

# Peggy Browning Fund

*Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers*

## Welcome to the 2015 Class of Fellows!

We are thrilled to announce that we've placed the highest number of fellowships in our history this year! Our 2015 Summer Fellows total 76 from an applicant pool of over 400 students. We could not have reached this milestone without your support. You have helped us to grow and attract more bright, progressive and passionate law students to experience working in the field of labor law. This summer, they will help thousands of workers lives by working for economic and social justice.

The following short biographies introduce you to each Summer Fellow. Above each fellow's bio you will see their anticipated year of graduation, their law school and the mentoring organization where they will work this summer. Their diverse backgrounds and accomplishments will continue to impress you. Many of our fellows come from union backgrounds or have worked for unions. Quite a few have worked for organizations protecting immigrant rights. All are passionate about the labor movement and eager to follow their passion this summer and after law school.

Presently over 275 of our alumni are working as lawyers in the labor community and in public interest jobs. Your continued generosity has made this impact possible. Thank you for helping us to keep Peggy's legacy alive by motivating the next generation to advocate for workers' rights.

Sincerely,  


Joseph Lurie, President

*\*As of May 4, 2015*

## 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Stephanie Ainbinder JD'17**

*Northeastern University School of Law  
Service Employees International Union  
(SEIU), Washington, DC*

Stephanie's first union job was in college as an organizer for the United Labor Unions, Local 100 in New Orleans. Upon graduation, she moved to Boston and served as the first Hospital and Higher Education Campaign coordinator for the Massachusetts Building Trades Council. There she was able to conceptualize campaigns by economic, rather than geographical sectors. Stephanie enhanced her skills as a community organizing fellow with the Jewish Organizing Institute and Network for Justice (JOIN). In law school, Stephanie is a Public Interest Scholar and has worked for the Migrant Workers Justice Project.



**Luis Arias**

**JD'17**

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

Following the collapse of Ecuador's financial system, eight year old Luis immigrated with his family to the U.S. He became interested in labor law from his direct experience with low-income and migrant workers, having spent his teen summers working in construction. During college in Austin, TX, Luis was involved in multiple university-wide organizations that specifically dealt with education policy and community outreach initiatives. He co-founded an online journal where students were encouraged to research and participate in constructive dialogue about national and international affairs. In law school, Luis is involved with the Latino Law Students Association.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



## Esperanza Arrizon JD'17

*Loyola Law School*  
National Day Laborer Organizing  
Network, Los Angeles, CA

Esperanza's interest in workers' rights stems from her experience as an undocumented immigrant, immigrating with her family from Nayarit, Mexico, at the age of six. A long-time immigrant rights activist, she interned with Warehouse Workers United in Fontana, CA. Esperanza obtained an MA in Global Studies with an emphasis on the intersection between immigrant rights, labor rights, and human rights. She was responsible for creating and operating a youth component for Good Jobs LA and community organizing in South Los Angeles as part of Dream Summer SEIU for the UCLA Labor Center.



## Brandon Bradley JD'16

*George Mason University School of Law*  
Federal Labor Relations Authority  
(FLRA), Office of the General Counsel,  
Washington, DC

Brandon grew up in the blue-collar city of Pittsburgh and had the chance at an early age to see the importance of labor unions. His father has been a member of IBEW for over 30 years, which has shown Brandon all that labor unions can do for its members. Last summer, he worked at the Federal Labor Relations Authority. This year, Brandon was an intern with the General Services Administration of the Office of the Inspector General and is a research assistant for the Association for the Protection of Collegiate Athletes.



## Sarah Blackadar JD'16

*William & Mary Law School*  
United Auto Workers, Detroit, MI

Growing up the daughter of two naval officers, Sarah has lived in twelve different cities. Her first experience working in public service and labor advocacy was with Fair Share Alliance and Work for Progress in Boston, MA. She is also a member of her law school's *Journal of Women and the Law* and a member of the Moot Court Team. Sarah also serves on the executive board of William & Mary's Public Service Fund and International Law Society. She also interned with the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force and is a Board member of her law school's Public Service Fund.



## Kurt Brandner JD'16

*University of Colorado Law School*  
Communication Workers of America,  
Washington, DC

Kurt became inspired to work with struggling employees during his two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in northwestern Nicaragua. Living in a company town for a sugar cane refinery, Kurt witnessed the men in the region working 10 to 12 hour days in sweltering heat, cutting sugar cane for less than \$200 a month. Last summer, he worked for the Migrant Farm Workers Division of Colorado Legal Services speaking with hundreds of migrant farmers about their legal rights. He is a co-founder and co-president of his school's Spanish Speaking Law Students Association and was a student intern for Boulder County Legal Services.



## David Bly JD'17

*George Washington University  
Law School*  
Laborers' International Union of North  
America (LIUNA), Washington, DC

Before law school, David was a public school teacher in Phoenix, AZ. It was his experiences there that led him to a career in labor and employment law. He completed a Masters of Education and organized and executed men's outreach programs for the Ohio University Women's Center. David is the co-founder and former editor-in-chief for *The New Political*, a student-run publication that regularly covers issues in labor and employment law. He is also the co-founder of his school's Labor and Employment Law Society, serving as vice president.



## Andrea Brown JD'17

*University of Cincinnati College of Law*  
IUE-CWA, Dayton, Ohio

Her experience as a community organizer at Working America, AFL-CIO helped to solidify Andrea's interest in fighting for workers' rights. She advanced within the organization to field manager and office manager. As her roles and responsibilities shifted, Andrea saw the invaluable protections unions provide working class Americans. Recognizing that there is strength in numbers, she has focused on activists' issues since graduating from college. Andrea was a fellow with the Center for Race, Gender and Social Justice and is a member of her law school's Labor and Employment Club.

