

FALL SPOTLIGHT

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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CENTER FOR ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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THE CENTER FOR ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

For three decades, the Center for Ethics and Public Service (CEPS) has been dedicated to advancing the vital connection between legal practice, public policy, and moral leadership. Since its founding, CEPS has fostered a learning community where future attorneys and policymakers confront complex ethical challenges—encouraging them to think critically, act responsibly, and lead with integrity.

Throughout its evolution, CEPS has:

- Fostered dialogues among students, practitioners, and scholars through signature programs such as the Legal Profession Program roundtable discussions and countless leadership events.
- Empowered future leaders by providing hands-on experiences in public interest law, ethics education, and civic engagement.
- Defined ethical discourse within the legal academy, advancing thoughtful scholarship and promoting justice-driven public service across disciplines.

As CEPS marks its 30th year, it reaffirms its legacy of nurturing principled leaders and shaping a more equitable and conscientious society—ready to confront tomorrow’s legal and ethical frontiers with wisdom and courage.

WELCOME, EMILY!

CEPS WELCOMES NEW PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE, EMILY BALTER

In August 2025, CEPS appointed Emily Balter as the Fredman Family Foundation Practitioner-in-Residence and Lecturer. The Miami native earned a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a minor in Ecosystem Science and Policy, as well as a Juris Doctor from the University of Miami. Since admission to the Florida Bar, Emily has specialized in land use, zoning, and environmental law throughout Miami-Dade County. She has provided expert guidance to developers, institutions, and landowners on local, state, and federal regulations and permitting. Emily has been recognized as Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America for 2024 and 2025, highlighting her outstanding professional excellence. Additionally, she has earned the distinction of being named a Florida Super Lawyers “Rising Star®,” further underscoring her rising prominence in the legal field.



Prior to private practice, Emily gained valuable experience in several influential roles. She served as a Summer Public Interest Fellow at the City of Miami Beach City Attorney’s Office, where she developed a deep understanding of the intersection of local government law and environmental issues. Additionally, Emily had the opportunity to intern with the Honorable Adalberto Jordan at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, refining her writing and analytical abilities. Emily also worked closely with Professor Anthony Alfieri as a research assistant and served as the Catsman Fellow with CEPS.

Emily is an active member of the Florida Bar and was appointed to the Professional Ethics Committee. As a committed leader in the legal community, Emily also serves on the Board of Directors of the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA). She has received several honors in recognition of her contributions to the organization, including the 2019 Outstanding Committee Member, the 2020 Young Lawyer Member of the Year, the 2021 Outstanding Member Award, and the 2024 Committee Co-Chair of the Year.

Emily is thrilled to return to the “U” and work alongside her mentors and in her community. Emily’s goal is to become an integrated resource for the students and community partners. In the upcoming weeks, she will be diving into and continuing the work of the Black Church Program and Community Equity Lab.

BROWN UNIVERSITY INTERNS

SUMMER OF IMPACT

This summer, CEPS had the privilege of hosting a team of dedicated undergraduate interns from Brown University, whose impact was deeply felt across both our educational and civic engagement initiatives.

As part of our Freedom School programming, the interns led lessons across three thematic tracks:

- **Arts & Expression:** Encouraged creative storytelling, visual arts, and self-expression as tools for empowerment and healing.
- **Inventors & Innovators:** Introduced students to trailblazing figures in science, tech, and entrepreneurship, sparking curiosity and invention.
- **Pan-Africanism & Global Solidarity:** Explored shared struggles and movements across the African diaspora, fostering global awareness and cultural pride.

The interns also played a pivotal role in the Good Government Project, a civic initiative aimed at strengthening government transparency and empowering residents with the tools to make informed voting decisions through accountability, candidate education, and voter resources.

We are incredibly grateful for the leadership, creativity, and passion these young changemakers brought to CEPS this summer. Their work has strengthened our programs and deepened our impact in the Coconut Grove Village West community.



MEET THE FELLOWS



JOSEPH GOLDEN
THE HAGGARD LAW FIRM FELLOW, 2L

Joe Golden is a second-year J.D./LL.M. (Entertainment, Art, and Sports Law) candidate from Woodbridge, New Jersey. He is a graduate from the University of Notre Dame, where he studied Biological Sciences and Film, Television, and Theatre. He was drawn to law school because of his love for public service, and is excited to work with the CEPS team again this year! When not locked in the law library, Joe loves to watch movies and attend live theatre.

