




PUBLIC INTEREST RESOURCE CENTER

SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMS

2016





“Never doubt that a small
group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can
change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing
that ever has.”

~Margaret Mead

HOPE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The HOPE Fellows Program gives rising 2L and 3L students, with a commitment to public interest advocacy, the opportunity to create their public interest dream job at an agency locally, nationally or internationally, and receive a stipend from the HOPE Public Interest Resource Center. HOPE Fellows work with public interest organizations to provide legal advocacy, policy development and implementation, and to devise systems to enhance the delivery of legal services.

The HOPE Fellows Program challenges students to identify host agencies and develop on-site projects to uniquely address the unmet needs of the organization's constituency. Upon their return to Miami Law, HOPE Fellows design and implement initiatives to educate and engage law students in advocacy related to their area of concentration. Over the years, the program has grown from just two fellows, placed in local agencies, to include up to twenty fellows, each summer, across the globe.

I never could have imagined that I would have the opportunity to go to the Middle East and have the good fortune to learn from experts and grow with some of the brightest minds in the legal profession. Because of the support of the HOPE Fellowship, not only do I get to experience a vastly different culture and legal system, I get to experience it in the context of fighting for women's rights.

~Callan Martinez,
HOPE Fellow, Kuwait



EMILY BALTER ■ CLASS OF 2017
CITY OF MIAMI BEACH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,
Miami Beach, FL

Emily Balter entered law school with the goal of using her education to serve her hometown of Miami, Florida. She is committed to combining her undergraduate degrees from the University of Miami in Business Management and Environmental Policy with her legal studies in an effort to improve communities.

During the summer of 2015, Emily served as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at the Office of the Miami-Dade State Attorney. During her 2L year, she volunteered with the Environmental Justice Clinic and served as a research assistant for Professor Anthony Alfieri. During the summer of 2016, Emily will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the City of Miami Beach City Attorney's Office. During her 3L year, Emily will be the Executive Editor of the *Inter-American Law Review*, Community Relations Chair of the Environmental Law Society, a Student Ambassador, and a member of the Society of Bar and Gavel.



ARIANA BARLAS ■ CLASS OF 2017
LEGAL AID SOCIETY, *New York, NY*

Ariana Barlas graduated from the University of South Florida with B.A. degrees in History and Political Science. Since enrolling at Miami Law, she has participated in the Immigration Clinic and has served as a Student Ambassador and President of the Christian Legal Society. During the summer of 2015, she was a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with Catholic Charities

Legal Services, working on children's asylum cases. During her 2L year, she was an intern in the housing unit of Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. During the summer of 2016, Ariana will serve as a HOPE Fellow with The Legal Aid Society of New York in the Immigration Unit, working on cases involving human trafficking and the Violence Against Women Act.



KIANA COURTNEY ■ CLASS OF 2018
EARTHJUSTICE, *Tallahassee, FL*

Kiana Courtney received her B.A. in Communication from Wake Forest University with a concentration in Rhetorical Studies and minors in Sociology and Environmental Studies. As an undergraduate student, she served as the communications and outreach intern for Wake Forest's Office of Sustainability, and also worked with the United Nations Environment Programme,

Regional Office for North America. Kiana's work with these organizations, coupled with her undergraduate education, affirmed her desire to focus on environmental justice and community access to resources. After graduating, she joined Teach For America and taught 8th grade physical science in Atlanta Public Schools. At Miami Law, Kiana has participated as a volunteer with Books & Buddies and Empowered Youth. During her 2L year, she will take part in the Environmental Justice Clinic, and serve as the Vice President of the Black Law Students Association and the Vice Justice of Phi Alpha Delta, International. During the summer of 2016, Kiana will serve as a HOPE Fellow with Earthjustice, a public interest environmental law organization in Tallahassee.