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**Jeffrey Bruno** *JD'16*

*University of Minnesota Law School  
United Steelworkers (USW),  
Pittsburgh, PA*

The result of being raised in a union family in Youngstown, OH, Jeff understands labor's role in shaping a community's identity and social fabric. He is determined to use his legal education as an advocate for the labor movement, whether it be in the courtroom or working for progressive politics. Jeff was a research and policy intern at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, an intern with Catholic Charities Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office of Immigration Review. Jeff is president of his Law School Democrats chapter and a member of the National Moot Court Team.



**Kena Cador** *JD'16*

*Georgetown University Law Center  
Murphy Anderson PLLC,  
Washington, DC*

Kena is editor-in-chief of the *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*, a Student Ambassador and a Special Pro Bono Pledge honoree. She has held positions with the NY State Division of Human Rights in the Office of Sexual Harassment Issues, at a small immigration firm specializing in visas and asylum, the DC Employment Justice Center and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under the Law. She interned at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel USERRA Unit handling employment discrimination claims on behalf of members of the armed forces.



**R. Matthew Burke** *JD'17*

*Columbia University School of Law  
New York State United Teachers  
(NYSUT), New York, NY*

After obtaining his Masters in Adolescent Education, Matt taught in a public high school in the Bronx. There he held multiple leadership positions including the Principal's Leadership Council, Hiring Committee and Measures of Student Learning Committee. Matt learned the power the law could play in protecting union employees from administrative policies. He witnessed how the Labor Law Act could serve as a catalyst for reform and left his field to attend law school and play a part in broader societal reform.



**Ashley Capacio** *JD'15*

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

Coming from a union family, Ashley's interest in labor legislation and public policy began as an undergraduate when she worked on the recall efforts of Governor Scott Walker, after the legislature passed Act 10, severely limiting collective bargaining rights of public employees. When Governor Walker survived the recall, Ashley decided to pursue a law degree to better understand labor and employment law. Last summer, she worked in her school's Family Court Clinic providing free legal services to the underserved in Dane County. Ashley has also worked as a Children's Advocacy Intern at New Horizons Outreach Center and Shelter working with victims of domestic violence.



**Nicholas Chang** *JD'16*

*University of Wisconsin Law School  
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la  
Lucha, St. Paul, MN*

Though protests surrounding Wisconsin's Act 10 also sparked Nick's interest in labor, his passion for justice began with his grandparents. Farmers in northern Wisconsin, Nick's grandparents always reminded him to stick up for the little guy. In college, he was active in student leadership related to issues of diversity and inclusion. In law school, Nick serves as a student representative on his school's Legal Education Opportunities Committee, dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and success of students of color. Nick also works at his school's Consumer Law Clinic and works on cases related to payday loans, auto fraud, and foreclosures.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Paige Coomer** *JD'17*

*Indiana University Maurer School of Law*  
**United Mine Workers (UMW), Washington, DC**

Paige graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky where she had a transformative experience, during a Shepard Internship, with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. There she worked with coal miners and organizing groups in Eastern Kentucky to rally for miners' rights and protect the needs of citizens who faced oppression from the big coal companies. In law school, Paige is actively involved with public interest groups and serves as a representative for the school's Public Interest Law Foundation.



**John D'Elia** *JD'16*

*Villanova University School of Law*  
**United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Washington, DC**

After college, John worked on Capitol Hill for the Committee on Education and the Workforce (formerly Education and Labor) as a labor policy associate. He focused on federal labor policy in the areas of labor-management relations, wage and hour protection, and worker training. In law school, John previously worked at UFCW as a law clerk working on a wide range of legal issues, including the OUR Walmart Campaign and assisted in writing NLRB position statements and briefs for state court proceedings. His work on behalf of UFCW workers reaffirmed his interest in labor law and his commitment to fighting for workers' rights.



**Sam Cretcher** *JD'16*

*University of California, Irvine School of Law*  
**California Teachers Association (CTA), Burlingame, CA**

Sam decided to pursue his law degree so that he could address the power inequalities that exist across our society. After his first year of law school, he helped the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California represent indigent habeas petitioners facing death sentences. During his second year, he participated in a number of pro bono projects. One of these projects, the Employment Law Center's Workers' Right Clinic, served as Sam's primary motivation for applying for a Peggy Browning Fellowship and pursuing a career in labor and employment law.



**Naomi Demsas** *JD'16*

*Suffolk University Law School*  
**International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Washington, DC**

Before law school, Naomi worked for Jobs with Justice, a workers' rights organization with a network of 45 local coalitions at the national and local levels. While there, she worked on a campaign to organize Indian workers brought to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and promised high wages and a visa. Naomi is a member of her law school's Student Bar Association Board of Governors and event planner for the social justice journal *Bearing Witness*. Last summer, Naomi participated in the AFL-CIO's Law Student Union Summer Program, working for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in Detroit, Michigan.



**Dev Das** *JD'17*

*Loyola Law School*  
**SEIU United Long Term Care Workers (ULTCW), San Dimas, CA**

Early on, Dev learned the power of organizing when he organized his fellow high school students to protest his school's strict dress code policies. Later, he interned for Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, mobilizing the clergy community around labor disputes in Los Angeles. After college Dev went on to coordinate boycotts of several labor-disputed hotels in LA for UNITE HERE! Local 11. He then spent 3 years organizing ramp and cargo workers at LAX for SEIU-USWW. As a law student Dev organized his fellow students around scholarship retention policies, and through that work was able to help more students keep their scholarships.



