

# MEET OUR FELLOWS

## 2023



The Peggy Browning Fund is thrilled to announce our 2023 Fellows! Each year, law students nationwide apply to our program to take their next step in workplace justice lawyering. 2023 was a stellar year for our program with over 3,700 applications for more than 75 mentor sites. Ultimately, 109 students were connected to fellowships through the PBF program, the largest cohort in our history.

These fellows represent the best and brightest in the future of workplace justice advocacy. Their commitment to workers' rights often began well before law school. Among them are former teachers, reporters, artists, service workers, and organizers. We hope their stories inspire you as much as they inspire the PBF team.

As workplaces navigate the formal end of COVID-19 emergency declarations, workers and labor law face new challenges. Whether management

pushback against pandemic-era unionization efforts, shuttering of unionized shops, or ongoing strikes, workplace justice attorneys have their work cut out for them. We need to be prepared for the long haul. PBF is where the future of labor law comes into its own, where one generation opens the doors to the next, and where we invest in the long-term sustainability of the workplace justice movement.

The mission of PBF is to empower the next generation of workplace justice advocates, and the fellowship does this by connecting the current generation of labor lawyers to the next. The need for a diverse pool of labor lawyers, prepared and connected to established legal and organizing leaders, is clear and urgent. Your support of PBF is what allows us to open the door for these students. Thank you for everything you do to support our mission and our fellows!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Del Rossi".

Rachel Del Rossi  
Executive Director





**ARIANNA ADIRIM-LANZA  
JD'24**

American University Washington  
College of Law, DC | National  
Treasury Employees Union  
Washington, DC

From Washington, DC, Arianna studied international relations at Boston University. During an internship with the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild during college, Arianna discovered her passion for working on behalf of immigrants and working people and decided to pursue her J.D. After completing her undergraduate studies, she worked as a paralegal at an immigration law firm, where her duties ranged from drafting and filing motions to preparing permanent residency applications to conducting client intake in Spanish. Last summer, Arianna was a Peggy Browning Fellow at the National Employment Lawyers Association, supporting the organization's critical legislative advocacy work on behalf of workers. She is excited to be back this summer working in-house at a labor union, where she will learn key litigation skills that she hopes will aid in her career after law school.



**ELIZABETH ALFONSO  
JD'24**

University of Maryland Francis King  
Carey School of Law, MD | CASA  
Hyattsville, MD

As a child of immigrants, Elizabeth hopes to use her law degree to help her community. Before attending law school, Elizabeth worked in the restaurant industry for ten years. Her passion for advocating for the fair treatment of her fellow restaurant workers developed throughout her time working in the service industry, and when the pandemic shut down indoor dining, Elizabeth experienced firsthand the restaurant industry's injustices. Inspired by her upbringing as a first-generation Cuban American, her experience in the restaurant industry, and the injustices faced by low-wage workers, Elizabeth hopes to leave law school with the tools necessary to make a difference in the fight for workplace justice.



**MAHNI ALIZADEH JD'25**

Ohio State University Moritz  
College of Law, OH | Drivers Union  
WA, Affiliated with Teamsters 117  
Tukwila, WA

Mahni is a born-and-raised New Yorker with a substantial passion for union-side labor. Growing up in the city, he was able to both get to know people in service industries and work in service industries himself. He has worked with organizations, such as Brandworkers, Inc., that help to launch underground campaigns to create unions. At Brandworkers, he led a research team to help workers track down their fellow employees for underground organizing before formally launching their union campaigns, experiencing first-hand the inner workings of the on-the-ground efforts needed to create solidarity and trust between workers. At Moritz, Mahni is an active member of the ACLU and regularly brings his union-side perspective to meetings. Mahni is excited to meet like-minded law students and attorneys at his placement this summer.



**KRISHNA AMMISSETTY  
JD'24**

Vanderbilt University Law School,  
TN | United Food and Commercial  
Workers International Union  
Washington, DC

Krishna grew up in the small mining town of Pikeville, Kentucky, where he first saw the importance of organizing labor to protect the interests of workers. As an undergraduate student at Vanderbilt, he became involved in the efforts of his campus' food workers and adjunct faculty to unionize. During this time, he also learned about the history of the labor movement and its potential to effect social change. Before coming to law school, Krishna worked at the Legal Aid Society of Tennessee, working closely with marginalized communities and witnessing the ability of the labor movement to create better lasting conditions for those communities. In law school, Krishna has served on the board of his school's Labor and Employment law society and clerked at the NLRB's board office. Krishna hopes to continue advocating for workers' rights as a labor lawyer and is excited to learn more this summer as a fellow at UFCW.



**ALEJANDRO ASHWORTH  
JD'25**

University of Pennsylvania Carey  
Law School, PA | Sheet Metal  
Workers Local Union No. 19  
Philadelphia, PA

Alejandro is passionate about the fight for workers' rights. As an undergraduate at Harvard University, he received the Harvard Foundation Award for Intercultural and Race Relations and the Donald W. Moreland Award for Public Service for his work with low-income communities in the Boston area. After college, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer for two years in the Kingdom of Tonga. Upon returning to Philadelphia, he worked on criminal justice reform at the District Attorney's Office where he realized that broad systemic change is fundamentally economic and starts with workers' rights. He moved to California to work on union and employment litigation at Altshuler Berzon, LLP. In law school, Alejandro has explored programs addressing poverty, preparing to serve on the boards of the Pardon and Penn Housing Rights Projects, while embarking on his labor law journey at the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 19 in Philadelphia this summer.



**MAHSHAD BADI JD'25**

Stanford Law School, CA | AFSCME  
Washington, DC

Born in Iran and raised in California, Mahshad grew up hearing stories about how her grandmother organized fellow female teachers and her interest in labor justice grew as family members struggled to protect their rights at work as immigrants. Prior to law school, she studied Political Science and Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley, conducting research for asylum applicants from Latin America and published a paper outlining the structure of labor activism in Jordan. She served as the senior paralegal on the Labor Competition Team at the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and organized a 2021 public workshop alongside the FTC and many unions. Today, she regularly provides legal information on various employment law issues to low-income workers in East Palo at Stanford's Workers' Rights Pro Bono Project. She is excited to start her legal career with Peggy Browning and looks forward to her future as a workers' rights advocate.



**AYEZA BAJWA JD'25**

University of California, Berkeley,  
School of Law, CA | National  
Employment Law Project, New York  
New York, NY

Ayeza (she/her) is currently a first year law student and Public Interest Scholar at Berkeley Law. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a paralegal at Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) on their litigation team, challenging restrictions on reproductive health care in both federal and states courts. While her two years at PPFA were marked by major losses for the reproductive rights movement, this only made her more confident that she wanted to pursue a career in public interest law and use the legal system to fight for health equity. Ayeza's experiences unionizing at PPFA and seeing the impacts of employment, like lack of paid leave, on individuals' abilities to access reproductive health care make her excited to explore the intersection of workers' rights and reproductive justice.



**BRAYDEN BASCH JD'24**

Washington University in St.  
Louis School of Law, MO | Arnold,  
Newbold, Sollars & Hollins, P.C.  
Kansas City, MO

Brayden was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, where he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Missouri in Kansas City with majors in English and Philosophy. Throughout his high school and his undergraduate education, Brayden worked both service jobs, including various roles at a restaurant, and in education as a substitute teacher and a tutor. Brayden went to law school passionate about a number of public interest areas, especially those addressing economic inequity. After spending time learning more about labor and employment law, Brayden has become increasingly invested in pursuing a career in labor law and joining the incredible work done by union members, labor organizers, and labor attorneys. He is honored to be a Peggy Browning Fellow and is excited to learn from his future colleagues this summer.



## JACOB BEZNER JD'24

Boston University School of Law, MA  
| Segal Roitman LLP Boston, MA

Jacob is a first-generation college student and organizer pursuing a career lawyering for working people. Before law school, Jacob worked as a political organizer and consultant. He began organizing at Binghamton University as a student, where he ran youth-focused voter turnout campaigns. After graduating, Jacob worked as an organizer for union-endorsed political campaigns. Now a rising third-year student at Boston University School of Law, Jacob has maintained his penchant for organizing. Jacob is involved with the Boston University Graduate Workers Union (BUGWU), which recently won its recognition election by the largest margin of victory in NLRB history. At BUGWU, Jacob was elected to the Bargaining Committee, where he will represent a unit of 3,500 workers. This experience reaffirmed Jacob's commitment to lawyering for working people, and he is excited to further embed himself in the Boston labor movement this summer.



## ADRIAN BRAUDE JD'24

University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, AZ | Lubin and Enoch, P.C. Phoenix, AZ

Adrian grew up in Scottsdale, AZ, as the son of two South African immigrants. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona, where he majored in Political Science and minored in Spanish. After graduating, Adrian served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama and worked as a Deputy Finance Director on a political campaign. Adrian's time on the campaign coincided with the Red for Ed movement in Arizona and it was during this time he witnessed the power of organized labor to improve the lives of workers. Last summer, Adrian worked at Lubin & Enoch, PC representing plaintiffs and unions. He plans to use his law degree to fight for the rights of workers.



## KATIE BYRNE JD'24

University of California, Davis School of Law, CA | National Employment Law Project, Berkeley Berkeley, CA

Katie moved to California from the East Coast to start Law School at the University of California, Davis. Before law school, she coordinated the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in Massachusetts. Her experience with that project inspired her to attend law school and dedicate her career to workers' rights and building worker power, especially at the intersection of the labor movement and the carceral system. During her first year of law school, she worked as a union organizer with UAW Local 5810. Katie is excited to be at NELP this summer and contribute to pushing forward policies and legal solutions rooted in racial equity that promote a just and inclusive economy as well as learn additional skills to be a more effective advocate.



## DAVID CANADA JD'25

University of Michigan Law School, MI | Joel F. Dillard, P.A. Jackson, MS

Proudly born and raised in Slidell, Louisiana, David began working in the informal economy at an early age and witnessed the effects of labor and employment issues during his mother's fourteen years in food service. During his time at Haverford College, he worked on-campus and in retail, finding post-graduate employment as a fast food worker. His deeply-held conviction in the necessity of radical unions and substantive enforcement of workplace rights stems not only from his own experiences, but from the colleagues, friends, and family whose hardship and perseverance inspired his entry into law school. Dedicated to enforcing and advancing underserved peoples' civil rights, David is ecstatic to be spending his summer supporting workers in Jackson, Mississippi and feels immensely grateful for this opportunity.



## **CHLOE CARTER-DAVES JD'24**

City University of New York School of Law, NY | Spivak Lipton LLP New York, NY

Chloe grew up in Brooklyn and attended NYC public schools prior to studying political science and Jewish studies at Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College. She developed a passion for grassroots organizing while working as a campus organizer and national leader for J Street U, a nationwide movement of college students advocating against the occupation of Palestine. During and after college Chloe worked at upscale restaurants as a server and maître d', where she saw how wage and hour violations, racism, sexism, and xenophobia are features of the industry, rather than bugs. Utilizing her organizing prowess, she rallied her colleagues to demand better treatment from management during the pandemic, which spurred her to pursue a career as a labor attorney. Chloe believes in the importance of unions for all workers, especially those in non-traditional and vulnerable industries such as the service industry and is excited to build a legal career protecting workers rights.



