

Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

Welcome to the 2014 Class of Fellows!

It's my pleasure to introduce to you this year's class of Peggy Browning Fellows. Thanks to your support, we have placed 63* law students in 10-week summer fellowships and expect the final total placed to reach 70 again this year. The following short biographies provide you with background information for each. You will see noted above each bio the student's anticipated graduation year, their law school and the mentoring organization where they will work this summer.

Their diverse backgrounds and accomplishments continue to impress us. Many of our students come from union families and/or have been union members themselves. All are passionate about the labor movement. Presently, over 210 of our alumni are working within the labor community. Your generosity helped make this possible. Thank you for helping us to keep alive Peggy's interest in motivating the next generation to advocate for workers' rights!

Sincerely,



Joseph Lurie, President

**As of April 25, 2014*

2014 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Nabila Abdulhafiz JD'15

*Wake Forest University School of Law
Mehri & Skalet PLLC, Washington, DC*

Nabila was first introduced to workers' rights issues in college while researching a paper on the Delano Grape Strike. Later she worked at a start-up company where she saw first-hand the frustrations and needs of employees. As a federal judicial intern, Nabila became familiar with court proceedings and developed her legal writing skills. Currently, she is involved with Lawyer on the Line, advising underprivileged clients on employment and contract matters. Nabila is also on the executive board of the *Southern Journal of Policy and Justice*.



Jessica Apter JD '15

*Brooklyn Law School
Levy Ratner, P.C., New York, NY*

Work experiences in the New York City spa industry gave Jessica the final push to go to law school. Realizing that her employment was misclassified, she researched the law, educated her co-workers, some of whom had been exploited for a decade, and changed the way they were paid. At her law school's Unemployment Action Center, Jessica advocated for her client at a Department of Labor hearing, has interned at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Legal Unit in Honolulu, the Workers' Rights Clinic and NLRB Region 29.



Rocío Albarrán JD'15

*University of San Francisco School of Law
CLEAN Carwash Campaign,
Los Angeles, CA*

While tutoring day laborers, Rocío developed an interest in defending the rights of immigrant workers. After college she worked at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, advocating for immigrant and undocumented students in inner-city schools and communities in South Los Angeles. Currently, Rocío works at her school's Employment Law Clinic, provides legal services to low wage workers through Instituto Laboral de La Raza and is the founder and president of the Immigration Law Society.



Allyson Bain JD '16

*Northwestern University School of Law
National Employment Lawyers
Association, Washington, DC*

Ally was 14 and in a retail store when she was denied access to an employee-only restroom despite knowing that she had a medical condition. Following that incident, she worked with her state representative and crafted the Restroom Access Act, or Ally's Law, allowing anyone with a medical emergency access to an employee-only restroom. The law then passed in Illinois and subsequently in 14 other states. Ally interned at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Civil Rights Division and Disability Rights Section and completed a fellowship at the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution.

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Kimberly Bennett
JD/MID '15

*University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Graduate School of Public &
International Affairs
Community Justice Project,
Pittsburgh, PA*

Kimberly's experience as co-director of the Legal Department at La Isla Foundation in León, Nicaragua, and her experience last summer as a Peggy Browning Fellow at the Community Justice Project (CJP), helped her develop her focus on public interest law. Since college she's held various public interest jobs. Currently, Kimberly is a law clerk at United Steelworkers and senior editor on *JURIST* Legal News & Research. She is pursuing a joint degree for Juris Doctor and Masters in International Development.



Benjamin Berger *JD '16*

*University of Virginia School of Law
Laborers' Int'l Union of North
America, Washington, DC*

In college, Ben was impressed by a guest speaker appealing to his class to become labor lawyers. His course work was augmented by a community organizing seminar and internships for a congressman in Maryland's 3rd congressional district and an organization advocating for urban planning reforms. Ben worked as a paralegal for a union-side firm in New York, helping collect ERISA funds for union benefit plans. He participated in his school's Migrant Farmworkers Project and interned with CWA District 1.



Kathleen Bichner *JD '15*

*Drexel University School of Law
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Local 1 PA/DE, Philadelphia, PA*

Having worked several minimum wage jobs, Kathleen learned of the economic hardships and social injustices faced by many low wage workers. Her interest in practicing labor law grew when she became executive editor of her school's *Law Review*; the topic of her Note and research on the fair treatment of at-will employees. She interned at the Custody and Support Assistance Clinic at Philadelphia Legal Assistance, where she provided one-on-one legal assistance, helping clients with child custody, child support and dealing with domestic violence.



