

Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

Meet Our 2021 Fellows

We are proud to introduce you to this year's Peggy Browning Fellows – bright, progressive law students passionate about workplace justice. After a year of pandemic-related challenges, we were pleased to see interest in our programs continue to soar, as we received over 700 fellowship applications for this year. We awarded 82 summer fellowships and one school-year fellowship, and our fellows and mentor organizations thank you for your continued support.

Your support enables us to fulfill this mission. As you read this brochure, you'll learn about the impressive students you have helped us launch into legal careers as lawyers working for workplace justice. Without your support this would never have happened. Thank you!

In solidarity,



Joseph Lurie, President & Founder

Each listing includes the student's graduation year, law school and fellowship location.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Rianah Alexander JD'23

*North Carolina Central University
School of Law
Durham, NC*

**National Employment Law Project
(NELP) New York, NY**

Rianah grew up in Harrisburg, NC and studied political science and strategic communication. Prior to law school, she worked on various political campaigns helping to elect progressive candidates. Her interest in the labor movement deepened after her work as a legislative aide at the North Carolina General Assembly. There, she assisted in introducing legislation for paid family leave, health-care expansion, and fair chance laws for workers with prior convictions. Most recently, Rianah managed constituent claims for unemployment assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. She witnessed the insufficient resources and protections available for workers at the state and federal levels. In law school, Rianah is the vice president of Law Democrats and a member of the Women's Law Caucus.



Brian Allen JD'22

*City University of New York
School of Law
Long Island City, NY*

**IUE-CWA
Dayton, OH**

As a lifelong Georgian, Brian was born in Gwinnett County, attended high school in Cherokee County and most recently lived in several neighborhoods of Atlanta. Before college, he worked at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport at one of the largest foodservice operations in North America and was a member of the Teamsters union. Brian became a department shop steward at 21. At Georgia State University, he became active in a United Students Against Sweatshops chapter and interned with the United Campus Workers of Georgia, affiliated with the Communications Workers of America. He is the first person in his extended family to pursue graduate studies and the first in his immediate family to receive a college degree. Brian hopes to use his law degree to build a stronger and progressive labor movement in the South.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Nagiane Arriaza *JD'22*

*City University of New York
School of Law
Long Island City, NY
Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss, LLP
New York, NY*

A graduate of the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Nagiane has experience in community organizing, research, and negotiations with labor unions representing public and private sector employees. She hopes to combine her law degree with her experience in employee advocacy and employer inclusion consulting, to holistically advocate for workers' rights.



Sujata Bajracharya *JD'23*

*University of Virginia
School of Law
Charlottesville, VA
National Treasury Employees Union
Washington, DC*

Sujata was raised in a union family in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. At Barnard College, she majored in Religion and Asian & Middle Eastern cultures, graduating *summa cum laude*. Sujata then received her MA in Religion from Syracuse University, where her research focused on Hindu festivals and community building for international students on campus. As a graduate student, she was introduced to labor issues via discussions around graduate student unionizing. Before law school, Sujata worked as a program associate at the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, doing diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting focused on religious diversity, working with corporations, government agencies, and other non-profits. Through that work, Sujata's interest in labor and legal issues deepened, leading her to apply to law school.



Grace Austin *JD'23*

*The George Washington University
Law School
Washington, DC
Int'l Association of Sheet Metal,
Air Rail & Transportation Workers
(SMART) Washington, DC*

Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, Grace attended American University where she graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in Justice and Law. Upon graduation, Grace commissioned in the United States Army and served for four years. Watching friends and family members struggle in an increasingly anti-worker economy drove Grace to pursue studies in workers' rights. Today, she is a member of her school's Criminal Law Brief and participates in the Social Security Pro Bono Project. Grace is the granddaughter of a proud union member, and her grandfather's life-long union work shaped Grace's love of unions and their history. Grace is passionate about adapting historical successes in collective organizing to navigate labor challenges of today.



Kenyatta Barthelemy *JD'22*

*Southern University Law School
Baton Rouge, LA
Wage Justice Center
Los Angeles, CA*

A first-generation law student at one of only six HBCU law schools in the nation, Kenyatta was exposed to the labor movement through her family's organized fight for the continued self-employment of African Americans that work the rivers and bayous of Southeast Louisiana. Her desire to advocate for workers' rights was cemented at an on-campus event where four incarcerated women shared that a 40-hour work week earned them 80 cents. Kenyatta's career goal is for the mere mention of her name to strike fear in the heart of any proponent of injustice. Her mission to eradicate oppression is best described by the scriptures Proverbs 31:8-9 which pronounce, "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Jacob Bies

JD'22

*Penn State Law
University Park, PA
Northwest Workers'
Justice Project
Portland, OR*

The son of a union educator and hospital lab technician, Jacob was born and raised in Yankton, SD. Although he branched out from the “family trades” of education and healthcare, he undertook the study of law with a similar drive to help people through his practice. Having majored in Spanish and Global Studies, Jacob spent time before law school volunteering and working with immigrant parents and youth in his hometown. He has also done legal work for detained asylum-seekers in Dilley, TX, farmworkers with Legal Aid of Nebraska, and several clients with the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic at Penn State Law. He hopes to continue working at the intersection of immigration and labor law, in order to ensure that workers receive fair treatment and compensation, regardless of citizenship or status.



Mackenzie Bouverat *JD'22*

*Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA
Cohen, Weiss & Simon LLP
New York, NY*

For Mackenzie, pursuing a career advancing economic justice always felt like an inevitability. As a first-generation student from a family of factory workers, her post-secondary education gravitated naturally to questions of political economy, wealth distribution, and workers’ empowerment. A Southern Ontario native, she spent her college summers working on Ford Motor Company’s automobile assembly line, where her first-hand exposure to unionism deepened her commitment to solidarity and workplace organizing. Mackenzie enrolled in law school to learn to effectively channel her dedication to economic justice into meaningful change for working-class people. Mackenzie spent last summer as a Peggy Browning Fellow at LIUNA in Washington, DC.



Zachary Boult

JD'22

*Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA
Chicago News Guild
(School-Year Fellow, 2020-21)
Chicago, IL*

A Louisiana native, Zachary developed an interest in labor and employment law through his work in criminal justice reform. During his experiences at the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., he learned how important well-compensated and dignified work was for reintegration of formerly incarcerated people. In law school, Zachary has volunteered and organized for the Harvard Graduate Students Union and for the law school’s dining, catering, and custodial workers’ hours and safety. He’s also worked on behalf of employees facing discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Boston. As a former editor-in-chief of his undergraduate editorial, Zachary has enjoyed continuing to advocate for media workers’ rights with the Chicago News Guild.



Alexis Boyd

JD'23

*American University Washington
College of Law
Washington, DC
Service Employees International
Union (SEIU)
Washington, DC*

As the child of a teacher who worked multiple jobs, Alexis learned the importance of economic justice and establishing a livable wage. During college, she experienced firsthand the economic disparity within the system of higher education, which led to joining the Student Labor Action Project. There, she organized around raising wages for student workers and holding her college accountable for supporting its low-income students. After working as a paralegal, Alexis then became the first in her family to attend law school and is currently a member of the Labor and Employment Law Society. Her goal is to become a labor attorney with a focus on civil rights protections in the workplace. Alexis is excited to learn even more about labor law this summer at SEIU.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Simon Cao

JD'22

*Penn State Law
University Park, PA
American Federation of Teachers
(AFT)
Washington, DC*

Simon took his experiences growing up in a union household to New Mexico Highlands University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology. Before attending law school, Simon worked for a local affiliate of AFT as a staff representative for over five years. There, Simon advocated for members through grievance hearings, arbitration, as a negotiating team member, and in organizing. As a staff representative, Simon won over \$1.2 million in back-pay and benefits for members. He also wrote contractual language still in force in Albuquerque. Simon helped members enforce their rights under FMLA, ADA, and civil rights statutes and was a Peggy Browning Summer Fellow last year at AFSCME.