## **JULIANA CHANG JD'24**

Harvard Law School, MA | Levy Ratner, P.C. New York, NY

Raised in Taipei, Taiwan, and the Bay Area, Juliana Chang is a student at Harvard Law School. Her work seeks to address the devaluation of caretaking and care work in social and legal contexts. Juliana hopes to build a career at the intersection of employment law and gender justice, fighting to improve working conditions for domestic workers, prevent pregnancy and caregiver discrimination in the workplace, and facilitate more legal protections for informal, unpaid caregiving. On campus, Juliana serves as a research assistant to Professor William Rubenstein on class action law, an editor of the Journal of Law and Gender, a resident tutor for undergraduate students, a clinical student with the Employment Law Clinic, and a contributing writer for OnLabor. She is thrilled to be joining Levy Ratner this summer.



## **ALEXIS CASANAS JD'24**

Georgetown University Law Center, DC | AFT Washington, DC

Alexis was born and raised in the Seattle area. She initially studied international relations at Gonzaga University with an eye on sustainable and equitable development policies before turning her attention to domestic issues instead. She became interested in labor law after observing the difference a union could make in her friends' and loved ones' work and life satisfaction. Alexis helped organize labor-related panel discussions at Georgetown and has interned at the National Labor Relations Board Division of Judges. She is excited to continue her journey in labor law at the American Federation of Teachers this summer.



## **AROOSA CHEEMA JD'24**

Yale Law School, CT | AFL-CIO Washington, DC

Growing up in a working-class, immigrant family in New Orleans, LA, Aroosa's commitment to economic justice began when she witnessed the struggles that low-wage workers in her community faced in their workplaces. She was first exposed to the power of unions when her high school teachers unionized and she carried her interest in labor issues to her undergraduate studies at Columbia University, where she worked with the Student Workers of Columbia's organizing campaign. A second-year law student, Aroosa is a member of the Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic, a board member for First Generation Professionals, and a volunteer with Local 33 - UNITE HERE. In this moment of increased labor organizing, Aroosa is excited to join the labor movement and help rebuild worker power.



## **MELL CHHOY JD'24**

Georgetown University Law Center, DC | National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Washington, DC

After graduating from Stanford University, Mell spent a period of time working in management and human resources where they first developed an interest in labor and employment law. Their firsthand experience of the effects of #MeToo, BLM and COVID-19 on the workplace and corporate America's failure to adequately respond further developed their interest in worker justice. This led Mell to Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, where Mell has been able to develop their interest in labor law via internships with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of General Law and the U.S. DOJ's Immigrant and Employee Rights Section. Now, Mell is excited to continue developing their skills and understanding of labor law as a Peggy Browning Fellow with the National Federation of Federal Employees.



## **EAMON COBURN JD'25**

Yale Law School, CT | NYSUT - New York State United Teachers Latham, NY

Born and raised in New York, Eamon graduated from Georgetown University, where he majored in International Political Economy and spent a semester studying African languages and development at the University of Ghana. After college, he worked as an analyst at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, helping to open investigations into potential violations of federal consumer financial law. He also served as a steward for his union, National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 335, completed a detail at the White House National Economic Council, and worked as a salmon processor in Egegik, Alaska. At law school, Eamon organized with UNITE HERE Local 33 to win a graduate worker union at Yale. This summer, he is excited to connect and learn from other members of the labor movement and build worker power.



## **CAROLINE COULTER JD'24**

Seton Hall University School of Law, NJ | Communications Workers of America Washington, DC

Caroline Coulter is a 2L at Seton Hall University School of Law in New Jersey where she is a peer mentor and on the executive boards of the Women's Law Forum and the Labor and Employment Law Forum. Before law school, Caroline worked at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and received a bachelor's and master's degree in labor studies and employment relations from there. During her 1L summer, Caroline helped prepare an employment law casebook for a new edition of the publication. Since then, she has interned for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Division of Law, in the Affirmative Civil Rights and Labor Enforcement Unit. Caroline looks forward to doing meaningful work for the labor movement this summer.



## **ELIZA DAVIS JD'25**

Harvard Law School, MA | LIUNA Mid-Atlantic Regional Organizing Coalition Reston, MA

Eliza grew up in Southern California and fulfills many California stereotypes: she's a surfer and does not understand precipitation. The daughter of a special education teacher, Eliza was exposed to the power of unions at an early age, and workplace justice remains a passion of hers. As an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley, Eliza studied Peace and Conflict and Public Policy. There, she got involved in advocacy as a member of the Student Advocate's Office, helping pass the Basic Needs Referendum. Eliza served as a student organizer with UC-AFT. After graduating, Eliza moved to the Mississippi Delta where she taught fifth grade and attended graduate school. She earned a M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from LSU Shreveport. At Harvard, Eliza is involved in multiple student practice organizations and the National Lawyers Guild. She is excited to leverage her education to create positive change.



## MELANA DAYANIM JD'25

Duke University School of Law, NC |  
United Steelworkers Pittsburgh, PA

Originally from Philadelphia, Melana's interest in labor justice emerged while witnessing her mother's successful university faculty union strike. Melana's interest developed into a passion when she led a campaign to win housing stipends for AmeriCorps members at her service site, Vermont Legal Aid. Upon completing her service, Melana continued building her organizing and advocacy skills while working on local, state, and national political and issue-based campaigns. As a law student, she continues to organize with Carolina Jews for Justice and the Duke Graduate Student Union, and she strives to develop lawyering skills that best position her to support the labor movement. Melana studied Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh and is grateful for the opportunity to launch her labor law career at the union that represents her alma mater's faculty.



## TERESA DENNERLEIN JD'25

University of Washington School  
of Law, WA | United Steelworkers  
Pittsburgh, PA

Teresa graduated summa cum laude and was awarded the President's Medal from the University of Washington Tacoma. As an undergraduate, Teresa worked with the Labor Solidarity Project to research and assess labor market inequalities and inform policymaking in Washington State. She also advocated for unemployment reduction legislation at the Washington State Senate through the Public Interest, Policy, and Advocacy Program. As a Gates Public Service Law Scholar at the University of Washington School of Law, Teresa is committed to serving underrepresented communities. Teresa believes that recognizing the agency, dignity, and humanity of workers is essential to further equity and promote substantive justice in both the workplace and in communities. Having grown up in a community with limited resources, Teresa wants to ensure that those without means have access to safe, respectful, and sustaining workplaces.



## DERMOT DELUDE-DIX JD'23

University of Pennsylvania Carey  
Law School, PA | McCracken,  
Stemmerman & Holsberry LLP  
Oakland, CA

Dermot came to law school after a decade working with UNITE HERE. Introduced to the labor movement as college volunteer for an independent farmworker union, Dermot moved to Philadelphia in 2010 and began organizing low-wage casino workers with UNITE HERE Local 54. In 2016, Dermot became a researcher for UNITE HERE Local 274, developing campaign strategies, tracking real estate development in the hospitality industry, and lobbying local elected officials. As a law student, Dermot has interned with the NLRB's Contempt, Compliance and Special Litigation Branch, and NLAN, which provides legal support to worker centers organizing low-wage workers. He has also volunteered for Community Legal Services of Philadelphia's Employment Unit and the Nationality Services Center of Philadelphia. Dermot lives with his family in South Philadelphia where he is an elected Democratic committee person and former treasurer of the Second Ward Democrats.



## ANJALI DHILLON JD'25

New York University School of  
Law, NY | Sherman Dunn, P.C.  
Washington, DC

Anjali was born in Virginia and raised in New Delhi, India. The labor movement and union organizing represents the convergence of her professional, academic, and organizing experiences. Before joining law school, she worked as a research aide for the AFSCME Local 88 chapter in Portland, Oregon, and as a legal clerk with the South Korean law firm Kim & Chang. As a college student, she led the effort to charter the first nationally-recognized union of undergraduate student workers at a U.S. private university. Anjali looks forward to supporting union workers this summer and moving the needle on economic justice in her communities.



**JESSICA DIMAS JD'24**

University of San Francisco School of Law, CA | Saltzman & Johnson Concord, CA

As a first-generation student and the daughter of immigrants from Michoacan, Mexico, Jessica knows the impact economic dignity can have on one's life. She earned her undergraduate degree from Tufts University and interned with the Oakland Workers' Collective to help ensure fair working conditions for day laborers. Prior to law school, Jessica worked at Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland, first as a paralegal and then coordinating the Workers' Rights Helpline and Immigrant Relief Fund. Her time in Chiapas, Mexico as a Fulbright scholar further informed her interest in workers' rights. Jessica is passionate about dismantling unjust systems, uplifting community voices, and propelling intersectional equity. She is grateful to be a part of the Peggy Browning Fellowship Program and excited to expand her knowledge of labor law this summer.



**GRACE DUBOIS JD'24**

American University Washington College of Law, DC | O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP Washington, DC

Grace was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and attended undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied political science and economics. A returning Peggy Browning Fellow, Grace spent her first-year summer as a Fellow at the Center for Progressive Reform, where she advocated for progressive solutions to twenty-first-century labor issues. During her second year, Grace authored a Comment exploring NLRB policy and interpretation of the NLRA, which will soon be published in the American University Washington College of Law's Administrative Law Review. As an extern with the Department of Labor Office of the Solicitor, Grace also worked on workers' rights enforcement litigation, protecting workers from wage theft under the Fair Labor Standards Act. She is thrilled to continue her legal career as a Peggy Browning Fellow at O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP.



**ALISON DOMONOSKE JD'24**

William & Mary Law School, VA | Murphy Anderson PLLC Washington, DC

Alison grew up in Harrisonburg, VA and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to law school, she worked for six years in the immigration field—serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at a refugee resettlement agency and working at Tahirih Justice Center and CASA in Action in Northern Virginia. These experiences illuminated the interconnections between the fights for immigrants' and workers' rights and the need for inclusive movements. During law school, Alison has helped organize university dining workers, notably as an organizer with UNITE HERE Local 23. Last summer, she worked with Central Virginia Legal Aid Society's Virginia Farmworker Project, serving farmworkers across the state of Virginia. Alison is excited to continue leveraging legal skills to support building worker power and economic justice.



**WILLIAM EBELER JD'24**

Harvard Law School, MA | United Steelworkers Pittsburgh, PA

William grew up in Northern California. After studying sociology in college, he worked as a theatrical scenic carpenter for two years. William then served a year in Americorps, working at a disaster response organization to build wildfire response capacity in California and Nevada. An active member of the Harvard Graduate Students Union, UAW Local 5118, William currently serves as a grievance officer and co-chair of the union's contract enforcement committee. Last summer, he clerked for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, where he developed legal self-help tools and assisted low-wage workers with unemployment insurance and wage-and-hour claims. While in law school, he has clerked for both the US Department of Labor's Office of the Solicitor and the Major League Baseball Players Association. He is excited to spend this summer with the Steelworkers promoting worker power nation-wide.



