

SPRING SPOTLIGHT



February 2025

The latest news and updates from the Center for Ethics & Public Service



Established in 1996, the Center for Ethics and Public Service (CEPS) is committed to fostering ethical judgment, professional responsibility, and public service within legal education. Through programs like the Black Church Program, Community Equity Lab, and Legal Profession Program, CEPS educates law students on the significance of being citizen lawyers who serve their communities. Collaborating with faith-based organizations, non-profits and legal services, CEPS has played a vital role in advancing numerous public service campaigns and initiatives.



Meet the CEPS Fellows

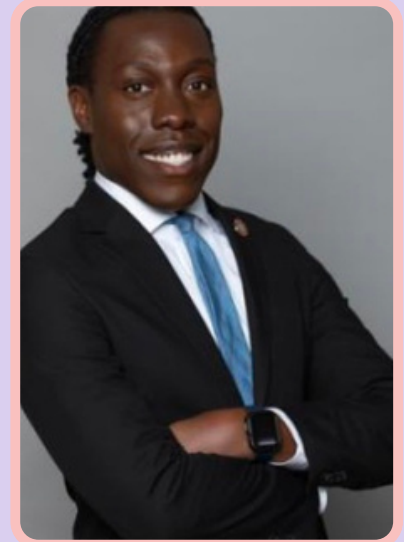


***Taimaisú Ferrer Sin, Peter Palermo Fellow
Legal Profession Program, 3L***

Taimaisu received her Bachelor of Architecture with a minor in Education from Cornell University in 2022. She is a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholar and an NAACP LDF Earl Warren Scholar. Taimaisú has worked with CEPS since her first year of law school, participating as an intern and then as a Peter Palermo Fellow in the Housing and Community Equity Development Project within the Community Equity Lab. She is thrilled to continue to work with CEPS in the Legal Profession Program.

***Omarley Spence, William M. Hoeveler Fellow
Legal Profession Program, 3L***

Omarley is from Lauderhill, FL. They graduated from the University of Florida in 2019 with a B.A. in Economics and an M.S.M in Management. Before law school, Omarley worked as an Associate at Fisher Investments. They are currently the William M. Hoeveler Fellow for the Center for Ethics and Public Service, a member of the Black Law Student Association, a council member on the UM Law Student Honor Council, a member of the OutLaw Student Association, a member of the University of Miami School of Law Trial Team, a 2023 Kozyak Minority Mentorship Fellow, and the former Treasurer of the Caribbean Law Student Association. This past summer, Omarley worked as an associate at Venable LLP's Miami Office and will return there as an associate after graduation.



***Minah Malik, David Catsman Fellow
Legal Profession Program, 2L***

Minah 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 CEPS and as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. She is excited to continue her involvement with the Legal Profession Program with CEPS as a fellow this year.





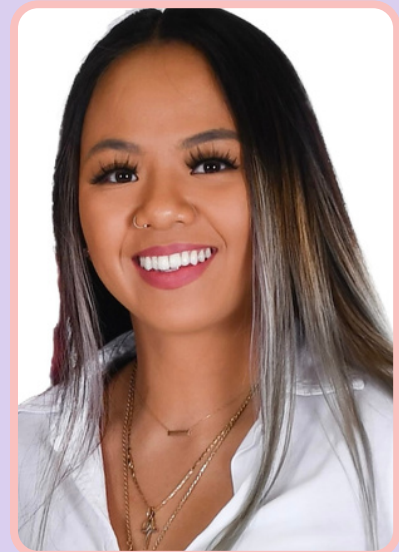
**Valerie Caso-Veras, Peter Palermo Fellow
Community Equity Lab, 3L**

Valerie is originally from Miami, Florida. She graduated from Florida International University with a B.A. in Psychology and a concentration in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, where she assisted in researching Florida death penalty cases for the Balanced Justice Project and advocated for immigrant detention divestment with the Florida Immigrant Coalition. In addition to being an active member of the Yvette Ostolaza Mock Trial Team and OUTLaw, Valerie is a Clinical Fellow with Miami Law's Innocence Clinic, passionate about bringing justice to all of those suffering from an imbalanced system.