Collin Clibon

JD'22

*Georgetown University Law Center
Washington, DC
International Union of Painters
& Allied Trades (IUPAT)
Hanover, MD*

After graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of Missouri, Collin served for over seven years in the United States Army as a military intelligence officer. While on active duty, he earned a master's degree in International Relations and prior to law school, worked at the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. Collin has also interned with the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Justice Department, working on veterans' employment issues within the Civil Rights Division. Collin's passion for workers' rights and organized labor are grounded in his father's experience, first as a union worker in a feed mill and as a union electrician, reinforcing Collin's belief that advancing organized labor is essential for working-class Americans to achieve better living conditions and greater opportunities for success.



Benjamin Christensen *JD'22*

*University of Detroit Mercy
School of Law
Detroit, MI
Sugar Law Center
Detroit, MI*

Ben has been involved with progressive politics and grassroots activists in the Detroit area since 2009. Before law school, he worked as a freelance composer and audio engineer and taught electronic music at Allied Media Projects in Detroit. Ben has worked with water rights activists, We the People of Detroit, to combat water insecurity and inhumane water shutoffs by the city and with the United Community Housing Coalition as a tax foreclosure prevention counselor. Ben is a student member of the National Lawyers Guild and a junior member of the school's law review, where he is writing his student law review note on the "deliberative process privilege," a governmental privilege that police departments use to shield them from discovery in civil rights actions.



Enzo Codella

JD'23

*University of North Carolina
School of Law
Chapel Hill, NC
Equal Justice Center
Austin, TX*

A first-generation Latinx immigrant, Enzo is profoundly inspired by the fight for justice. Their own experiences as a queer immigrant of color and their continuous engagement with diverse peers, drive and inform their desire to work for a sustainable social and economic structure that supports and uplifts all peoples. In 2020, Enzo joined Housing Justice Now to help inform tenants facing eviction of their legal rights and connect them with legal aid resources. In law school, they have worked *pro bono* for the National Lawyers Guild's Prisoners Legal Advocacy Network and for the Sustainable Economies Law Center, working alongside jailhouse lawyers seeking to protect prisoners' rights and Native peoples endeavoring to reclaim their ancestral lands. These experiences motivate Enzo to dedicate themselves to serving those most victimized.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Schuyler Corbin *JD '22*

*Tulane University Law School
New Orleans, LA*
**Major League Baseball Players
Association (MLBPA)**
New York, NY

From Austin, TX, Schuyler comes from a business, technology, and sports background. After graduating from the University of Southern California, he worked for IBM as a product manager in Austin, TX, before enrolling in law school. This decision was driven by his strong desire to help the Black community and stand up for exploited groups of people, particularly in Sports & Entertainment. Schuyler hopes his legal work will reverse Black athletes' cycle of amassing fortunes only to lose them later. His ultimate goal is to be general counsel at a sports agency, with a team, or players association. There he will advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Schuyler served as president of the 2020-21 Tulane Black Law Students Association and speaker chair of the Sports Law Society.



Sarah Crowley *JD'22*

*Tulane University Law School
New Orleans, LA*
Segal Roitman, LLP
Boston, MA

Sarah was raised in a union family from Buffalo, NY, and is committed to workers' rights. She believes many of the challenges facing our country can be met by rebuilding union power. For the last year, Sarah interned with a plaintiff-side employment firm in New Orleans, which deepened her understanding of how dire working conditions are for many across all industries. The pandemic exacerbated already uneven employment relationships. This experience has also shown her the limits of enforcing individual employee rights and the need for strong, affirmative, pro-worker legal reforms. As an aspiring labor lawyer, Sarah hopes to be part of a broad movement to rebuild labor power in the United States while also fighting for a political system in which basic human rights are not tied to economic productivity.



Kent Coupe *JD'23*

*Loyola University New Orleans
College of Law
New Orleans, LA*
Migrant Justice
Burlington, VT

Prior to entering law school, Kent worked for seven years in Texas classrooms where he approached education as an opportunity to collaborate with students in achieving social change. Through his experiences as a campus steward for Education Austin, Texas AFT Local 2048, and as a workers' rights advocate for the Workers Defense Project, he witnessed the potential for labor unions and worker centers to achieve meaningful victories for workers and their families. Kent entered law school to study labor and employment law so that he can advance the interests of working people. During his first year, he volunteered as a National Lawyers Guild legal observer and clerked for the Workplace Justice Project at the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice.



Sara Dagher *JD'22*

*Ohio State University Michael E.
Moritz College of Law
Columbus, OH*
Community Legal Services, Inc.
(CLS) Philadelphia, PA

In law school, Sara is a research assistant on social movement lawyering and police and prison abolition. She is also a member of the National Lawyers Guild chapter at Moritz. Her legal interests include social movement lawyering and cyber civil rights. Before law school, Sara was a staffer on progressive campaigns in Michigan, including a campaign for Governor and one for Attorney General. During her time at Left Rising, LLC, she consulted for the PAC Justice Democrats and progressive congressional candidates in New York. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy, has a cat named Smush, loves bicycling, and is a big fan of women's soccer.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Cecilia Diaz *JD'22*

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas
William S. Boyd School of Law
Las Vegas, NV
Arriba Las Vegas Workers Center
Las Vegas, NV*

Ceci's interest in worker's rights comes from her community. She thinks that workers are the driving force in this country and they should be able to have someone in their corner when they need it. Her law school has an excellent workplace law concentration and workplace law club and it has served to inspire her to pursue a career in this field. In addition, she hopes that her summer experience will prepare her to help workers who are looking to file complaints due to unfair treatment and denial of paid time off. Ceci knows that the Arriba Center is a great resource for workers to inform themselves and to have a place where they can get help filing complaints or simply find the guidance as to what steps they need to take.



Enrique Espinoza *JD'21*

*Chicago-Kent College of Law
Chicago, IL
National Legal Advocacy Network
Chicago, IL*

Graduating from the Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico, with a degree in Tourism Business Administration, Enrique moved to Chicago in 2018 and has been working in the hospitality industry for over 20 years. His experience as a union steward during the Chicago hotels' worker strike motivated him to pursue labor and employment law. Enrique's ability to balance a full-time job and a young family, while excelling academically, shows his desire to work hard and succeed. He volunteers to serve the Latino community at his school's Immigration Clinic, conducts citizenship workshops with Instituto del Progreso Latino, interprets for the National Immigrant Justice Center, and is a volunteer certified mediator for the Center for Conflict Resolution. Enrique continues working to support his family, preparing to transition into the legal field this year. He hopes that his Peggy Browning Fellowship will reaffirm his decision to change the course of his professional life.



Mary Kate Dugan *JD'22*

*Indiana University School of Law
Bloomington, IN
Gilbert and Sackman
Los Angeles, CA*

Mary Kate joined the labor movement, first as an activist and organizer, when she was radicalized by her own experience working as a restaurant server. She fought alongside UNITE HERE for the right to a union for Indianapolis service workers and organized to combat Right to Work legislation in Indiana. Later, she served as executive director of Central Indiana Jobs with Justice, fighting for higher wages, better working conditions, and the right to a union for low-wage workers. More recently, Mary Kate worked in nonprofit administration, spearheading efforts to change racist policies and discriminatory hiring procedures. Last year, Mary Kate was a Peggy Browning Fellow with Joel F. Dillard, PA, helping workers protect their civil rights and their livelihoods through litigation. She dedicates her work to her dad, a working-class hero and thirty-eight-year member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.