## **JON EZELL JD'24**

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, CA | NYSUT - New York State United Teachers New York, NY

Before law school, Jon worked as a brewer and shop steward at Anchor Brewing Co. in San Francisco. There, he helped organize the brewery's union and negotiate our first collective bargaining agreement. Motivated by the experience of seeing how important a good labor lawyer can be to workers, he decided to go to law school. In his personal life, he is a loving father of four children and enjoys playing the guitar and mandolin when he has time. A world traveler and fluent Mandarin speaker, he attended high school and university in Australia and lived in China for eight years. This summer, Jon is proud to be learning from that team that represents the New York State United Teachers.



## **DYLAN FARRELL-BRYAN JD'25**

Yale Law School, CT | Justice at Work (Philadelphia) Philadelphia, PA

Dylan is pursuing a legal career to support the rights of migrants and workers through research and advocacy. Before law school, Dylan completed her PhD in Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on immigration and labor policy in the US immigration courts. There, she examined how the labor practices of state agencies shape immigration outcomes around the country. At law school, she is active in the Immigrant Rights Clinic and the graduate workers' unionization efforts at Yale. She is honored to continue working at the intersection of immigration and employment/labor law.



## **MATT FERNANDES JD'24**

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, CA | Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld Sacramento, CA

A proud life-long Bay area resident, Matthew first developed an interest in labor during a summer organizing internship with SEIU Local 1021. There, he discovered his passion for building worker power. As an undergraduate, Matthew supported workers as a volunteer with the Young Democratic Socialists of America and as a program assistant with the West Oakland Job Resource Center (WOJRC). There, he worked closely with local unions and helped formerly incarcerated individuals find union employment in the trades. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, Berkeley and is now pursuing his JD with the goal of developing the tools and skills necessary to do his part to help uplift his home community. This will be his second summer working as a Peggy Browning Fellow with Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld.



## **AMANDA FLORES JD'24**

Northeastern University School of Law, MA | Global Labor Justice/ International Labor Rights Forum Washington, DC

Amanda grew up on the Philippine island of Cebu before moving at age 11 to Portland, Oregon. Determined to address social inequalities in ways that respected cultural differences, she majored in Social Anthropology at Harvard, where her studies took her to Bolivia and Rwanda. After graduation, she joined migrant rights nonprofit Justice in Motion and worked with Central American lawyers to rectify the US government's child separation policy at the border. Unionizing with her colleagues and successfully negotiating a collective bargaining agreement proved to her the power of organized labor as a means of improving their working conditions. As a future labor lawyer, Amanda now aims to synthesize the resurgence of the US labor movement with the international perspective necessary to confront today's interconnected crises. Through her fellowship with GLJ-ILRF, she looks forward to uniting the struggles of workers across the globe to achieve a dignified future for all.



## JOHN FRY JD'25

Harvard Law School, MA | Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Washington, DC

John is from Knoxville, TN and studied Economics and Political & Social Thought at the University of Virginia. His interest in unions blossomed when he wrote his senior thesis about teachers' strikes. After college, he was an organizer with Amazonians United New York City. In law school, John represents clients as a member of the Tenant Advocacy Project and the Prison Legal Assistance Project. He also does support work for unions and helps organize labor law events as a member of the Labor and Employment Action Project. John believes that unions help working people fight for what they deserve and that change comes from the bottom up.



## ESI FYNN-OBENG JD'24

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, MD | National Legal Advocacy Network (NLAN) Chicago, IL

Esi is a community organizer, born and raised in South Florida. She spent the last five years working alongside students, community members, and workers, building grassroots leadership and advocating for resources for Black communities. Esi's organizing experience began at Florida International University, where she worked with the Black Student Union on multiple initiatives to enhance the campus life of Black students and raise awareness around campus racism. She eventually connected with Miami's Dream Defenders and the Miami Worker's Center to address issues involving housing affordability, healthcare, and police brutality. This brought her to Hospitality Employees Advancement & Training (HEAT), where she worked to create a pipeline of employment and access to union jobs in South Florida. A returning PBF Fellow, Esi was a 2022 Fellow at Teamsters Local 117. Esi looks forward to combining her organizing experience with her budding legal skills to develop strategies and tools to address issues around race, labor, and housing.



## MICHELLE FUJII JD'24

Northeastern University School of Law, MA | International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Washington, DC

Originally from Japan, Michelle grew up concerned about many global issues. At Antioch College, she worked for a criminal defense and civil rights attorney, assisted the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Nagasaki University, and learned about urban reforestation in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She focused on the labor movement while working at a plaintiff-side employment law firm where she received a crash course in employment law and context for her family's experiences of workplace discrimination and wage theft. This job deepened her understanding of the prevalence of workplace injustices and the various forms of worker exploitation. In law school, Michelle has learned more about worker organizing and unions through her classes and extracurricular activities. During her 1L summer, she worked at the NYC Commission on Human Rights. She hopes to use her law degree to further the interests of people over profit.



## REBECCA GANS JD'24

Brooklyn Law School, NY | Pitta LLP New York, NY

As an undergraduate at Macalester College, Rebecca was involved in reproductive justice advocacy. After graduating with a Political Science degree, she spent a number of years as a retail worker in New York. Rebecca developed an interest in labor rights when she helped organize her coworkers at a bookstore to join the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. After serving on the bargaining committee and experiencing firsthand the power of collective action, Rebecca decided to go back to school to pursue labor work as an attorney. Since entering law school, she has interned at the National Labor Relations Board's Manhattan office and at Mobilization for Justice, and she wrote a note for the Brooklyn Law School Journal of Law and Policy about preventing anti-union captive audience meetings. Rebecca is excited to continue to advocate for workers as a Peggy Browning Fellow this summer.



## AURORA GARCIA JD'25

University of Nebraska College of Law, NE | Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project - FLAP Chicago, IL

Raised in the Midwest and a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants, Aurora's interest in labor and employment law—particularly in workers' rights—developed from her personal experiences. Through her lifelong experiences interpreting for her family, Aurora learned of the unfair discrimination and exploitation that her family and the members of her working-class immigrant community faced at work. After graduating from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Aurora worked for various law firms in Chicago before starting law school. During law school Aurora has served as a student interpreter for University of Nebraska College of Law's Immigration Clinic. She is a member of the Multicultural Legal Society, the Hispanic Law Student Association, and the Equal Justice Society. Aurora is thrilled to deepen her understanding of legal advocacy and learn more about the workers' rights movement this summer.



## SAM GOITY JD'24

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, CA | Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld Emeryville, CA

Sam was born and raised in San Mateo, California. He attended Carleton College, where he graduated with a B.A. in English and a minor in Spanish. Sam's passion for the labor movement was sparked at an early age by the works of authors like John Steinbeck and later fueled by studying critical theory in college. Since beginning law school, Sam has pursued opportunities to advance and defend the rights of workers in the real world. He has served as a director of the Berkeley Law and Organizing Collective, director of the Workers' Clinic, and department steward for UAW 2865, the union representing academic student employees across the University of California System. Sam is grateful to the Peggy Browning Fund for helping him embark on a career of pro-worker advocacy and connecting him to a network of similarly committed students and professionals.



## DOMINIC GARDETTO JD'24

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

From Big Lake Minnesota, Dominic became interested in labor issues from an early age. Several of his relatives are in unions and his grandfather was an active CWA member who served on the Minneapolis Trade Union Council. In college, Dominic studied liberal arts with a minor in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the University of Notre Dame. While there he was the President of Students for Worker Justice and a member of the Trademark Licensing & Human Rights Committee. As a paralegal for an employment law firm, Dominic participated in wrongful termination mediations and workplace harassment prevention trainings. He is currently in his second year at Georgetown University Law Center, where he has helped found the Georgetown Labor & Employment Law Society. Dominic is working for IUPAT this summer and is thrilled to take this next step in his journey fighting with workers for economic justice.



## MARIATERESA GOMEZ CARMONA JD'24

Northern Illinois University College of Law, IL | Raise the Floor Alliance Chicago, IL

Maritere grew up in the southwest side of Chicago in the neighborhood of Gage Park. Growing up in this immigrant working-class neighborhood, she witnessed her parents put all of their energy, time, and health on the line to work for little pay. They were grateful for having a job that paid anything at all. They were also no strangers to abusive and exploitative working conditions. Inspired by her parents' resilience, Maritere has decided to put her energy and efforts towards changing the reality that her parents, many immigrants, and other disenfranchised communities, experience. She hopes to use her education and tools learned in law school to affect change and dismantle systems of poverty and exploitation for the working class. She is a rising 3L at Northern Illinois University College of Law and is excited to contribute to the labor movement by advocating for people in her community.



**ISABEL HELLMAN JD'25**

New York University School of Law, NY | Migrant Justice Burlington, VT

Originally from NYC, Isabel grew up abroad in the UK, Indonesia, India, and Kenya. Through her upbringing, she witnessed the interrelation of global systems of oppression, leading her to pursue a degree in Human Rights at Columbia University. After graduation, she worked for three years as a legal services advocate with the Legal Wellness Institute at The Family Center. In this position, she secured safety net benefits for low-wage migrant workers facing chronic illness and disability. This work motivated her to pursue a career in labor and employment law, particularly surrounding migrant worker justice. As a law student, Isabel is a member of Law Students for Economic Justice, Ending the Prison Industrial Complex, and the Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative. Isabel is excited to continue supporting migrant worker organizing this summer as a Peggy Browning Fellow with Migrant Justice.



**KAREN HERRERA JD'24**

Southwestern Law School, CA | Wage Justice Center Los Angeles, CA

Karen is a first-generation law student and daughter of Salvadoran immigrants. After obtaining her degree in Politics & Latin American Studies from UC Santa Cruz, Karen assisted undocumented community members at the Central American Resource Center. During her 1L summer, she worked at Inner City Law Center, helping homeless veterans navigate the complexity of VA benefits. Karen is an active member of the Public Interest Law Committee, Homelessness Prevention Law Project, and the Eviction Defense Clinic. Her interest in labor grew from her parents' experiences in the service industry and the discrimination her clients often faced due to their legal status or housing situation. She looks forward to using her skills and experience this summer at the Wage Justice Center to help workers get the compensation and equity they deserve.



**ALLISON HERSTIC JD'24**

Cardozo School of Law, NY | Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) New York, NY

From New York City, Allison graduated with a B.S. from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in December 2020. The daughter of a union educator, she was inspired by labor movement's ability to substantively advance material equality and build collective worker power. Allison's interest in the labor movement led to her work at Region 29 of the National Labor Relations Board, where she assisted the agency during the Amazon unionization effort. As a lifelong New York Mets Fan, Allison is thrilled to be working in a role that centers player representation and advocacy. She hopes to contribute her passion for baseball and deep belief in worker power to her work. Allison looks forward to continuing to develop her legal and organizing skills to assist the labor movement in bringing about a better world for the many, not the few.



