



PUBLIC SERVICE
Graduation
CLASS *of* 2007

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007
5:00PM WILKINS MOOT COURTROOM
KINGHALL

PUBLIC SERVICE
Graduation
CLASS *of* 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kimberly Thomas

Sarah Asplin

Jeffrey Edwards

Kathleen Rojas

Neta Borshansky

Ramaah Sadasivam

Shalyn Fluharty

KING HALL LEGAL FOUNDATION
GRANT RECIPIENTS

ANNA-KRISTINE SOLIMAN
Legal Foundation of Los Angeles

NUSHIN SARKARAIT
*United Nations International Criminal Tribunal
for Rwanda*

CAROLINE SWINDELLS
*International Institute of the East Bay
(Hogan Award Recipient)*

WELCOMING REMARKS

DEAN'S REMARKS
Dean Rex Perschbacher

FACULTY SPEAKER
Professor Jennifer Chacón

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
*Paul Igasaki, Class of 1979
Deputy Chief Executive Director
Equal Justice Works*

PRESENTATION OF THE KING HALL LEGAL
FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

King Hall Legal Foundation Board Member

PRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW PROGRAM
CERTIFICATES

*Lisa Taylor Carlock & Public Service Graduation
Committee Member*

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

Public Service Graduation Committee Members

PRESENTATION OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Public Service Graduation Committee Members

Class of 2007 Class Celebration to follow in the Courtyard

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Paul Igasaki - Class of 1979

Paul M. Igasaki is deputy chief executive director of Equal Justice Works. Equal Justice Works (formerly the National Association for Public Interest Law) was founded in 1986 by law students dedicated to working for equal justice on behalf of underserved communities and causes. Today, Equal Justice Works is the national leader in creating summer and postgraduate public interest opportunities for law students and lawyers as well as in urging more public interest programming at law schools.

Prior to joining Equal Justice Works, Mr. Igasaki was the executive director of the Rights Working Group, a nationwide coalition of groups and individuals committed to ensuring liberty and justice for all. He also served for eight years as vice chair and acting chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an appointee of President Bill Clinton. In addition, he served as executive director of the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, the first civil rights legal organization for the Asian Pacific American community. He helped found the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C., the Chicago Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Mr. Igasaki is a 1979 graduate of the UC Davis School of Law and graduate of Northwestern University in Illinois. Both institutions awarded him distinguished alumni awards. He has an honorary degree from the City University of New York Law School and the Outstanding Public Interest Advocate Award from the National Association of Public Interest Law. The American Bar Association gave him the Spirit of Excellence Award for promoting diversity in the legal profession. In 2004, he received the Japanese American of the Biennium Award from the Japanese American Citizens League. He was also honored for his civil rights work by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

KING HALL LEGAL FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

NETA BORSHANSKY
East Bay Community Law Center

ALAN BOUDREAU
San Francisco Human Rights Commission

DAKOTA COE
Disability Rights Advocates

RYAN DAVIS
Legal Services of Northern California

JEFFREY EDWARDS
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

DEBORAH GETTLEMAN
Justice Now

MAGGIE HOBSTETTER
*Law Students for Choice, Northern Thailand
(California Endowment Health Grant)*

CAROLYN HSU
American Civil Liberties Union

GRACE LAW
Public Defender's Office of Santa Clara

JESSICA LEAK
*Legal Services of Northern California, Health Rights Hotline
(California Endowment Health Grant)*

KRISTI LINK
Sacramento County Family Law Facilitator

MICHAEL MINKLER
Legal Services of Northern California

KING HALL LEGAL FOUNDATION SUMMER FELLOWSHIP GRANTS

KING HALL LEGAL FOUNDATION is a non-profit, student-run organization that funds summer grants for students interested in public interest law. Each student must submit a grant proposal and have the support of a sponsoring public interest legal organization. KHLF grants serve the dual purpose of providing King Hall students with valuable experience and providing legal assistance to underserved populations.

The foundation raises most of its grant money through an annual auction where students, professors, staff and businesses donate goods and services in addition to students who pledge a day of summer wages to the foundation.



HOGAN AWARD

The annual Hogan Award is presented to the student with the best proposal for public interest work through the KHLF grant application. A \$400 honorarium is given with this award.

FACULTY SPEAKER

Professor Jennifer Chacón

Jennifer Chacón was awarded her J.D. from Yale Law School. After graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Sidney R. Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. From 1999-2003, she was an attorney with Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City. She teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Immigration Law.