SARAH HANNERS ■ CLASS OF 2017

CET LAW, Key Largo, FL

Sarah Hanners graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. degree in History and Communications Science. Prior to entering law school, she worked at a wildlife refuge and anti-animal trafficking NGO in the Bolivian Amazon. While at Miami Law, Sarah has interned with the Everglades Law Center, the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office, and the Children & Youth Law Clinic. A Miami Scholar, she is also a member of the University of Miami Inter-American Law Review and the Society of Bar and Gavel. She has participated in the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Books & Buddies program, and volunteers pro bono for the Bolivian Amazon Land Trust Alliance. During the summer of 2016, she will serve as a HOPE Fellow with Cet Law, the world's only organization that focuses on legal issues concerning cetaceans: whales, dolphins, and porpoises.



ALEXANDRA HOFFMAN ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, Chicago, IL

Alexandra Hoffman graduated cum laude from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Philosophy. As an undergraduate, she was a Junior Fellow who did comparative research on Kurdish revolutions in Syria, Iran, Turkey, and Iraq. Upon graduation, Ali began her Master's Degree in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland and completed a dissertation on Egyptian graffiti during the 2011 Arab Uprisings. While in Ireland, she also volunteered with a women's rights organization. After returning to Miami, Ali volunteered at the International Rescue Committee as a Civics/Citizenship Instructor to Legal Permanent Residents applying for the U.S. Naturalization test. During her first year at Miami Law, Ali became a member of the HOPE Public Interest Leadership Board. During her 2L year she will be the Vice President of the Middle Eastern Association and participate in the Innocence Clinic. During the summer of 2016, Ali will serve as a HOPE Fellow in the Juvenile Justice Division of the Cook County Public Defender's Office in Chicago.



ALEXA KLEIN ■ CLASS OF 2017

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER, Miami, FL

Alexa Klein received her B.A. in Media & Professional Communications from the University of Pittsburgh. At Miami Law, Alexa has helped represent children in foster care and former foster youth as a member of the Children & Youth Law Clinic, and has taught know-your-rights legal lessons to local middle school children as a member of STREET Law. During the summer of 2015, she served as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at the Office of the Miami-Dade County Public Defender and found a passion for indigent defense. During the summer of 2016, Alexa will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the Federal Public Defender of the Southern District of Florida, where she will assist in the representation of indigent clients.



CALLAN MARTINEZ ■ CLASS OF 2017

ABOLISH 153, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Callan Martinez graduated from Whittier College in 2009 with a B.A. in Philosophy and a minor in Gender Studies. Prior to law school, she worked for the New Mexico District Attorney's Office, private criminal defense firms, and numerous community and political campaigns. Since arriving at Miami Law, she has participated in the Immigration Clinic and has worked for private immigration attorneys, helping clients from all over the world build their lives in the United States. During the summer of 2016, Callan will serve as a HOPE Fellow with Abolish 153, a women's rights organization in Kuwait. The primary goal of Abolish 153 is to repeal a long-standing law that allows honor killings in the country. She will also work on issues of gender equality in the region, helping to bridge the gap between Western and Middle Eastern countries.



KATE NOVAK ■ CLASS OF 2017

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER, Miami, FL

Kate Novak graduated cum laude from Florida Atlantic University with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Psychology. She participated in Model U.N. and Global Youth Connect, an organization focused on training youth in advocating for human rights. After graduation, she interned for Mayor Michael Bloomberg in the Department of Veterans' Affairs in New York City. Subsequently, Kate interned for the former Minister of Justice of Israel in Tel Aviv. During her 1L summer, Kate interned at the Florida Immigrant Coalition and participated in the Innocence Clinic. She is the President of the Miami Law Federal Bar Association, has participated in the Children & Youth Law Clinic, and has volunteered for local non-profit immigration organizations by visiting refugees in detention centers. During the summer of 2016, Kate will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the Office of the Federal Public Defender of the Southern District of Florida.



JADEE POPE ■ CLASS OF 2017

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER, Philadelphia, PA

Jadee Pope graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Political Science and American Culture. While at Michigan, she participated in the Beyond the Diag Program, which served the off-campus student community. During the summer of 2015, she was a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Miami-Dade Public Defender. While a 2L, she interned with the Miami Law Innocence Clinic. During the summer of 2016, Jadee will be returning home to Philadelphia to work in the community in which she grew up as an intern with the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.