**SARA HODGKINS JD'24**

George Washington University Law School, DC | Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld Emeryville, CA

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Sara studied English at Middlebury College in Vermont. Before law school, she served as a state-certified crisis counselor in Chicago, meeting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in hospital emergency rooms to explain their rights and options under Illinois and federal law. This experience solidified her passion for social and economic justice as a trauma-informed alternative to carceral responses to harm. For the past year, she has served as a law clerk with Equal Rights Advocates, a San Francisco civil rights organization advancing economic justice and gender equity for workers and students through litigation, legislative advocacy, and trauma-informed direct services. She will expand upon her commitment to civil remedies as an access-to-justice research assistant and an incoming Workers' Rights Clinic student-attorney. She looks forward to deepening her experience in labor and employment law this summer with Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld.



**ELIZA HONG JD'24**

Cornell Law School, NY | Chicago News Guild - School-Year 2022-2023 Chicago, IL

Eliza created their undergraduate major in Nonviolent Social Movements to study collective action at Mary Baldwin University. After several gap years living in intentional communities, including a year of social work with people with intellectual disabilities in L'Arche Seattle, they wanted to focus on more systematic impact. In law school, Eliza acted as the Environmental Law Society President, Public Interest Law Union Social Chair, and created a chatbot to teach tenant rights in upstate New York (ithacatenantresources.org). Last summer, they worked for the New York City Commission on Human Rights. After learning that economic injustice is at the crux of impactful change, Eliza decided to pursue a Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship and has learned so much this year with great mentorship. They also volunteer with Starbucks Workers United. In their free time, Eliza likes to hike, juggle, and rock climb.



**ANDREW HULL JD'25**

Emory University School of Law, GA | Chicago New Guild (summer) Chicago, IL

Before entering law school, Andrew earned a PhD in ancient philosophy at Northwestern University. He became heavily involved in Northwestern University Graduate Workers (NUGW), eventually becoming co-chair of the union. Much of Andrew's organizing centered around analyzing Northwestern's financial statements and university endowment law in ways which demystified the university's financial claims and demonstrated how affordable NUGW's demands were. His experience as a contingent academic worker (first as a grad student, then as an adjunct professor) transformed Andrew's view of labor, and it became clear that his future lay in advocating for workers. Andrew is now back in his home state of Georgia at Emory and is so excited for his summer fellowship with the Chicago News Guild.



**KARA HOWARD JD'24**

Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, OH | Pyle Rome Ehrenberg PC Boston, MA

Born and raised in New York to a family of firefighters and teachers, Kara has had a passion for workers' rights and union values ingrained at a young age. When a professor mentioned union-side labor law, she immediately knew that was the path she wanted to take. Kara spent the summer of 2022 working for the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association and Harshman & Wannemacher where this desire to work union-side was only solidified further. At law school she serves as the treasurer to the Labor and Employment Law Association and is a Board Fellow for the Central Ohio Labor and Employment Relations Association. Kara is so excited to be a Peggy Browning Fellow at Pyle Rome Ehrenberg where she hopes to continue to learn and grow her love for the labor movement.



**LAUREN HUNADY JD'24**

University of Washington School of Law, WA | Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrmann & Sommers LLP Los Angeles, CA

Lauren grew up in the deep south; raised by a single mother, she realized quickly the correlative impacts of gender and work. She studied Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Emory University, completing an honors thesis that examined the correlative functions of non-normative gender suppression and employer-capitalist power. Throughout college, she worked in several public interest causes, including abortion rights and criminal justice. In law school, she served as a 2022 Peggy Browning Fellow with Teamsters Local 117; supported University of Washington's Librarians' Union strike efforts; and externed with Region 19 of the NLRB. She is on the boards of UW's National Lawyers' Guild, Public Interest Law Association, and Students for Labor and Employment Justice. Insofar as the employment relationship is the means by which we receive resources for survival, Lauren is dedicated to ensuring its most equitable operation until a new, liberatory resource-distribution arrangement emerges.



### **TREYVON JORDAN JD'24**

William & Mary Law School, VA  
| Communications Workers of America Washington, DC

Treyvon was born and raised in Columbia, SC, and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Criminal Justice and Criminology degree. After serving almost a decade in the Marine Corps, he shifted careers to attend law school. During law school, he participated in a worker strike with UNITE HERE and fell in love with the movement. Since then, Treyvon has been involved in several campaigns with UNITE HERE and a childcare campaign with United Campus Workers of Virginia. Coming from a working poor family, he has always recognized the need for workers to have power in their workplace. Treyvon hopes to continue advocating for workers' rights in his legal career.



### **MAIYISHA KEITA JD'24**

North Carolina Central University School of Law, NC | Sugar Law Center Detroit, MI

Born and raised in Memphis, TN, Maiyisha is a second year law student at North Carolina Central University School of Law. Her commitment to the labor justice movement originated during her time as a corporate manager for Amazon, where she witnessed economic exploitation and power imbalance between employers and employees during COVID-19. Maiyisha now hopes to expand her knowledge of union-side labor law and achieve her long-term career goal of being a labor and employment attorney. Maiyisha is excited and confident that her summer with Sugar Law Center will provide her with the essential tools and supportive network to become a part of the mission to strengthen labor power as an advocate for labor justice.



### **COURTNEY KIRBIS JD'24**

University of Alabama School of Law, AL | National Employment Law Project, DC Washington, DC

A third-generation unionized construction worker from Buffalo, NY, Courtney's first exposure to organizing was with United Students Against Sweatshops while an undergraduate student at New York University. She went on to complete an apprenticeship with the Carpenters' Union in Buffalo, serving as a union steward and active member of the Sisters in the Brotherhood committee. Before law school, Courtney spent a year organizing maintenance workers and boiler operators with the International Union of Operating Engineers. Courtney is pursuing a law degree with the goal of advocating for the rights of largely underrepresented workers and is particularly interested in the role that labor can play in addressing climate change.



### **CONOR KLEREKOPER JD'24**

University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, AZ | Center for Progressive Reform Washington, DC

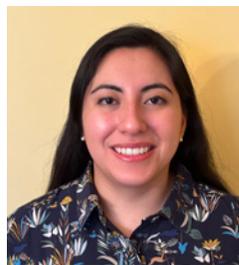
Conor was born and raised in San Diego, California. He is the son of an Irish immigrant mother, who worked housekeeping jobs after moving to the United States. The family story came full circle in the summer of 2022 when Conor worked as a Summer Law Clerk for Unite HERE Local 11, a union whose rank-and-file membership largely consists of housekeepers. During the school year, he participates in the Workers' Rights Clinic, providing legal services to low-income individuals who are victims of employment violations. In his free time, he has volunteered for Amazon Labor Union's ALBI unionization campaign and volunteers with Tucson Tenants Union, working to protect renters and houseless folks in Pima County. Conor is overjoyed to continue the fight for the workers and the people this summer.



**KAYLA LEE JD'25**

University of Washington School of Law, WA | Teamsters Local 117 Tukwila, WA

Kayla Lee was born in Seattle, Washington, and grew up in Snohomish and King Counties, Washington. She studied Global Studies and Hispanic Studies with a minor in Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. In college, Kayla was a student leader of the Facilitating Opportunities for Refugee Growth and Empowerment (FORGE), a student-led organization that works with newly resettled refugees in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After college, Kayla spent a year in Guayaquil, Ecuador on a Fulbright Scholarship. At the end of the program, she worked at the Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN) at the International Rescue Committee in Seattle and for four years as an anti-human trafficking advocate and advocacy manager. She primarily worked with labor trafficking survivors and is hoping to advocate for immigrant workers in our communities.



**EMILY LUNA JD'24**

Western New England University School of Law, MA | Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center Las Vegas, NV

Emily grew up in Manchester, CT, and is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. A first-generation college and law student, she graduated from UConn with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Latin American Studies. Before law school, Emily worked in the Connecticut General Assembly and with the Lt. Governor's Office. She also was the first Mexican American elected to the Manchester Board of Education, receiving the endorsement and support from several local unions. In law school, Emily serves as the Vice President of the Latinx Law Student Association and Sports and Entertainment Association. This past summer, she interned at the CT Attorney General's Office. Emily is grateful to be a part of the Peggy Browning Fellowship Program and is excited to expand her knowledge of labor law and learn more about advancing immigrant workers' rights through community organizing and collective action this summer.



**MARLY MARQUEZ JD'25**

University of Michigan Law School, MI | Farmworker Justice Washington, DC

Marlisa "Marly" Marquez is a first-year law student at the University of Michigan Law School. Marly came to law school to become a more effective advocate for low-income workers. Growing up in a family of migrant farmworkers—and having worked in the industry herself—Marly learned first-hand how often labor workers are taken advantage of by corporations. As a child, her family made annual trips from South Texas to Washington State to work in blueberry and raspberry fields. After graduating high school, Marly participated in the work directly, and her life was shaped by the long hours and cramped living spaces provided to migrant workers. Because of her background, Marly is deeply passionate about helping those in the same situation as her family and hopes to amplify the voices of low-income workers through a career in labor law.



**ALYSSA MARTIN JD'25**

University of Washington School of Law, WA | Drivers Union WA, Affiliated with Teamsters 117 Tukwila, WA

As the daughter of a working-class family with over a decade's experience in the food service industry, Alyssa understands the need for an overhaul of the country's labor and employment system. Through her work with the Western Service Workers Association, Alyssa helped challenge unaffordable utility costs, unethical working conditions, wage theft, illegal evictions, discriminatory housing practices, and other issues affecting the Bay Area's low-income residents. While there, she reintroduced a column entitled Nuestra America, featuring the stories of the organization's immigrant members. As an employee in various restaurants and cafes, Alyssa organized her coworkers to advocate for fair working conditions and wages. She received a degree in English from the University of California Berkeley and is currently planning to specialize in poverty law.



**KAT MCCOLLOUGH JD'24**

Cornell Law School, NY | Gilbert and Sackman Los Angeles, CA

Kat is from rural South Carolina but now calls Los Angeles home. She attended community college before completing her bachelor's degree at the University of South Carolina. A decade of community organizing experience informs Kat's dedication to combating structural inequality and empowering oppressed communities—values that led her to pursue a career in labor law. She is a second-year law student at Cornell, where she serves as Labor Chair and Legal Observer Captain for the student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. During her 1L summer, she interned with UNITE HERE Local 11, where she had the honor of standing with workers both on picket lines and at collective bargaining sessions. She looks forward to returning to LA this summer to intern with Gilbert & Sackman, a labor law firm that represents local unions in industries ranging from entertainment to construction.