She says, “Identifying the conduct that is criminalized within a society and determining the manner in which that society chooses to protect its criminally accused and those convicted of crimes provides an interesting way to assess the nature and strength of that society’s commitment to democratic institutions. My research interests center upon the nexus of criminal law and procedure and more general issues of citizenship. I hope to contribute to the scholarship that both examines and advances the quest to build more perfect democracies, protective of the rights of all people.”

PUBLIC SERVICE LAW PROGRAM

The Public Service Law Program is an academic certification program designed for students seeking public service careers. Certificate requirements include academic and experiential components. The experiential component provides students with an opportunity to put classroom learning into practice and make important contacts with public service attorneys. Students are enriched by this experience while simultaneously contributing to their communities.

PUBLIC SERVICE LAW PROGRAM SCHOLARS

Kim Ashley	Thalassa Kingsnorth	<u>Not in Attendance</u>
Erica Ballinger	Alexis Krieg	Sameena Beguwala
Etan Basseri	Megan Lane	Christopher Blick
Carissa Beecham	Nicholas Lieberknecht	Sean Carney
Melissa Benites	Huy Luong	Elaine Chu
Robert Berlet	Sarah Lustig	Kevin Davis
Aric Bright	Chad Mahalich	Ryan Friedman
Stephanie Brooks	Neha Marathe	Jonathan Hatae
Thomas Capriola	Ruby Marquez	Phoebe Hyun
Jennifer Carbuccia	Jack McKenna	Nathan Jacobson
Amanda Chavez	Sammar Miqbel	Diana Jeschke
Heather Chicca	Lauren Navarro	Juliana Kresse
Katharine Cornforth	Sarah Nunnery	Melissa Landrus
Caryn Crosthwait	Austin Quinn-Davidson	Lara-Beye Molina
Rachel Dippel	Bridget Roberts	Michelle Moore
Faisal Dittu	Daniel Rochmes	Amanda Newell
Eric Dye	Sarah Ropelato	Micah Nilsson
Sarah Farnsworth	Katharine Ruhl	Nam-Pho Nguyen
Sarah Fenn	Nina Sachdev	Jennifer Phan
Fernando Flores	Jennifer Smith	Julia Ronina
Amy Geiser	Erica Sorosky	Jared Sams
Eleanor Gladstone	Kerianne Steele	Melissa Schutz
Lauren Goshen	Salvador Torres	Justin Shergill
Jane Harrington	Kelly Welchans	Allan Shuldiner
Amber Hawk	Jenica Wilkins	Minna Suh
Lila Hollman	Catherine Wise	Carol Wong
Pia Johnson	Pauline Woodman	Sharon Wu
Kristopher Kaiser	Suzanne Zalev	Sarah Young
Teri Ann Kezirian		John Zollo

includes a wide array of activities; I will list three to illustrate the mix. For over five years, I have collaborated with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a farmworker organization waging a campaign to hold accountable fast food giants that profit from the miserable conditions in America's agricultural fields. Recently, I gave a workshop on this topic at the state-wide United Students Against Sweatshop Conference here at UC Davis.

As law students, we are well-prepared to help organizations and institutions improve their work. In response to the unacceptably low numbers of minorities in our public law schools, I helped establish the Better Admissions Development for All Students Committee within La Raza Law Student Association (B.A.D.A.S. Committee) to research the admissions process and develop the organization's possible responses. As the Pacific Region Director for the National Latina/o Law Student Association, I helped establish a regional gathering of law students to collectively address issues affecting the Latina/o and other minority communities.

I've been privileged in my life to have the opportunity to contribute in many beautiful projects; I hope to continue to do the same.

SUZANNE ZALEV

I have always empathized with people treated unfairly by the criminal justice system. When I worked as a journalist before law school, I covered the story of an African-American man from East Palo Alto who spent twelve years in prison for a murder he did not commit. This was one of many stories I covered that prompted me to return to school to become a lawyer because, rather than observe and write about problems, I wanted to help improve the lives of people like those I wrote about.