David Boehm *JD '15*

*Rutgers University
School of Law-Camden
NLRB Region 4, Philadelphia, PA*

Prior to law school, David worked as an automotive technician for 12 years. He was a member and organizer for SEIU in Oakland, CA, where he investigated and drafted grievances. Last summer, David was a legal intern for Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, dedicated to improving the working conditions of food service employees. He graduated from the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD and has completed coursework at Cornell University's Worker Institute. David is currently interning at the National Labor Relations Board, Region 4 and will continue there this summer.



Andrew Brooks *JD '15*

*University of Wisconsin Law School
NLRB Office of Board Members,
Washington, DC*

Andrew served in the U.S. Army before attending college, where he was an AFL-CIO Union Summer intern working on the Avondale Save Our Shipyard Campaign. Now he is a student coordinator at the Veterans Law Center and an officer in the Veterans Legal Society. Andrew's Note topic and research for the *Journal of Law, Gender & Society* is collectively bargaining against LGBT discrimination. This is his second year as a Peggy Browning Fellow, having previously worked for the United Steelworkers Legal Department in Pittsburgh.



A. Lauren-Nicole Carter
JD '16

*California Western School of Law
Los Angeles Black Worker Center
Project*

Lauren-Nicole's desire for justice came from watching her single mother work over 40 hours a week in a retail position without just compensation. Before attending law school, she worked for two years as a Facilities Coordinator at Johns Hopkins University, The Carey Business School where she was responsible for the daily operations and upkeep of multi-purpose facilities for 600+ faculty, staff and students. In law school, she is a member of Public Interest Law, Entertainment and Sports Law, and the Black Law Student Association.

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Rebecca Cassler JD '16

*University of Minnesota School of Law
National Employment Law Project,
Seattle, WA*

Becky, proficient in both Spanish and Mandarin, is dedicated to advocating for low-income and immigrant workers. After college she became a researcher at the United Food and Commercial Workers headquarters, where she worked in support of the OUR Walmart campaign and was a shop steward in the staff union, part of the Baltimore Newspaper Guild-CWA. She has also interned with the International Labor Rights Forum and worked as a researcher with LIUNA. Becky is currently a board member of the Minnesota Justice Foundation.



Cameron Day JD '15

*Michigan State University
College of Law
United Auto Workers, Detroit, MI*

Cameron grew up in rural Georgia, a strict right-to-work state. Seeing his own parents' fear to organize as public school teachers, he became interested in labor policy. In law school, he is a member of the AFL-CIO's Working America, serves as an officer for the Labor and Employment Law Association, works at the Immigration Clinic and is associate editor of the *Journal of Animal and Natural Resource Law*. Last summer, he worked for NLRB Region 7 in Detroit.



Javier Castro JD '15

*University of Michigan School of Law
AFL-CIO, Washington, DC*

As an undergraduate, Javier organized students in support of campaigns directed at improving wages, benefits and the treatment of campus workers. Last summer, he was a judicial extern in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He is currently a student attorney with his school's Unemployment Insurance Project, providing free unemployment insurance advice. Javier is also president of the American Civil Liberties Union, chair of the American Constitution Society and associate editor of his school's *Journal of Law Reform*.



Kristina Ferris JD '15

*University of Richmond School of Law
Mehri & Skalet, PLLC,
Washington, D.C.*

Kristina's experience in the "Great Recession" job market made her aware of the very real struggles people face in labor and employment. Now in law school, she is a member of the Law Review, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society and a Barbri Student Representative. Last summer, Kristina interned for the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs using her research and writing skills to work on employment law issues including an analysis of law in the DC Circuit and surrounding jurisdictions.



Alyssa Coffey JD '15

*George Mason School of Law
Federal Mine Safety & Health
Review Commission, Office of the
Commissioners & Office of the
General Counsel, Washington, DC*

Prior to entering college, Alyssa gained experience implementing a federal workforce program, the Workforce Investment Act, with the City of Chicago assisting underserved youth find summer employment. She later provided similar services to adults at Heartland Alliance and as a unionized case manager at United Human Service Workers-NOLSW, UAW Local 2320. In law school, Alyssa has interned with the United States Trade Representative's Office of Labor Affairs, SEIU Virginia 512, and the NLRB's Contempt, Compliance & Special Litigation branch.