**SKYE MCCOLLUM JD'24**

William & Mary Law School, VA | Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Washington, DC

Skye developed a passion for intersectional economic justice as an anti-racist and anti-fascist activist in her hometown of Raleigh, NC. She graduated summa cum laude from NC State with degrees in Political Science and French. In law school, Skye serves as Co-Chair of the National Lawyers Guild at W&M and staff member of the W&M Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice. She spent the last year as a volunteer organizer for UNITE HERE, fighting alongside campus dining workers to win their unions at universities across Virginia. Witnessing the inspiring impacts of these campaigns on worker empowerment and working conditions further reinforced Skye's belief in the power of unions and her commitment to a career in union-side labor law. For fun, Skye enjoys thrifting, hanging out with her cat, and reading (especially sci-fi and philosophy). She is excited to continue advocating for labor justice at SEIU this summer.



**BEN MCDONALD JD'25**

Fordham University School of Law, NY | Make the Road NJ Elizabeth, NJ

Ben is currently a first-year law student. Prior to law school, he was a jazz pianist, composer, and music educator. He graduated from the University of North Texas in 2016 with a B.M. in Jazz Studies and a B.A. in creative writing. Since then, Ben has performed in venues across the nation and in China. After moving to New York City in 2018 to pursue his jazz career, Ben began working in the service industry to subsidize his income. There, Ben developed his passion for labor rights advocacy. Most recently, he advocated for his co-workers to receive COVID-19 sick pay after discovering the company was non-compliant with state mandates. Ben looks forward to using the knowledge and skills acquired through the Peggy Browning Fellowship Program to continue championing the labor movement in the hopes of creating a more democratic workplace.



**ANDREA MCGAULEY JD'25**

University of Minnesota Law School, MN | SMART, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 104 Sacramento, CA

Andrea came to law school to gain the legal tools needed to promote equity. She quickly got involved in her community as an executive board member for the National Lawyers Guild UMN Chapter and a volunteer with the Advocates for Human Rights WATCH program. Believing that every person deserves the dignity of financial comfort, she is particularly passionate about economic justice. After serving in the Peace Corps, Andrea developed a deep admiration for collective action. This summer, she is excited to work for SMART Local Union No. 104 to aid in their organization efforts and learn about labor law from union-side attorneys. She is eager to help protect and raise the living standard of skilled workers and contribute to economic equality.



**SARAH MIDANI JD'25**  
Albany Law School, NY | NYSUT - New York State United Teachers Latham, NY

Sarah's experience in a unionized newsroom was pivotal in her decision to pursue labor law. In 2020, after earning her master's degree in journalism from Syracuse University, Sarah began working as a broadcast and digital news producer in Syracuse, New York. There, she witnessed how the COVID-19 pandemic exposed workforce inequities and facilitated a drastic change in employer/employee dynamics, both in her workplace and the news stories her team covered. The pandemic's impact on teachers and families—including the consequences of remote learning, classroom health concerns, and an exodus of educators from the industry—particularly resonated with Sarah, who studied education as an undergraduate at Siena College. Sarah is the granddaughter of two retired public school teachers, and is honored to be working with NYSUT to support New York State educators' rights and interests. A 1L, Sarah is a Fellow at Albany Law's Government Law Center, which provides legal research and analysis on issues related to government and public service.



**PETER MORGAN JD'24**  
Harvard Law School, MA | Cohen, Weiss & Simon New York, NY

Peter Morgan was raised in Minnesota, and after studying literature in college, worked for Westlaw before heading to law school to work on workers' rights. After experiencing low pay at book and retail stores, Peter sought to work to improve conditions in the service sector through a legal career—either through union work, regulatory work, or both. A returning Peggy Browning Fellow, Peter spent the last summer at Hayes Dolce in Buffalo, NY, working on the Starbucks Worked United campaign. He has since volunteered with the Amazon Labor Union and interned at Barnard Iglitizin & Lavitt LLP.



**NICOLETTE MOORE JD'24**  
City University of New York School of Law, NY | Gladstein, Reif, and Meginniss New York, NY

Nicolette grew up in Florida as the daughter of transport workers involved in union organizing. She pursued a degree in international politics and Latin American studies at Georgetown University. She then spent a year in Mexico as a Fulbright Fellow, where she worked on anti-corruption compliance at a commercial litigation firm. Recently, Nicolette worked at a legal tech startup and has served as a legal assistant at a workers' compensation firm. Last summer, she was a Peggy Browning Fellow at Farmworker Justice, where she supported litigation on behalf of agricultural workers suffering workplace exploitation and abuse. In law school, Nicolette is a member of the Labor Coalition. Her goal is to work as a labor attorney and support sectors of workers that are organizing for the first time. She is thrilled to be interning at Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss this summer.



**TONY NGUYEN JD'25**  
Chicago-Kent College of Law, IL | Drivers Union WA, Affiliated with Teamsters 117 Tukwila, WA

Born into a family of working-class immigrants in Southern California, Tony grew up watching his mother toil away into the weekends so that he and his siblings could have an opportunity at the American Dream. He graduated from the California State University of Fullerton with a degree in philosophy and worked full-time throughout his undergrad to avoid student loans and help alleviate the burden on his family. He has worked for Walmart, a local bakery that rapidly expanded and went corporate, and for a major medical device manufacturer. Each of these experiences gave him a new perspective into the daily struggles of the average blue-collar worker. With resurgent nationwide support for the labor movement, Tony set his sights on law school to contribute his efforts to the cause. He hopes for a future where parents can better care for their kids and have time for their families.



## **LIAM NOLAN JD'24**

Georgetown University Law Center,  
DC | Joel F. Dillard, P.A. Jackson, MS

Liam was born and raised in Smithsburg, Maryland, a small town about 70 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. Liam attended undergrad at Duke University, where he studied Political Science and Public Policy. It was there, while studying for school and working during the summers, that Liam developed an interest in labor issues, which he believes is a central issue for the vast majority of people across the globe. Liam is excited to work as a Peggy Browning Fellow for Joel Dillard & Associates in Mississippi this summer, a state which Liam believes to be one of the great frontlines in the struggle for workers' rights.



## **JUSTIN ONWENU JD'24**

Columbia Law School, NY | Service  
Employees International Union  
(SEIU) Washington, DC

Returning as a second-year Peggy Browning Fellow, Justin is committed to counterbalancing economic inequality, unsafe working conditions, and stagnant wages. He began his legal career as a law clerk for UAW, and furthered his commitment to workers' rights movement as a law clerk for One Fair Wage. There, he drafted minimum wage ballot initiative language and helped advocate for workers before the National Labor Relations Board. Before law school, Justin was a community organizer in Detroit, where he built coalitions with residents, workers, and community groups to fight for clean air and water and safer working conditions. He holds a B.A. from Rice University, where he served as Student Body President and led recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. This summer, at SEIU Justin hopes to better understand how the law can serve as a tool to raise wages for all workers. He plans to return to Michigan after graduation.



## **MARIA ORTIZ PINEDA JD'25**

American University Washington  
College of Law, DC | Peer, Gan &  
Gisler LLP Washington, DC

Maria was born in Honduras and raised in northern Virginia. She is a graduate of George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College. Before entering law school, she worked at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) where she focused on issues related to income security for women and access to affordable child care. In her role, she launched a storytelling project to tackle harmful poverty-related narratives. Prior to NWLC, she was involved in advocacy work in Virginia by volunteering with local and state organizations dedicated to advancing workers' and immigrants' rights. Maria is thrilled to join the Peggy Browning Fellowship community and is looking forward to fighting for workers and their families.



## **TRISTIN OTT JD'25**

University of Wisconsin Law School,  
WA | National Treasury Employees  
Union (NTEU) Washington, DC

Tristin grew up in a very class-conscious union family in rural Minnesota. From a young age, his imagination was captured by the dramatic and passionate discussions about injustice and inequality that his parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles held. This background motivated him to study the history of the labor movement in undergrad, culminating in senior thesis research on Milwaukee unions' struggle against deindustrialization in the 1980s and 1990s. This archival and oral interview research revealed the cruel and calculated strategy of the city's corporate elite, who aimed to crush the power of organized labor to increase profits. Now at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Tristin hopes to learn more about how to effectively fight back against this kind of economic injustice. He is very excited to be able to work within the labor movement this summer as a fellow at the National Treasury Employees Union in Washington, D.C.



**KATIE PARKER JD'24**

Georgetown University Law Center, | AFT Washington, DC

Katie decided to attend law school after experiencing the power of a union when her nonprofit organized with the Nonprofit Professional Employees Union (NPEU), IFPTE Local 70. She now works for NPEU, supporting members in negotiations, and is a part-time student at Georgetown University Law Center. Katie spent last summer as a Peggy Browning Fellow with the American Federal, State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME), and continued on as a law clerk for AFSCME during the fall semester. On campus, Katie serves as a writing fellow and peer tutor and is Executive Editor for the Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives. As the daughter of a public school teacher, she is excited to be joining the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) this summer and looks forward to deepening her knowledge of how to leverage the law to fight for worker justice.



**TY PARKS JD'24**

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, PA | Community Legal Services Philadelphia, PA

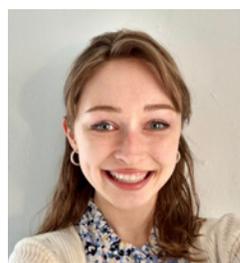
A native of Philadelphia, Ty is deeply familiar with the ways Black and Brown people navigate employment. Though he has numerous family members take pride in their union membership, others have struggled to find work because of their criminal record. After graduating from Columbia University, Ty worked as a paralegal at Neufeld Scheck & Brustin, LLP, a civil rights firm that represents wrongfully convicted people in § 1983 lawsuits. There, he had the opportunity to work alongside clients, and the firm's social worker, in their efforts to navigate life after prison, including finding work. Ty continues to contribute to efforts that support formerly incarcerated people through his position in Penn's Criminal Record Expungement Project. After spending a semester working at Willig, Williams & Davidson, a union-side law firm, Ty looks forward to further understanding how he can use the law to support working class people.



**TYLER PEARCE JD'25**

University of Virginia School of Law, VA | Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Washington, DC

The son of proud union members, Tyler was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Growing up in a union household, he experienced firsthand the benefits that collective bargaining brought to his family. This—combined with the underlying principle of workplace democracy—fueled Tyler's passion for improving workers' rights. He obtained a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University, where he was involved in labor-based activism and research. While an undergrad, Tyler had the opportunity to work in strategic research departments for IBT and AFSCME and is excited to continue this passion through a legal scope at SEIU.



**HILLARY PING JD'24**

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, MO | Solidarity Law Cumberland Foreside, ME

Hillary was born and raised in small-town Iowa by a family with union teachers, nurses, and farmers. Growing up in this environment—and a decade of service sector work—Hillary learned the absolute need for power-building among working-class communities. After graduating cum laude from the South Dakota School of Mines in geological engineering, Hillary decided to pursue her passion for organizing through a law degree. A first-generation law student, Hillary has done multiple public interest internships in civil rights and housing and gained experience in dispute resolution through the Community Justice Clinic. Hillary focuses her coursework and extracurriculars on labor law while actively participating in St. Louis's labor scene. She is a member of Washington University's Grad Workers Union, community outreach chair for the local National Lawyers' Guild chapter, and labor committee member in St. Louis's DSA chapter. After graduating, Hillary plans to continue organizing and advocating for working-class communities.