AMANDA POWELL ■ CLASS OF 2017

THE DOOR LEGAL SERVICES, *New York, NY*

Amanda Powell earned a B.A. in Speech Pathology and a B.A. in Psychology from Northern Arizona University. Prior to law school, she worked as a victim advocate and a therapist for children with autism. During the summer of 2015, Amanda served as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., where she focused on housing and veterans' issues. During her 2L year, she participated in the Children & Youth Law Clinic, Street Law, and Litigation Skills. She also interned with the Florida Justice Institute, working on prisoners' rights issues. During the summer of 2016, Amanda will serve as a HOPE Fellow with The Door Legal Services in New York, an agency that addresses a wide range of legal, education, and health needs for New York City youth.



CARLI RABEN ■ CLASS OF 2018

COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT, *Miami, FL*

Carli Raben graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. in History and a focus on Race and Gender in America. While at Berkeley, she served as a Peer Educator for the Gender Equity Resource Center and developed original programming on prevention of sexual violence and stalking. During the summer of 2010, she worked in the Washington, DC office of Florida Representative Ted Deutch. Upon graduating from Berkeley, Carli was selected for the Teach for America program in New Orleans. She stayed beyond her Teach for America commitment and taught an additional two years, later serving as Special Education Case Manager. At Miami Law, Carli is a Miami Scholar and a member of the Public Interest Leadership Board. During her 2L year, Carli will be an intern with the Environmental Justice Clinic. During the summer of 2016, she will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the Community Justice Project in Miami.



JEAN PHILLIP (J.P.) SHAMI ■ CLASS OF 2017

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, VACCINE LITIGATION,
Washington, DC

Jean Phillip (J.P.) Shami graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a B.A. in Political Economy, a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies, and a minor in Public Policy. Upon graduation, J.P. served as a Teach for America corps member in the Dallas-Fort Worth region, teaching second grade at a charter school. At the University of Miami, J.P. is pursuing a joint JD/Master in Public Health. He is an Executive Editor for the *University of Miami Law Review*, the past President and current member of the Society of Bar & Gavel, the chair of Empowered Youth, a Writing Dean's Fellow, Vice President of the Health Law Student Association, a member of the Middle Eastern Law Student Association, and a member of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. He previously participated in the Health Rights Clinic. During the summer of 2016, J.P. will serve as a HOPE Fellow with the United States Department of Justice, Civil Division, in the Office of Vaccine Litigation in Washington, D.C.



LINET SUAREZ ■ CLASS OF 2017

NASA, Washington, DC

Linet Suarez graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Anthropology. She served as a board member of Bryn Mawr Buzzing 4 Change Charity and Chapter President of Democracy Matters. During college, she also served as an intern with the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship in Mexico. Upon graduation, Linet volunteered and worked with a small kindergarten class at a local elementary school. At Miami Law, Linet is a Miami Scholar and served as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at Florida Legal Services during the summer of 2015. During her 2L year, she participated in the Health Rights Clinic, the *Inter-American Law Review*, and Books & Buddies. During the summer of 2016, Linet will serve as a HOPE Fellow with NASA's Summer Legal Honors Program in Washington, D.C.



ALEJANDRA CHINEA VICENTE ■ CLASS OF 2018

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL SERVICES, New York, NY

Alejandra Chinea Vicente graduated from the George Washington University with a B.A. in International Relations and a minor in Italian Literature. While at Miami Law, Alejandra has participated in HOPE Day of Service, volunteered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and participated in citizenship clinics in the community. She will be part of the Immigration Clinic during her 2L year. As a 2016 HOPE Fellow, Alejandra will be at Catholic Charities Legal Services in New York, where she will work with unaccompanied minors in removal proceedings.

I am honored to receive the HOPE Summer Fellowship which will allow me to work with NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. It is my dream to work for a federal agency and this dream became a reality because of HOPE. The HOPE team has always nurtured my love and commitment for service.

