the vote— a historic number for a first-time Newark municipal candidate.

Shavar began his legal career as an associate at Wilmer Cutler & Pickering, where he represented the University of Michigan in defending its affirmative-action student admissions programs, and also represented black farmers who had been discriminated against by the United States Department of Agriculture. After leaving Wilmer, Shavar served as a Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest and Constitutional Litigation at Gibbons P.C., where he handled school-funding, special-education, affordable-housing, and prisoners' rights cases, among others.

Shavar also serves as a partner at Lowenstein Sandler, where he has been a fierce advocate for families seeking fair practices in funding education and ensuring that the laws governing education systems help students, rather than trapping them in failing schools. Prior to joining the law firm, he was an Associate Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School's Center for Social Justice in Newark, New Jersey, where he ran a litigation clinic focused on complex and class action litigation and advocacy. Shavar has served as President of Education Reform Now (ERN) since September 2015.

JENNIFER LAV – CLASS OF 2003



Jennifer graduated from Columbia Law School in 2003. Upon graduation, she clerked for Judge Myron H. Thompson, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama. Jennifer was a staff attorney at the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program—the Protection and Advocacy program for Alabama, and a clinical lecturer at the University of Alabama School of Law. While in Alabama, her work focused predominantly on special education and Medicaid advocacy.

Subsequently, Jennifer was a staff attorney and then managing attorney at Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (DRDC), the Protection and Advocacy program for the District of Columbia. While at DRDC, she supervised the agency’s mental health advocacy, focusing on increasing access to community-based services for youth and adults, investigating abuse and neglect in facilities, and protecting and expanding autonomy and choice for District residents with disabilities. She also served as class counsel in several longstanding cases against the District government, including *Petties vs. District of Columbia*, which reformed the delivery of education services to DC students with disabilities, and *Brown v. District of Columbia*, a case on behalf of nursing facility residents seeking to access Medicaid-funded community based services and supports. Jennifer is presently a senior attorney in the National Health Law Program’s DC office, where she works on issues related to federal health care reform, Medicaid, and community-based mental health services and supports.

ROSANNE AVILES – CLASS OF 2005



Rosanne Aviles graduated from Columbia Law School in 2005, where she was a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow working for the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs and a Joseph L. Brechner Fellow with the Anti-Defamation League in New York. She interned for a human rights organization in Sao Paulo, Brazil and volunteered at the Goddard Riverside Tenant Assistance Project and the D.C. Employment Justice Center. Upon graduating, she was named the 2005 Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellow at Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, a Chicago non-governmental organization. Rosanne is the first Columbia Law School graduate to receive the Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellowship. In 2007 she joined the Legal Aid Society of D.C. as a Staff Attorney and was promoted to

Supervising Attorney in May 2011. After seven years with the Legal Aid Society, Rosanne joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C. as a Trial Attorney.

KATE WEISBURD – CLASS OF 2005



Kate Weisburd graduated from Brown University in 2000 with a degree in Public Policy and American Institutions, and received her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2005. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a death penalty investigator at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Columbia, she interned with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (Criminal Justice Section), the Brennan Center for Justice, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. She also represented clients in Columbia's Criminal Practice Clinic, interned for the Honorable Chester J. Straub, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and was a research assistant to Professor James Liebman.

In 2005, Kate received the Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP Fellowship in recognition of her commitment to pursuing a career in public interest law. Upon graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence K. Karlton, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, before joining the University of California, Berkeley Law School as a staff attorney and teaching fellow, and eventual Director and clinical instructor, of the Death Penalty Clinic. Kate presently works as an Associate Professor for the George Washington University Law School.

CARRIE LOVE – CLASS OF 2009



Carrie Love is a native of rural Michigan and graduated from Columbia Law School in 2009. During law school, Carrie was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and was awarded the Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman Fellowship. She served as an Editor of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review and was an Executive Board member of the Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Carrie has also worked as a legal intern for the New York Legal Aid Society, the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights, and the Refugee and Immigration Services Unit of Catholic Charities.

Carrie began her legal career in 2010 as a Skadden Fellow at Western Massachusetts Legal Services, which joined with Community Legal Aid in 2011. She subsequently joined the Central West Justice Center in 2014. Carrie, who is proficient in Spanish, assists people seeking humanitarian-based immigration relief, including neglected or abandoned children and immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other crimes.

KEREN ZWICK – CLASS OF 2009



Keren graduated, with honors, from Columbia Law School in 2009. Before law school, Keren attended the University of Chicago, where she graduated in 2004. While in undergrad, she worked at the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) as an asylum project coordinator. During her time at the Law School, she successfully represented clients in the Sexuality & Gender Law Clinic in both immigration and civil rights matters. Keren co-chairs the committee of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA) that acts as the liaison between government enforcement officials and private attorneys. She is also a key contributor to the Chicago LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition. Keren has led or participated in federal litigation in seven different Circuit Courts and before the United States Supreme Court. Following two years of clerking for the United States Court of

Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Keren rejoined the NIJC as a managing attorney. In April of 2017, she became the NIJC's associate director of litigation, and oversees the LGBT Immigrant Rights Initiative. Keren is also an adjunct professor at Loyola University School of Law.