**MIGUEL QUINTANA JD'24**

University of New Mexico School of Law, NM | New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty Albuquerque, NM

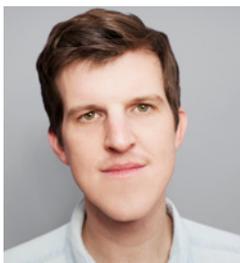
Growing up in Taos, New Mexico, Miguel witnessed and experienced the realities of labor exploitation in rural New Mexico. Miguel attended Temple University as an undergraduate student, where he graduated cum laude with his bachelor's degree. This past summer, after working on campaign finance law and government ethics issues, he helped pilot an eviction prevention program with a local law center. Miguel is an editorial staff member for the University of New Mexico School of Law's Natural Resources Journal and will serve as Editor-in-Chief beginning in May 2023. He also serves as a Coordinator for the University of New Mexico School of Law's National Lawyers Guild chapter and is a Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Fellow. He looks forward to working with the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty to improve pay and working conditions for New Mexicans.



**SHYAMALA RAMAKRISHNA JD'24**

Yale Law School, CT | TakeRoot Justice New York, NY

Born in New York, Shyamala's interests in the labor movement draw from her years as a semiprofessional musician, work in labor and technology policy prior to law school, and various community organizing experiences. She believes organized labor is the key to protecting cultural, social, and artistic life from the influences of concentrated wealth and power. Before law school, she was a policy fellow for the State of New Jersey, holding employers accountable when they use algorithmic tools to hire, fire, and surveil mostly low-income workers. In law school, she has supported attorneys enforcing wage & hour laws and OSHA at the U.S. Department of Labor and labor unions at Cohen, Weiss & Simon LLP. After graduating, she seeks to use the law to combat emerging—often tech-enabled—employment models that result in precarious wages and exploitative workplaces. She looks forward to learning more about community lawyering this summer.



**PETER RAWLINGS JD'24**

New York University School of Law, NY | NYSUT - New York State United Teachers New York, NY

Before law school, Peter spent several years as a journalist, joining the labor movement in the course of organizing his last two newsrooms. He first helped lead a successful organizing drive and election campaign to unionize his workplace with The News Guild-CWA, before moving on to help another newsroom form a union with the Writers Guild of America, East. In law school, he serves as the Executive Editor of the NYU Law Review and is an Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Fellow. Peter has also been a student advocate in NYU's Civil Litigation - Employment Law Clinic and volunteered with the Parole Advocacy Project and Unemployment Action Center. Outside of school, he volunteers with the ALU Law Student Working Group, providing legal support to the Amazon Labor Union. A returning Peggy Browning Fellow, he spent his last summer at Spivak Lipton LLP.



**MELISSA RETTIG JD'25**

George Washington University Law School, DC | O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue LLP Washington, DC

Melissa is an ex-waitress from Charleston, South Carolina—not the first place that comes to mind when people think of union towns, but she plans to help change that. She joined the Amalgamated Transit Union-International Union as a paralegal two weeks before the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic in North America. Witnessing the power organized transit workers wielded to protect themselves, each other, and our communities amid the devastation of the early pandemic, Melissa realized that a life in service to the labor movement would be a life well-spent. She is thrilled to be among this year's cohort of Peggy Browning Fellows.



## **BECK RIEDMAN JD'24**

City University of New York School of Law, NY | Hayes Dolce Buffalo, NY

After graduating from Oberlin College, Beck returned to their home of Western New York to complete an AmeriCorps term at Legal Assistance of Western NY. Over the next five years, Beck worked primarily with clients struggling to overcome barriers to accessing health care and tenants facing housing court. This work fueled their passion for using the law to support impactful social change and has led them to pursue their law degree at CUNY Law where they serve on the school's Labor Coalition. As a former Starbucks partner, they've been inspired by the recent waves of collective action across the country, and are thrilled to return upstate once more to provide legal support to workers this summer as a Peggy Browning Fellow at Hayes Dolce.



## **AIKO CELESTE RIVERA JD'25**

American University Washington College of Law, DC | AFSCME Washington, DC

Growing up in Southern California, Aiko's experience as an immigrant was a driving force behind her advocacy for her community. Her interest in labor and employment law developed through her work in immigrant rights; before entering law school, Aiko worked as an immigration paralegal where she learned about the exploitive conditions that immigrants faced before and after adjusting their status. Inspired by both the clients she worked with as a paralegal—and by the exploitive working conditions her family members faced—Aiko decided to pursue law school to expand her knowledge of labor and employment law. Aiko's calling to broadly pursue a career in law eventually focused on becoming a labor and employment attorney to continue organizing against oppressive systems that impact workers.



## **DAVID RODRIGUEZ JD'25**

University of Texas School of Law, TX | Workers Defense Project Austin, Dallas, Houston, TX

Born and raised in South Florida, David developed a passion for helping underrepresented groups, particularly immigrant communities, from his upbringing and surrounding community. As an undergraduate student at the University of Texas, David worked with various nonprofits geared towards helping immigrants. He was also an organizer for the progressive campaign of Jose Garza for District Attorney in Austin. Crucially, he realized the importance of providing undocumented people with competent counsel in labor disputes from his time interning at the Equal Justice Center. David led a research project at the University of Texas about undocumented labor on college campuses and methods for campus workers to resist exploitation. As a 1L, David has taken part in various pro bono projects and is committed to a career representing low-wage workers. He will be the first lawyer in his family.



## **GILBERT ROMERO JD'24**

Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, NY | AFSCME Washington, DC

Gilbert Romero was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ, in a family of farm workers and union members. He received his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and has been active in both his community and in politics his whole professional life. In 2018 Gilbert ran for State Representative in District 21 of the Arizona Legislature and in 2020 he represented Arizona at the Democratic National Convention as an elected delegate. He's had the privilege to work alongside unions like SEIU-UHW and organize on campaigns like the Fight for \$15 in Arizona that led to a statewide minimum wage increase. Before attending law school, Gilbert worked as a full-time math teacher in Phoenix. He is excited about working with AFSCME this summer to learn as much as he can to advance worker and union rights.



**EMILY SABILLON JD'25**

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, CA | Northwest Workers' Justice Project Portland, OR

Emily is a Los Angeles Native and the daughter of Latin American immigrants. Her passion for labor advocacy stems from her time working at a snack foods factory where she witnessed unsafe and inequitable working conditions. Many of the factory's employees were low-income, immigrant elderly women who lacked the resources to advocate for themselves. Emily attended the University of California, Santa Barbara and obtained a B.A. in English and Communications. After graduating college in 2019, she worked as a legal assistant at a family law firm and later, as a paralegal at Inner City Law Center, a non-profit legal aid organization. There, she worked to secure social security benefits for the Los Angeles homeless population. Emily hopes to continue working with vulnerable populations through legal advocacy and is excited to gain hands-on experience this summer with her position at the Northwest Workers' Justice Project in Portland, OR.



**JORGE SALLES DIAZ JD'24**

Vanderbilt University Law School, TN | Satter Ruhlen Law Firm, PLLC Syracuse, NY

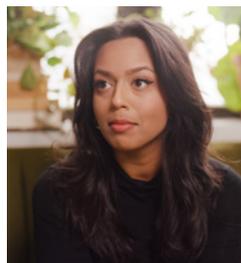
Jorge's career in public interest started in the immigrants' rights movement. After spending some time supporting immigrant workers at poultry packing plants in Mississippi, he decided to join the labor movement. Since, he has served on the board of his local workers center, Workers' Dignity, and has worked as a Summer clerk in the farmworker team at Virginia Legal Aid Justice Center where he worked on an alienage discrimination claim at a poultry packing plant. Jorge also externed at Global Labor Justice where he worked on a data brief about wage theft in the fast fashion industry. Jorge believes that solidarity and a militant labor movement are the solutions to many of today's global problems, and he aspires to be a labor lawyer.



**NICK SANCHEZ JD'24**

City University of New York School of Law, NY | New York Hotel and Gaming Trades Council, AFL-CIO New York, NY

Nick Sanchez is a 2L attending CUNY School of Law in New York City. Born and raised in Texas, he moved to New York to pursue a career as a cook in fine dining restaurants. After the COVID-19 pandemic left thousands of restaurant workers jobless, Nick chose to earn his law degree to support workers in their struggle for safe, prosperous, dignified working conditions. His specific areas of interest are utilizing transactional law to build worker power through strong union contracts and fighting for the rights of workers engaged in direct action. This summer, Nick will be a Peggy Browning Fellow at the Hotel and Gaming Trades Council, AFL-CIO in New York City.



**ANUSHKA SARKAR JD'25**

Fordham University School of Law, NY | Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs Washington, DC

Anushka is a first-year student and Stein Scholar at Fordham Law School. Passionate about workers' rights, Anushka is particularly interested in impact litigation related to wage theft, discrimination and workplace harassment. Before attending law school, Anushka worked for several economic justice and democracy campaigns. She spent the summer before law school as an Urban Leaders Fellow with the D.C. Justice Lab, drafting legislation addressing police power and the school-to-prison pipeline. Anushka has organized with multiple unions, published op-eds on democracy issues ranging from state voting rights legislation to U.S. Supreme Court expansion, and led national polling efforts to understand Americans' perspectives on hot-button issues. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where she served as student body president during her senior year. Anushka is eager to learn from the attorneys and organizers at the Washington Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights and Urban Affairs about ways to advance workers' rights.



## **ATEŞ SERIFSOY JD'25**

Seattle University School of Law,  
WA | Teamsters Local 117 Tukwila,  
WA

Originally from South Florida, Ateş moved to Seattle, WA, following her graduation from New College of Florida in 2014. Ates started their career working at Planned Parenthood, where she became heavily involved in her workplace union. In 2018, Ateş began working at UFCW Local 3000. There, she supported members as a Union Representative, a Contract Enforcement Specialist, and, most recently, a Contract Negotiator, where she helped thousands of workers collectively bargain for and win workplace improvements. Eager to better serve the labor movement, Ateş started law school in 2022. They currently serve on the board of Seattle University's Labor and Employment Law Association and clerk for a worker-side labor law firm. As a PBF Fellow, Ateş is excited to continue building towards an intersectional, worker-led global labor movement, which she believes is an integral step in creating a just and equitable future.



## **ALEXANDER SMITH JD'24**

University of Illinois College of Law,  
IL | United Mine Workers of America  
Triangle, VA

Alexander was born in Richmond, Virginia and raised in Austin, Texas. He received his undergraduate education at Texas A&M University, where he earned his B.S. in political science. Prior to law school, he worked as a tax examiner in the Wage & Investment Division at the Internal Revenue Service under NTEU Chapter 247. At the University of Illinois College of Law, Alexander participated in founding the Labor & Employment Law Society, and he currently sits on its executive board. Alexander is pursuing a J.D. with the goal of practicing union-side labor law, and he hopes to dedicate his career to defending the interests of working people and their families. He is eager to exercise this opportunity to serve the labor movement and advocate for democracy in the workplace.