John Festa JD '15

*Northern Illinois University
College of Law
Chicago Newspaper Guild*

John worked for the same school district as his father who was a custodian and an SEIU member for 30 years. Knowing his father, as a shop steward, negotiated contracts for the school district's janitors, John saw how the union helped improve their lives. This had a strong impact on him. Last summer, John worked at the Illinois Department on Healthcare and Family Services researching issues for administrative hearings in Medicaid and SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program). In law school, he is secretary of the American Constitution Society chapter.

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Carrie Floyd JD '15

Wayne State University Law School
United Auto Workers, Detroit, MI

While working with migrant workers in Southwest Virginia, Carrie became interested in workers' rights. Since then, she has contributed to organizing campaigns, conducted research on behalf of the Restaurant Opportunities Center and acquired a Masters in Social Work with a concentration in Social Policy, Evaluation and Community Organizing. Carrie became Director of Adult Learning at the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce where she developed programs and policies to support workers transitioning to high skill jobs. Carrie is assistant editor of the *Law Review*, Board Secretary of the Keith Center for Civil Rights Students and a member of the National Lawyers Guild.



Ruben Garcia JD '15

George Washington University Law School
Levy Ratner, PC, New York, NY

Since college, Ruben works during the day at the Solidarity Center for the Americas Region of Mexico and Brazil and attends law school at night. He has lived in Mexico City assisting organizing campaigns in mining, auto parts, and telecommunications. Now Ruben manages International Labor Program grants totaling over \$3 million and develops international alliances between Latin American workers and American labor organizations. He was a judicial intern and has advocated within the Inter-American Human Rights System and the U.S. Department of Labor.



Tana Forrester JD '15

City University of New York School of Law
Kennedy, Jennik & Murray, PC, New York, NY

Tana is the first in her family to graduate from college. In law school she interned for the Legal Aid Society, Employment Law Unit in New York assisting in wage theft settlement negotiations against a major fast food franchise. Tana then interned at the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights, researching case law on the EEOC's new guidelines on Title VII claims of discrimination against formerly incarcerated people. She also interned at the Economic Justice Project, is on the steering committee of the Labor Coalition and the editorial board of the *Law Review*.



Michael Gersie JD '15

Drexel University School of Law
Pond Lehoczy Stern Giordano, LLP, Philadelphia, PA

Michael learned to be goal-oriented by hiking the entire 2,184 miles of the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine in 2012. His interest in labor law did not begin until late last summer when he worked as an intern in the Labor Department at Philadelphia Gas Works. There Michael acquired hands-on experience conducting grievances and arbitrations, and collecting research and data regarding new findings in labor law. Michael is a member of his school's Labor and Employment Society and attends Labor and Employment Relations Association meetings.



Emily Derstine Friesen JD '16

Drexel University School of Law
Friends of Farmworkers, Philadelphia, PA

Beginning as a paralegal at an immigration law firm, Emily assisted with a variety of immigration matters. Prior to that, she was a legal assistant at the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition working with detained immigrants in Washington, DC. Her most inspiring cases included a Salvadoran man who could not return to his country due to his sexual orientation and a woman from the Ivory Coast who had experienced female genital mutilation. In law school, Emily is actively involved with the National Lawyers Guild and the Brehon Law Society.



Leo Gertner JD '16

New York University School of Law
United Steelworkers, Pittsburgh, PA

At age 16, Leo came to the US from Brazil. Before law school, he worked at Span, Inc., a non-profit, assisting men and women returning home from prison find housing and employment. He then worked at SEIU 32BJ New England District 615, representing janitors and security guards in grievance hearings. Leo became the union's deputy director representing 18,000 members in the building services industry. Currently, Leo serves on the board of Law Students for Economic Justice and the founding board of the Immigration Rights Project.

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Julie Gilgoff JD '16

*City University of New York
School of Law*
**UNITE HERE Local 2,
San Francisco, CA**

As the granddaughter of an American Labor Party activist who was blacklisted during the McCarthy era, Julie inherited his dedication to advocate for working people. Following college, she taught in New York City public schools, served in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua and received her Master's Degree in Education. In law school, she has worked for and volunteered with various faith-based organizations in the Bay Area including Bend the Arc and the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights.