**Anthony Dillingham** *JD'16*

*University of Pittsburgh School of Law*  
**Community Justice Project, Pittsburgh, PA**

Anthony grew up outside of Detroit where his family was employed by the United Auto Workers union. Early on, he learned the importance of workers' rights and unionization while experiencing the near collapse of the auto industry and the transition of Michigan into a right-to-work state. Last year, Anthony was a legal intern at the Governor's Office of General Counsel in the Department of Labor. He also volunteered for the Prisoner Legal Support Project, drafting complaints for prisoners unable to afford legal counsel. Anthony currently works in the Elder Law Clinic and is on the executive board of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*.

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**Lisa Eisenberg** *JD'17*

*Drexel University School of Law*  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 19,  
Philadelphia, PA

Inspired by her mother, a member of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, and grandfather, a member of the United Steelworkers, to pursue a career in labor law, Lisa became active in politics at the age of seventeen. As an undergraduate, she worked as a finance assistant for Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, served as a committeeperson for the Philadelphia Democratic City Committee, and was an active member of her chapter of College Democrats. In law school, Lisa is a representative in the National Lawyers Guild and Students for Reproductive Justice.



**Caitlin Fitzgerald** *JD'17*

*University of Michigan Law School*  
United Auto Workers International  
Union (UAW), Detroit, MI

Caitlin was inspired by her grandfather who spent his entire career, several years as vice president, as an active member of his local chapter of the IBEW. Before college, she held minimum wage jobs. She experienced first-hand the struggles of her older co-workers dealing with job insecurity, low wages and inconsistent schedules. Caitlin was a paralegal at a union-side labor law firm before law school, working primarily on the employee benefits litigation team. At law school she is the labor events chair for the Michigan Immigration and Labor Law Association and is on the board of Outlaws, Michigan's LGBT affinity group.



**Sophie Rubinett Elsner**  
*JD'16*

*Harvard Law School*  
CLEAN Car Wash Campaign,  
Los Angeles, CA

A native of Austin, Texas, Sophie became interested in workers' rights while interning at the Equal Justice Center, where she learned the importance of being a vocal minority. Before law school, she served as the research editor at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University. There, she reported on human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and traced supply chains of multinational corporations. Long interested in the intersection of labor and immigration, Sophie has worked with immigrants in Argentina, Rhode Island, Texas, and California. In law school, she clerked at the housing and employment units at Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland.



**Arthur Four** *JD'16*

*Loyola Law School*  
NLRB Division of Judges,  
San Francisco, CA

Having a labor lawyer for a father and union-member for a mother, Arthur grew up around the labor movement and participated on his first picket line at age 12. During college, he interned for SEIU for two consecutive summers and then at a California State Assembly member's office in Los Angeles. He also worked as a writing tutor, helping English-As-A-Second-Language freshmen fulfill college-level writing requirements. In law school, Arthur externs at Los Angeles Superior Court and serves as chief research editor of his school's Law Review, currently writing an article about emerging issues affecting employees and employers under the California Labor Code.



**Chelsea Gaddis** *JD'17*

*DePaul University College of Law*  
Chicago Newspaper Guild

During her senior year of college, Chelsea interned with the Union of Autoworkers – Global Organizing Institute where she worked to unionize an auto manufacturing plant in Canton, MS. She continued working with the UAW, as a school-year fellow, in close association with several student groups. That experience led her to start the Howard University Student Justice Alliance to unite students with custodial workers and keep students informed of issues surrounding workers' rights. In law school, Chelsea volunteered for the Center for Elder and Disability Law, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, the Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program and Lawyers in the Classroom.

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## **Sophiko Geguchadze** *JD'17*

*University of Pittsburgh School of Law  
United Steelworkers (USW),  
Pittsburgh, PA*

After talking with two Peggy Browning Alumnae about their experience as Summer Fellows at United Steelworkers, Sophie decided to apply for a fellowship. As a first generation immigrant, she has a multifaceted view through which she can analyze information through a multicultural perspective. In a rapidly changing legal environment, Sophie understands that being able to adapt quickly is the most efficient way to advocate for those in need. She is a member of her school's Law Society, PITT Law Women's Association, Allegheny County Bar Association and is a BARBRI student representative.



## **Lizzette Gomez** *JD'17*

*University of California, Davis School of Law  
Agricultural Labor Relations Board,  
Salinas, CA*

As a daughter of Mexican immigrants who worked in Central California's fields, Lizzette became interested in immigration and labor law issues. During college, she interned at the Mexican American Education Fund (MALDEF) in Washington, DC, researching effective high school drop-out prevention programs. After college, Lizzette served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with the People's Institute Northwest in Seattle, WA. There, she worked with various agencies to address institutional racism issues, specifically within the education system. Lizzette is currently a member of her school's La Raza and a research editor for the *Journal on Juvenile Law and Policy*.



## **Julie Gilgoff** *JD'16*

*City University of New York  
School of Law  
Levy Ratner PC, New York, NY*

Julie is a second-time Peggy Browning Fellowship recipient, having spent last summer at UNITE HERE! Local 2 in San Francisco. Prior to law school she was a political organizer at International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21 in San Francisco. She was inspired to join the labor movement by her grandfather, a leader of the American Labor Party in the 1950s and the subject of a book that she authored in 2010. Julie interned with Make the Road New York, learned to speak Spanish in the Peace Corps Nicaragua and continues to volunteer organize for Bay Area Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights.



## **Sayra Gordillo** *JD'16*

*University of Missouri-Kansas City  
School of Law  
New Orleans Workers' Center for  
Racial Justice*

Sayra began organizing in college when she co-founded a Chicano student organization to address immigrant communities' issues. She then organized international student workers for the National Guestworkers Alliance Justice at Hershey's Campaign and led volunteer organizing efforts for Missouri Jobs with Justice in a state ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage and cap rates on payday loans. Last summer, she interned at the Midwest Innocence Project, an organization dedicated to exonerate the innocently convicted. Sayra co-hosts radio shows on worker rights topics and coordinates the National Lawyers Guild local chapter.