MAE ACKERMAN-BRIMBERG – CLASS OF 2012



Mae graduated from Columbia Law School with a dual degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work. After graduating from Stanford University in 2006 with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Italian, Mae worked at a small civil rights law firm and at Children's Rights in New York on class action litigation to reform state foster care systems. During her time at Columbia, Mae was staff on the Human Rights Law Review and an Articles Editor for the Jailhouse Lawyers' Manual. She participated in the Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration Clinic, in which she represented federal prisoners in cases to improve conditions of confinement and expand access to medical care. She also worked as a social work intern in a New York City public high school, and at Adolescent Portable Therapy,

an in-home family therapy program for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Mae spent her summers interning in Grahamstown, South Africa at Legal Resources Centre, and in San Francisco at Legal Services for Children. Upon graduating from the Law School, Mae was a Social Justice Fellow at the National Center for Youth Law. In 2014, Mae joined the Federal Judiciary as a Law Clerk, and subsequently spent nearly two years working for the Prison Law Office as a legal fellow and then a staff attorney. This summer, Mae returned to the NCYL as an Attorney for Child Trafficking cases.

WHITNEY HAYES – CLASS OF 2015



Whitney is a 2015 graduate of Columbia Law School. In Fall 2013, Whitney participated in the Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration Clinic. While in the clinic, she participated in litigation efforts on behalf of a client seeking adequate medical care from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She also participated in The Bronx Defenders Externship, providing representation to indigent clients in housing court proceedings, as well as the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem Externship, where she represented indigent clients in misdemeanor criminal court proceedings.

During her 1L year, Whitney competed in the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition and was awarded the Simon H. Rifkind Prize for best overall performance in the first-year moot court program. Whitney spent the summer after her 1L year at the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project in Durham, NC, where she had the opportunity to work on capital trials and appeals for indigent clients in the South. As a 2L, she served as a brief editor for the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team, was the President of the Criminal Justice Action Network, and was a staff member on Columbia Human Rights Law Review's A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual. After her 2L year, Whitney worked in The Bronx Defenders Criminal Defense Practice, representing indigent clients in the Bronx on a variety of criminal matters.

During her 3L year, Whitney was a Special Features Editor on the Columbia Journal of Race and Law and the Moot Court Coordinator for the High School Law Institute. Whitney was also involved with several pro bono projects while at Columbia, including working for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia as a 2L and the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice as a 3L. Following graduation, Whitney was awarded the Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP Fellowship for her commitment to public interest law dedicated to fighting racial discrimination. In September 2015, Whitney joined The Bronx Defenders as a staff attorney in their Criminal Defense Practice.

ASHOK CHANDRAN – CLASS OF 2015



Ashok graduated from Columbia Law School in 2015. While at the Law School, Ashok was named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar for academic excellence and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Journal of Race and Law. He was also a research assistant for Professor Katherine Franke, an intern for The Bronx Defenders and the ACLU, and a summer associate for Paul Hastings. Upon graduating from Columbia, Ashok clerked for the Honorable Cheryl L. Pollak in the Eastern District of New York, and subsequently for the Honorable Jane R. Roth of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He joined Emery Celli Brincherhoff & Abady in 2017 as an associate.

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RAY MARTIN – CLASS OF 2018



Ray Martin is an experienced government affairs and public policy professional with a deep understanding and respect of American Indian affairs and issues. His public service started in 2010 when he first began working for former U.S. Congressman Joe Baca in his district office, and then continued in 2011 when he returned to work for Congressman Baca in his Washington D.C. office. While serving the people of the 43rd Congressional District, Ray worked as a legislative assistant. His legislative portfolio included Native American issues, water, energy, natural resources, as well as management of the Congressman's Facebook and Twitter accounts. In 2012, Ray worked in government affairs and business and economic development for the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. While at Soboba he oversaw a \$4 million land transaction that added nearly 1,000 acres to the reservation, and helped with the Tribe's efforts in the fee to trust process for a casino expansion. From 2013 to 2015, he worked for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in the government affairs department where his duties included public policy analysis, the creation of a Capitol Hill fellowship program for Native American college students, and government relations with tribal, local, state, and federal officials.

In 2015, Ray became a student at Columbia Law School. While at Columbia he participated in the Native American Law Students Association, for which he served on the Executive Board as the Public Relations Director, the National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court Competition, and the Environmental Law Society. During his 1L summer, Ray clerked in the Washington D.C. offices of Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker, a law firm focused on federal Indian law and lobbying on Indian issues. During his 2L summer, Ray clerked at the Native American Rights Fund in Washington, D.C. Ray presently works as a Democratic Policy Advisor on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

DALE AND MAX BERGER FELLOWS

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SUZANNAH PHILLIPS – CLASS OF 2008



Suzannah received her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2008, where she was a teaching assistant for the Human Rights Clinic, the Editor-in-Chief of the Spanish Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual, and a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar. She was awarded the Clinical Legal Education Association's Outstanding Student Award, as well as a Certificate in Comparative and International Law from Columbia.