Jonah Feitelson *JD'22*

*University of Michigan Law School
Ann Arbor, MI
Service Employees
International Union (SEIU)
Washington, DC*

Jonah began working in the labor movement as an organizer for UNITE HERE Local 25 in Washington, DC. He fought alongside hotel workers for fair contracts and representation at some of the largest hotels in DC. There, he gained a passion for workers' rights and an understanding of the inequalities in our economic system which inspired him to attend law school. Jonah worked as a co-director of the Michigan Immigration and Labor Law Association and as an elected officer in the Graduate Employees Organization. Last summer, he was a Peggy Browning Fellow at the NYSUT where he worked to protect the rights and safety of New York teachers during the pandemic and helped win a back-pay award for two of their members. Jonah hopes to work toward a legal career supporting unions and workers in the fight for economic justice.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Renato Flores *JD'22*

*University of San Francisco
School of Law
San Francisco, CA*
**Legal Aid at Work
San Francisco, CA**

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Renato saw how much inequality there was in the workplace - not only from his own experiences but those of his family and the clients he was able to assist at California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). During his time at UC Santa Cruz, Renato interned with CRLA assisting low-income individuals in a broad array of areas, but the employment cases always intrigued him. He believes that all employees should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their position. Renato is looking forward to working this summer in San Francisco to continue his passion for assisting individuals in employment matters and hopes to become a labor and employment attorney.



Caleb Gallus *JD'22*

*University of Arizona
College of Law
Tucson, AZ*
**Justice at Work
Boston, MA**

Before he considered law school, Caleb spent over a decade working as a bicycle mechanic in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. At age 13, he held low wage grocery and convenience store jobs, working alongside immigrants from Central America, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. As a high school punk rocker, he organized a student walkout against the second Iraq War and has been active in social movements. In college, Caleb organized with the Industrial Workers of the World and interned with Argentina's worker-occupied factory movement. After graduating, he organized against police brutality, with the Occupy movement, and alongside the Black Lives Matter movement. In Philadelphia, Caleb interned with the Amistad Law Project when the George Floyd/Breonna Taylor protests erupted. When he is not organizing, he is probably riding a bicycle.



Lindsey Franklin *JD'22*

*Seattle University School of Law
Seattle, WA*
**National Employment Lawyers
Association (NELA)
Washington, DC**

Lindsey is the proud descendant of three generations of union workers. She is the first in her family to graduate college, earning her degree in political science from Penn State. She became involved in the workers' rights movement after experiencing wage theft and the harassment of her co-workers while working in the restaurant industry. After graduation, she honed her skills as a community and political organizer before transitioning to work with organized labor. In 2019 and 2020, Lindsey worked for the Oregon AFL-CIO to enact pro-worker policies, including Covid-19 workplace protections. In law school, she is on the board for the American Constitution Society and the Labor and Employment Law Association, and she is a research assistant. When she is not working on workers' rights causes, you can find her spending time with her partner Colton, a UFCW member, and her beagle, Casey.



Hugo Garcia *JD'22*

*Loyola Law School
Los Angeles, CA*
**United Food and Commercial
Workers International Union
(UFCW) Washington, DC**

Hugo received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. He organized immigrant workers around economic and social justice issues. After organizing campaigns with the AFL-CIO, he worked with the labor policy team at the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions in Washington DC. Last year, Hugo was also awarded a Peggy Browning Summer Fellowship working at the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union. At UFCW, he has worked on a variety of issues, including unfair labor practices under the NLRA, safety and health standards, strategic bargaining, and employee misclassification.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Joseph Garcia *JD'22*

*DePaul University College of Law
Chicago, IL
Fair Worker Center
Seattle, WA*

Growing up in a working-class, immigrant community, Joseph's interest in labor and employment law developed from his experiences. His mother worked for many years at a local fast food location in Kansas City, and his father worked at a transportation, trucking, and railroad company. From the start, his parents valued education and instilled the importance of it in him. It was his parents' shared effort, their journey to a country where their dreams could be realized, that led Joseph to become the first in his family to attend college. Most recently, he served as an intern for Legal Aid Chicago's Immigrant and Workers' Rights Practice Group. Joseph hopes to use his legal education to advocate for workers' rights to strengthen protections and support for low-wage workers.



**Tania
González Contreras** *JD'23*

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas
William S. Boyd School of Law
Las Vegas, NV
National Day Laborer Organizing
Network (NDLON) Pasadena, CA*

Tania's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico in their early adulthood. She grew up hearing friends and family's immigration and labor stories. Tania noticed there is a lack of labor abuse reporting because of the fear of workplace retaliation, including deportation and loss of income. She has a strong interest in labor law, especially as it often intersects with the immigrant population. Tania received dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno - Criminal Justice with a Law and Justice specialization and Human Development and Family Studies. She has a series of immigration legal experiences but this summer will be her first time working in the nexus of workplace justice and immigration. Tania believes that everyone deserves the dignity of a living wage and an equitable workplace.



**Noah
Goldberg-Jaffe** *JD'22*

*University of Montana
School of Law
Missoula, MT
Service Employees International
Union (SEIU) Washington, DC*

Although he grew up in a union household, Noah did not fully understand the power in a union until he began working in the labor movement for the Oregon AFL-CIO. In this work, Noah organized workers and community members in rural Oregon around a range of economic, social, and racial justice issues. Noah says that he came to law school to be a better advocate for working people by understanding the law's oppressive and (hopefully) liberating nature. In law school, he has researched local legal issues affecting workers' lives such as prevailing wage and workers compensation. Noah is a core collective member of his law school's National Lawyers Guild chapter and an editor-in-chief of the *Montana Law Review*.



Annie Gorden *JD'23*

*University of California Hastings
College of the Law
San Francisco, CA
Raise the Floor Alliance
Chicago, IL*

Annie is an organizer and activist, and was born and raised in the Southern California border region. Following the rise of the Occupy Movement, she developed a strong passion for social movements and collective action for justice. While pursuing her bachelor's and master's degrees in Peace and Justice Studies, Annie studied the intersections between violent conflict, global poverty, and systems of oppression. After graduating, she worked at a refugee resettlement agency and a pro-bono immigration firm on asylum litigation. There she became interested in movement lawyering as a part of social justice movements. Annie is so excited to continue this dream through her Summer Fellowship to fight for workers' justice alongside those most impacted.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



William Greenlaw *JD'22*

*Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA*
**United Steelworkers (USW)
Pittsburgh, PA**

William grew up in the Midwest, is proud of his union family and that his parents were able to provide opportunities for him that they did not have. Neither parent completed a college education. His mother's wages were stolen and his father and stepmother fight tirelessly against unsafe working conditions. William has since prioritized the fight for working people. As a data analyst at the New York Attorney General's Office, he supported the fight against wage theft and anticompetitive corporate mergers. While co-founder and co-president of his school's Plaintiffs' Law Association, William encouraged students to pursue careers fighting for workers. An editor on the *Harvard Law Review*, William has a strong interest in labor scholarship. From his experiences - family, work, and school - the challenge is clear: it is past time that workers got a fair deal.