Victor Gonzalez JD '16

*University of Maryland School of Law
Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX*

Being an undocumented immigrant from Mexico provided Victor with great insight into the plight of similar immigrant families. He picked vegetables when he was eight, and traveled across the Southwest installing carpet and tile when he was 15. As an undergrad, he participated in Baylor Ambassadors, lobbying financial aid to help low-income students attend college, and volunteered at his school's Immigration Clinic. In every new job, he strives to help people who live in constant fear of deportation and the uncertainty of receiving payment for their work.



Alexandra Gillett JD '15

*DePaul University College of Law
Working Hands Legal Clinic,
Chicago, IL*

Alexandra first developed an interest in immigrant workers' rights after teaching English to migrant farmworkers. She then worked abroad in Spain at a support center for South American immigrants. Last year, Alexandra was a legal and outreach intern for the Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project working closely with agriculture workers and community members. She's worked at her school's Immigration Clinic, interned at Centro Romero, is vice president of her school's Environmental Law Society, and volunteers with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Latino Union of Chicago.



Timothy Hoss JD '15

*Ohio State Moritz College of Law
Schwarzwald, McNair & Fusco, LLP,
Cleveland, OH*

Tim's interest in labor law stems from both personal and academic experiences. He grew up in a union family, his grandfather a UAW autoworker and his mother a teacher and member of the Ohio Education Association. Last summer Tim interned with SEIU in Washington, DC, conducting legal research on low-wage worker organizing, including authoring the "Supervisor" and OSHA sections of SEIU's *Fast-Food Organizing Legal Manual*. At law school he is a member of the American Constitution Society.



Noah Gimbel JD '16

*Georgetown University Law Center
CASA de Maryland, Silver Spring, MD*

As a college intern at the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, Noah observed the corporate dehumanization of workers. He subsequently became an organizer with the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC. Noah also organized for Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch in the campaign against Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. Noah has also worked in journalism writing articles on militarism, foreign policy and social movements, and filed several video stories with the Real News Network, including a series on hunger striking Colombian autoworkers.



Samuel Jackson JD '16

*University of Minnesota School of Law
United Mine Workers of America,
Washington, DC*

Working summers at a non-unionized steel mill near his hometown, Sam experienced hard labor first-hand and learned that many of his co-workers were uncertain about their rights and responsibilities. The mill's permanent workers were often worried about poor working conditions, and being fired. This experience sparked his interest in labor law. Sam is currently a first-year representative and secretary at his law school's Student Employment and Labor Law Association. He spent spring break working in El Paso, TX, volunteering to provide legal aid to immigrants seeking asylum.

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Seth Kennedy *JD '15*

Chicago-Kent College of Law
SEIU, Washington, DC

As an undergraduate, Seth spent two summers interning for UNITE HERE! Local 1 in Chicago through Interfaith Worker Justice and Local 75 in Toronto. He currently serves as a law clerk at a union-side labor law firm, is a student editor of his law school's *Employee Rights and Employment Practices Journal* and an executive board member of the Labor and Employment Society. Seth spent his first summer of law school as a mediator case manager for the Center for Conflict Resolution's courtroom mediation program.



Arielle Kobetz *JD '15*

Brooklyn Law School
Major League Baseball Players
Association, New York, NY

After interning last summer for a Federal Judge in the Eastern District of New York and a New York law firm, Arielle developed an interest in labor and employment law. That interest grew during her experience at her school's *Journal of Corporate, Financial and Commercial Law*. There she conducted extensive research for a 35-page Note exploring the concept of utilizing a third party compliance officer to create and oversee a new drug policy for Major League Baseball. Arielle is currently an intern with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



Omer Khwaja *JD'16*

Seton Hall University School of Law
Gladstein, Reif & Meginnis, LLP,
New York, NY

Omer has spent several years working on labor and community organizing campaigns at SEIU Local 1, Local 615 and AFSCME in Baltimore. He started his organizing career working on a successful campaign to raise the minimum wage in Ohio. Since then, he has trained dozens of organizers, led new organizing campaigns and assisted workers in successfully filing charges with the NLRB and the National Mediation Board. During law school, Omer interned with the Union County Office of the Public Defender in Elizabeth, NJ.



Juhying Harold Lee *JD '16*

Harvard Law School
New York State United Teachers

Harold is the son of Korean immigrant parents and is a former union member. Before law school, he worked as an elementary school teacher and as a member of the clinical faculty of the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College at Columbia University. He was also a program coordinator for the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, frequently collaborating with organized labor for fair, humane, and comprehensive immigration reform. Harold is a member of Advocates for Education and junior editor of his school's *Law and Policy Review*.