I chose UC Davis largely because of the school's public interest offerings and opportunities. I immediately became involved in the school's National Lawyers' Guild chapter. I spent my first summer interning at the San Francisco Public Defender's office, where I assisted with two domestic violence trials. I worked for the Prison Law Clinic my second year, where I represented a prisoner at his parole hearing. Since last summer, I have interned with the Federal Public Defender in Sacramento, where I have represented misdemeanor clients in court and assisted felony attorneys with suppression motions and other assignments. I successfully argued to suppress a client's confession, resulting in the prosecutors dropping the charges against my client. I plan to continue my work helping indigent criminal defendants and work for a public defender's office or nonprofit criminal defense organization when I graduate.

Jennifer strongly believes in women's ability to exercise moral agency and will continue to fight to protect and expand reproductive rights as part of basic human rights.

KERRIANNE STEELE

Kerianne Steele completed her undergraduate work at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, majoring in Labor Studies. Before attending law school, she worked as an immigration paralegal for two years in San Francisco. In this position, she helped clients win their asylum cases and avoid deportation.

While in law school, she has served as Co-Chair of the King Hall Labor and Employment Law Committee and as President of the King Hall National Lawyers Guild. In this capacity, she organized over eight lunchtime events at King Hall related to labor law and other social justice issues. She participated in multiple discussions with representatives from the King Hall Deans Office, Marketing Department and Alumni Relations office in which she and other students stressed the need for greater use of Dr. King's name and image in the school's promotional materials.

Kerianne has volunteered as a head steward of the United Auto Workers union that represents the academic student employees at the University of California. She presently provides support for the UC Davis food service workers' campaign to become University employees.

Kerianne has worked as a law clerk for Weinberg, Roger and Rosenfeld since June 2005. As a law clerk with the firm, she has assisted both unionized and non-unionized workers in strengthening and enforcing their rights at work. Last summer, she interviewed (in Spanish) numerous grape pickers in the Central Valley in connection with a wage and hour class action filed on their behalf.

SALVADOR TORRES

My family has been my biggest influence; we have created a home where the most important priorities are communication and love. Their support and friendship is an important moral center for my professional development.

My work has focused on supporting community-based efforts that face contradictions in our society in a strategic manner. This

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE AWARD

Each year the Public Service Graduation Committee bestows the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award upon a graduating student who exemplifies Dr. King's vision and commitment to public service. In the nomination and the selection of this prestigious award, special emphasis is placed on public service performed for the benefit of the community. Those nominated for the award represent the best the legal profession has to offer: a combination of competent legal representation and a commitment to the underrepresented and disenfranchised.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

Erica Ballinger
Etan Basseri
Aric Bright
Caryn Crosthwait
Faisal Dittu
Eric Dye
Sarah Farnsworth
Sarah Fenn
Jane Harrington
Lila Hollman

Thalassa Kingsnorth
Ruby Marquez
Sammar Miqbel
Amanda Newell
Katharine Ruhl
Nina Sachdev
Jennifer Smith
Kerianne Steele
Salvador Torres
Suzanne Zalev

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE AWARD HONOREE BIOGRAPHIES

ERICA BALLINGER

When Erica discovered that her namesake was a political prisoner she became compelled to learn all that she could about the United States prison system. After completing her undergraduate degree, Erica assisted victims of police misconduct as a volunteer with Bay Area Police Watch. At the same time, she began to pursue her passion for music. She composed songs about issues facing incarcerated women with Bay Area vocal ensemble Harmonic Intervention. She contributed musical work to various benefits and fundraisers.

While pursuing her musical career, Erica experienced a housing crisis which would change her life. A series of harassing incidents—designed to unlawfully force Erica out of her rent-controlled apartment—led Erica to pursue legal action against the owners of her apartment building. After a two year legal battle, Erica prevailed, and was able to keep her home despite repeated threats of eviction. Through this success Erica realized her ability as an advocate and decided to pursue a legal education.

As a grassroots lobbyist with Parent Voices, Erica has advocated for statewide care funding for low-income and working families in California. Since coming to law school, she has coordinated a National Law Student Day Against the Death Penalty event at King Hall. She has also served on the planning committee of the Prison Law Symposium. Erica continues to advocate for the rights of those victimized by the criminal justice system through her case work at the Civil Rights Clinic and her position with Sacramento police misconduct attorney Stewart Katz.