## **COREY SHERMAN JD'24**

University of California College  
of the Law, San Francisco, CA  
| Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld  
Sacramento, CA

Corey is a rising third-year law student at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. From 2018 to 2021, he worked for SEIU and has organized with mental healthcare providers, adjunct professors, college staff, childcare providers, and digital journalists. Before working for SEIU, Corey was a rank-and-file member of the Washington, D.C. Teachers' Union. While pursuing his master's degree in Middle East Studies at Oxford University, Corey organized with Israeli and Palestinian trade unionists, art students, and human rights activists.



## **BRANDON SMITH JD'24**

Temple University James E.  
Beasley School of Law, PA | Federal  
Education Association (NEA)  
Washington, DC

Brandon grew up in Maplewood, NJ and graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in art history. While working to develop software for Taft-Hartley funds, he realized that unions are the best way to secure exceptional benefits and improve the lives of working people. From there, he moved onto the Philadelphia Museum of Art where he became involved in union organizing and successfully campaigned to secure a yes vote in their union election. The organizing experience gave him an interest in becoming a labor attorney so he could continue to fight for the rights of workers. Last summer, Brandon was a 2022 PBF Fellow at the National Federation of Federal Employees.



## MARIA SOLIS KENNEDY JD'24

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

Maria grew up in Boise, Idaho before moving to Maine to study English and Spanish literature at Bowdoin College. She has fought for workers' rights alongside immigrants and farmworkers both in Downeast Maine and through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' fair food campaign. She was introduced to legal advocacy as a fellow with the ACLU of Idaho. Maria first came to Boston to live and work at Haley House, a soup kitchen and intentional living community. She has also worked as a barista and a nanny. Maria is currently in her second year at Northeastern University School of Law, where she is a Public Interest Law Scholar. In law school, she has worked at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Fair Labor Division and represented a client seeking parole through Northeastern's Prisoners' Rights Clinic. Maria is excited to be a Peggy Browning Fellow and use her law degree for working people and collective liberation movements.



## MORGAN SPERRY JD'24

Harvard Law School, MA | Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Washington, DC

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Morgan grew interested in labor law because of her experience working in electoral politics throughout college and law school. Through her roles on Senator Warren's presidential primary campaign and Joe Biden's general election campaign, Morgan was part of successful campaign staff efforts to unionize with IBEW. Morgan believes that, today, organizers are better agents of change than lawyers are, and is committed to a legal career devoted to empowering workers and union organizers—particularly those who have historically been excluded from the labor movement. At law school, Morgan is active in the American Constitution Society, Harvard Parity Project, Harvard Journal of Law and Gender, Harvard Program on Law and Political Economy, and the graduate student union (HGSU-UAW). Morgan graduated summa cum laude from NYU, where she double majored in comparative literature and economics.



## SHAUN SPINNEY JD'24

Northeastern University School of Law, MA | UAW International Union Detroit, MI

Before law school Shaun worked as a community organizer and patient advocate with Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. There, he joined with healthcare workers across the organization in a successful unionization effort of the health centers and administrative departments. While always having passion for worker's rights, this personal experience sparked his labor law. Shaun earned his bachelor's degree at Carleton College in Minnesota where he studied International Relations and Political Economy. As part of his studies, he was awarded a fellowship to research the intersection between urban design policy and the informal economy in India, focused on street vending the city of Chandigarh. Shaun is excited for the opportunity to work within the labor movement and to be part of the struggle for a future of dignity for all.



## LAURA STATELER JD'25

Boston College Law School, MA | Greater Boston Legal Services Boston, MA

Laura was born and raised in Golden, Colorado. Her first exposure to the labor movement came after graduating from Boston College. After completing her undergraduate studies, Laura joined the Workers Defense Project, a worker center for construction workers in Austin, TX. Her interest in labor policy led her to the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think tank, where she was a researcher for three years. Her research focused on the temporary and permanent wage increases for frontline workers at Fortune 100 companies during the pandemic. Laura also represented Brookings' inaugural union during contract negotiations and served as a steward for the bargaining unit. Laura is a first-year law student at Boston College Law School.



**JENNIFER SWANSON  
JD'24**

University of Michigan Law School,  
MI | UAW International Union  
Detroit, MI

Jenn comes to labor law because of her personal experiences as a worker in both the service industry and education. Throughout high school and college, Jenn worked in the food service industry. After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, she worked as a first-grade teacher. Though Jenn found pride in her work, she was often frustrated by her working conditions. These experiences stimulated her interest in workers' rights. She has since come to see the law as a critical tool for preserving and expanding protections for service industry workers, teachers, and other laborers. She looks forward to a long career in worker-side labor law. Jenn received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and currently a second-year law student at the University of Michigan Law School.



**LEORA SWERDLOW  
JD'24**

University of California, Los Angeles  
School of Law, CA | Communciations  
Workers of America Washington, DC

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Leora graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in Politics. After college, she worked as a researcher for UFCW Local 770, where she learned what the power of an organized, fighting union means for essential grocery and drugstore workers across Southern California. In law school, Leora is a co-chair of her school's Labor and Employment Law Association and its Labor and Economic Justice Clinic. During her 1L summer, she interned with UNITE HERE Local 11 and she currently works at a local union-side labor law firm. Leora plans to work as a lawyer in the labor movement and is passionate about integrating organizing and legal tools to build working class power.



**DESTINY TAYLOR JD'24**

Northeastern University School of  
Law, MA | Justice at Work Boston,  
MA

Destiny is a first-generation American and Law student from Miami, Florida, where she graduated summa cum laude from Florida International University with a bachelor's in psychology and certificates in writing and law, ethics, and society. As the granddaughter of a union member, Destiny is passionate about combining psychology and justice for traditionally marginalized communities. She hopes to create a practice where non-citizens are provided with both the legal and psychological support they need. In law school, Destiny serves as the co-chair of the First-Generation Law Association and is an active member of the Latin American Law Student Association. She looks forward to combining immigrant rights with the labor movement and advancing the rights of individuals in her community.



**JAYME TOCCI JD'24**

University of Pittsburgh School of  
Law, PA | Women's Law Project,  
Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA

Jayme was born and raised in Washington, Pennsylvania, before receiving his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He has been working since he was fifteen, and his experiences inspired him to pursue a career in labor and employment law to help defend the rights and dignity of all workers. Jayme is currently a legal clerk for United Steelworkers, a research assistant for a professor, and the volunteering chair for OUTLaw, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's Queer Advocacy Group. He is also part of a teaching cohort that educates Pittsburgh high schoolers on Constitutional Literacy. As a Peggy Browning Fellow for the Women's Law Project, Jayme hopes to continue to serve his Pittsburgh community by defending women, people of color, and queer folks from discrimination.



## **ASJA TOWNS JD'25**

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, PA | Women's Law Project, Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA

A native Marylander, Asja Towns' interest in employment and labor issues was kindled by her work assisting immigrant crab workers on the Eastern shore with their employment and tax-related issues. Prior to law school, she worked as an intake paralegal, connecting low-income Marylanders to free civil legal services. Now a Toll Public Interest Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, Asja seeks to nurture her interest in advancing the rights of low-income Black and Brown communities through empathetic advocacy. As a Peggy Browning Fellow, Asja intends to continue the work in eliminating poverty as a barrier to justice by supporting the advocates at the Women's Law Project in creating more equitable workplaces.



## **CONNOR TRAPP JD'24**

Seattle University School of Law, WA | Teamsters Local 117 Tukwila, WA

While volunteering with an employment and housing non-profit in Los Angeles, Connor developed a community-focused lens by working with individuals at addiction rehabilitation centers to break cycles of poverty, addiction, homelessness, and incarceration. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the gross inequity that exemplified how marginalized workers' lives and health were openly sacrificed. Seeing firsthand the structural challenges clients faced in employment drove Connor to seek out a career serving on behalf of workers. Following his clerkship at SEIU 1199NW, Connor served as an Executive Board member for the Labor and Employment Association at Seattle University School of Law.



## **DALTON VALERIO JD'24**

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, CA | Cohen, Weiss & Simon New York, NY

A professional dancer, Dalton came to the labor scene because he never had a union. For ten years, Dalton worked gig to gig as an employee and independent contractor, domestically and internationally. There, he saw both the pitfalls of social safety nets and the gaps that union work can fill. In his legal career, Dalton seeks to expand union representation through sectoral bargaining while advocating for a more robust state-supported freelance culture, with an aim to impact the broader gig economy. Dalton comes from New Mexico, with Spanish, Irish, Choctaw, and Indigenous New Mexican roots. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in biology, he trained in contemporary dance in Berlin and Germany. He earned his Master's in Dance Performance in London, UK, and has lived in the Bay Area for six years, where he continues to pick up gigs when time permits.



## **BRENDA VALLADARES-BELLEZA JD'25**

City University of New York School of Law, NY | National Day Laborer Organizing Network Los Angeles, CA

Brenda is a formerly undocumented immigrant from Perú who started organizing alongside immigrant workers when she was sixteen. A worker in restaurants and warehouses, Brenda lived and witnessed the injustices immigrants faced at the hands of employers at the workplace and by ICE in her community. She was introduced to the immigrant and worker's rights movements during the 2006 "Un Dia Sin Inmigrantes" marches and strikes. Since then, Brenda has supported and coordinated national, state, and local campaigns empowering immigrants to lead their own struggle and pushing for the permanent protection of all undocumented immigrants in this country. After six years as an organizer and national coordinator with Movimiento Cosecha and moved by her experience supporting striking immigrant workers and victims of workplace raids, she decided to join CUNY School of Law to focus on the intersection of labor and immigration law.



## **JOHN HENRY VANSANT JD'25**

University of Virginia School of Law, VA | Leonard Carder LLP San Francisco, CA

John Henry grew up in rural Vermont and was inspired to pursue a career advocating for social and economic justice after overcoming early developmental challenges. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University with high honors, he worked as a legislative aide and campaign manager in Colorado and served as Internal Vice Chair of the Boulder County Democratic Party. Working in the legislature, he helped pass workplace protections for farmworkers and paid sick leave for all Coloradans. He is most proud of his work alongside fellow organizers to establish the Political Workers Guild of Colorado, one of the first minority unions to represent legislative and campaign staff in the country. As a JD/MPP (Master of Public Policy) candidate, he has interned with the NLRB and is involved with the National Lawyers Guild, the American Constitution Society, the Virginia Employment & Labor Law Association, and the United Campus Workers of Virginia.



## **BRIA WALLACE JD'24**

Southern University Law Center, LA | National Institute for Workers' Rights Concord, CA

Bria Wallace is a rising third-year law student at the Southern University Law Center from Brentwood, California. Bria received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. As a student at the Southern University Law Center, Bria is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Intellectual Property, Technology, and Law, a Parliamentarian for the Black Law Students Association, a member of Women in Law, and a member of the Criminal Law Society. Outside of law school, Bria is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and serves as a Law Clerk in higher education for the Louisiana Board of Regents. Bria is a dedicated public servant and is ecstatic to be selected as a 2023 Peggy Browning Fellow.