PARIS FOY
LEE FAMILY FELLOW, 2L

Paris Foy is a second-year law student from Atlanta, Georgia, and a summa cum laude graduate of Howard University. This past summer, she worked with Greenberg Traurig's Labor and Employment team, gaining experience in both litigation and transactional matters. She enjoys traveling, trying new foods, and serving her community, and plans to return to Atlanta after graduation to continue her legal career.



JULIANA GORINA
PETER PALERMO FELLOW, 2L

Juliana Gorina graduated magna cum laude and with Phi Beta Kappa honors from the Florida International University Honors College, earning a B.S. in Environmental Studies—Natural Resource Science. As a 1L at Miami Law, Juliana served as a Representative for the Environmental Law Society and interned with the CEPS Community Equity Lab. As a 2L, Juliana will serve as Vice President of Miami Law Women, Secretary and Treasurer of the Environmental Law Society, Junior Staff Editor for the Race and Social Justice Law Review, and intern with the Environmental Justice Clinic. She is excited to return to CEPS as a Palermo Fellow, continuing her commitment to serving the Miami community.



MINAH MALIK

CATSMAN FELLOW, 3L

Minah Malik (Class of 2026) is from NYC and graduated from George Washington University in 2018 with a B.A. in Political Science. Since coming to law school, Minah has focused on public interest work both as an intern with the Center of Ethics and Public Service and as a Summer Public Interest Fellow at the Miami-Dade Public Defender. She is excited to continue her involvement with CEPS as a fellow this year.



KYLE SPOHN

HUNTON FELLOW, 3L

Kyle Spohn (he/him) is a 3L. He graduated cum laude from the University of Florida in May 2023 with a B.S. in Business Management and a minor in Communications Studies and Spanish. Kyle serves as a fellow with UM's Environmental Justice Clinic, assisting with litigation on behalf of the Coconut Grove Village West residents in the Old Smokey Case. He is also an Articles & Comments Editor for the Inter-American Law Review. During his 1L summer, Kyle served as a HOPE Fellow, working on a variety of local projects related to environmental justice in Miami. Last summer, he worked for a boutique land use, zoning, and environmental law firm in Miami. Kyle is excited to continue fighting for community justice as a returning Hunton Fellow with the Center for Ethics and Public Service.



SARA HOWARD

HOEVELER FELLOW, 2L

Sara Howard is a 2L law student from Rockland County, NY. She graduated from the University of Miami in 2024 with a B.A. in Political Science and an M.A. in International Administration. In her free time, Sara likes spending time with friends and family and being out on the golf course.



RACHEL RODRIGUEZ

HUNTON FELLOW, 2L

Rachel Rodriguez is a Hunton Fellow with the Community Equity Lab. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, she obtained her bachelor's degree in digital journalism from Florida International University and is currently a 2L student at Miami Law.



CECILIA ROMANINI

TOLEDO NETTO

CHAYKIN FELLOW, 2L

Cecilia Romanini Toledo Netto, a 2L, looks forward to returning to CEPS while resuming her law studies after spending the summer as a law clerk at an insurance law firm. She describes CEPS as an amazing opportunity and is eager to continue learning and growing in the year ahead.



ELIZA KIRK

PETER PALERMO FELLOW, 2L

Eliza Kirk is a second-year law student. She graduated from Pitzer College with a B.A. in Sustainability and the Built Environment in 2023. Eliza is honored to work as a Palermo Fellow with the Community Equity Lab for the upcoming 2025-26 school year, and as an intern with the Environmental Justice Clinic on its environmental and community justice campaign in Overtown. Eliza hopes to pursue a career in community-centered development, advocacy, and sustainable design after law school.



LAURA BEA

LEE FAMILY FELLOW, 2L

Laura Bea is a 2L from Weston, FL. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Miami in 2024, with a B.A. in Political Science and History, and minors in English and Journalism. Before law school, Laura worked at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Department of State. Laura is a Lee Fellow with the Legal Profession Program with CEPS. She is also a 2025 Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar, a Junior Staff Editor on the Race and Social Justice Law Review, a member of the Yvette Ostolaza Trial Team, and a Dean's Fellow for LComm. In her free time, Laura enjoys running, playing pickleball, and spending time with her family. A fun fact about Laura is that she is a triplet!