## **Lauren Godles** *JD'17*

*Harvard Law School  
Mehri & Skalet PLLC, Washington, DC*

Prior to law school, Lauren worked at the Legal Aid Society of DC as a paralegal in the Housing Unit. For her senior honors thesis at Tufts University, Lauren interviewed low-income Latino immigrants in East Boston and wrote a gendered analysis of their use of social networks in the migration process. Lauren also taught English, tutored students, and worked as an immigration paralegal at Centro Presente, a Latino advocacy organization in Somerville, MA. Lauren spent a semester in Lima, Peru, assisting at-risk domestic workers. In law school, Lauren is a subciter on the *Latino Law Review* and was selected to participate in the Mediation Program.



## **Sarah David Heydemann** *JD'16*

*Northeastern University School of Law  
Service Employees International Union  
(SEIU), Washington, DC*

Sarah is fortunate to have spent the last decade working for economic justice on domestic and international campaigns with labor centers, workers centers, and unions. She spent her undergraduate years fighting alongside campus workers for improved economic conditions and job security, then became a founding employee of the university's first labor center. Most recently, at the National Guestworker Alliance, she worked with international student visa holders in their fight against exploitative conditions at fast food restaurants. Her first legal internship was with a union-side law firm in New York working on rigorous research assignments.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Jesse Isleman** *JD'16*

*George Washington University Law School  
American Federation of Government  
Employees (AFGE), Washington, DC*

Jesse started his labor career during college where he majored in Industrial and Labor Relations with a focus on labor history and labor law. He was a summer law clerk with the U.S. Department of the Navy, assisting the Associate General Counsel on issues of suspension and disbarment. In law school, Jesse has worked as a law clerk for the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board at the Department of Labor evaluating workers' compensation claims under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. He is the chief of staff for the Student Bar Association and a member of the Labor and Employment Law Society.



**Kristyn Jones** *JD'16*

*Villanova University School of Law  
Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano,  
Philadelphia, PA*

Kristyn grew up in Rhode Island in a blue collar community in a single-parent household. But it was her stepdad's involvement in his union - Teamsters Local 251 - that opened her eyes to how beneficial unions can be to both the employer and employees. Kristyn heard stories about workers' strikes, appealing denied worker's compensation claims and modifying terms of overtime. She then realized that labor and employment law is her passion. Kristyn interned with the Guild Food Stamp Clinic at Philadelphia Legal Assistance and the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.



**Samuel Jackson** *JD'16*

*University of Minnesota Law School  
International Brotherhood of  
Teamsters (IBT), Washington, DC*

Sam is a staff member on the *ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law*. He became interested in labor law while working summers at a steel mill in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to being a Peggy Browning Fellow at the United Mine Workers of America last year, Sam has also worked at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Education Minnesota, the largest education union in Minnesota. Sam is vice president of his law school's Student Employment and Labor Law Association. His interest in the labor movement continues to grow, seeking out new opportunities in the field of labor.



**Laura Joseph** *JD'16*

*University of Richmond School of Law  
American Federation of Teachers  
(AFT) Washington, DC*

Laura obtained her undergraduate degree at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, with a concentration in labor history. Her interest in education reform follows in the footsteps of her father, a public school teacher for nearly 25 years and a member of the local teachers union. Now in law school, she conducts client intake for a plaintiffs' side employment law firm in downtown Richmond. As a summer clerk, she worked closely with attorneys on complex, collective-action wage and hour lawsuits. Laura volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Richmond Juvenile Court.



**William Kellogg, IV** *JD'16*

*Pepperdine University School of Law  
Los Angeles Black Worker Center  
Project*

William served in the U.S. Army as an Intelligence Analyst prior to attending law school. He also advocated for soldiers through the security clearance process. Utilizing skills developed at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, William completed an externship with the EEOC in Los Angeles, where he successfully mediated dozens of employment discrimination and retaliation cases. He was selected as a student attendee at the ABA's Labor and Employment Law National Conference. In law school, William participates in Moot Court, the Honor Board, and is president of the Pepperdine Student Bar Association.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



## Omer Khwaja JD'16

*Seton Hall University School of Law  
Kennedy, Jennik and Murray PC,  
New York, NY*

Omer is a Pakistani-American who has been a labor organizer for many years, beginning with a successful coalition effort to raise the minimum wage in Ohio. He has worked as a field organizer with AFSCME and the SEIU. Omer has trained dozens of organizers, led new organizing campaigns, and assisted workers in successfully filing charges with the National Labor Relations Board and the National Mediation Board. Last year, as a Peggy Browning Summer Fellow, he clerked with the union-side firm of Gladstein, Reif, and Meginniss in New York, preparing time-sensitive memos on a variety of labor and employment issues.



## Yesi Lagunas JD'16

*University of California, Hastings  
College of the Law  
Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss LLP,  
New York, NY*

Yesi is an immigrant from Mexico who grew up in Laguna Beach, CA, where her parents each worked multiple jobs to make ends meet. While in college, Yesi minored in Labor and Workplace Studies and interned at the National Day Laborer Network where she assisted in filing wage claims. Yesi volunteers at her school's Workers' Rights Clinic where she advocates for low income workers. She is the external vice president for Students for Immigrant Rights, academic chair of La Raza and a staff editor of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal*.



## Christopher Kinnon JD'17

*University of Michigan Law School  
National Labor Relations Board  
Contempt, Compliance & Special  
Litigation Branch, Office of the  
General Counsel, Washington, DC*

Before law school, Christopher was a sanitation worker with the City of Vancouver and an elected official and job steward with the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1004. Prior to his employment with the City, Christopher was a recording artist signed to T.V.T. Records. His experience in the music business gave him unanticipated vocational direction. Christopher was the recipient of a Clarence Darrow Scholarship and a representative of the Entertainment, Media and Arts Law Student Association.