Hailey Kimball *JD'16*

Michigan State University
College of Law
LIUNA, Washington, DC

Hailey first became interested in labor law during her sophomore year of college when she interned at the Michigan Court of Appeals. Through her involvement with the Democratic Party, Hailey campaigned for Proposition 2 on the 2012 Michigan Ballot, protested Right to Work legislation, and volunteered for several pro-labor candidates. Hailey was a King Scholar in her first year of law school and is a member of the student advisory board for the Career Services Office. She is also a member of the Ingham County Bar Association.



Paddy Lehane *JD '15*

Boston College Law School
Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters,
Washington, DC

At the age of six, Paddy watched *Newsies*, a movie about the newsboys strike in New York City in the 1800's. He was so enthralled that he organized the neighborhood kids demanding more sleepovers. While in high school, he worked at the National Education Association's Representative Assembly. During college and post graduate years, Paddy interned for the United Food and Commercial Workers and the Seafarers International Unions in their communications departments. In law school, Paddy worked for the school's Legal Assistance Bureau and was a judicial intern in Philadelphia.

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Han Lu *JD'16*

*UCLA School of Law
New Orleans Workers' Center for
Racial Justice*

Growing up in the American South as an undocumented immigrant from Taiwan, Han developed a long-standing commitment to working for migrant communities, prisoners and those populations most impacted by borders, prisons and policing. As a teenager he founded "Books to Prisoners," a community project that corresponded with and sent books free of charge to Louisiana prisoners. Prior to law school, he worked as a defense investigator at the juvenile public defenders' office in New Orleans. Han has been active with the Prisoner Re-entry Clinic, the Criminal Justice Society, the Experiential Clinical Student-Faculty Committee, and as a mentor in the Law Fellows Program.



Seth Lyons *JD'16*

*University of California,
Berkeley School of Law
Community Legal Services,
Philadelphia, PA*

Seth became interested in workers' rights issues in high school when he volunteered as the photographer for a book of oral histories of mushroom workers. After college, he worked for the Pennsylvania Farmworker Project. Seth then traveled to Ecuador, as a volunteer legal advocate for Asylum Access Ecuador where he worked on both direct services for people seeking asylum and on broader impact litigation. He has continued to work with low-wage workers through his school's Workers' Rights Clinic and at the California Asylum Representation Clinic.



David Machado *JD'15*

*University of Maryland School of Law
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.,
New York, NY*

During law school, David was a summer associate at the New York Law Department Labor Law Division working on both the Federal and State level. Currently, he interns for the American Federation of Government Employees working closely with the attorneys there in preparing and filing appeals for employees facing suspensions and removal actions. He is vice president of his law school's Leadership and Law Society, a member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team and the Maryland Public Interest Law Project.



Renee Manrique *JD'15*

*Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
New York State United Teachers*

Before law school, Renee worked in northern California as an educator in a high-performing, low-income school that benefited from a QEIA grant won from a lawsuit initiated by the California Teachers' Association. She was a site union representative for the Oakland Education Association and a member of Oakland's Effective Teacher Task Force. As a law student, Renee has continued to work for children's rights by interning with the Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project and Public Counsel.



Tara Marks *JD'15*

*Ohio Northern University
College of Law
IUE-CWA, Dayton, OH*

Tara was a young single mother with an infant son trying to navigate her way through a maze of government programs and assistance to return to school. Along the way, she worked for the Women's Law Project and later served as Co-Director for Public Policy of Just Harvest. Tara worked extensively with the labor movement in Pennsylvania including serving as UFCW's lead organizer for the Pittsburgh Wake-Up Walmart campaign. Most recently, she interned for the Food Research and Action Center in Washington, DC, and the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Appeals Board in Pittsburgh.



**Angaza Mayo -
Laughinghouse** *JD'15*

*North Carolina Central University
School of Law
United Electrical Radio & Machine
Workers of American, Pittsburgh, PA*

From a young age, Angaza's parents had him carrying picket signs and passing out pamphlets at workplaces. His father helped build the North Carolina Public Service Workers' Union and now serves as state president. His mother is a leader in the Durham City Workers' Union. Angaza has worked with various grassroots organizations, including United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) Local 170 in Charleston, West Virginia. Last year he interned for a Democratic member of the North Carolina General Assembly.