Upon graduating from the Law School, Suzannah was named a Henkin-Stoffel Human Rights Fellow. As a fellow, she worked with VIVO POSITIVO and the Center for Reproductive Rights in Santiago, Chile and New York City, where she investigated and litigated discrimination against and forced sterilization of women living with HIV. Following her fellowship, Suzannah spent nearly two years as a Legal Adviser for International Advocacy at the Center for Reproductive Rights. She subsequently joined CUNY School of Law as a Clinical Fellow with the Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic, where she led a project addressing the unjust criminalization of individuals who were trafficked into the sex trade, and co-taught a clinic seminar on human rights doctrine and lawyering skills.

In April 2015, Suzannah became the Senior Legal Adviser at Women Enabled International. In January 2018, she was named the Deputy Director. Her work focuses on developing and implementing WEI's norm-building strategies to strengthen human rights standards on the rights of women and girls with disabilities and promoting cross-movement collaboration between women's rights and women with disability rights advocates.

CATHERINE POYNTER – CLASS OF 2010



Catherine 'Katie' Poynter graduated from Columbia Law School in 2010. During her 1L year, Katie was awarded the Best Respondent Brief for her work in the Frederick Douglass Moot Court competition, which she coached the subsequent year. While at Columbia, Katie also completed research with Professor Susan Sturm at the Center for Institutional and Social Change. Their report, entitled "The Future Scholars Program: Preparing Future Scholars for Rutgers & Ready Rutgers for Future Scholars" suggests that higher education in and of itself poses barriers to the

access and success of minority and low income students, and that subsequent transition and support of Future Scholars is critical for college completion. Upon graduating, she spent three years developing a principal training program in an effort to raise morale and dipping test scores

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at Amistad Academy Middle School in New Haven, Connecticut. Since becoming principal in 2013, the school has seen a considerably reduction in both in and out-of-school suspensions, which she attributes largely to the school's shift from a classroom removal mentality to a support system for students struggling behaviorally.

KINARA FLAGG – CLASS OF 2011



Before enrolling at Columbia Law School, Kinara Flagg worked as a development associate for Homes for the Homeless, where she saw firsthand the pervasive socioeconomic and racial inequality in New York City. At the Law School, she worked with inmates at Rikers Island Jail as part of the Alternatives to Incarceration Project and with immigrant victims of domestic violence through Sanctuary Families. She also participated in the Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic and served as editor of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review. As a 1L, Kinara placed second of 98 teams at the national Frederick Douglass Moot Court competition.

After clerking for Judge Rosemary S. Pooler of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, she returned to the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division as a Trial Attorney in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section where she previously interned. As a trial lawyer, Kinara argues cases involving discriminatory housing, unfair lending practices, discrimination in places of entertainment and public accommodation, and religious discrimination in land use, specifically against people and organizations that have shown sustained patterns of discrimination, all over the country. "The cases are big enough that you really feel like you are making a difference," she said. "One of the most amazing things is when you settle a case and you end up being able to call a victim of discrimination and tell them the good news."

ADRIANA GARCIA – CLASS OF 2012



Adriana graduated from Columbia Law School in 2012 with her J.D., and from Yale University in 2008 with a B.A. in Political Science/Ethnicity, Race and Migration. During her time at the Law School, she interned at the ACLU of Southern California, Handsell Stormer Keeny Richardson & Renick, and for the U.S. Department of Labor. Upon graduating, she was named as a public interest fellow for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund until January of 2014, and a Civil Rights Fellow in May 2014 for the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Between June and October of 2015, Adriana served as a policy advisor for Hillary for America. In

January 2016 she became the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Budget at the New York City Council for the Office of Council Member Carlos Menchaca. Currently, Adriana is a Policy Advisor for the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, a post which she filled in February 2018.

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ERIKA VERA LIVAS – CLASS OF 2016



Erika graduated from Columbia Law School in 2016. While at the Law School, Erika was the Secretary for Empowering Women of Color, the Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Journal of Race and Law, a participant and coach of the National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court, and a member of the Latino/a Law Students Association. She was also named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar for exceptional academic performance.

During her 1L summer, Erika interned for the Center on Immigration at the Vera Institute of Justice, where she translated legal guides to determine citizenship in complex family situations.

During the 2L year, she was an extern for the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York: Division of Social Justice in the Labor Bureau, as well as an extern for the Project on Undocumented and Unaccompanied Youth at the Legal Aid Society. For her 2L summer, Erika clerked for Outten & Golden LLP, where she researched and assisted in pre-trial procedures and discovery motions for Fair Labor Standards Act class actions. Throughout the fall of her 3L year, Erika was an extern for the Criminal Defense Practice of the Bronx Defenders. During her final semester, Erika was a student attorney for Columbia Law School's Immigrants' Rights Clinic, where she advised, prepared and accompanied undocumented women and children held in family detention for credible fear interviews with asylum officers. Upon graduation, Erika became a Staff Attorney at the Door – A Center of Alternatives in New York City. There, she represents immigrant youth in family court proceedings and removal proceedings, and prepares asylum cases.