ETAN BASSERI

Working as a counselor at summer camp in Northern California sparked my first interest in public service. Then a teenager, I enjoyed instilling kids with a sense of teamwork, camaraderie and self-confidence. During my undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, I served as a member of the student senate. Later on as a senior I was awarded the S. Sterling Munro Public Service Fellowship for my work as a law clerk for a hazardous waste watchdog group aiming to hasten the clean-up of the sprawling Hanford

NINA SACHDEV

The desire for a fair and just society perhaps came from my family who has always treated everyone with respect and helped them in times of need, and Sikhism that promotes equality and justice. I honestly became more aware of injustice in our uncivilized society and felt inspired to do something about it through pop culture like Public Enemy and Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation" album when I was much younger. But, King Hall is where my dreams are turning into reality. Here is where I have met like-minded friends and mentors who all work towards justice for the underrepresented. With these friends, we have protested unjust immigration laws by walking the streets and writing briefs; we have marched to increase wages for UC employees; we have negotiated with our own school to keep MLK's message alive; and we have organized many events to bring consciousness to the many inequalities in our own backyard in a hope that we can change them. I hope in the future I will continue to have the privilege of serving underrepresented people - whether they are in immigration detention, escaping persecution, or working in the fields. Moreover, I hope we can share our new tools and continue to empower those who did not have the luck or ability to be where we are, so that one day our laws will reflect a more understanding, civilized society.

JENNIFER SMITH

Jennifer Smith was born and raised in San Diego, CA. From a young age, Jennifer was inspired to pursue a career in public service. Her father's family settled in San Diego after her grandfather retired from the Navy and both of her parents were employees for the County of San Diego. The women in Jennifer's family have played an important role in Jennifer's life. She is proud to have a mother, stepmother, and three amazing sisters. However, it was primarily Jennifer's mother that inspired Jennifer to be the feminist that she is today. After her parents divorced, her mother re-entered the workforce after a ten-year absence. Watching her mother triumph through this transition and develop her independence taught Jennifer important values about the role of women in our society. Of the women in Jennifer's family, two have disabilities, three are rape survivors, and all are feminists in their own way.

Jennifer's passion for reproductive justice issues was influenced by a variety of factors: supporting a friend who survived sexual assault, listening to her stepmother discuss her work as an OBGYN, and taking coursework in feminist and ethnic studies. During her senior year of college, Jennifer worked as an intern for Planned Parenthood, and she has been a passionate volunteer for the organization ever since. Jennifer was profoundly moved by the brave women who entered the clinic through throngs of protestors.

that her true passion was serving underprivileged populations in the Central Valley. Amanda chose to attend King Hall because of their commitment to public interest law. As co-chair of King Hall Legal Foundation, Amanda led the board to raising over \$30,000 for public interest grants last year. Amanda received a KHLF grant for her first summer work in the Housing Unit at Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance. With a grant from Legal Aid Association of California, she spent her second summer at California Rural Legal Assistance in Modesto, where she worked with victims of elder abuse in obtaining restraining orders. Amanda has spent her final semester doing a full-time externship with the Federal Defender's Office in Fresno, where she has helped represent a mentally retarded client facing first degree murder charges. In August, Amanda will begin work at W.J. Smith & Associates, a small firm in Fresno known for their work representing low-income plaintiffs in employment discrimination and civil rights cases. In deciding to pursue this career path, Amanda knows that although she might not be able to change the world, she can at least make her mark on it.

KATHARINE RUHL

I came to law school after working for Nationalities Service Center, a non-profit organization serving Philadelphia's diverse immigrant community. I quickly became overwhelmed by the sheer volume of people in need. Time and again, due to limited resources, I had to turn away asylum-seekers, domestic violence victims, or families desperate to know where their detained loved ones had been taken. Shocked by the lack of legal services, I applied to law school.

For me, public interest law is a chance to learn as much as to serve. Direct service gives me a window into the lives of my clients, feeding my own growth and perception of the world. At King Hall, I have had numerous opportunities to expand my knowledge of immigration. With the Immigration Clinic, I helped win asylum for a Brazilian man based on his sexuality, and release for a mentally ill immigrant detainee. I gave advice to public defenders on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions, and, building on that experience, helped form the Campaign Against Unjust Immigration Laws last spring. Being part of a recent delegation to the U.S./Mexico border has strengthened my resolve to work for more humane immigration laws.

At King Hall, I have also been able to support my classmates' work in such important realms as labor rights and prison reform. Their work has greatly informed my understanding of local and global struggles for social justice. I am eager to work with them, and my clients, to promote a just and inclusive legal system.

nuclear site for the benefit of local and regional residents alike.