Natalie Grieco *JD'23*

*Cornell Law School
Ithaca, NY*
**Chicago New Guild
Chicago, IL**

Natalie most recently worked as an organizer and campaign lead for the Montana Federation of Public Employees. There, she contributed to internal organizing efforts, union drives, and contract campaigns with university professors, public employees, hospital workers, and mental health workers throughout Montana. In 2018, Natalie managed the winning campaigns of four Democratic candidates running for state legislature in swing districts in Central Montana. Prior to that, she worked as staff organizer with National Nurses United in California, and apprenticed at SEIU 32BJ in New York. At Cornell, Natalie is involved with the National Lawyers' Guild and the Law and Political Economy Collective.



Zach Grewe *JD'22*

*University of Iowa College of Law
Iowa City, IA*
**United Steelworkers (USW)
Pittsburgh, PA**

After completing his undergraduate degree in gender and sexuality studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Zach completed the Coro Pittsburgh Fellowship in Public Affairs. During that time, he gained a deeper appreciation for the critical role of organized labor in democratizing economic development and creating more equitable communities. Inspired by an organizing apprenticeship with SEIU Healthcare PA, Zach then decided to pursue a legal education focusing on worker justice. Last year, he returned to his home state of Indiana to work as a summer law clerk for a union-side firm. Currently, Zach serves as a student representative to the National Lawyers Guild Labor & Employment Committee and volunteers with the University of Iowa Labor Center.



Aliah Hasan *JD'22*

*West Virginia University
College of Law
Morgantown, WV*
**Women's Law Project
Pittsburgh, PA**

As a first-generation Desi-American, Aliah aspires to use her law degree to aid marginalized communities. Before law school, she worked at the International Institute of Buffalo, where she advocated for foreign-born survivors of domestic violence and forced labor. Aliah became more interested in the labor movement as a law student after learning about the state's unique labor history and the early 20th century mine wars. She currently serves as a board member for ACLU of WV and is passionate about creating equal opportunities for all. Aliah is also actively involved in campus-wide diversity and inclusion efforts. She looks forward to spending her summer supporting the workplace equality program during a pandemic that has disproportionately harmed women workers.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Wade Homer *JD'23*

*Boston College Law School
Newton, MA*
Make the Road New Jersey
Elizabeth, NJ

Wade got his start in politics volunteering for the Bernie Sanders Campaign in Iowa. He travelled with the campaign to five states, organizing and speaking with voters along the way who reinforced his belief in the need for system-wide change. After the campaign, Wade interned for, and was later hired by, the New Jersey State Senate Democratic Office staffing the Labor Committee. During that time, the committee passed legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, expand paid family leave, and hold employers liable for wage theft, all of which were signed into law. He witnessed the crucial role workers' rights organizations and unions play in bringing about these changes. Wade hopes to establish a career working with these organizations to further workers' and immigrants' rights.



Richard Kidney *JD'22*

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

Before attending law school, Richard taught middle school humanities at IDEA, a charter school system in San Antonio, TX that predominantly serves low-income students of color. Lacking a union, Richard experienced the disparate power and influence employers can exert over their workers; how this power imbalance affects other systems of inequality; and the critical need to rebuild worker power in the United States. His teaching experiences compelled him to attend law school and become a union attorney. Richard is the current secretary of his school's chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild. He also serves as an editor for the *Journal of Race Religion Gender and Class* through which he has written about class conflict, neoliberalism, and the contradictions of professional-managerial-class ideology and governance.



Elydah Joyce *JD'23*

*Temple University Beasley
School of Law
Philadelphia, PA*
Justice at Work
Philadelphia, PA

Elydah grew up in many locations between South America and Canada, with a front row seat to the difficulties of immigration and family separation. Her experiences of shifting between these two continents shaped her interest in helping the Latinx community, but her desire to return to the USA to pursue her goals was solidified by the growing tensions around immigration and incarceration. Many questions arose regarding access and equality that drove her to study and understand the complex systems of labor protection and employment law. After completing her Master of Arts at the University of British Columbia, Elydah once again moved across the continent to complete her education in Philadelphia and begin working towards the necessary changes needed in this country.



Nisha Krishnan *JD'22*

*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law
Pittsburgh, PA*
Justice at Work
Pittsburgh, PA

As a daughter of hard-working immigrants, and a first-generation law student, Nisha has always been passionate about serving underrepresented communities. She chose to go into law to address the various ways that minority status can intersect to create disparate outcomes for people of color. As an undergrad, Nisha was a psychology major and criminal justice minor. Both disciplines taught her about systemic inequality in society and in institutions. In law school, Nisha took an employment discrimination course that impassioned her to the issues that employees face. She is currently a member of the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review* and is writing a note on how employer dress codes affect nonbinary employees. Nisha hopes to one day be a plaintiff-side employment lawyer and help employees with claims of discrimination in the workplace.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Rosie
La Puma Lebel *JD'24*

Stanford Law School
Stanford, CA
Global Labor Justice-
International Labor Rights Forum
Washington, DC

Rosie spent several years working for migrants' rights and found herself increasingly drawn to the area of labor rights. The takeaway was clear: migrant communities cannot thrive without economic justice and economic justice cannot exclude migrant communities. Prior to law school, she worked to pair trafficking survivors and asylum-seekers with pro bono attorneys at The Advocates for Human Rights. She then spent a few years fundraising for Latinx nonprofits at Hispanics in Philanthropy. Currently, she is pursuing a joint JD and Masters in International Policy to further study how to protect worker and migrant rights in a world increasingly impacted by climate change. She is a volunteer with the Stanford Workers' Rights Clinic and Stanford Advocates for Immigrant Rights.



Annalise Leonelli *JD'22*

St. John's University School of Law
Queens, NY
Pitta LLP
New York, NY

The proud granddaughter of a union steelworker and a first-generation college graduate, Annalise graduated from Rutgers University *summa cum laude* with a certificate in women's leadership. Before law school, she earned an M.F.A. in film production from New York University's Tisch Asia in Singapore, where she lived for three years. In addition to working in the film industry for almost a decade, she supplemented her income by working in bars and restaurants and as a tutor. Annalise attends law school on a full-tuition scholarship. She has served on the executive board for the Coalition for Social Justice and as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development*. Her Note supported combatting sex trafficking through labor and employment law, instead of criminal law.



Sarah Leadem *JD'23*

Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA
National Employment Law Project
(NELP)
New York, NY

Sarah fell in love with the labor movement while in college, where she mobilized students to support campus workers' contract negotiations and advocate for domestic worker rights. She is a joint degree student in law school and at the Kennedy School of Government. Before law school, Sarah worked as an organizer, strategic campaigner, and policy advocate. As the worker rights' director for the California Domestic Workers' Coalition, she advocated to pass statewide legislation and led a program of statewide labor rights enforcement for California's domestic workforce. In 2016, she coordinated the field campaign to pass the California Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. Most recently, she interned with California's governor and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, on COVID-19 workforce recovery and housing.