**Angela Nguyen Pope, David Catsman Fellow
Community Equity Lab, 2L**

Angela graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2020 with a double major in History and Gender, Race, Sexuality, & Social Justice Studies. This summer she interned with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office, where she gained valuable experience in criminal defense advocacy. As a 1L, Angela was a Housing & Community Project Intern and worked alongside CEPS to establish the development and legal foundation for HUD Enforcement Action in Coconut Grove Village West. Currently, the coursework focuses on litigation, including post-conviction appeals, evidence, and trial work. As a 2L, Angela is excited to return to UM as a member of the International Criminal Court IMCP Team and continue her work with CEPS as a fellow.



**Emma Page, Steven E. Chaykin Fellow
Community Equity Lab, 3L**

Emma is a third-year law student with a concentration in Health Law. Originally from Dayton, Ohio, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Public Health from the University of Kentucky, with minors in Biology, Spanish, and Health Communication. During her 1L summer, Emma worked for Legal Services of Greater Miami in the Health and Income Maintenance Unit. During her 2L summer, she worked as a Law Clerk at Zumpano Patricios, focusing on healthcare-related litigation and arbitration. Currently, she is an Articles and Comments Editor for the Race and Social Justice Law Review and a Fellow for the Environmental Justice Clinic. Emma is excited to continue working with the Health Equity team to foster healthy communities in Miami.





**Niara Williams, Hunton Andrews Kurth Fellow
Community Equity Lab, 3L**

Niara is a third-year law student from Perrysburg, Ohio. Prior to coming to law school, she obtained her Master's in Public Health from the University of Miami and worked as a research analyst in health communications research. Outside of her master's coursework, she participated in several policy and research initiatives related to maternal health and health equity. She is currently a member of the Health Law Association, If/When/How and the Black Law Student Association. She is pursuing the Health Law concentration and hopes to specialize in transactional health care work after graduation.



**Kyle Spohn, Hunton Andrews Kurth Fellow
Community Equity Lab, 2L**

Kyle 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. He is a member of Miami Law's Environmental Law Society and the First-Generation Law Association. During his 1L summer, Kyle served as a HOPE Public Interest Fellow with the P.E.E.R. Group, working on a variety of local projects and litigation related to environmental justice in Miami. As a 2L, Kyle will continue to pursue his passion for public interest and the environment as a legal intern with Miami Law's Environmental Justice Clinic. Kyle is excited to continue his work within the community as a CEPS Fellow this year.



**Emma Rice, William M. Hoeveler Fellow
Community Equity Lab, 2L**

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. During her 1L summer, Emma returned to the Broward Public Defenders serving as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow. Currently at Miami Law, Emma is a Junior Staff Editor for the Race & Social Justice Law Review and is interning with International Justice Mission, an anti-human trafficking nonprofit. Emma is excited to continue working with the Community Equity Lab with CEPS to address systemic challenges in our local community.





Meet the Interns



Paris Foy, Legal Profession Program, 1L

Paris, originally from Atlanta, GA, is a first-year law student at the University of Miami School of Law. She graduated from Howard University in 2024 with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Communications and a minor in Criminology. Prior to coming to law school, Paris gained her project management and legal research skills as a Student Assistant at the Association of American Law Schools and as a Law Clerk at Greenberg Traurig. She is an active member of the Black Law Students Association and is deeply committed to fostering diversity within the legal profession.



Sara Howard, Legal Profession Program, 1L

Sara is a 1L at the University of Miami School of Law 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.



Laura Bea, Legal Profession Program, 1L

Laura is a 1L 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 currently an intern with the Legal Profession Program at CEPS. She is also a 2024 Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar, a member of the First Generation Law Association, Hispanic Law Student Association, and Federal Bar Association. Additionally, Laura serves as a Student Ambassador, participates in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity mentorship program, and takes part in the Kozyak Minority Mentorship program.





Avery Hall, Legal Profession Program, 1L

Avery is a first-year law student at the University of Miami School of Law where she is a HOPE Scholar, the 1L Representative for the First-Generation Law Association, and a Student Ambassador with the Office of Admissions. Prior to law school, she graduated from Kent State University in 2023 with a B.A. in Global Communication Studies. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with CEPS as a Legal Profession Program intern this semester!