## Danielle Lanza JD'16

*George Washington University Law School  
U.S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA Directorate  
of Whistleblower Programs,  
Washington, DC*

A member of the workforce since she was 16, Danielle has seen firsthand how important a safe and equitable workplace is and the integral role work plays in people's lives. She has interned in the Chair's Office at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and for the U.S. Department of Labor's Civil Rights Center, where she helped enforce non-discrimination and equal opportunity requirements in the public workforce system. She is a member of her school's Law Association for Women and the *Federal Circuit Bar Journal*.



## Ben Kowalczyk JD'17

*University of California,  
Los Angeles School of Law  
Gilbert & Sackman, Los Angeles, CA*

Raised in a family rooted in generations of progressive labor movement politics, Ben committed to social justice work at a young age. During college, he worked on community-based policy campaigns with the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and the UCLA Labor Center. Before entering law school, Ben spent time as a policy fellow with the City and County of San Francisco. In law school, Ben participates in the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and the Critical Race Studies Program, while active with the Workers Rights Clinic and the National Lawyers Guild chapter.



## Cinthya Larios JD'16

*The John Marshall Law School  
CASA de Maryland, Silver Spring, MD*

Cinthya was born in Mexico and brought to the United States at the age of 2 years. Growing up as illegal immigrants, her family lived in fear of being deported but chose to take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities provided by this country for as long as she could by studying and working hard every day to better their situation. After college Cinthya worked at the Hispanic Committee of Virginia deciding to go to law school to advocate for day laborers. In law school she is a member of the Honors Alternative Dispute Resolution Council and the Latino Law School.

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**Joan Leatherman** *JD'16*

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

Joan returned to college after successful careers in retail management and the finance industry. An undergraduate Labor Relations course, which gave her a first taste in alternative dispute resolution, really focused her interest on labor and employment law. In law school, she was a member of the 2015 Labor and Employment Law Trial Advocacy Team. Joan was also a member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team, and along with her partner, won the 2015 Intra-school Competition. Last summer she interned at the Allegany County Office of the State's Attorney in her hometown of Cumberland, MD.



**Alicia Lee** *JD '16*

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

As the daughter of an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union worker, Alicia became interested early in labor rights. After college, she had the opportunity to work for the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC); working for and with vulnerable populations. At law school, Alicia is a member of the Charles Hamilton Houston National Moot Court team and a student attorney for the Fair Housing Clinic. She has interned at the Commission for Gender Equality in South Africa and the Maryland American Civil Liberties Union Housing Department.



**Hillary LeBeau** *JD'16*

*Cornell Law School  
Federal Labor Relations Authority,  
Office of the Solicitor, Washington, DC*

Hillary has been interested in public service and human rights advocacy since she was a teenager. After taking a class in labor law, she became inspired. Hillary was a research assistant at the Sorbonne School of Law in Paris. She participated in the DePaul University Service Immersion Program and the Chicago Alliance against Sexual Exploitation. She is currently working in her school's Labor Law Clinic and has already filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge against an employer on behalf of a disenfranchised worker.



**Dayne Lee** *JD '17*

*Harvard Law School  
AFSCME, Washington, DC*

Prior to attending law school, Dayne was a campaign manager and community organizer at the Korean Resource Center (KRC) in Los Angeles, CA. At KRC, Dayne helped lead successful campaigns to mobilize voters to defeat anti-worker measures, coordinated the "Fast for Families-Orange County" immigration reform campaign, and helped KRC open a satellite office in Orange County. In law school, Dayne serves on the boards of the HLS Democrats and the Harvard Asian American Policy Review, and is an active member of the American Constitution Society, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and the Law & Social Change Program.



**Andrew Lyubarsky** *JD'16*

*New York University School of Law  
Levy Ratner PC, New York, NY*

As an immigrant, Andrew has always been acutely aware of the social inequalities that plague our society. In college, he interned at non-profits and was one of the leaders of the Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification. After graduating, he assisted clients facing eviction and welfare benefit cuts at the Bronx Defenders. He was a summer law clerk for the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice, a co-founder of his school's Immigrant Rights Project and a member in the Immigrant Rights Clinic.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Renee Manrique** JD'16

*Loyola Law School*  
AFL-CIO, Washington, DC

Renee's interest in workers' rights began working as a teacher in Oakland, CA, before law school. She was committed to helping her students achieve academic success and worked with her local union to advocate for students. In law school, Renee interned with Public Counsel and the Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project in Los Angeles. Last summer, she was a Peggy Browning Fellow with the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), working on policy and legal issues impacting teachers and students. Renee also formed a labor and employment law society at her law school this year.



**Jessica Mendoza** JD'16

*Chicago-Kent College of Law*  
Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project, Chicago, IL

After an in-house internship for a corporation headquartered in Chicago, Jessica became interested in labor and employment law. The ethical business practices and happy workers underscored that all employees should work in an environment where everyone is treated fairly, with dignity and respect. Jessica was also a judicial extern for the Chancery division of the Circuit Court of Cook County and was the executive articles editor of the *Journal of International and Comparative Law*.



**Kelsey Mansell** JD'16

*Penn State Dickinson School of Law*  
Freedman & Lorry, Philadelphia, PA

Growing up in the Anthracite Coal Region of Pennsylvania, Kelsey became interested in labor law after learning one of her ancestors was hung for his participation in the infamous "Molly Maguire's." She comes from a long line of union members, including her parents who are both teachers and members of the Pennsylvania State Educators Association. During college, Kelsey minored in Labor and Employment Relations. Last summer, she worked at MidPenn Legal Services and has interned with the City of Harrisburg Law Bureau. Kelsey is also an associate editor on *The Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation* and a member of the Labor and Employment Law Society.