In law school I have been engaged in public interest litigation from every side of the courtroom: externing for a San Francisco trial judge, prosecuting civil cases for the California Attorney General and defending indigent clients for the Marin County Public Defender. These experiences have enabled me to gain new perspectives on our American justice system and the aspects in need of reform. Even in the instances where I have represented a single client, I strove to maintain a broad-minded view, seeking to develop precedent and principles of fairness that benefit the general public.

This semester I am drafting a brief that will be used to assist individuals being held indefinitely by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the federal detention facility in Florence, Arizona. I am also helping draft a citizen toolkit for grassroots-level stakeholders in California who will be participating in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-licensing of dams in their communities.

ARIC BRIGHT

There are people in prison and on death row who shouldn't be there. There are people stuck in immigration detention who need to be free. And there are people who have made bad decisions and terrible mistakes in their lives who need someone to stand by them. These people are why I came to law school . . . that, and because of my mom. Though I plan to work defending poor people accused of crimes, when I was growing up my mother was a sheriff's deputy. Though these may seem to be conflicting career paths, her career choice was influenced by her desire to help people in need and to serve justice, and so is mine.

I have been lucky to have the last three years at King Hall to learn the law, and to learn how to better promote social justice. I've been proud to serve as an officer on the King Hall Legal Foundation Board and here at King Hall I've also been fortunate to be a part of the Prison and Immigration Law Clinics and of our chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

With the tools I've gained from these experiences, I've been able to advocate on behalf of people in deportation proceedings, on death row, at San Quentin, and at Napa State Hospital. I've been able to work with poor and working class people accused of crimes and on probation. My hope is to continue this work throughout my career.

CARYN CROSTHWAIT

My interests in public service and social justice were developed first by my

mom and dad, who have worked as a nurse and social worker, respectively, for many years. In high school and college, I was involved in a variety of service activities, like peer counseling and volunteering at an after-school day care and as an ESL tutor, but working with immigrants has been my real love. My interest in immigration grew out of studying Spanish in high school and college and also working at a fruit-packing company in Ukiah, California, my hometown, for several summer harvests and the year after I graduated from college. Most of the seasonal employees there were Spanish-speaking migrants. Then as both a college student and as a graduate student in history, I focused on immigration issues. After obtaining a Master's degree from Tufts, I worked as a paralegal for six years at a small immigration law firm in Boston, Massachusetts. I also volunteered for several years at a walk-in legal clinic at a nonprofit agency in Boston for immigrant and refugee assistance. While in law school, I have been incredibly fortunate to work with Professor Jim Smith at the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic and with Amagda Perez, Kirsten Hill and others at the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. I'm very grateful for the many wonderful opportunities I've had at King Hall and I now hope to continue working with and serving immigrant communities as an attorney.

FAISAL DITTU

I aspire to be a person who is defined by the work he does to improve the lives of the indigent and oppressed. I aim to utilize the privilege and access granted by a law degree to help others.

Following my first year at law school, I worked as a law clerk at Public Counsel in Los Angeles, focusing on enforcing children's rights in special and general education. I spent the majority of my time there representing children in expulsion and manifestation determination hearings, as well as IEP and Section 504 meetings. In each of the 14 cases I took on that summer, I was 100% successful in attaining the benefits and resolution which my clients sought. This success rate is perhaps not so much indicative of my personal efficacy, but instead signifies the large number of children who are clearly being deprived of federally mandated rights and need relatively simple legal representation in order to attain enforcement.

Starting after my 2L year and continuing until now, I have worked at the Office of the Public Defender of Sacramento County. I have worked as a research associate, dealing with motion writing and case organization in death penalty cases. Additionally, I have done work in misdemeanor intake and pleading, helping indigent clients in analyzing their cases and assessing

access and tools to navigate through the legal system.

In law school and in practice, I hope to embody my vision in the work I choose to do. So far, I represented juveniles at the Sacramento Public Defender's Office as well as immigrants facing deportation at the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic. I assisted legal permanent residents with their applications in the CRLAF Naturalization Workshops. Additionally, I tried to serve as a leader to other students by participating in La Raza Law Students Association, the National Latino/a Law Student Association, and Advocates for the Rights of Children. I am not sure about my future job plans, but I am certain that I'll be continuing my advocacy on behalf of children and immigrant families in California.