Ava Meadows, Black Church Program, 1L

Ava is a proud Florida native from Jacksonville. Ava previously studied at the University of Florida where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communication. Ava's commitment to serving her community is evident through her prior experience with the Florida 4th Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office and her internship with the Center for Ethics and Public Service's Black Church Program. Passionate about addressing critical community issues, Ava is excited to deepen her connection to Miami and make a meaningful impact through her involvement with CEPS.



Jack Harvie, Black Church Program, 1L

Jack is a 1L student at the University of Miami School of Law. Originally from Lethbridge, Alberta, Jack earned his degree in Business Management from the University of British Columbia Okanagan before committing to Miami Law's JD/L.L.M. in Entertainment, Art, and Sports Law. His past experience includes mentoring high-school kids as a Youth Leader at a church in Kelowna, British Columbia, as well as serving the unhoused community of Kelowna. Jack is excited to work in the Black Church Program and develop roots in the Miami community.





Andrew Langer, Black Church Program, 1L

Andrew is a Miami native and a 1L student at the University of Miami School of Law. Before this, he received his Bachelors in Anthropology with a concentration in Medical Anthropology as well as a Master of Public Health from the University of Florida. During his undergraduate studies, Andrew conducted research on how different illnesses affect different demographics and wrote a literature review of possible solutions to the dengue epidemic in Nicaragua. While completing his master's, Andrew was involved in community-based participatory research projects and conducted a health policy analysis on the failures of Florida Medicaid's oral health benefits. He is interested in healthcare litigation and health policy work and hopes to one day be able to give back to his community.



Alex Williams, Black Church Program, 1L

Alex hails from New York City, and graduated from Skidmore College with a major in Management and Business. He previously worked for New York Governor David Paterson and spent seven years as a teacher in New York. Alex is a 1L law student. He is deeply interested in equity issues, and pursuing his goal of becoming an attorney.



Michaela Moss, Black Church Program, UM Undergraduate

Michaela is a second-year 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.



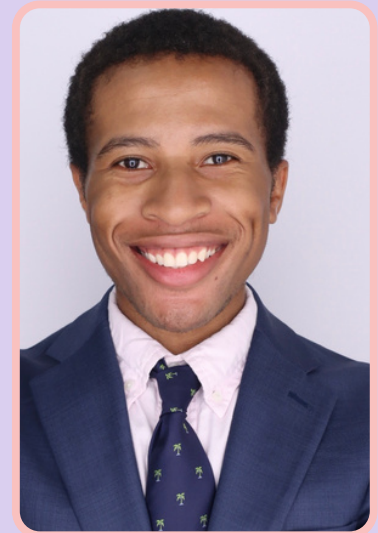


Brooke Miller, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Brooke is a 1L and is excited to be a CEPS intern this semester. She grew up in Miami and attended Colorado College for undergraduate studies, where she earned a degree in political science. During the two years between college and law school, Brooke worked at the courthouse in Aspen, Colorado, where she managed the county's criminal docket.

Cradler Volmar, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Cradler attended George Washington University prior to Miami Law, majoring in Political Science and Business Administration with a minor in Psychology. He hopes to leverage his legal education in real estate law and looks forward to ample pro bono hours throughout his career. Cradler values community and connections and looks forward to the work in store during his time with CEPS!



Rachel Rodriguez, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Rachel is excited to join the Center for Ethics and Public Service as a Community Equity Lab intern. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, she obtained her bachelor's degree in digital journalism from Florida International University.





Juliana Gorina, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Juliana attended Florida International University in the Honors College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies. During her undergraduate studies, she developed a passion in environmental law and policy and decided to attend law school to explore these interests. Through the CEPS Community Equity Lab, she is committing to exploring the overlaps between housing, health, and environmental justice, and make a difference in the communities most affected by environmental inequities.



Aleah DeSanto, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Aleah was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, where she attended Edinboro University and majored in Criminal Justice. Before starting at Miami Law, she worked in a juvenile detention center which cemented her fervor to pursue a career as an attorney.