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Ryan McCarthy JD '16

Drexel University School of Law
Sheet Metal Workers'
Local Union No. 19, Philadelphia, PA

As the son of a union sprinkler fitter, Ryan interned in the Mayor's Office of Education where he worked on the PhillyGoes2College campaign. He then interned with the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board providing the unemployed with valuable workplace skills. Ryan is currently a law clerk at a union-side labor firm in Philadelphia. He is a liaison for his law school's Labor and Employment Law Society, American Constitution Society, Environmental Law Society and a legal observer of the National Lawyers Guild.



Citlalli Ochoa JD '16

University of California Irvine
School of Law
Employment Justice Center,
Washington, DC

While studying abroad, Citlalli was an English teacher in Barcelona, Spain. Prior to law school, she worked with the Economic Policy team at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. She then continued to develop her interests in labor law through pro bono projects and workshops dedicated to helping union workers, learning about the labor movement by working, interacting and developing relationships with members of diverse communities. Currently she is assisting with the Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities Project on behalf of the American Bar Association.



Nahal Heydari Noori JD '15

University of Illinois College of Law
NLRB Division of Judges,
San Francisco, CA

Nahal studied abroad in Havana, Cuba and interned with the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan at the American Academy of Diplomacy in Washington, DC. Upon graduation, she worked at a plaintiff-side employment firm in Oakland where she assisted on wage and hour, discrimination, and wrongful background check cases. At law school, Nahal is a member of the Women's Law Society, president of the Middle Eastern Law Students Association, and on *The Elder Law Journal*. Last summer she worked at the National Employment Lawyers Association in San Francisco.



Sarah Padway JD '15

University of Richmond School of Law
Federal Mine Safety & Health Review
Commission, Office of Administrative
Law Judges, Washington, DC

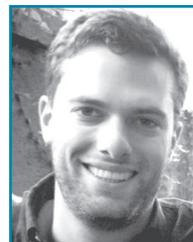
While an intern with NLRB Region 5, Sarah realized she could make a difference. Last winter, she had the opportunity to observe her father advocating for a public union in front of the Wisconsin State Court. Watching him argue, as well as hearing from a few of the union members after his argument, impressed upon her the importance of effective advocacy. At law school Sarah is a member of her school's *Law Review*, Trial Advocacy Board and interscholastic chair of the Client Counseling and Negotiation Board.



Andrea Obando JD '16

University of California,
Berkeley School of Law
Murphy Anderson PLLC,
Washington, DC

During college, Andrea created a program to aid students from low-income backgrounds in their transition to college life. Her passion for labor and employment was sparked by an internship with UNITE HERE! Local 26. Following graduation, Andrea joined Teach for America and taught science and reading in a low-income school in Houston. There she became a member of the Houston Federation of Teachers. Since entering law school, she has been active in the school's *La Raza Law Journal* and the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center's Workers' Rights Clinic.



Alexi Pfeffer-Gillett JD '16

University of California
Irvine School of Law
United Nurses Associations of
California/Union of Health Care
Professionals, San Dimas, CA

Alexi's interest in labor issues was fostered by two activist parents. After college, he worked for the American Federation of Teachers researching healthcare and education practices to assist teachers and nurses in organizing campaigns and contract negotiations. Alexi then earned a Masters of Public Policy focusing on urban education reforms. He also volunteered as a high school civics teacher, provided research for the ACLU on the "Effectiveness of Law Enforcement Efforts in Rhode Island Public Schools" and worked for the Annenberg Institute for School Reform.

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Helki Philipsen JD '14

*University of Maryland School of Law
AFSCME, Washington, DC*

Helki has been passionate about workers' rights since high school, when she attended demonstrations organized by members of the International Workers of the World. After college, she worked as a law clerk during the day and law school at night. Helki found her calling after competing in the ABA's 2013 Labor and Employment Law Trial Advocacy Competition. She is a research assistant in labor and employment law and works with the Right to Housing Alliance in partnership with the Public Justice Center in Baltimore.



Alanna Sakovits JD '16

*City University of New York
School of Law
Make the Road New York*

The rights of low-wage workers in the restaurant industry became Alanna's focus having worked as a waitress since the age of 15. She personally experienced and witnessed discrimination, wage stealing and sexual harassment. In college, Alanna worked at a woman-owned law firm in Manhattan where she assisted in writing a book on Employment Law and addressed issues of retaliation and sexual harassment. Through a recent internship at the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights, she advocated for immigrants, low-wage and formerly incarcerated workers.



