

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

June 2024

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

Say Hello to the Brown University Interns

This summer three Brown University interns will be diligently researching historical materials as well as social science and public health data with the aim of advancing community equity. Additionally, they will be contributing to initiatives related to education, health and housing and legal frameworks that support equitable access. Through their efforts, the interns will play a crucial role in supporting the work of the Center.



Maddalena Honnablue was born and raised in Jackson Heights, New York. She is a rising Sophomore at Brown University pursuing an Sc.B. in Environmental Studies. She is especially interested in environmental justice and policy. Over the past years, Maddalena has campaigned for Representative Alexandria-Ocasio Cortez and volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and Project Libertad. She is excited to further her pursuit of fair housing and education with CEPS. She hopes to use what she learns with CEPS this summer to make an impactful change in the future.



Sofia Bohorquez (she/her) was born and raised in Miami, Florida. She is a rising senior at Brown University Concentrating in International and Public Affairs and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Her studies focus on local governance and policy and she is especially interested in Education and Housing Policy. At Brown she works as a research assistant with the Annenberg Institute and Rhode Island Department of Education. She works with Every Vote Counts Coalition and the Central American United Students Association. She is super excited to get to work at CEPS!



Kareem Troncoso Guerrero (she/her) is from Boston, Massachusetts. She is concentrating in International and Political Affairs on the development track, as well as Visual Arts, at Brown University. She is interested in learning more about conducting community service and creating programs that are effective at helping others. Kareem enjoys drawing and painting; she is excited about learning to use oil paints next semester and creating art over her time at CEPS!



We are also excited to welcome, TJ Malone! A rising Ransom Everglades High School Senior, Class of 2025.

TJ will be working alongside the Brown University interns assisting with the Historic Black Church/Freedom School Program and the Community Equity Lab's Housing and Community Economic Development Project.



Freedom School Pilot Program Launch



Colleagues and Friends,

The Center for Ethics and Public Service (CEPS) is thrilled to announce the launch of the Freedom School Program, an exciting new initiative in partnership with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance of Black Churches. This program aims to provide Miami-Dade youth with a rich and empowering educational experience, focusing on Black history, cultural heritage, and community preservation.

About the Freedom School Program

The Freedom School Program is a comprehensive summer school initiative designed to promote literacy, cultural awareness, and civic engagement among children and families in Miami-Dade County, particularly those of Coconut Grove Village West. By integrating Black history and cultural studies into the curriculum, the program aims to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Black collective heritage and the pivotal role it plays in shaping our society.

Key Features of the Program:

- *In-Depth Black History Curriculum: Exploring the significant contributions of Black individuals and communities throughout history*
- *Literacy Enrichment: Enhancing reading and comprehension skills through a diverse selection of literature.*
- *Civic Engagement: Encouraging students and families to become active participants in their communities through service projects and discussions on social justice.*
- *Cultural Enrichment: Providing exposure to the arts, music, and traditions that celebrate and honor Black culture.*



Addressing Educational Challenges



Today, in Florida and across the nation, it is more crucial than ever to ensure that children and families have access to an open and inclusive curriculum. The Freedom School Program stands as a beacon of hope and resilience, dedicated to preserving the integrity of our educational system and empowering our youth with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

Join Us

We invite parents, families, guardians, community members, and stakeholders to join us in this educational journey. Enrollment for the Freedom School Program is now open, and we encourage you to register your children early to secure their spot.

Program Details:

- *Location: Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 3515 Douglas Road, Miami, FL 33133*
- *Dates: Summer Program: June 17 - July 26, 9:30 am- 10:30 am*
- **Eligibility: Open to students in elementary to high school grades**

How You Can Support

Your involvement and support are vital to the success of the Freedom School Program. Here's how you can contribute:

- **Volunteer:** Share your time and expertise with our students.
- **Donate:** Contribute financially or provide in-kind donations such as books and educational materials.
- **Spread the Word:** Help us reach more families by sharing this announcement with your network.

Contact Us

For more information about the Freedom School Program or to find out how you can get involved, please contact Carter Cooper, CEPS Program Coordinator, at cdc206@miami.edu or CEPS Senior Program Manager, Dr. Kesha Merritt at keshamerritt@law.miami.edu

Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in our shared community. Thank you for your support and dedication to empowering our youth through education.

Program Sessions & Dates



Session 1

An Introduction to Black History: Part I
Monday, June 17

Session 2

An Introduction to Black History: Part II
Tuesday, June 18

Session 3

African Roots and Heritage: Part I
Thursday, June 20

Session 4

African Roots and Heritage: Part II
Monday, June 24

Session 5

Slavery and Resistance: Part I
Tuesday, June 25

Session 6

Slavery and Resistance: Part II
Wednesday, June 26

Session 7

The Civil Rights Movement: Part I
Thursday, June 27

Session 8

The Civil Rights Movement: Part II
Monday, July 1

Session 9

Arts and Expression: Part 1
Tuesday, July 2

Session 10

Arts and Expression: Part II
Wednesday, July 3

Session 11

Inventors and Innovators: Part I
Monday, July 8

Session 12

Inventors and Innovators: Part II
Tuesday, July 9

Session 13

Black Women in History: Part 1
Wednesday, July 10

Session 14

Black Women in History: Part II
Thursday, July 11

Session 15

*Pan-Africanism and Global
Solidarity: Part I*
Monday, July 15

Session 16

*Pan-Africanism and Global
Solidarity: Part II*
Tuesday, July 16

Session 17

*Black Power and Liberation
Movements of Today: Part I*
Wednesday, July 17

Session 18

*Black Power and Liberation
Movements of Today: Part II*
Thursday, July 18

Session 19

Environmental Justice: Part I
Monday, July 22

Session 20

Environmental Justice: Part II
Tuesday, July 23

Session 21

Economic Empowerment: Part I
Wednesday, July 24

Session 22

Economic Empowerment: Part II
Thursday, July 25





Community Equity Lab

Fair Housing & HUD Enforcement

The Community Equity Lab continues to coordinate with the Intake and Enforcement Division of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support an enforcement action against the City of Miami under the federal Fair Housing Act to address gentrification and displacement in the Coconut Grove Village West Community.