Andres Garofalo, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Andres originally from Miami, graduated cum laude from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Psychology. Andres has had experience working at a small immigration law firm last summer and interning with Senator Marco Rubio. Currently pursuing a career as a litigator, Andres is excited to contribute to positive change and impact his community through his work with the Community Equity Lab.





Cecilia Romanini Toledo Netto, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Cecilia is a 1L from Brazil. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University, where she studied Criminology with a minor in Italian. She is currently the vice president of the Brazilian Student Law Organization, a member of Miami Law Women and a student ambassador.



Joe Golden, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Joe is a first-year law student from Woodbridge, New Jersey. In May, he graduated 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 arts advocacy.



Eliza Smith Kirk, Community Equity Lab, 1L

Eliza is a first-year law student at the University of Miami. She graduated from Pitzer College with a B.A. in Sustainability and the Built Environment with a minor in World Literature in 2023. Prior to attending law school, she worked as an Environmental Program Coordinator with the Bronx is Blooming. Eliza has also interned with the New York Public Interest Research Group on its lobbying campaign for the Climate Change Superfund Act, and as a research fellow with the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice on its campaign to decriminalize and legalize street vending in San Bernardino, CA.





Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn:
Communications and media
Discussion with Local Journalists
February 12th, 12:30- 1:30 pm

Roundtable:
The Executive Perspective:
Conversations on Leadership
February 13th, 6-7:30 pm

Roundtable:
Black Ceiling: Conversations on the Practice of Law as
an Attorney of Color in the Private Sector
February 19th, 6-7:30 pm

Lunch & Learn:
Discussion with Commissioner
Eileen Higgins
February 26th, 12:30- 1:30 pm

Spring Awards Reception
and Klein Chair
March 5th, 6-8 pm

Roundtable:
Law Firm Management
April 1st, 6-7:30 pm



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
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CENTER for ETHICS
& PUBLIC SERVICE



Honoring Professor Patricia Redmond

22nd Annual William M. Hoeveler Award Recipient



This past fall, the Center of Ethics and Public Service honored Professor Patricia Redmond B.A. '75, J.D. '79 with the 22nd Annual William M. Hoeveler Ethics Public Service Award. The Hoeveler Award was established in honor of the late Honorable William M. Hoeveler, a senior U.S. District Court judge and the award's inaugural recipient, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 95. Professor Redmond's dedication to the principles of justice and ethical integrity through her bankruptcy practice and pro bono clinic exemplify the values that this award seeks to recognize.

The ceremony was held on November 19th, 2024 with Professor Redmond's friends, family, and peers from the bar and bench – as well as current and former students- all in attendance. Additionally, key members of the Hoeveler family were also in attendance to celebrate. The evening consisted of a question-and-answer session moderated by the two William M. Hoeveler Fellows, Omarley Spence and Emma Rice, followed by a thoughtful and heart-felt speech from the awardee.

“Patricia Redmond is the epitome of professionalism and public service in the legal profession, embodying the moral character, intellectual elegance, and collegial generosity of Judge William Hoeveler and the best of the Florida bar and bench,” said Professor Anthony V. Alfieri, director of the Center. “Moreover, she is a gifted and dedicated teacher, a highly skilled and widely respected advocate, and a mentor to generations of bankruptcy lawyers and law students. We are thrilled to honor Patricia Redmond with the 2024 William M. Hoeveler Award.”





Legal Malpractice Law Seminar: Roundtable Dinner Discussion

The Legal Malpractice Law Seminar: Roundtable Dinner Discussion brought together students and an esteemed selection of experienced attorneys for a thought-provoking conversation and invaluable insights on Legal Malpractice Law. The informal setting fostered meaningful engagement, allowing students to ask questions and explore the practical realities of prosecuting and defending legal malpractice cases. This roundtable took place on November 11, 2024 and reinforced the importance of learning directly from experienced practitioners and demonstrated the value of fostering connections between students and the legal community.

The discussion covered a range of topics, including negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, defenses, and remedies for legal malpractice. Panelists shared personal anecdotes and professional tips, giving attendees a nuanced understanding of malpractice law and practical strategies for avoiding common pitfalls.