**Alana Miles** JD'16

*Rutgers School of Law, Newark*  
New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), New York, NY

Alana's Master's degree in Education Policy and Social Analysis provided her a substantive and analytical foundation. Her internship with AFSCME District Council 37 afforded her the opportunity to develop her research, writing and analytical skills. It was there that she realized her interest in labor and employment law. Alana also interned with the New Jersey Institute of Social Justice. She is an associate editor for the *Rutgers Race and Law Review*, a parliamentarian for the Association of Black Law Students and a member of her school's Labor and Employment Law Society.



**Shawn McKinley** JD'16

*Cleveland State University, Cleveland –  
Marshall College of Law*  
Schwarzwald, McNair & Fusco,  
Cleveland, OH

Shawn took a strong interest in employment-related issues when his father suffered a severe injury due to a preventable work accident. He personally witnessed the impact of dangers in the workplace on employees. After college, he worked as a substitute teacher in the middle school track and as a football coach and truck driver. While at law school, Shawn worked at a personal injury firm in Rocky River, OH, and as a clerk for a judge in Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals where he gained experience in legal research and writing.



**Austin Minogue** JD'16

*Brooklyn Law School*  
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA!), Washington, DC

Austin grew up in a family deeply entrenched in the labor movement, well represented in Local 3 IBEW. While in college he served as president of Catholic University Men's Rugby Football Club and spent his summers working as a Local 3 Summer Helper. After graduation, Austin interned in President Clinton's Personal Office and worked as a Local 147 Sandhog on the 2nd Avenue Subway Line. In law school, he interned in both the Brooklyn and Manhattan District Attorney's Offices and was a judicial intern in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Nicole Mormilo** *JD'16*

*Brooklyn Law School*  
Levy Ratner PC, New York, NY

While pursuing a degree in labor relations at Cornell University, Nicole researched various labor law topics, including protections for U.S. public sector workers, job creation and quality among emerging entrepreneurial firms, and changes in Australian labor laws. Her involvement with Friends of Farmworkers, providing free ESL-tutoring to migrant workers at dairy farms in upstate NY, inspired her interest in advocating for marginalized groups. She interned with Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's Group Representation Unit, the Arcé Law Group, and the Southern District of NY Mediation Unit. Nicole worked on the *Journal of Law and Policy* and the Moot Court Honor Society.



**Jonah Nelson** *JD'17*

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

Jonah started his career working with Homes for the Homeless, managing an innovative food pantry program. After interning for the New York Hotel Trades Council, he worked as an organizer on a campaign to change working conditions at several New York City retailers. He led a campaign to combat wage theft and intimidation then worked for Workers United NY/NJ Joint Board researching case law and NLRB decisions.



**Joe Nehring** *JD'17*

*University of Iowa College of Law*  
The Previaet Law Firm SC,  
Milwaukee, WI

After completing his undergraduate degree, Joe worked for SEIU's campaign, Iowa for Health Care, promoting health care reform during the 2008 general elections. Subsequently, he worked as a political representative and deputy political director for AFSCME Iowa Council 61. At AFSCME, Joe advocated for worker's rights and public employees at the Iowa Legislature. He's currently the Associate Treasurer for the Iowa Student Bar Association and a volunteer at the Johnson County Attorney's Office where he assists low income persons get their suspended driver's license and registrations back early.



**Denis Nolasco** *JD'17*

*Fordham University School of Law*  
Communication Workers of America,  
Washington, DC

Denis Nolasco was born in the Dominican Republic. While in college, she held leadership roles with numerous organizations and spearheaded a Hispanic Heritage event kicked off with a speech by the President of the Dominican Republic addressing Remittances and Migration. Denis was selected to become a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Public Policy Fellow working for the House Ways and Means committee on trade issues. She secured a position with the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center working with international labor advocates on collective bargaining, legislative advocacy, and organizing campaigns.



**Richard Olszewski** *JD'16*

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

A first generation American whose father and brother work in the construction industry, Rich was raised in Chicago. He had exposure to issues that contemporary workers face, especially the effects of lax regulation of the workplace. After his first year of law school, Rich served as a summer judicial intern at the Federal Mine Safety & Health Review Commission. While there, he came to appreciate the differences in working conditions between union and non-union mines. These differences convinced Rich that unions positively impact workers' lives. Most recently, he worked with the employment law clinic at the Charlottesville Legal Aid and Justice Center.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Adriel Orozco** *JD'16*

*University of New Mexico  
School of Law  
Friends of Farmworkers,  
Philadelphia, PA*

Adriel, the son of Mexican immigrants, is the first of his family to pursue a professional degree. Before law school, he worked as a community health worker at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center (NMILC) where he helped clients access social services. He continues to work at NMILC as an immigrant advocate and hopes to expand his work to assist immigrants with employment and labor issues. Adriel is currently the Citations Editor for the *NM Law Review*, Board Secretary of Enlace Comunitario, an organization fighting to end domestic violence in the Latino community, and a Board member of the Mexican American Law Student Association.



**Carolyn Purcell** *JD'16*

*University of Louisville, Brandeis  
School of Law  
U.S. Department of Labor, Region III,  
Philadelphia, PA*

Carolyn became interested in worker's rights while performing *Fabric, Flames and Fervor*, an original play about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. She then became a restaurant worker, experiencing first-hand the vulnerability of employees in the New York City restaurant industry. In the past year, she has written on the topic of wage theft for her school's *Law Review*, joined the Wagner Labor and Employment Moot Court Team, and volunteered her time at the Kentucky Equal Justice Center in their worker's rights department.



