

Stanford Law School

2L Public Interest Mentors

2015 - 2016

Each year, the Levin Center at Stanford Law School recruits second-year public interest students to mentor first-year students to help ease the transition to law school and provide personalized advice and support. First-year students can choose to join specific practice area groups (e.g., criminal prosecution, international human rights, or environmental law) or a general public interest group for students with niche interests not covered by existing groups (e.g., animal law) or students who have not yet narrowed their interests.



Paul Bennetch

Paul grew up in Brussels, Belgium, married a Coloradan, and studied Latin and International Relations at Cornell University. After college, he taught middle school English for two years in Denver, through Teach For America. As a 1L, he volunteered for research projects on criminal accountability in transitional justice situations, was an editor on the Stanford Law and Policy Review, co-President of the SLS Human Trafficking Project, and a member of the SLS Christian Fellowship. He spent his 1L summer at the Center for Justice and Accountability in San Francisco, where he worked on civil litigation on behalf of victims of war crimes, torture, and extrajudicial killings. He is excited to participate in the Youth and Education Law Program clinic in the Spring. Paul is interested in civilian victimization and rule of law in conflict zones, and institutionalized abuse against low-income and immigrant communities in the United States. He likes playing pick-up soccer or rugby, and hiking in beautiful coastal California—though he wishes it would rain more.



Katie Bies

Katie is from Wayzata, Minnesota and attended the University of Michigan where she studied Communication Studies and minored in French. After graduating in 2012, she worked as a Kindergarten teacher in Brownsville, Brooklyn, with Teach for America. At Stanford, Katie is the Academic Co-Chair of the Women's Law Society, a volunteer with the Housing Pro Bono, and a member editor on Stanford Law Review. She was also involved in the Race, Gender, and Prosecution Policy Practicum, which published a report on the diversity of California prosecutors. During her 1L summer, Katie interned with the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Practice in Manhattan and is looking forward to participating in the Criminal Defense Clinic this winter.



Abbee Cox

Abbee fled her hometown of Lawton, Oklahoma to attend Columbia University, where she majored in psychology and interned at the New York Citizens Crime Commission and Times Square Ink, a project of the Center for Court Innovation. Her wanderlust has led her to study and/or volunteer in Ecuador, China, Paris, and Cape Town. Abbee is co-editor-in-chief of the Stanford Journal of Criminal Law and Policy, administrative vice president of WSL, a StreetLaw teacher, and a member editor of the Stanford Law Review. She also serves on the boards of ACS, Criminal Law Society, and the 2015 Shaking the Foundations Progressive Lawyering Conference. After spending her summer as a Ford Foundation Fellow at the ACLU Capital Punishment Project in Durham, North Carolina, she looks forward to participating in the Criminal Defense Clinic this winter.



Peter Davis

Peter is from San Juan Capistrano, California and graduated from Stanford in 2011 with a BA in International Relations. Before arriving at SLS in 2014, he worked for three years as a research assistant at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford, working on nuclear nonproliferation issues. At SLS, he is the co-president of the Criminal Law Society and volunteers with the Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP) Pro Bono in East Palo Alto. During his 1L summer, he interned in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco. He looks forward to participating in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic in the spring.



Jason Despain

Jason was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming and is a fifth-generation Wyomingite. He studied Economics at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and was honored as a Harry S. Truman

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Scholar. During school, he took a two-year leave to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Moscow, Russia and Almaty, Kazakhstan. After college, Jason worked as a Truman-Albright Research Fellow in the Administration for Children and Families. At Stanford, he is the president of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society and the co-director of the Naturalization Pro Bono Project. Jason looks forward to working in the Religious Liberty Clinic this spring.



Gina Elliott

Gina grew up in Bronxville, New York and went to Georgetown University after a gap year in Australia and New Zealand. She graduated in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in International Relations. She then worked at Special Olympics International at a grants manager. At Stanford, Gina is co-president of the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and is also involved with the Immigration Pro Bono, Stanford Law Review, Women of Stanford Law, and the American Constitution Society. She was fortunate to travel to Lebanon with IRAP over spring break. She spent her 1L summer in South Africa at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (and enjoyed traveling in southern Africa on the weekends). Gina is excited to work with the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic this fall.