We are excited to be collaborating with the Community Justice Project, Inc., which has agreed to provide independent legal representation and guidance to the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, Inc., the Coconut Grove Village West Homeowners and Tenants Association, Inc., and Grove Rights and Community Equity, Inc. as these organizations interact with HUD to serve as complainants in HUD's enforcement action against the City of Miami.

We continue our research and community engagement work with the goal of formulating substantive provisions to reform zoning and land use codes in South Florida to incorporate the "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" framework (AFFH) advanced and elaborated by HUD. The AFFH framework establishes accountability measures for municipalities and compels them to redress lack of affordability, gentrification, and displacement.





Community Equity Lab



Voting Rights and History of Village West, 2019 to Present

CEPS and its community partners have long emphasized the importance of protecting voting rights in Coconut Grove Village West and other predominantly Black, underserved neighborhoods across the City of Miami.

To that end, in August 2019, CEPS students, staff, and alumnae collaborated with Legal Services of Greater Miami to form and incorporate Grove Rights and Community Equity (GRACE) as a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the culture and history of Village West.

Since 2019, several generations of CEPS students have supported GRACE through rights education and research initiatives often addressing inequitable treatment by the City of Miami in the fields of housing, economic development, health equity, and voting.

In November 2022, CEPS community-based work culminated in the filing of a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of GRACE and others by our pro bono partner the ACLU of Florida against the City of Miami. The suit, *GRACE, Inc. v. City of Miami*, challenged the City's 2022 and 2023 redistricting plans in Village West and in the City more broadly on the ground of racial gerrymandering.





Community Equity Lab



Voting Rights Case Update

On April 10, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida found that the 2022 and 2023 redistricting plans unconstitutionally racially gerrymandered not only Village West but all five of the election districts in the City of Miami in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

On May 23, 2024, the Miami City Commission approved a settlement agreement to resolve the racial gerrymandering lawsuit and reform the redistricting process in Miami.

The voting rights campaign undergirding *GRACE, Inc. v. City of Miami* demonstrates that community-based, university partnerships centered on rights education, fact investigation, and interdisciplinary research can provide effective law school methods for experiential learning and skills training. Equally important, those partnerships provide innovative, field-based models for law student leadership, mentoring, and public service.



Third Annual Black Health Summit

On June 4, CEPS Fredman Family Foundation Practitioner-in-Residence Alexander Rundlet and CEPS Community Equity Lab Fellow Jordan Brooks participated in the Third Annual Black Health Summit hosted by the Health Foundation of South Florida at Florida Memorial University.

This year's Summit addressed the Social and Political Determinants of Health and addressed issues impacting Black Men's Health (to complement the Second Annual Summit's focus on Black Maternal Health). Alexander Rundlet served on the Summit's Host Committee and was supported by Jordan Brooks in the development of topics addressed at the Summit.

Alexander Rundlet moderated a panel with subject matter experts addressing the "Policy Determinants of Health," discussing, among other topics, the challenges and opportunities associated with efforts to advance policies that close health disparities in Florida's Black communities.



Staff News

Dear Colleagues,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my departure from my role as Program Coordinator at the Center for Ethics and Public Service (CEPS) at Miami Law.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible team dedicated to social justice, community engagement, and academic excellence. My journey with CEPS has been nothing short of transformative. From strengthening relationships with our community partners in Coconut Grove Village West to actively participating in significant initiatives like the Freedom School Program and advocating for legislative reform, I have grown both professionally and personally. Notably, my time at the Center continues to underscore the importance of our work and the impact we can make in striving for equity and justice.

While I am sad to depart from such an inspiring place, I am thrilled to share that I will be pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. I am eager to further my education and apply the knowledge and skills I have gained at CEPS to new challenges and opportunities. I am deeply grateful for the support, mentorship, and friendships I have found here at CEPS and Miami Law, and I look forward to staying in touch.

Carter Cooper



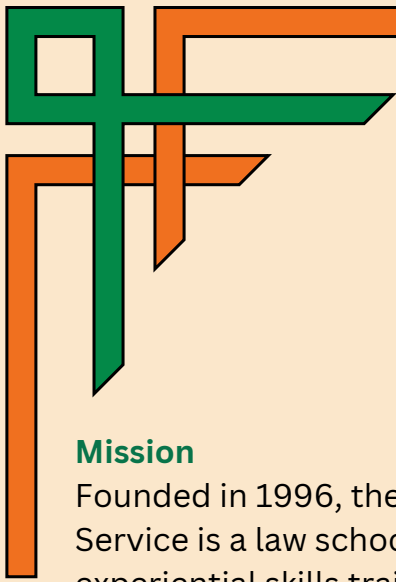
Legal Profession Program



This spring and summer the Center's Legal Profession Program is spearheading CLE seminars on professional responsibility, law firm management, and professionalism in cooperation with the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, Legal Services of Greater Miami, and the Florida Civil Legal Aid Association.



The external seminars build on the internal, law school-based colloquia organized and facilitated by Center Fellows and Interns during the academic year addressing the history, sociology, and economics of the legal profession, for-profit and nonprofit organizational management, and career development.



MIAMI LAW

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CEPS Center for Ethics and 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

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

Community Impact

Since 1996, Center 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. Center faculty also have been widely cited in law journals and in the media.

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**FREDMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE**
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