**Hirak Pati** *JD'17*

*University of South Carolina  
School of Law  
United Electrical, Radio and Machine  
Workers of America (UE),  
Pittsburgh, PA*

Hirak first became interested in the labor movement as a student dining hall worker when he was studying political science. As a student activist, he spent his undergraduate years fighting for a living wage for dining hall workers and marching against wage theft prevalent in Nashville's immigrant communities. After Hirak graduated, he moved to New York City and worked at the New York Hotel Trades Council as an organizing intern. He also worked for New York Communities for Change, where he managed the logistics for two nationwide fast food strikes in which thousands of workers participated.



**Marquel Ramirez** *JD'17*

*University of the District of Columbia,  
Clarke School of Law  
UNITE HERE Local 2,  
San Francisco, CA*

As a volunteer with AmeriCorps and the U.S. Peace Corps Senegal, Marquel's U.S. service roles have inspired her to pursue her interests in immigration and labor from a legal perspective. Marquel's work with immigrant workers and underprivileged girls motivates her to strive to be their advocate. She most recently worked as an intern with the DC Board of Ethics and Government Accountability's Office of Open Government, where she assisted with legal research. Marquel is also active on campus and is a member of the Environmental Law Society.



**Monica Porter** *JD'16*

*George Washington University  
Law School  
Legal Aid Society, Employment Law  
Center, San Francisco, CA*

After college, Monica served first as an AmeriCorps fellow, then as assistant director of the Bay Area JusticeCorps program. In law school, Monica is a Public Interest Scholar and Legal Research and Writing Fellow. Additionally, she is a member of the *GW International Law Review*, Moot Court Board, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Board. As a law student she has served with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Bay Area Legal Aid: Legal Barriers to Employment Project, and Employment Justice Center. She most recently clerked for a member of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



**Jack Roberts** *JD'16*

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

Growing up as the son of a union truck driver, Jack learned the importance of labor advocacy at a young age. In his college years, he was involved with the Junior Achievement Program of Rhode Island, where he helped teach local children important lessons about career planning and financial literacy. Later, while working as an extern at the nonprofit Georgia Watch, Jack sought to increase awareness among Georgia consumers and workers about the laws and court decisions affecting them. Additionally, Jack's forthcoming published comment in the *Emory International Law Review* explores the relationship between child labor and compulsory education in Myanmar.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



## **Graham Robertson** *JD'15*

*University of Texas at Austin  
School of Law  
International Labor Rights Forum,  
Washington, DC*

A visit to Peru at age seventeen opened Graham's eyes to the harsh injustices of poverty. During his undergraduate studies, he conducted a research project centered on the informal workforce in Washington, DC. At law school, Graham has served as vice president of the Human Rights Law Society and as a student associate in the Human Rights Clinic, contributing to combat racial profiling in Panama. After working for the International Labour Organization, Graham most recently spent a semester studying public international law at the University of Buenos Aires.



## **Jeanette Schroeder** *JD'17*

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

Jeanette served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador and later as a paralegal at the Legal Aid Society in Santa Ana, CA. There she assisted low-income clients, trained legal interns and supervised their legal clinics. Jeanette also interned at Kids in Need of Defense, a non-profit organization that assists undocumented immigrant children who may qualify for immigration relief as victims of neglect, abuse, or abandonment by one or both parents. Jeanette quickly became aware of how many of these individuals desperately need assistance with employment law issues and how these issues can have a detrimental impact on other areas of their lives.



## **John Sandoval** *JD'17*

*Columbia University College of Law  
Rothner, Segall & Greenstone,  
Pasadena, CA*

Owing his scholastic opportunities to the support provided by his immigrant family from El Salvador, John has dedicated his time toward helping working-class communities. Under the leadership of his professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, John learned the organizing techniques used by Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Movement. He also helped unionize facilities management workers of Los Angeles address on-going needs in the workplace and beyond. John was a member of the Harvard Latino Leadership Initiative and a law clerk for a firm in Santa Monica, CA.



## **Laura Schuman** *JD'16*

*Rutgers School of Law, Newark  
Major League Baseball Players  
Association, New York, NY*

After studying theater and music at Connecticut College, Laura worked at the Actors' Equity Association, which represents actors and stage managers. It was there that she took part in labor negotiations and helped conduct research for arbitrations. Laura finds that her work with Actors' Equity is satisfying because of her ability to help workers maintain their right to work, to make a living wage, and to work without being subject to harassment or dangers in the workplace. At law school, Laura is associate editor for the *Rutgers Law Record*.



## **Nicholas Scotto** *JD'16*

*Brooklyn Law School  
District Lodge 15 IAMAW,  
New York, NY*

As the first college graduate in his family, Nick developed his blue-collar work ethic and desire to work in labor law from his father, a shop steward and formerly elected delegate to the district council for Carpenters Local Union 290. He has spent considerable time working for plaintiff-side employment law firms in New York City. Nick most recently spent time working at the Brooklyn Law School Employment Clinic, where he represented low-income workers that had recently been terminated at unemployment insurance hearings.

# 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Marisol Silva** *JD'17*

*University of Florida College of Law  
Make the Road New York,  
New York, NY*

Born in Lima, Peru, Marisol and her parents immigrated to the U.S. to provide her the opportunity to go to college. Seeing her father face injustices while he labored as a delivery driver, landscaper, and construction worker motivated Marisol to turn to community involvement. Her internship at Tampa City Council taught her the value community activism has in influencing local politics. During her undergraduate studies, she became an Alternative Spring Break Trip Leader, where she led her fellow students in volunteering at Women In Need (W.I.N.), a homeless shelter for survivors of domestic violence in New York City.



**Chi-Ser Tran** *JD'16*

*Temple University School of Law  
Community Legal Services,  
Philadelphia, PA*

Chi-Ser is a second-time Peggy Browning Fellow, having worked with the U.S. Department of Labor in the Philadelphia Regional Solicitor's Office last year. Most recently, she worked with low-wage workers and immigrant youth through Temple Law's Sheller Center for Social Justice Lawyering Clinic. Prior to law school, Chi-Ser was the Voting Rights Organizer at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). There she coordinated their multilingual Election Protection Project – the biggest project of its kind to-date. She has worked with a wide variety of community leaders and organizations to enforce and implement language access for limited English proficient Asian American voters.