Kate Fetrow

Kate grew up outside St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated from Bates College in 2013, where she studied philosophy and politics. Before law school, she worked as a paralegal at a small environmental and energy law firm in Vermont and volunteered with the legal aid clinic of a battered women's shelter. At Stanford, she is a Co-President of the Stanford International Human Rights Law Association, an Executive Board Member of the Law Students for Reproductive Justice and the Policy Director for the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. She spent her 1L summer as a Ford Fellow at Women's Link Worldwide, a women's rights litigation nonprofit in Madrid, Spain. She is interested in litigation, women's rights, and human rights. She looks forward to participating in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic in the spring.



Zoé Friedland

Zoe is from West Palm Beach, Florida. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 2012 with a degree in history and public policy. After college she was a paralegal at a civil rights law firm in Washington, DC.

At Stanford, Zoe is a submissions editor on the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties. She is also the Treasurer of the Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation and a writing tutor for the Hume Writing Center. Zoe spent the summer at the Department of Justice's Office for Access to Justice. She likes to cook and tap dance.



Laura Gilson

Laura is from Sparta, New Jersey. She graduated from Hamilton College in 2012 with a degree in English and Art History. Afterwards she completed a Fulbright grant as an English Teaching Assistant in Balikpapan, Indonesia before working for the Manhattan District Attorney's Rackets Bureau prior to law school. At Stanford, Laura is the Criminal Law Society's mentor chair, the SLA public liaison, an associate editor on Stanford Law and Policy Review Journal, and a co-chair of the Parallel Justice Pro Bono. Laura spent this summer working for the State Department in The Hague on various international criminal tribunals. Outside of law school, she loves running, hiking, and finding new camping spots to explore California.



Alice Hall-Partyka

Alice is from Pasadena, California and graduated from the University of Southern California with dual degrees in Global Health and Environmental Studies. During her undergraduate, she interned at the World Health Organization in Geneva, focusing on the promotion of rights-based approaches to child and adolescent health. She was also involved with various educational outreach and global health organizations. At SLS, she is co-president of the Stanford International Human Rights Law Association and has additionally been involved in the Social Security Disability Project pro bono, the Stanford Law and Policy Review, and the Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation Auction Committee. She spent her first summer as a Ford Foundation fellow in the Bangkok and Kathmandu offices of the International Commission of Jurists, supporting Nepal programs related to the earthquake disaster relief, criminal accountability for serious crimes, and the Constitution-making process. She is looking forward to participating in the Afghanistan Legal Education Project and the Immigrants' Rights Clinic during her 2L year.



Amari Hammonds

Amari Hammonds is a 2L committed to social justice, including criminal law reform, local government action, civil rights, and race and gender equality. She

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is currently involved in Stanford's StreetLaw pro bono, the Race and Criminal Justice Reading Group, and the Three Strikes seminar. She formerly served as a staff writer for Mayor Bill de Blasio and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City and has also worked for the Obama administration. As a sociology major at Columbia University (CC '09), she focused on race, gender, and urban policy and was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and Kluge Scholar. She now serves on the board of Fund for a Safer Columbia, which supports student-led and survivor-driven programs and resources that address sexual assault on Columbia's campus.



Rachel Haney

Rachel Haney is from Centreville, VA, but grew up around the country as the daughter of a United States Air Force officer. She graduated from Pitzer College, where she studied History and German Studies. After college, Rachel spent a year in Vienna, Austria studying Austrian Organic Farming and the Impact on Animal Welfare for food-producing animals and teaching English as a Fulbright Fellow. She then moved to Seattle, WA where she worked for Fidelity Investments and volunteered for the Refugee Women's Alliance and the Seattle Community Law Center. At Stanford, she is Community Service Chair of the Women of Stanford Law and Co-President of the Animal Law Pro Bono. Rachel is also involved in the Social Security and Disability Pro Bono. Rachel is interested in pursuing a career in criminal prosecution and developing the role prosecutors play in reentry. She spent her 1L summer at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington in Seattle and is looking forward to participating in the Criminal Prosecution Clinic this Winter.