Thomas Power JD '16

*City University of New York
School of Law
Workers Defense Project, Austin, TX*

After college, Tom joined AmeriCorps and volunteered in the Border Servant Corps taking him to the US/Mexico border, in El Paso. While there, he worked at Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project building community solutions to combat wage-theft and promoted grassroots immigrant advocacy efforts. Tom then moved to Houston where he and several other organizers developed the Prevention of Migrant Deaths Working Group. In law school he is an active member of both the Labor Coalition and the Mississippi Project.



Anthony Schroth JD'16

*Hofstra University School of Law
Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy
Project, Chicago, IL*

In college, Anthony frequently focused his studies on the literature and voice of the immigrant laborer. His own experiences as a laborer in landscaping and construction showed him the difficulties experienced by migrant workers. In law school, Anthony is a member of the Immigration Law Society and the Christian Law Society. He works in the Pro-Bono Clinic at Make the Road New York assisting immigrants in filing applications to the recently enacted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program deferring them from deportation.



Karen Racowsky JD'16

*University of the District of Columbia
Clarke School of Law
NLRB Contempt, Compliance & Special
Litigation Branch, Washington, DC*

Pushed in a stroller, Karen walked her first picket line with her mother's nurses' union in Boston. Her extended family of union members and activists fueled her awareness of injustices in the workplace and the power of collective bargaining. She volunteers at the Employment Justice Center's Workers' Rights Clinic, has helped organize with UNITE HERE!, and worked in the Research and Legal Departments of Communications Workers of America. Karen is treasurer of OUTlaw, a GLBTA law student group and a representative of the National Lawyers Guild.



Steven Shafer JD '15

*UCLA School of Law
Gilbert & Sackman, PC,
Los Angeles, CA*

Prior to law school, Steven was a practicing sociologist for almost a decade and conducted research with immigrant leaders of transnational organizations. Currently, he is part of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. Last summer, as a clerk for Bet Tzedek Legal Services, he represented undocumented immigrants in their wage claims before the Labor Commissioner. At his law school, Steven is a volunteer coordinator at El Centro Legal, Workers' Rights Clinic, and academic chair at the American Constitution Society.

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Olivia Singer *JD '15*

*Northeastern University School of Law
Greater Boston Legal Services,
Boston, MA*

The daughter of a former union organizer, Olivia's interest in labor and employment law began with trips to local migrant farm worker clinics. In college, she worked for the school's Student Labor Alliance and successfully pressured the university to divest from a company that was engaging in unfair labor practices. Olivia was a legal assistant in Peru at Casa de Panchita, an NGO that supports the rights of domestic workers. She has also interned at Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales in Mexico City and the Legal Department for SEIU in Washington, DC.



Lilyan Talia *JD '15*

*Michigan State University
College of Law
United Auto Workers, Detroit, MI*

Four experiences influenced Lilyan's pursuit of a law degree. First, following her family's emigration from Iraq, she witnessed their struggles to find consistent dependable work. The second was her summer internship with Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice in Detroit. The third and fourth were successfully completing two law courses – Alternate Dispute Resolutions in the Workplace and Workers' Compensation. In law school, Lilyan resurrected the school's branch of the National Lawyers Guild and she is the community service coordinator with the Women's Law Caucus and a member of Public-Interest Advocates.



Amy Spekhardt *JD '15*

*Syracuse University College of Law
Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters,
Washington, DC*

After watching a documentary about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, Amy became interested in workers' rights. Prior to law school, she interned for a U.S. Senator in New York on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid issues. Last summer, Amy interned for Unite the Union in London, contributing to an educational document for the Members of Parliament on the impact government policies have on the manufacturing industry and its workers. Amy has also contributed to Union Solidarity International through her online articles focusing on issues facing American workers.



Alexis Tillett-Saks *JD '15*

*Chicago-Kent School of Law
American Federation of Teachers,
Washington, DC*

Alex graduated college and immediately jumped into the labor movement. With UNITE HERE! he helped organize the newly-established casino industry in Pennsylvania. Later he played a strong role during the Wisconsin Uprising, fighting Governor Walker's attempt to outlaw the public sector workers' right to bargain contracts. Alex ran the state-wide organizing department for the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, successfully halting Governor Walker's attempt to pass anti-worker Voter ID legislation. He was the 2013-14 Peggy Browning School-Year Fellow at the Chicago Newspaper Guild.