Angie Liao *JD'22*

Yale Law School
New Haven, CT
Partnership for Working Families
Oakland, CA

In law school, Angie has been a member of the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic, the Civil Rights and Environmental Law Clinic, and has worked with the New Haven Legal Assistance Association. Alongside a collective of classmates, she also restarted Yale's National Lawyers Guild chapter and formed an Economic Justice and Organized Labor Committee. There, law students can engage with community-led campaigns for economic justice, including worker and housing justice, in New Haven and throughout Connecticut. Prior to law school, Angie was a union organizer for AFT in Michigan. Last summer she interned at the Detroit Justice Center. She hopes to become a lawyer who will fight for worker and social justice through communicative, innovative, and education-oriented movement lawyering.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Juan Fernando Luna *JD'23*

*Yale Law School
New Haven, CT*
**Service Employees International
Union (SEIU)**
Washington, DC

As the son of an undocumented construction worker, Juan Fernando witnessed contractors force his community to labor under life-threatening conditions for poverty-level wages. These experiences inspired him to join Workers Defense Project (WDP) after graduating from Texas A&M University. In support of the worker center's mission of creating a dignified construction industry, Juan Fernando planned and oversaw weekly wage claim clinics that served over thirty workers a night. A year later, he moved to Houston where he helped WDP design and execute organizing campaigns that established new standards for safety, wages, and benefits in the construction industry. In law school, Juan Fernando is involved in the Law and Political Economy Student Group and the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic.



Fabiola Martinez *JD'22*

*Southwestern Law School
Los Angeles, CA*
**Washington Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs**
Washington, DC

A first-generation law student and daughter of Mexican immigrants, Fabiola became aware of the struggles workers face from watching her mother and father work long hours as a warehouse worker and contractor, ever since they immigrated to the United States. Fabiola attended the University of California, Berkeley for her undergraduate studies where she developed a passion for social justice. After graduation, she worked at a social-justice oriented law firm in San Francisco for 2 years before attending law school. Last summer, Fabiola worked with survivors of domestic violence, helping them attain restraining orders, child support and custody orders. After law school, Fabiola hopes to use her law degree to continue advocating for working class communities.



Cassandra Maas *JD'22*

*University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Pittsburgh, PA*
**American Federation of Labor
& Congress of Industrial
Organizations (AFL-CIO)**
Washington, DC

Cassandra grew up in a union family. So many of her family members have either belonged to or currently belong to locals associated with different international unions. Her pride in her family members' hard work and her wish to provide justice for all workers, combined with her experience researching labor unions as an undergraduate, motivated Cassandra to attend law school. During her first summer, Cassandra's passion for helping others was deepened through her experience with Community Justice Project in Pittsburgh. Her interest in labor law was cemented during her second year, when she worked with the United Steelworkers at the union's headquarters. Cassandra aspires to become a labor lawyer and work for a union, so that she can work to provide justice for all workers.



Nick Martiniano *JD'22*

*Penn State Law
University Park, PA*
**New York State United Teachers
(NYSUT)**
Latham, NY

As a native of upstate New York, Nick is incredibly excited to return to the area to work with the union that represents his hometown teachers. Nick learned the importance of union representation and the labor movement through his own union membership in Actors Equity Association. Before law school, Nick attended Russell Sage College, where he earned a degree in Musical Theatre. While in law school, he is a member of the executive boards of Phi Delta Phi; If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice; Parents Attending Law School; the Student Bar Association; and as an associate editor on the *Penn State Law Review*. Nick would like to thank his wife and children, family, and friends for their tireless support and the Peggy Browning Fund for this incredible opportunity.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Donald "Max" McCullough III *JD'23*

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

A third-generation unionist and the son of a firefighter and an artist, Max grew up in Florida before moving to the Northeast. He taught history at a charter high school in Boston for seven years and experienced firsthand the depredations of school privatization and corporatization. Deeply committed to public education and workers' rights, Max organized with his fellow education workers to fight against low pay and high staff turnover, administrative and financial mismanagement, and the degradation of students' learning conditions. Three years later, this organizing resulted in the first union contract at a Boston charter school. Max relished his role as advisor and mentor to students and student-teachers. He hopes to continue working with educators and communities to build and preserve the joyful and nurturing schools all students deserve.



Mac McMechan *JD'22*

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

Mac worked in various food and beverage establishments in New Orleans, Taos, and Indianapolis for most of the last decade. In each city, they encountered coworkers whose lives detrimentally challenged different parts of the US legal and labor systems. When spinal cord damage that affected their left leg, prevented them from continuing in hospitality, Mac came to law school with the goal to become a legal advocate for hourly-wage workers. Mac interned at the Transgender Law Center last summer and is involved in student advocacy at their school with the Disability Allied Law Students Association and Law Students for Economic Justice. Mac is particularly excited about learning and working at the intersection of labor and tax law.



Gianna McDevitt *JD'22*

*Rutgers Law School
Camden, NJ*
**Sheet Metal Workers
Local Union No. 19
Philadelphia, PA**

Gianna grew up in a union family and the issue of workers' rights is a personal one. She has worked for years in the restaurant industry where she has both witnessed and experienced routine exploitive labor practices. Juxtaposing the security and stability the union provided her own family with the vulnerability that many restaurant workers face, she was inspired to pursue a career in labor law based on a belief that all people deserve to work for fair wages with dignity and respect. A South Philadelphia native, Gianna is especially excited and grateful for the opportunity to work with and serve the members of Local No. 19.



Olivia Mendes *JD'22*

*Seton Hall University
School of Law
Newark, NJ*
**O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP
Washington, DC**

Listening to her mother, an elementary school teacher, share stories about her union's contract negotiations sparked Olivia's interest in labor law. This interest grew while working as a paralegal at a business immigration law firm for two years before law school. During the summer of 2020, Olivia worked as an intern with Region 22 of the National Labor Relations Board, and she served as a law clerk with a union-side law firm during the spring of 2021. Olivia is excited to continue growing and learning in this field and is excited to dedicate her career to helping put power in the hands of workers.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Anna Mendoza JD'22

*Seattle University School of Law
Seattle, WA*
American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees
(AFSCME) Washington, DC

Anna grew up in Portland, OR, where she first joined strike lines with her teachers during multiple labor disputes throughout her schooling. She became interested in working in the labor movement during her senior year of college when she took a class on domestic labor as a part of her Women's and Gender Studies program. After graduation, she spent two years as an external organizer with SEIU Local 721 in Los Angeles where she worked on new organizing, worksite, and political campaigns. As an organizer she won a statewide campaign for homecare workers in California and a municipal campaign for Senior Personnel Analysts in Los Angeles. While working for Local 721 she was constantly inspired by the workers and attended law school to continue to advocate for workers' rights.



Jared Milfred JD'23

*Stanford Law School
Stanford, CA*
American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees
(AFSCME) Washington, DC

Jared was born and raised in Portland, OR, the grandson of a union musician who refused to patronize any establishment with a player piano. Before law school, he was a field organizer for a campaign for Attorney General of New York, a special litigation intern at Orleans Public Defenders, and a legal assistant at a progressive public interest firm in Washington, DC, that represents workers, consumers, and labor unions. During his first year of law school, Jared was a member editor of the *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties* and helped low-income tenants in the Bay Area through Stanford's Housing Pro Bono Project.



David Meyerson JD'22

*University of Michigan
School of Law
Ann Arbor, MI*
Communications Workers of America
Washington, DC

Before law school, David was a software engineer and member of the Tech Workers Coalition, organizing for fair working conditions for contract and service workers in Big Tech. He is especially interested in areas of law related to algorithmic accountability, and labor organizing in the tech sector. David is a student attorney in the Michigan Law Workers' Rights Clinic, he has won tens of thousands of dollars for wrongly-disqualified unemployment insurance claimants in administrative court, and worked on efforts to reform Michigan unemployment law. David co-founded the Michigan Law chapter of the People's Parity Project, where he organizes with law students against coercive contracts and other policies that unjustly stack the deck against workers. David has a B.A. in computer science and history from the University of Wisconsin.