SAMMAR MIQBEL

I am a Muslim American from Lodi, California. When I was 9 years old, my parents were in the process of obtaining their citizenship. As the family nerd, I was selected to help them complete the necessary paperwork and prepare for their test. I remember asking my parents questions about the application process, and why they were required to go through this process. Though my parents tried to explain the basics of immigration to me, I was having a difficult time understanding the fairness behind it. I was so afraid that if my parents failed the exam, we would all have to be deported. That experience, sparked my initial interest in public service and public interest.

Because I worked full time throughout high school, undergrad and even law school, I had very little time to devote to public interest work. Prior to law school, I was able to do some public interest work and community service. I volunteered at the local Masjid's and helped people fill out affidavit of support forms, and naturalization forms. I also volunteered as a tutor at the Anderson Y Center to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds. As a law student, I have done public interest work through my participation in the UC Davis Immigration Clinic, and the Federal Public Defenders Office in Sacramento. I have also been an active member in community outreach through my participation in the King Hall Outreach Program (KHOP) and the Community Education Street Law Program.

AMANDA NEWELL

Originally from Bakersfield, Amanda Newell graduated from Fresno State in 2004 with a degree in criminology and political science. Growing up, Amanda wanted to be the next Matlock, a wealthy criminal defense attorney that regularly made the evening news. But as she grew older, she realized that her work needed to reflect the values she was raised with, and

Lila worked for the UC Davis Family Protection Clinic during her second year of law school, where she represented clients who were victims of domestic violence. She advocated for clients seeking restraining orders, dissolution, and child custody and visitation orders. Following her second year of law school, Lila worked at Sacramento Child Advocates, Inc. where she advocated for youth in the foster care system in Sacramento County. She drafted motions, interviewed clients and supported attorneys representing child clients both in dependency and juvenile court matters.

After graduation, Lila plans to provide direct legal services to underrepresented communities in her legal career.

THALASSA KINGSNORTH

Thalassa began working for the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic in the spring semester of her first year of law school. During her two years of service to the clinic, she has co-authored motions and briefs filed with the Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Ninth Circuit. Her 1L summer, Thalassa provided legal aid at La Raza Centro Legal to individuals coping with employment and labor law rights violations. Over the course of the last three years, she has donated numerous hours to the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation Citizenship project. At King Hall, she started the documentary film series on Human Rights in Latin America. Thalassa served the La Raza Law Students Association as a member of the Cesar Chavez Week Committee, Cultural Affairs Chair, and Political Committee Co-Chair. In addition, she recently sat on the Faculty Appointments Committee responsible for hiring four new Professors.

Finally, Thalassa was instrumental in starting the Refugee Law study course at King Hall, and hopes to pursue a career in immigration law.

RUBY MARTINEZ

I was born and raised by my parents, both immigrants from Mexico, in a working-class, predominately minority area in San Jose. After graduating from Stanford in 2001, I returned to this same neighborhood and took a job at a small non-profit agency. I worked closely with mothers escaping domestic violence, fathers facing discrimination at work, and families living in substandard apartments. It did not take long for me to realize that my earlier life experiences gave me a special understanding of the struggles and dreams of all persons striving to get ahead. Thus, I came to law school with one purpose: to serve as a bridge between the law and the people who need it the most. The injustices, hardships, and obstacles I have witnessed shape my belief that equal justice can only exist when we provide all people the proper

options.

I currently plan to work overseas in developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. I am interested in doing habeas work and am currently doing research regarding wrongful imprisonment in developing countries.

ERIC DYE

I have always been drawn to public service work—even from my days as a member and officer of my high school's Rotary Club. As an undergraduate at UC Irvine, I knew I wanted to promote equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, so I educated my peers through my work with the LGBT Speaker's Bureau and helped LGBT students deal with adversity in their lives as an LGBT Peer Counselor. My decision to attend law school solidified after taking a civil rights course at UC Irvine where I gained a full appreciation for the power of legal knowledge.

While at King Hall, I have done work with the LGBT community, low-income people and the elderly. I have been a volunteer at, and later coordinator of, the Lambda Referral Clinic at Sacramento's Lambda Community Center where I listened to legal issues LGBT people were having and referred them to an LGBT or LGBT-friendly attorneys and organizations for further assistance. My work with low-income people came as an intern for eight months at Legal Services of Northern California where I helped over 50 clients with housing and public benefits. Last semester I helped an elder law attorney draft legislation to change an unfair law governing assisted living facilities in California. As a lawyer, I intend to continue this public interest work and currently my goal is to be an estate-planning attorney who specializes in helping LGBT people and their families.