Students especially appreciated the event's conversational format, which encouraged direct interaction with the attorneys and facilitated a deeper exploration of topics in the field. The evening concluded with students expressing gratitude for the attorneys' wisdom and candor. They left the event inspired, with enhanced knowledge and a greater appreciation for the complexities of legal malpractice.

During the meeting, a notable lineup of attorneys was in attendance, including Guy David Robinson, Debbie Corbishley, Elizabeth Brooks Honkonen, "Rob" Michael Klein, Robert A. Stok, Brett Kalikow, Gabrielle "Gabby" Thomas, and Benjamin Reiss. Each of these legal professionals brought a unique perspective and expertise to the table, contributing to the discussions and providing valuable insights.

Collaborative Voting Rights Panel with H.O.P.E. September 23, 2024

Democracy in Action: A National and Local Perspective on Voting Rights

MONDAY, SEPT 23RD AT 12:30 | ROOM F109

Learn from experienced voting rights attorneys about both the national and local landscape around voting rights.



Aimee Ferrer, Esq.

Aimee is a Partner at Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen, a trial law firm. She serves as the Board Chair of Engage Miami, a local youth civic engagement organization whose mission is to empower young people to be more involved in local politics and social justice issues.

Nicholas Warren, Esq.

Nick is a staff attorney at the ACLU of Florida. He is an expert on redistricting and recently secured a settlement for plaintiffs in GRACE, Inc. v. City of Miami, which challenged the Miami City Commission's maps for unconstitutionally dividing neighborhoods along racial lines and undermining fair representation.



Carrie McNamara, Esq.

Carrie is a staff attorney at the ACLU of Florida. She recently helped secure a summary judgment ruling in favor of voting and immigrants' rights advocates challenging Florida SB 7050, which bars any noncitizen—regardless of lawful residence status—from working or volunteering for third-party voter registration organizations who register eligible Floridians.

Heather Szilagy, Esq.

Heather serves as Associate Counsel on the Voting Rights Project with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Her work focuses on advancing racial justice through voting rights litigation and election protection efforts.



Ryan Snow, Esq.

Ryan serves as Counsel with the Voting Rights Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. His work focuses on litigation and advocacy defending and advancing the fundamental right to vote.



RSVP Here
Pizza will be served



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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW
CEPS Center for Ethics and Public Service



Community Equity Lab

HUD Complaint Update

The Community Equity Lab continues its work to formulate long-term fair housing solutions that preserve and restore increasingly vulnerable communities by integrating public health and public education considerations into fair housing and community planning decision making processes.

Between July and December 2024, the Community Equity Lab compiled additional data and information to support its request that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) open an official systemic housing discrimination investigation into the practices of the City of Miami under the federal Fair Housing Act. The now ongoing investigation, initiated on behalf of the Coconut Grove Village West Homeowners and Tenants Association, Inc. (HOATA), the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, Inc. (CGMA), and Grove Rights and Community Equity, Inc. (GRACE) as Complainants, was opened in July 2024. See *GRACE, CGVW HOATA, CGMA and Nnamdi v. City of Miami et al., Inquiry No. 734632; HUD File No. 04-24-7072-8; Title VI Case No. 04-24-7072-6; Section 109 Case No. 04-24-7072-9.*

In connection with this investigation, CEPS collaborated with HOATA, CGMA, GRACE and their legal team from Miami-based Community Justice Project (CJP), to develop and propose a Conciliation Framework to the City of Miami to address the mass displacement and affordable housing crisis in the Coconut Grove Village West Community and elsewhere in the City of Miami.

The Complainants, CJP, and CEPS await the results of HUD's data collection process from and interviews with City of Miami officials (commissioners and planning and zoning officials), as well as a counterproposal from the City of Miami in response to the Conciliation Framework that was presented.





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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 across the University of Miami.

Community Impact

Since 1996, CEPS faculty and staff have trained more than 1,400 graduate and undergraduate fellows and interns, and collaborated with more than 50,000 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.



Get Involved
with CEPS.

Internship and
donor opportunities are available.



FOUNDING DIRECTOR
Professor Anthony V. Alfieri

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER
Dr. Keshia Merritt

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Anaïse Boucher-Browning

**FREDMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
PRACTITIONER-IN-RESIDENCE**
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