Sara Miller JD'22

*New York University
School of Law
New York, NY*
Rothner, Segall & Greenstone
Los Angeles, CA

From the southern Missouri Ozarks, Sara is passionate about civil rights, workers' rights, abolition, community building, and art. Her passions are inspired by the diverse community in her home town, and in particular, the immigrant Korean community. This community inspired her to write her undergraduate senior thesis, "Domestic Workers: Planning for Retirement in an Unregulated Market" while at Yale University, and they continue to inspire her work today. Before law school, Sara worked as a social policy researcher in Oakland, while she volunteered with Unite Here Local 2, taught an English course at San Quentin State Prison, and coached volleyball. In law school, she assists clients prepare expungement petitions and declarations and spent her last summer working at The Bail Project. Sara is interested in joining and supporting movements that center on liberation and building people power.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Clara Murphy *JD'22*

*University of San Francisco
School of Law
San Francisco, CA
Neyhart, Anderson, Flynn & Grosboll
San Francisco, CA*

Clara is the internal vice president of the Labor and Employment Students Association and is earning a Labor & Employment Law Certificate. She first became interested in labor and employment when she taught middle school English through Teach for America in Kansas City, MO. During her time teaching, Clara saw the disparity in resources, training and support between union represented teachers, and teachers who were not allowed to organize. Clara holds a B.S. in Society & Environment from UC Berkeley and an M.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri.



Sommer Omar *JD'22*

*Yale Law School
New Haven, CT
New York State United Teachers
(NYSUT)
New York, NY*

Sommer first gained an interest in defending labor while working at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC after the 2016 election. There, she learned about right-to-work laws, the erosion of wage theft enforcement, and the cascading material and legal consequences of declining union membership. In law school, she volunteered with Local 33 UNITE HERE where she helped facilitate a school-wide comment writing campaign to delay the implementation of the NLRB's recently announced rule denying graduate students' right to organize as employees. Last summer, she was a Peggy Browning Fellow with the Hotel Trades Council in New York and, in the midst of the pandemic, witnessed how vital union representation and support was for workers when their livelihoods and health were both at risk.



Ayesha Nizhoni *JD'22*

*Wake Forest University
School of Law
Winston-Salem, NC
Spivak Lipton LLP
New York, NY*

The daughter of a proud union member, Ayesha has spent her entire life with workers' rights at the forefront of her mind. Starting work at fifteen, her eyes were opened to the everyday struggles that affect marginalized and often voiceless working people because, oftentimes, she was one. It was her work in fields such as the food service and cruise line industries that compelled Ayesha to attend law school, due to a new understanding of exploitative employment practices. During law school, Ayesha has embarked on community law initiatives and has expanded her knowledge with experience at a metropolitan Public Defender's office. She is extremely honored to be a Peggy Browning Fellow for a second time, after having had a 2020 fellowship experience at the National Employment Law Project (NELP).



Abrar Omeish *JD'23*

*Georgetown University Law Center
Washington, DC
LIUNA MAROC
Reston, VA*

The first Libyan, first Muslim and youngest ever elected in US history, Abrar became a school board member-at-large in Fairfax County earning over 161,000 votes. She co-founded an organization providing thousands of underprivileged youth with free tutoring and mentorship in 20 locations over the past ten years. After serving in several appointed capacities locally and working as a senior organizer at the DNC, Abrar served as a legal fellow at a human rights and immigration law firm in Northern Virginia and has been a spokeswoman for the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign. Most recently, she was a Virginia co-chair for the Bernie Sanders campaign and a Virginia PLEO and Rules Committee member to the Democratic National Convention. She holds a double bachelor's degree with honors from Yale University and is a current dual MPP/JD student and Blume fellow.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Estefania Palacios JD'23

*George Washington University
Law School
CASA
Hyattsville, MD*

Originally from Ecuador, Estefania's interest in labor justice was sparked during her coursework at Lone State College. Her research included wage inequality, social changes from women, and solidarity politics during World War II. This interest led her to transfer to the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University. While earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees, she worked with women-only businesses in Nicaragua, represented low-income clients in their unemployment insurance benefit cases in Upstate New York, led an advocacy skills workshop for labor students in Vietnam, and fought for workers' rights as a summer legal intern in India. This journey deepened her understanding of legal advocacy and reinforced her commitment to helping workers overcome labor injustices.



Caitlin Pennell JD'23

*Rutgers Law School
Camden, NJ
Sheet Metal Workers
Local Union No. 19
Philadelphia, PA*

Caitlin is a first-generation student and a Jersey Shore native. In college, she developed an interest in workers' rights while working towards her bachelor's in History. Over the course of her undergraduate studies, Caitlin took various courses which touched on labor movements throughout history. However, Caitlin's interest in workers' rights peaked after learning about the job discrimination that her Irish ancestors faced, as they were paid lower wages and told, "No Irish Need Apply." She is passionate about vulnerable workers, economic justice, and the labor movement. Her purpose is not only to become a lawyer, but to become an advocate for workplace justice and to learn from lawyers and union members this summer.



Viraj Patel JD'23

*Temple University Beasley
School of Law
Philadelphia, PA
Strategic Organizing Center
(formerly Change to Win)
Washington, DC*

A native of Maryland, Viraj attended the University of Maryland, College Park, graduating with a degree in History. His experiences in college, with organizations like the Student Labor Action Project and the United States Student Association, exposed him to the world of organizing and community struggles for justice. Since freshman year, Viraj has been a part of a number of students organizing and union organizing efforts in his community. After graduation, he worked as an organizer for AFSCME Council 3 where he was able to learn and grow as an advocate as well as gain a better understanding of how our legal systems impact unions and working people. In law school, Viraj is aiming to start a legal career that is focused on fighting for social and economic justice.



Melissa Perez JD'22

*Rutgers Law School
Newark, NJ
Segal Roitman, LLP
Boston, MA*

Born and raised in New Jersey as a daughter of Cuban parents, Melissa developed an interest in labor and employment law from her work in human rights at the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit in Geneva, Switzerland and Lawyers Without Borders in Washington, DC. She earned her bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the George Washington University where she headed the César Chávez GW Organization as a marketing leader to advocate the values of workers' rights in both the campus and city communities. In law school, Melissa is a proud member of the Minority Student Program and the Dean's Student Advisory Council. She currently serves as a law clerk at NYSUT. Melissa is excited for the opportunity to continue advancing employee protections in the workplace this summer.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



**Heddy
Pierce-Armstrong** JD'22

*University of Kansas School of Law
Lawrence, KS*
Pyle Rome Ehrenberg, PC
Boston, MA

Her earliest memories include watching her machinist mother actively participate in monthly union meetings and picketing. Heddy realized the positive impact unions consistently make, and dedicated her future to protecting workers' rights. A native Kansan, she witnessed the negative implications of weakened labor protections and took an indirect path to law school that further shaped her commitment to workers across the country. After becoming a mother, Heddy returned to school to complete her degree in Gender and Sexuality Studies that concluded with a public policy proposal to end right-to-work legislation. In law school she created a targeted labor curriculum, though her school did not have a formal program. Heddy spent her first summer with Disability Rights Center. She's involved in numerous student organizations including Mock Trial, Moot Court, OUTLaws and Allies, BLSA, and Mediation Clinic.