SARAH FARNSWORTH

Growing up in diverse Stockton, CA, I was fascinated by the idea of the American Dream. However, I quickly realized that the American immigrant experience can be more like a nightmare. After college I knew I wanted to use my education toward a career in immigrants' rights.

In my first year of law school I found the law inaccessible and stifling. I couldn't wait until my second year to work with the Immigration Clinic. Through the Immigration Clinic I was able to represent detained immigrants in removal proceedings. Seeing the ways in which immigration and criminal law intersect, I became committed to defending "criminal aliens," a group whose rights are too often ignored.

During my second year, in response to some extremely punitive proposed

legislation, I helped create the Campaign Against Unjust Immigration Laws (CAUIL). We hosted teach-ins and know-your-rights trainings to students and workers and organized marches and rallies against the proposed legislation. Through CAUIL I was able to see the value of my legal education: we translated legal jargon into information people could understand, and through our outreach we were able to move thousands of people into action.

This year I have continued my work with CAUIL and the clinic and also participated in the Street Law program. After graduation I plan to continue my work in community legal education and defending detained immigrants.

SARAH FENN

Sarah Fenn's commitment to public service began during high school, where she served as a school Community Service Coordinator and spent her Sundays collecting food donations for homebound HIV/AIDS patients. Sarah continued her dedication to public service in college, where she tutored low-income students through Amigos de UCLA and served as Vice President of Amnesty International's UCLA Chapter. While at UCLA, Sarah also interned for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

After college, Sarah moved to Washington, D.C., where she spent a year working on health policy as an intern for U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions. While in Washington, D.C., Sarah also volunteered as a tutor for low-income students at the Freedom Youth Academy. From 2004-2006, Sarah also worked towards fostering youth involvement in international issues as the Director of Education Programs for the Council for American Students in International Negotiations (CASIN).

During law school, Sarah continued to work on effecting change through the federal government as a summer law clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Most recently, Sarah was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) program, through which she plans to continue to devote her career to public service. Sarah believes strongly in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. that "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

ELIZABETH JANE HARRINGTON

I didn't come to law school to become an activist. I came to law school to bring the law into my activism. My work both before and during law school--and hopefully after--show that.

Within King Hall, I have worked with the King Hall Legal Foundation, redesigning their website to reflect the mission and the accomplishments of that organization outside of King Hall. When I was honored to be chosen as a Sacramento County Bar Association Fellow my first year, I volunteered the next year to outreach and maintain the viability of that important program. As president of the Lambda Law Students organization, I pursued a vision of education, activism and community. I also recognized the importance of visibility, particularly with the LGBT community, and I'm proud to say I don't think there is anyone at King Hall who doesn't know what an active, proud and vocal Lambda group we have. In an effort to connect our good work with others, I maintained partnerships with McGeorge students and the Sacramento LGBT bar. Together, we have worked to continue and improve a Sacramento legal clinic for the LGBT community.

Professionally, I have committed three semesters to the Civil Rights Clinic, in an effort to represent our client in getting the medical services he needs in prison. My hope is that such work will ensure medical services for many others. After working in a labor and employment law firm my first summer, I took those skills to the Employment Law Clinic with Voluntary Legal Services in Sacramento, and for the first time, saw the intersection of my activism and my education happening right before me, inspiring me and empowering others. I'd like to hope the rest of my career will be like that.

With the nomination for this award comes recognition, and I am honored. There is no shortage of dedicated, smart and inspiring activists in my class, and I'm grateful to be named as one.

LILA HOLLMAN

Lila grew up in Santa Cruz, California. She attended UC San Diego where she received her BA in Literature, Creative Writing. Prior to law school, Lila was a volunteer English tutor at an immigrant absorption center in Israel, interned at a women's legal center, taught at low-income schools in San Diego, and worked for the San Francisco Anti-Defamation League. Lila's goal in attending law school was to gain the legal tools to become a better advocate for underrepresented individuals and communities.

In the summer following her first year of law school, Lila traveled to Bangalore, India, where she worked for the Concerned for Working Children. Lila designed and implemented a series of 16 consultations on five proposed bills that would impact working children on issues such as compulsory education, rural employment, and child marriage. 300 children and 168 adults from across the state of Karnataka participated in the consultations.