ANGELA POPE

CATSMAN FELLOW, 3L

Angela graduated from the University of British Columbia with a double major in History and Gender, Race, Sexuality, & Social Justice Studies. She has gained broad experience in litigation and advocacy, including internships with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and with CEPS, where her work focuses on anti-poverty law and civil rights advocacy. Now a 3L and returning CEPS fellow, Angela is excited to continue working with the Community Equity Lab and the Black Church Programs this semester to promote racial justice and address systemic inequities.



EMMA RICE

HOVELER FELLOW, 3L

Emma graduated cum laude from the University of Florida in 2022 with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S. in Business Marketing. Prior to law school, she worked as a legal assistant for the Office of the Broward Public Defender in both the Juvenile and Major Crimes Divisions. At Miami Law, Emma serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Race & Social Justice Law Review, a legal intern in the Children and Youth Clinic, vice chair of LAFAC, and a research assistant for Professor Perlmutter and Professor Mahoney. During her 1L summer, Emma returned to serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Broward Public Defender. During her 2L summer, Emma served as a HOPE Fellow with the Department of Children and Families. As a 3L, Emma is excited to finish her final year having participated with CEPS for all three years of law school, a program that has been a cornerstone of her law school journey.



MEET THE INTERNS

ALEAH DE SANTO INTERN, 2L

Aleah was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, and earned her degree in Criminal Justice from Edinboro University. This summer she interned with the Erie County District Attorney's Office as a HOPE Fellow. As a 1L, Aleah interned with the Community Equity Lab at CEPS and is continuing in that role during her 2L year. Outside of the law school, she enjoys tea, the smell of eucalyptus, and spicy foods.



MICHAELA MOSS INTERN, UNDERGRADUATE

Michaela is an undergraduate student majoring in Economics and Geography & Sustainable Development on the pre-law track. She is passionate about urban development, law, and real estate, with a strong focus on equity and sustainability. Her goal is to use law and finance to create cities that are both environmentally and socially sustainable. She is excited about her internship with the Center for Ethics and Public Service, where she is gaining experience in analyzing policies and developing actionable solutions.