## **TIFFANY WANG JD'24**

Northeastern University School of Law, MA | Equal Justice Center Austin, TX

Tiffany is a third-generation Chinese Taiwanese American born and raised in Maryland. As a café worker, she organized to unionize her workplace, building solidarity with workers of all backgrounds. In the fall of 2022, Tiffany was a fall intern at Greater Boston Legal Service's Asian Outreach Center. There, she practiced a community lawyering model, working individually with Mandarin-speaking clients and conducting legal research on workers' rights and possibilities for deportation defense. Tiffany is a member of Northeastern's Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and has participated in the Immigrant Justice Clinic. She also co-facilitates the Chinatown Stabilization Committee, a volunteer organization for young Chinese Americans advocating to protect Boston's Chinatown. An abolitionist, Tiffany imagines a world beyond capitalism, exploitation, and borders.



## **TEDDY WATLER JD'25**

Yale Law School, CT | Make the Road NY Brooklyn, NY

Originally from Southern California, Teddy developed an interest in economic justice as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. After graduating, he served as a union delegate for the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) while dancing professionally with Oregon Ballet Theatre. He then served as an internal organizer for the National Union of Healthcare Workers before returning to AGMA as a business representative. In law school, Teddy is a member of the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. He also serves on the board of an immigration justice non-profit in Portland, OR. Teddy looks forward to working with Make the Road NY this summer.



## ZAN WENG JD'25

George Washington University Law School, DC | United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Washington, DC

Zan is a first-generation law student and the son of former textile workers. His commitment to worker's rights originated in the loading docks of an Amazon Warehouse, where—conversing with co-workers—he realized the extent of workplace abuse in a variety of sectors. After witnessing firsthand the management's almost comically overbearing tactics of censorship and snitching employed against the prospect of unionization, he ventured into labor law and applied to law school with the express purpose of pursuing worker-side labor law. He intends to eventually return to Texas to advocate for the workers of his home state. Zan is looking forward to learning about labor and gaining skills and experience to more effectively join the workplace justice fight.



## ALEXANDER WHISTLER JD'24

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, CA | Neyhart Anderson Flynn & Gosboll San Francisco, CA

Alexander grew up in Los Angeles, California and earned his bachelor's degree in English literature from Lewis and Clark College. His passion for workplace justice was forged while working in various retail and food service jobs after college. Witnessing the unpleasant and even degrading working conditions, he formed the belief that the only way to remedy the inherent power imbalance of the workplace is through collective action. In law school, Alexander is an active member of his school's Employment and Labor Law Student Association and has spent the last semester assisting low-income workers through the Workers' Rights Clinic at Legal Aid at Work. He is extremely excited to join the Peggy Browning community and spend his summer working for a firm that is dedicated to the labor movement.



## KASS WOLCOTT JD'25

University of Washington School of Law, WA | Drivers Union WA, Affiliated with Teamsters 117 Tukwila, WA

Before attending law school, Kass worked as a welder and machinist for seven years. Raised in West Virginia and California, Kass has lived in New York, Seattle, New Orleans, and rural Washington. Their community experience stems from grassroots mutual aid work, organizing services for incarcerated people, and creating solidarity networks with other LGBTQ people in the building trades. Kass is passionate about the needs of marginalized people in the trades, low-wage workers, incarcerated workers, and the intersections of the carceral state with the ongoing need for workplace justice. These experiences motivated Kass to pursue a law career that will allow them to bring knowledge of the legal system to their organizing communities.



## ALEC WOODARD JD'25

University of Minnesota Law School, MN | Fair Work Center & Working Washington Seattle, WA

Alec's first experience in the labor movement came from his role as an organizing committee member with UNITE HERE. His time here was spent unionizing service workers in the cafeterias of Google's main campus in Silicon Valley, fighting for worker's empowerment in the meal kit industry and as an organizer in a successful union campaign for food service workers at Ebay's headquarters in San Jose. At the University of Minnesota, he is the secretary of the Student Employment and Labor Law Association, where he also volunteers with the Asylum Law Project. Alec is eager to deepen his understanding of employment law litigation and its intersection with policy during his PBF fellowship this summer.



## XANDRA JIEPEI XIAO JD'24

University of California, Berkeley,  
School of Law, CA | Leonard Carder  
LLP San Francisco, CA

Xandra, who grew up in Hong Kong and China, was inspired to pursue a legal career in workers' rights, fighting the injustices many immigrants face in the workplace. A second-year law student, she is a student advocate at the La Alianza Workers' Rights Clinic and has clerked at the California Department of Justice Worker Rights and Fair Labor Section. She was a clinical student at the East Bay Community Law Center's Clean Slate Clinic, working at the intersection of employment rights and criminal record remedies, including advocating for dismissals and vacatur on behalf of nurses and caregivers. Before law school, Xandra was a legal assistant at a plaintiff-side employment law firm, working on gender, race, and disability discrimination lawsuits and wage-and-hour class actions. Xandra is excited to work at a union-side labor law firm this summer and continue fighting on behalf of working people.

## PBF'S VALUES

**Collective Action** Sustainable progress is best accomplished by people working together to achieve common goals.

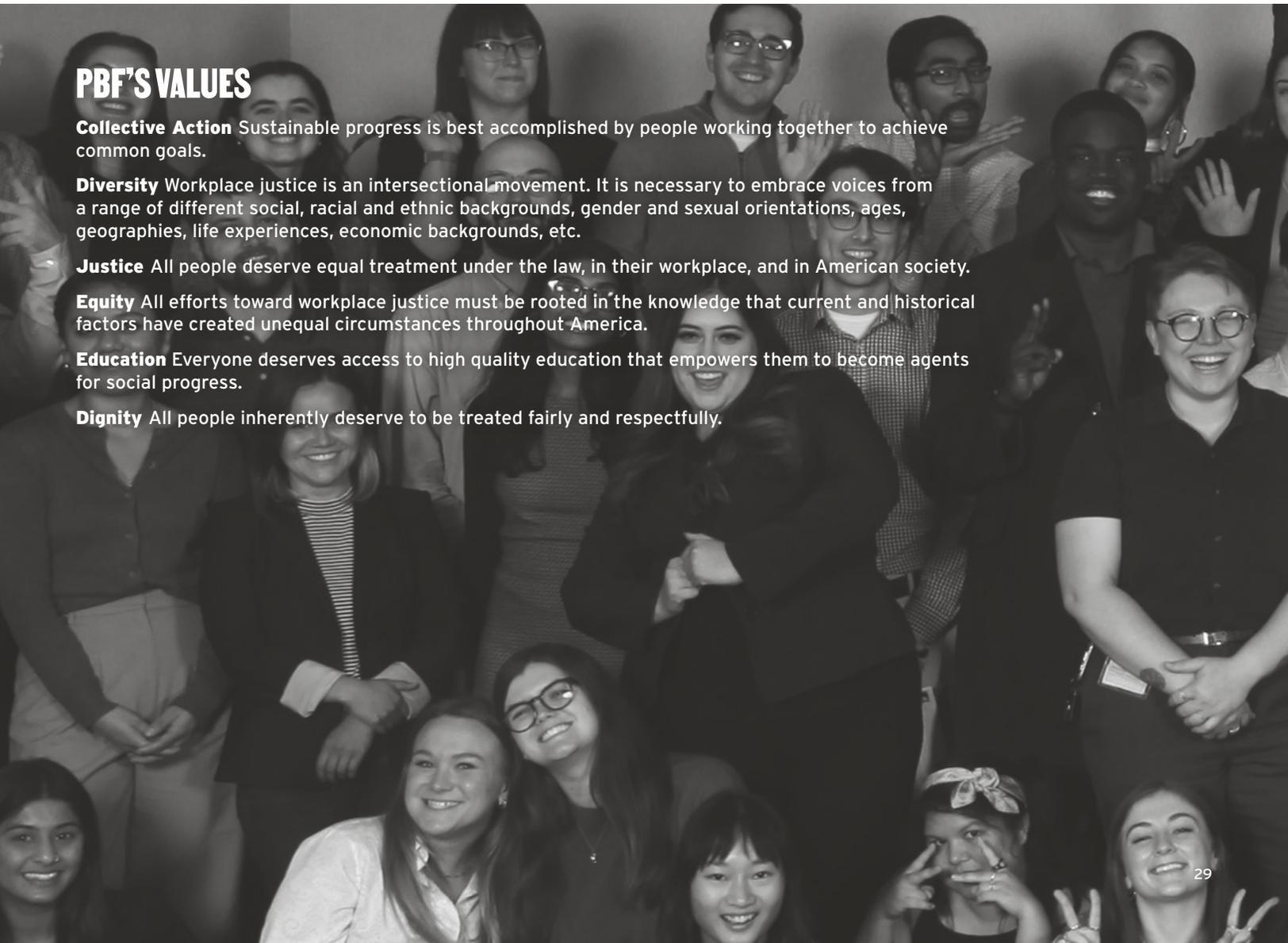
**Diversity** Workplace justice is an intersectional movement. It is necessary to embrace voices from a range of different social, racial and ethnic backgrounds, gender and sexual orientations, ages, geographies, life experiences, economic backgrounds, etc.

**Justice** All people deserve equal treatment under the law, in their workplace, and in American society.

**Equity** All efforts toward workplace justice must be rooted in the knowledge that current and historical factors have created unequal circumstances throughout America.

**Education** Everyone deserves access to high quality education that empowers them to become agents for social progress.

**Dignity** All people inherently deserve to be treated fairly and respectfully.



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Leadership Circle members make a significant financial investment in PBF on an annual basis. These contributions guarantee that PBF can deliver on its mission on a day-to-day basis and provide for its long-term sustainability. We have built an incredible foundation over the past 25 years and strive to continue that success in the next 25 years and beyond. Join the organizations and individuals who make this possible through their Leadership Circle membership.

**For more information, contact [Info@PeggyBrowningFund.org](mailto:Info@PeggyBrowningFund.org)**

# 2023

## OCTOBER 13 - 14 NATIONAL LAW STUDENTS WORKERS' RIGHTS CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION CENTER  
1101 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

HELD ANNUALLY, THE NLSWRC PROVIDES RECENT FELLOWS AND PROGRESSIVE LAW STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL INSIGHT INTO BECOMING AN ADVOCATE FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES. THE TWO-DAY EVENT HOSTS MULTIPLE SUBSTANTIVE WORKSHOPS, NETWORKING BREAKOUT OPPORTUNITIES, PLENARY SESSIONS, AND A KEYNOTE ADDRESS.



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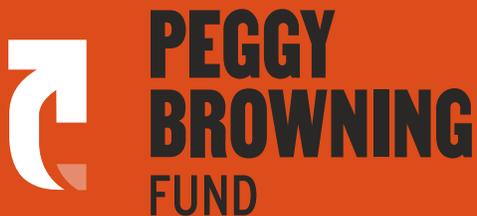
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