Abigaíl Ramos JD'22

*City University of New York
School of Law
Long Island City, NY*
Make the Road NewYork
New York, NY

Also a child of Mexican farmworker immigrants, Abigaíl is a first-generation student from the Yakima Valley of Washington State. She grew up in an agricultural community where she saw the exploitative practices against her community. Abigaíl's upbringing fueled her passion and devotion for workers who are not protected by the NLRA and hopes to work within the juxtaposition of employment, immigration, and criminal justice law. During law school, Abigaíl was a co-chair of Labor Coalition, staff editor of *CUNY Law Review* and was a 2020 Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice fellow. She has previously worked for Justice in Motion, Legal Action Center, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, and Northwest Justice Project. She currently is a Tow Policy Advocacy Fellow at the Osborne Association.



Heather Ramirez JD'23

*City University of New York
School of Law
Long Island City, NY*
Farmworker Justice
Washington, DC

Heather is a first-generation college and law student who seeks to be a resource and work alongside marginalized communities in their fight for justice. Her interest in law developed after attempting to unionize a former workplace. Before law school, Heather was a paralegal at The Legal Aid Society, representing public housing tenants in their cases against the New York City Housing Authority. In addition, she is a grassroots journalist for Working Class Heroes Radio on WBAI FM. She and her radio team have covered social movements across New York City including labor strikes. Heather is ecstatic to be a Peggy Browning Fellow this summer, especially given her family's history of being farmworkers in Texas when migrating from México.



Kelly Reeves JD'22

*University of Colorado Law School
Boulder, CO*
New Mexico Center on
Law and Poverty
Albuquerque, NM

The daughter of public high school teachers, Kelly grew up in Indiana. She started her career in journalism and social work, working with newly arrived refugees and immigrants in reception and placement, youth programming and medical case management. She witnessed the importance of workers' rights and the role of employment in stabilizing individual lives, families and communities. After serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Guyana and Jamaica, she returned to the United States and pursued a master's degree in social work focusing on societal systems and interventions. During graduate school Kelly worked for Towards Justice, a non-profit law firm that uses impact litigation, public policy and grassroots organizing to improve working conditions for marginalized workers. In law school, she works in the Civil Practice Clinic.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Kenneth Revoredo *JD'23*

*University of Richmond
School of Law
Richmond, VA
Strategic Organizing Center
(formerly Change to Win)
Washington, DC*

Kenny grew up as the child of Peruvian and Dominican Immigrants in the Atlanta Metro Area. After graduating from the College of William and Mary, he worked in the hotel industry as a front desk agent and then as an immigration paralegal. Both positions exposed him to the poor working conditions that low-wage and immigrant workers face. This inspired him to attend law school where he is an active member of the school's chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. In his second year, he is motivated to begin his career advocating on behalf of workers. His goal is to contribute to the fight to guarantee a living wage and good benefits to all people.



Nikita Rumsey *JD'22*

*Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA
Levy Ratner, PC
New York, NY*

Nikita graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 2015 and began working as a special education aide before transitioning into corporate paralegal work. Over time, he became engaged in questions of political economy and decided to attend law school to build a career fighting for working people. During law school, Nikita has worked in removal defense for a local legal aid organization and as a research assistant for the Labor and Worklife Program, and is active in various organizations including the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project. He also serves as a steward for HGSU-UAW Local 5118, and has interned at the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Solicitor. Nikita is excited to help support the labor movement in his home city of New York this summer.



Robert Robbins *JD'22*

*William and Mary Law School
Williamsburg, VA
Laborers' International Union of
North America (LIUNA)
Washington, DC*

Robert's interest in labor and employment law developed prior to law school, when he spent four years playing minor league baseball. In the off-seasons he worked an array of jobs, from the warehouse of a national retailer, to coaching baseball, to the offices of local government. That variety of experiences showed him that people in all sectors of the labor market can benefit from better working conditions and job security. Growing up in a union household, which informed his view of what stable incomes and benefits looked like, is why Robert wants to help strengthen unions.



Jack Samuel *JD'23*

*New York University
School of Law
New York, NY
Cohen, Weiss & Simon LLP
New York, NY*

Growing up in a labor movement household with his dad a labor lobbyist and his grandfather a union organizer and labor leader, Jack's values were solidified when he started working in high school. His first job was in food service. Then, eventually and during and after college, he worked in construction, retail, delivery, and production. The jobs were different but the power relations between workers and bosses were the same. Jack has a PhD in philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh, where he and other graduate workers fought a hostile administration for the right to unionize, and as a law student, he hopes to continue the fight for worker power.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Camille Sanchez *JD'22*

*St. John's University School of Law
Queens, NY*
National Employment Law Project
(NELP)
Washington, DC

As a first generation American, Camille was always aware of the socio-economic issues faced by immigrants in her community. Her personal experience, as well as her professional experience as a paralegal doing humanitarian immigration work, gave her a greater awareness of the need for employment advocacy for vulnerable communities. During law school, Camille was exposed to several labor and employment attorneys who ignited her passion for labor law. She believes that despite the light shed on unfair work practices during the pandemic, it is crucial that attorneys help create policies and practices that protect workers, because the issues workers face are not temporary. She hopes to use this wonderful opportunity to become a zealous advocate for worker's rights.



James Stehlin *JD'23*

*University of Michigan
School of Law
Ann Arbor, MI*
New York State United Teachers
(NYSUT)
Latham, NY

Growing up in a working-class family in Michigan, Jim benefitted from the economic opportunities that unionized workers in his family and community had won through decades of struggle for higher wages, pensions, and workplace safety. He then witnessed how the Great Recession, austerity, and right-to-work laws devastated working people. After college, Jim spent two years working at the Delaware Office of Defense Services as a client advocate. In this role, he worked directly with indigent clients and their attorneys to develop a holistic defense practice within the public defender's office. There, Jim developed a deeper understanding of the relationships between economic injustice, systemic racism, and mass incarceration.



Tess Shelton *JD'22*

*University of Memphis School of Law
Memphis, TN*
Joel F. Dillard, PA
Jackson, MI

Tess's mother, a Tennessee Education Association representative, impressed the importance of unions upon her from an early age. As a result, Tess joined United Campus Workers (UCW) while an undergraduate at Middle Tennessee State University. Her experiences advocating for workers' rights and enjoying the camaraderie of her union siblings inspired her to pursue a career as a labor lawyer. As a law student, Tess remains active in UCW and volunteers with Memphis Area Legal Services. She serves as a student representative on the National Lawyers Guild Labor and Employment Steering Committee and competes in the Wagner National Labor and Employment Moot Court Competition.



Nicole Steinberg *JD'23*

*University of Texas School of Law
Austin, TX*
Service Employees International
Union (SEIU)
Washington, DC

Nicole became interested in workers' rights through her position at a workforce development agency. As a case manager in the refugee services department, she helped clients with refugee and asylum status obtain employment. In addition, she worked as clinic coordinator at a volunteer-run immigration clinic to help asylum seekers gain status. Her experience working with immigrants exposed her to different kinds of workplace issues and taught her the importance of organizing on behalf of all workers.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Aaron Strom *JD'22*

*Syracuse University College of Law
Syracuse, NY*
**Los Angeles Black Worker Center
Los Angeles, CA**

Aaron was born and raised in Central Florida where his family has lived for six generations as farmers, educators, mail carriers, and construction workers. He received his bachelor's degree in History with a concentration on US Political History, which granted him access to work as a political organizer and researcher with a variety of campaigns and movements. That's when Aaron became acutely aware of how the American economic and legal system engages in the exploitation of the working class. This realization was the impetus for his pursuit of a law degree. Through the study of law, Aaron aspires to hone himself and the skills he needs to hold those in power accountable, fight on behalf of the working class, and fundamentally change the system to benefit the American worker.