Nicolas Stanojevich *JD '15*

*University of Georgia School of Law
O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue, LLP,
Washington, DC*

Born in the U.S., Nicolas grew up in Latin America, moving from Peru, to Costa Rica to Bolivia. During the last two years, he worked with the Economic Justice Coalition as their Latino Outreach Coordinator. The ties he developed with the local Hispanic community led to his introduction to United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1996. Nicolas began working as a Union Representative immediately after college, representing union workers and administering collective bargaining agreements.



Jonathan Tolentino *JD '15*

*Rutgers University
School of Law-Newark
Kennedy, Jennick & Murray P.C.,
New York, NY*

Jonathan's parents are active members of healthcare professional unions, the HPAE and 1199 SEIU. Prior to law school, he worked as an intern for the Criminal Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey returning a few years later as a judicial intern in the Civil Division. At law school, Jonathan is actively involved as vice president of the Labor and Employment Law Society and co-chair of the National Lawyers Guild. Jonathan currently interns for the National Labor Relations Board, Region 22.

2014 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Chi-Ser Tran *JD '16*

Temple University School of Law
U.S. Dept. of Labor, Office of the
Solicitor, Philadelphia, PA

As the eldest child of Khmer Rouge refugees, the responsibility fell on Chi-Ser to help her parents navigate countless legal and financial issues from a young age. She witnessed many immigrant families like hers face challenges due to limited English proficiency. Before law school, Chi-Ser worked at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund coordinating the multilingual Election Protection Project. She also worked with a wide variety of community leaders and organizations around the country to enforce and implement language access for limited English proficient Asian American voters.



Samuel Wheeler *JD '15*

Harvard Law School
United Steelworkers, Pittsburgh, PA

Sam grew up around unions and union members, including his mother, who was a teacher. After college, he worked in electoral politics in Western Pennsylvania on more than 10 campaigns for some of labor's staunchest allies. While in law school, Sam was a summer associate at an employment law firm in Pittsburgh gaining valuable experience in conducting legal research and analyzing complicated legal questions. He is a member of the Harvard Defenders and the American Constitution Society, and fundraising chair for HLS Democrats.



Martin Vigodnier *JD '15*

University of Illinois College of Law
Federal Labor Relations Authority,
Washington, DC

Martin decided to gain practical law experience before applying to law school. At age 19, he became a volunteer paralegal at Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles. While there, Martin performed document translation for client intakes and was exposed to a wide array of cases and cultures. In law school, he is a staff member of his school's *Journal of Law, Technology & Policy*. Martin was also an extern at the Los Angeles offices of the EEOC assisting the Enforcement Unit conduct investigations of alleged workplace discrimination.



Katie Wutchiett *JD'15*

Washington University St. Louis
School of Law
SEIU, Washington, DC

Through her involvement in the Public Interest Law Society, and leadership roles in the Women's Law Caucus and Employment and Labor Law Society, Katie has been active in labor causes for years. She first worked with Vote Yes Minnesota protecting the environment and promoting the arts. Then Katie traveled to India, eventually co-authoring a chapter of a book explaining how governments can better institute reservations that benefit underrepresented groups. In law school, Katie worked as a research assistant and has received the Legal Practice Excellence Award and the CALI Award for Civil Procedure.



Seth York *JD '16*

City University of New York
School of Law
Workers Defense League,
New York, NY

Seth joined the labor movement at 15 years of age on his first day of work, but really began fighting for workers' rights when he became a member of United Auto Workers Local 2322 during his undergraduate years. Seth participated in the Union Semester Program at the Murphy Institute for Worker Education. After college, he worked on new organizing campaigns in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Mississippi and Minnesota, with units comprised of higher-education workers, including adjunct faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and teaching and research assistants.

Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Robert M. Weinberg, Esq.
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Lafe Solomon, Esq.
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Representation Appeals
NLRB

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

AFL-CIO Lobby & Gompers Room
815 Sixteenth Street, Washington, DC

For more information visit www.peggybrowningfund.org/events
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SAVE THE DATES!

2014 National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference

October 17 & 18

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, MD

Keynote Speaker



Nancy Schiffer, Esq.
Member, NLRB

For more information, contact
Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director
267-273-7992