~Linet Suarez,

*HOPE Fellow and Miami Scholar,
Washington, DC*

Without the HOPE Fellowship, I never would have been able to go to New York City and work with such an outstanding public interest organization as the Legal Aid Society. I feel so blessed to have been given this opportunity.

~Ariana Barlas,

HOPE Fellow, New York, NY

“It is phenomenal to see the HOPE and SPIF students evolve as public interest advocates through their work locally, nationally and internationally.

They are touched by the people and communities they serve and are committed to effectuating change and promoting access to justice for others.”

~**Marni Lennon**,
*Assistant Dean
for Public Interest
and Pro Bono*

SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Summer Public Interest Fellows Program (SPIF) is designed to engage the public interest-minded student during the summer following their first year of law school. This selective program involves full-time work at a South Florida public interest agency for eight weeks during the summer along with a legal research and writing project. Fellows also participate in a seminar where members of the bench, bar and legal community visit and students share their work in the public sector. Participating students are given a stipend and receive three academic credits.

HOPE is proud to support the public interest work of an increasing number of students who serve clients and communities in extraordinary ways.

As a 1L, I have already met many passionate students who are dedicated to serving non-profit organizations and building local communities. I am proud to be part of a school that offers exceptional opportunities for students to be engaged in helping others, and I look forward to serving as a Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Public Defender.

~Chauncey Dean,
SPIF Fellow, Miami, FL



LILLI BALIK ■ CLASS OF 2018

DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE GROUP, *Miami, FL*

Lilli Balik graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University, with a B.A. in Sociology. While an undergraduate student, she provided SAT tutoring to underprivileged youth. Her experience in both the classroom and various community service projects led her to law school and a strong desire to help underserved populations. At Miami Law, Lilli serves on the executive board for the Student-Animal Legal Defense Fund and Law Students for Reproductive Justice, and she will intern with the Health Rights Clinic as a 2L. During the summer of 2016, Lilli will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Disability Independence Group, where she will work on disability rights legislation and public outreach.



SUKHMANI BRAR ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY, *Miami, FL*

Sukhmani Brar graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Communication Studies. Prior to law school, she assisted in the creation and management of the Hamari Amanat Trust, which focuses on providing educational scholarships for the female children of Army widows in India. She continues to serve as a mentor with the program. Since arriving at Miami Law, Sukhmani has participated in Empowered Youth and has become a lay guardian with the Guardian ad Litem program. As a 2L, she will work as an extern with the Honorable John O'Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. During the summer of 2016, she will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Miami-Dade State Attorney.



TYONNA BRENT ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER, *Miami, FL*

Tyonna Brent graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Forensics and Criminality. Following graduation, she worked as a legal assistant in a law firm. During her 2L year, she will participate in Street Law and the Children & Youth Law Clinic. She will also serve as Treasurer for the Black Law Students Association. During the summer of 2016, Tyonna will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Miami-Dade Public Defender.



NICOLAS CHAVEZ ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER, *Miami, FL*

Nicolas Chavez is a graduate of Cornell University with a B.A. in Economics and a Master's degree in Public Administration. While at Cornell, he worked with the Cornell Farmworker Program focusing on research, education and extension outreach efforts to improve the living and working conditions of migrant farmworkers. During his 2L year, Nicolas will participate in the Immigration Clinic, where he will have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of

immigrants in a wide variety of complex immigration proceedings. During the summer of 2016, he will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at the Office of the Miami-Dade Public Defender, where he will work on policy and legal reform as part of the Executive Internship Program and will assist in the representation of indigent clients.



CHAUNCEY DEAN ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER, *Miami, FL*

Chauncey Dean graduated from Syracuse University with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Philosophy. Following graduation, he participated in the AmeriCorps City Year Program in Miami, where he worked as an academic interventionist and attendance coordinator at Miami Edison Middle School. After completing the City Year program, Chauncey worked with Habitat for Humanity in Miami where he helped build homes in the Liberty City area and South Miami region. During the summer of 2016, Chauncey will be a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Miami-Dade Public Defender, where he will focus on ensuring that underprivileged defendants receive adequate representation.