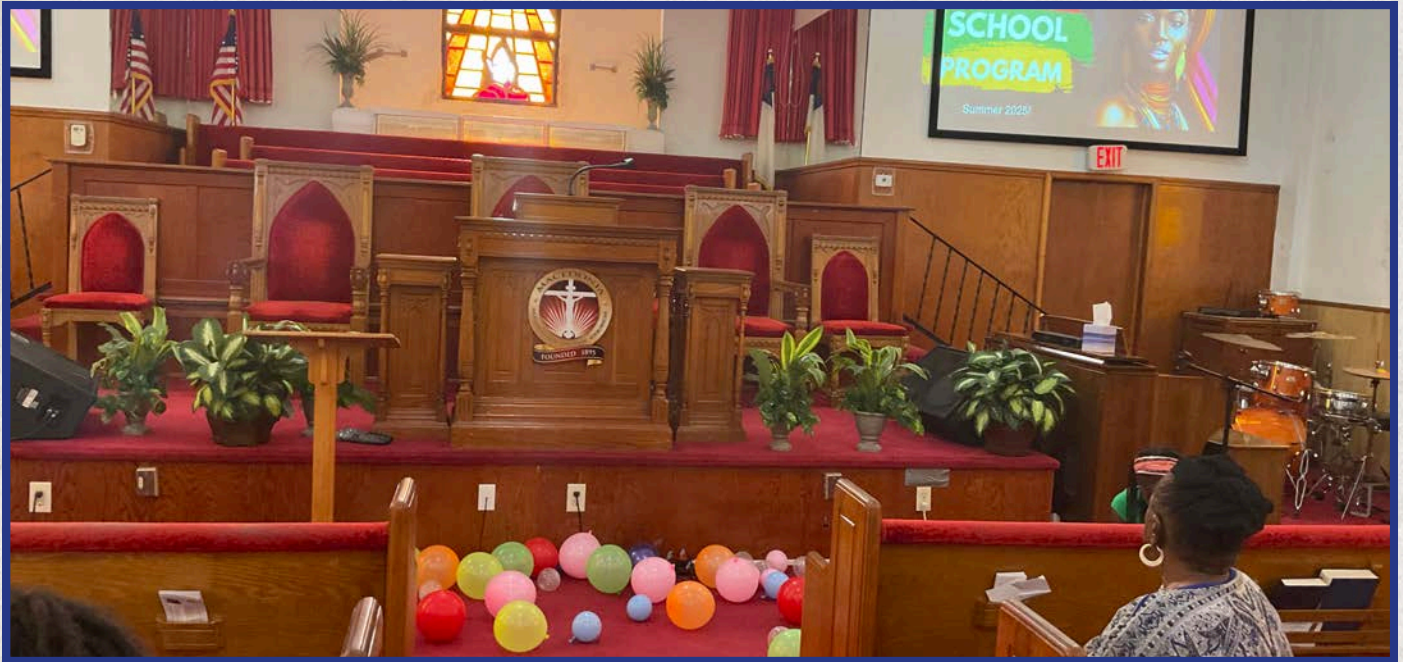


ROSE MANSA AZZU INTERN, UNDERGRADUATE

Rose Azzu was born and raised in The Bronx, New York. She is currently majoring in Criminology with a minor in Gender & Sexuality Studies at the University of Miami. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis, reading, and going on walks. Rose serves as the Environmental Justice Chair for the NAACP chapter at UMiami, where she has been especially interested in exploring the intersections between the criminal justice system and environmental racism.



FREEDOM SCHOOL 2025



Freedom School 2025: Empowering Young Minds in Coconut Grove Village West

This July, the Center for Ethics and Public Service (CEPS) in partnership with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, wrapped up another inspiring and impactful season of its Freedom School summer program.

For six weeks, the program became a vibrant hub of learning, creativity, and empowerment—helping young people in Coconut Grove Village West grow not only academically, but also culturally and civically. At the heart of this initiative was CEPS, which played a vital role in shaping and delivering the program's Black history and social justice curriculum. By weaving together rigorous academics with lessons rooted in culture, identity, and justice, the partnership between CEPS and Macedonia has built a unique learning space where students thrive.

The curriculum integrated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) with enrichment activities to give students a truly holistic educational experience, building confidence, critical thinking, and a deep awareness of history.

Perhaps most importantly, students are leaving the program with a renewed sense of purpose and pride, ready to carry forward the knowledge, skills, and leadership they've gained into their schools, families, and communities. The Freedom School continues to prove that when education is paired with cultural affirmation and community strength, the results are nothing short of powerful.



30 YEARS OF CEPS



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UPCOMING EVENTS



The Legal Profession Program is excited to bring you the following events this semester:

- *LPP 1L Welcome to the Legal Profession
September 16th, 12:15 - 1:15 pm (E352)*
- *Roundtable Discussion:
September 17th, 6:30 - 7:30 pm (FMR)*
- *Lunch & Learn:
September 30th, 12:15 - 1:15 pm (F108)*
- *Hoeveler Award Ceremony:
October 15th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Serota Room)*
- *Lunch & Learn:
October 28th, 12:15 - 1:15pm (F200)*
- *Roundtable Discussion:
November 11th, 6:00 - 7:30pm (FMR)*



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

CENTER for ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

Mission

Founded in 1996, the Center for Ethics and Public Service is a law school-housed ethics education, experiential skills training, and community engagement program devoted to the values of ethical judgment, professional responsibility, and public service in law and society. The Center's mission is to educate law students to serve their communities as citizen lawyers.

Programs

CEPS operates three programs: the Black Church Program, the Community Equity Lab, and the Legal Profession Program. Program faculty, staff, and students collaborate with the Florida bar and bench; anti-poverty, civil rights, environmental, and public health organizations; civic and faith-based groups, nonprofit corporations, and neighborhood associations; and schools and colleges across the University of Miami.

Community Impact

Since 1996, CEPS faculty and staff have trained more than 1,432 graduate and undergraduate fellows and interns, and collaborated with more than 51,000 civic leaders in ethics and professionalism programs as well as anti-poverty, civil rights, environmental justice, and public health campaigns. CEPS faculty also have been widely cited in law journals and in the media.

FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Professor Anthony V. Alfieri

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

Dr. Kesha Merritt

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Anaïse Boucher-Browning

FREDMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION PRACTITIONER-IN-RESIDENCE

Emily Balter

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Internship and donor opportunities
are available.