Benjamin Trouvais *JD'23*

*University of California, Berkeley,
College of Law
Berkeley, CA*
**National Federation of Federal
Employees (NFFE)
Washington, DC**

Born into a union family of sheet metal workers, grocers, and postal workers on Chicago's South Side, Ben has always valued the vital role that unions play in promoting workers' well-being. While studying economics at the University of Illinois, Ben founded a pro bono, student-led consulting firm that helped negotiate raises for public-sector unions in central Illinois. In 2020, voters in Champaign County, IL elected him to serve as an organized labor liaison between local unions and the county government. Ben's decision to attend law school and study labor law was an easy one. He is currently an executive editor of the *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law*, a co-leader of his school's Wage Justice Clinic, and a proud department steward with UAW Local 2865.



Anne Tewksbury *JD'22*

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

Motivated by the idea that individual workers are far too easily exploited under a legal system rigged by corporate interests, Anne believes that when organized, they have the power to challenge and change the system itself. In law school she has focused on labor law and workers' rights. Anne is an advocate in NYU's Employment Law Clinic, a research assistant focused on labor issues, and a staff editor at the *Review of Law and Social Change*. She has also worked with the People's Parity Project: serving as the student representative on the national organization's Board of Directors, leading the NYU campus chapter, and building an NYC regional organizing network. Anne worked at the Center for Popular Democracy organizing unemployed workers around COVID-19 relief and advocating for unemployment insurance reform.



Brandon Vaca *JD'22*

*University of Minnesota Law School
Minneapolis, MN*
**American Federation of Teachers
Washington, DC**

Brandon grew up in Sioux Falls, SD, graduated from Creighton University and has graduate degrees in the areas of education, theology/ministry, and sociology of religion. Before law school, Brandon taught in high schools in Pine Ridge, SD; Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia; and San Francisco, CA. He was a school representative and proud member of AFT Local 2240 in San Francisco, representing faculty and staff in private religious high schools, workplaces the Supreme Court has determined are beyond the reach of federal labor laws. Brandon's work in San Francisco deepened his concern for those who must organize and act collectively without the law's protection. His interest in labor law stems from his desire to support workers' radical commitment to stand with their colleagues and their communities.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows



Jason Vazquez *JD'23*

*Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA*
Greater Boston Legal Services
Boston, MA

Jason came to law school devoted to pursuing a career in labor and employment law. He grew up in a small town in Ohio, and his commitment to the labor movement was sparked when he began working nearly full-time in the food industry as a college student. After witnessing the cruelties of wage labor, the miseries of poverty, and the indignities of economic exploitation, he resolved to fight for a more equitable economic system. Jason graduated from the Ohio State University with a degree in history and spent a year working as a substitute teacher before starting law school. In law school, he has been involved with the Labor and Employment Action Project, the Labor and Employment Lab, The Harvard Immigration Project, La Alianza, and the *Harvard Latinx Law Review*.



Emma Woods *JD'22*

*University of Wisconsin Law School
Madison, WI*
United Auto Workers (UAW)
Detroit, MI

A Metro-Detroit native, Emma became interested in economic justice from a young age. As a first-year law student she volunteered at the Unemployment Appeals Clinic, a local non-profit that assists claimants who are appealing unemployment insurance denials. She has since become student manager, training other students to be advocates. Emma also worked at the Neighborhood Law Clinic, which provides pro bono legal services in the areas of wage and hour and rental housing law. In law school, Emma serves as community liaison of the Labor & Employment Students Association, competes on the Moot Court team, and is a member of NLG and TAA. Ever the Michigander, she is excited to be working for a union that has had such a large impact on her community, and is looking forward to a Coney dog in her near future.



Kevin Vazquez *JD'23*

*Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA*
Take Root Justice
New York, NY

Growing up in a small town in Ohio, Kevin graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in history and political science from the Ohio State University. He developed an interest in economic justice during the many hours he spent in low-wage service jobs before, during, and after college. In law school, Kevin has been involved with the Tenant Advocacy Project, the Labor and Employment Action Project, and Harvard Defenders. He is also a member of La Alianza, an editor of the *Harvard Latinx Law Review*, enrolled in the Labor and Employment Lab, and a student contributor to the *OnLabor* blog. After graduating, Kevin plans to practice labor law as a union attorney. He is very excited to zealously advocate for workers this summer.



Brandon Wright *JD'22*

*Wayne State University Law School
Detroit, MI*
United Auto Workers (UAW)
Detroit, MI

Brandon didn't know much about unions growing up, except that they were the reason his grandpa had a decent retirement. He had his first experience organizing with United Students Against Sweatshops in college, supporting ATU Local 836 in its contract negotiations. When Donald Trump was elected in 2016, Brandon decided to step up his game and joined his local branch of the Industrial Workers of the World. He attended Organizer Training 101 and his eyes were opened to the radical potential of direct action. Most importantly, he realized his personal combination of eggheadedness and working-class loyalty was probably well suited for labor law practice.

2021 Peggy Browning Summer Fellows

Board of Directors

Chair

Richard J. Brean
Retired, United Steelworkers

Founder & President

Joseph Lurie
Peggy Browning Fund

Treasurer

James C. Kokolas, CPA
Calibre CPA Group, PLLC

Secretary

Michael L. Artz, PBF 2000
AFSCME

Lucas Aubrey, PBF 2006
Sherman Dunn, PC

John K. Pierre
*Southern University Law
Center*

Julie Gutman Dickinson
Bush Gottlieb

Vincent F. Pitta
Pitta, LLP

Niraj R. Ganatra
UAW International Union

Maneesh Sharma
AFL-CIO

Mindy Garland PBF 2016
*Labor Relations Representative
City Employees Associates*

Jay Smith
Gilbert and Sackman

David Jury
United Steelworkers

Patrick J. Szymanski
Change to Win

Danielle E. Leonard
Altshuler Berzon, LLP

Honorary Board Member

Leo W. Gerard
Retired, United Steelworkers



Rebecca Zborowski JD'22

Rutgers Law School

Newark, NJ

**American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees**

(AFSCME)

Washington, DC

Rebecca grew up in Chicago and lived in Minneapolis and Boston before settling in Newark. She advocated on behalf of her coworkers as a union shop steward while working at the Newton Housing Authority – a position that pushed her to finally apply to law school. As steward, Rebecca helped to negotiate a three-year contract that included new benefits for her coworkers including a clothing bonus, more allocated personal days, and family leave. She studied labor law and felt an urgency to advocate for workers again as an attorney, particularly in these crucial post-pandemic years. Rebecca participates in the National Trial Team and loves litigation. In her spare time, Rebecca plays pool, sews clothing, takes long walks around New York, and hangs out with her cat, Reggie.

Upcoming Event – Mark Your Calendars

Join us as the Peggy Browning Award is presented to:



Fred Redmond

*International Vice President,
Human Affairs
United Steelworkers*



Patricia Shea

*General Counsel
Communications
Workers of America*



Barry S. Slevin

*President
Slevin & Hart, P.C.*

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

7:00 – 7:40 pm EDT

For more information visit www.peggybrowningfund.org/events

Or call 267-273-7994

SAVE THE DATE!

2021 National Law Students Workers' Rights Virtual Conference

October 15 – 17, 2021

*Support law students passionate
about Pursuing economic and
social justice!*

For more information, contact
Rhonda Gelman Kelley, CFRE
Director of Development & Marketing

267-273-7994

rkelly@peggybrowningfund.org