**Alvina Swati** *JD'17*

*Rutgers School of Law, Newark  
NLRB Region 4, Philadelphia, PA*

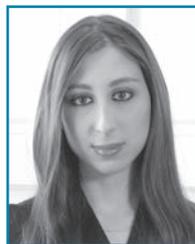
Alvina's interest in labor and employment law stemmed from her undergraduate participation in the Seton Hall Law Summer Institute of Pre-Legal Studies. She presented moot court oral arguments on a case based on sexual harassment in the workplace. Through her preparation for the oral arguments, she came to understand the vast disparities that existed within the workplace. In addition to earning a Masters Degree in Labor and Employment Relations, Alvina has spent the past two years working as a program coordinator at the Office for Diversity and Academic Success In the Sciences (ODASIS) where she assists underrepresented and disadvantaged students.



**Hillary Webb** *JD'17*

*Syracuse University College of Law  
National Employment Lawyers  
Association, Washington, DC*

Hillary was inspired to pursue a career in labor law during her time interning in the office of a U.S. Senator. Hillary's career goals were fueled as she saw how the Senator's workers' rights policies positively affected his constituents. Her subsequent work at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she pursued equal rights for women in education and the workplace, solidified her interests in public interest and labor law. In law school, Hillary is a member of the Communications Law and Policy Society and volunteers with both the Syracuse Public Interest Network and the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County.



**Alexis Werth** *JD'16*

*City University of New York  
School of Law  
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein PC,  
New York, NY*

While teaching English as a Second Language to undocumented immigrant farmworkers, Alexis was introduced to the unfair labor conditions agricultural workers face in New York. She dedicated her undergraduate career at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations to developing a progressive model to unionize farmworkers throughout the state. She has presented her research with the Cornell Farmworker Program to President Clinton's Global Initiative University, as well as to two U.S. Senators. Alexis has since been advocating for workers' rights, both as a litigation paralegal for a union-side law firm and as a law clerk at the NLRB Region 2 office.

## 2015 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Mitchell West** *JD'16*

*Washington University in St. Louis  
School of Law  
Service Employees International Union  
(SEIU), Washington, DC*

Mitchell's first exposure to the labor movement was through his family, as he learned about unions from his father, who was a Teamster. Before law school, Mitchell was a Masarachia Scholar at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, where he worked with community organizations, unions, and faith groups to organize for progressive causes. Mitchell has served as treasurer for Central Indiana Jobs with Justice. He has also interned with the ACLU of Indiana and was a summer clerk for a justice in the Indiana Court of Appeals.



**Ariel Williams** *JD'16*

*University of Colorado Law School  
Working Hands Legal Clinic,  
Chicago, IL*

During her undergraduate years, Ariel worked with underserved children from the Los Angeles community as a tutor and camp counselor. She enhanced her skills while working at a family law self-help center in Los Angeles while working at a family law self-help center in Los Angeles run by the AmeriCorps program, JusticeCorps. Ariel was a legal extern for Boulder Bridge to Justice and a judicial extern for the Stanley Mosk Court House. She volunteered for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in New Orleans. In law school, Ariel volunteers with the Acequia Project, helping farmers better manage their water use share of irrigation ditches.



**Nicholas Wolfmeyer** *JD'16*

*Stetson University College of Law  
UAW, Detroit, MI*

Prior to law school, Nicholas was a special education teacher in New York City public schools in Brooklyn and East Harlem. As a teacher, he became the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) chapter leader at his school and filed grievances, represented members in disputes with administrators and the NYC Department of Education, and managed member enrollment in the UFT Welfare Fund. Nicholas is currently an Institute Fellow at the Veterans Law Institute at his school, where he works on the Pro Bono Initiative. He is also president of the Immigration Law Society, a member of the Law and Employment Society, and has participated in the school's Immigration Clinic.

## 2015 Peggy Browning School Year Fellows



**Jackie Condella** *JD'15*

*Loyola University Chicago  
School of Law  
Chicago Newspaper Guild, 2014-15*

Jackie was first introduced to the study of labor and employment law through a summer semester abroad in China. While there, she had the opportunity to study and witness the struggles and challenges many workers world-wide face. Subsequently, her interest grew while working for two small plaintiff-side law offices. Jackie was a judicial intern for the Circuit Court of Cook County in the Mortgage Foreclosure Division and a member of her school's *Law Journal*.



**Sara Dankowski** *JD'17*

*DePaul University College of Law  
Chicago Newspaper Guild, 2015-16*

Having been involved in the labor movement at the age of twelve, when her father was elected president of AFSCME Local 1028, Sara had the opportunity to attend both state and international conventions. Her legal career began as a paralegal in the Illinois Army National Guard and continued as a deputy court clerk for the Will County Circuit Clerk's Office. Sara's commitment to labor began in 2008 when she became a steward with AFSCME Local 1028 and negotiated collective bargaining agreements, advocated for employee rights, and assisted in organizing a strike. She has held several leadership positions including trustee and executive board member.

# Peggy Browning Fund

*Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers*

1528 Walnut Street, Suite 1904

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**Mary Joyce Carlson, Esq.**

*Attorney at Law*



**Homer C. LaRue, Esq.**

*Arbitrator, Mediator  
& Professor of Law*

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

**AFL-CIO Lobby & Gompers Room  
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## SAVE THE DATES!

### 2015 National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference

**October 16 & 17**

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute  
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Watch our website for details  
[www.peggybrowningfund.org](http://www.peggybrowningfund.org)

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