OSHUTEIYA "TEIYA" EMENIKE ■ CLASS OF 2018

LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC., *Miami, FL*

Oshuteiya "Teiya" Emenike graduated cum laude from South Carolina State University with a B.A. in Political Science. She took part in the Honors College, was a Presidential Scholar, and served as an editor for the student newspaper. Following graduation, Teiya lived, traveled and volunteered in Europe. She is a proud Army wife who often volunteers for the troops and their families. At Miami Law, Teiya is the President of the Christian Legal Society and the Liaison Chairperson for the Black Law Student Association. During the summer of 2016, she will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., where she will work on housing and mobile home issues.



CHRISTOPHER FRAGA ■ CLASS OF 2018

LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC., *Miami, FL*

Christopher Fraga received his B.A. in History from Florida International University. Prior to entering law school, he worked for a number of years as a public high school teacher, educating primarily low-income students. During the summer of 2016, Chris will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with Legal Services of Greater Miami, where he will work with veterans. During his 2L year at Miami Law, he will participate in the Health Rights Clinic, where he looks forward to continuing his work as an advocate for veterans.



DAVID HARDEN ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY, *Miami, FL*

David Harden graduated from the University of Central Florida with a B.S. in Legal Studies and a B.S. in Criminal Justice, earning specializations in both Criminal Law & Individual Liberties and Trial Advocacy. Prior to graduation, David worked as an investigative intern with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and as a legal intern with United States Attorney's Office. Before attending law school, David was employed as a paralegal with an Orlando-based law firm where his work focused on post-conviction legal work and prisoners' rights. During the summer of 2016, David will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Miami-Dade State Attorney.



JIHAN JUDE ■ CLASS OF 2018

LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC., *Miami, FL*

Jihan Jude graduated from Colgate University with a B.A. in Political Science. Since graduation, she has engaged in nonprofit and community development work with AmeriCorps, which immersed her in underserved communities. Following her time with AmeriCorps, Jihan worked for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducting focus group research about access to city health services in underserved communities. During her 2L year at Miami Law, she will be Secretary of Older Wiser Law Students (OWLS), and a member of the Honor Council. During the summer of 2016, Jihan will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., where she will focus on issues related to children and education.



MELISSA SCOTT ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, *Miami, FL*

Melissa Scott received a B.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame where she completed a senior thesis on mandatory minimum sentencing for child sex offense cases. This project sparked an interest in public interest work centered on child and youth criminal cases. Melissa spent her first year at Miami Law working on cases of child abuse and neglect as a volunteer at the Guardian ad Litem program for the 11th Judicial Circuit. During the summer of 2016, she will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, working on child and human trafficking cases.



BRITTANY THOMAS ■ CLASS OF 2018

OFFICE OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER, *Miami, FL*

Brittany Thomas graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Criminology. She was President of the Criminal Justice Honor Society and an active member of Delta Zeta. Prior to law school, Brittany worked with Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, where she promoted nonviolence and advocated for defendants' rights. At Miami Law, she is a member of Phi Alpha Delta and is the incoming Secretary for the Black Law Students Association. During the summer of 2016, Brittany will serve as a HOPE Summer Public Interest Fellow with the Office of the Miami-Dade Public Defender.

As a Summer Public Interest Fellow at Legal Services for Greater Miami, Inc., I am looking forward to providing legal assistance to the homeless and residents facing housing insecurity. The fellowship will give me concrete skills to utilize in my future career by showing me how the legal issues we discuss in class materialize in real life.

~Jihan Jude,

SPIF Fellows, Miami, FL

As a Summer Public Interest Fellow, I have the opportunity to effect real change in the Miami community while sharpening the legal skills I am learning in law school. As an intern with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, I will witness, first-hand, the criminal justice system at work and the important role the State Attorney plays within the community.

~David Harden,

SPIF Fellow,

Miami, FL



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