Sophie Hart

Sophie grew up in Cave Creek, Arizona and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. She is interested in poverty law and criminal justice reform. During college, Sophie volunteered with various food justice and criminal justice organizations, including the community group Solid Ground, the Sustainability in Prisons Project, and an alternative K-8 school in South Seattle. She also researched prisoner reentry programs while studying abroad in Italy. At Stanford, she's been involved with the Asylum Assistance Pro Bono Project, the Women of Stanford Law (of which she's a co-president this year), the Stanford Law Review, and the 2015 Shaking the Foundations Progressive Lawyering Conference. She spent her 1L summer at the Texas Fair Defense Project in Austin, Texas

and is looking forward to joining the Criminal Defense Clinic this Spring.



An-Li Herring

An-Li is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the University of Michigan, where she studied public policy and economics, in 2011. Following college, she worked at the Center for Effective Philanthropy in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for three years. At Stanford, An-Li is a staff writer for The Stanford Daily and policy co-chair of the American Constitution Society. She spent her 1L summer at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh and looks forward to joining the Organizations and Transactions Clinic in the spring.



Rylee Kercher

Rylee was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2014 with a degree in Environmental Studies. During college, she interned with multiple environmental nonprofits and spent her summers researching watersheds in the Monongahela region. At Stanford, she is President of the Stanford Law Energy Club, Co-Academic Chair of the Women of Stanford Law, and Co-Academic Chair of the Environmental Law Society. She is also involved in the Environmental Law Journal, Volunteer Attorney Program Pro Bono, and Environmental Law Pro Bono. Rylee is a joint degree student and plans to obtain a Masters in Environment and Resources while at SLS. During 1L summer she worked in the California Office of the Attorney General's Environment and Land Law Sections in Oakland, and she is looking forward to the Environmental Law Clinic this winter.



Hannah Kieschnick

Hannah grew up just down the street in Palo Alto, CA. During her college career at Yale, she interned at the Brennan Center for Justice and Media Matters and was involved with reentry work. After graduating in 2011, she worked for two years at the civil rights firm, Relman, Dane & Colfax, and then deferred for a third year to backpack around the world and volunteer in a Guatemalan women's prison. At Stanford, Hannah is involved with the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the American Constitution Society. Hannah spent her 1L summer working at the Southern Center for Human Rights where she focused on capital appellate litigation and civil impact litigation. She is looking forward to participating in the

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Supreme Court Litigation Clinic this fall and to getting to know Stanford's newest class of public interest students.



Adam Lewis

Adam grew up in the Bay Area (in a little town in West Marin called Nicasio). He graduated from Haverford College in 2010 with a degree in Political Science and Religion. After college, he taught for a year at a high school in Alexandria, VA,

then transitioned into international policy work—first, at a national security think tank and then at Human Rights Watch in the counterterrorism program. In his final year before law school he worked at a venture philanthropy fund in Boston doing research on non-profit investment opportunities in criminal justice. At Stanford, Adam is Co-President of the Criminal Law Society and teaches for both StreetLaw and Project ReMADE. He is also a Court Appointed Friend and Advocate for justice-involved youth in Santa Clara County through Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY). Adam spent his 1L summer working as a clerk in the General Crimes/Misdemeanor Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco and is excited to be participating in the Community Law Clinic this winter. In his free time, Adam enjoys playing and watching sports, hanging out with his cats (Hercules and Spanky), and going on hikes with his wife Lauren.



Sean McGuire

Sean studied a mix of religion, policy, and the social sciences at the University of Southern California, earning his BA in international relations and economics in 2013. After college, he spent eight months writing Excel formulae as a research assistant on a large immigration study at

USC's Gould School of Law. Sean has spent much of his first year at Stanford fruitlessly attempting to decide between his interests in criminal law and environmental protection. He serves as the Submissions Editor for the Stanford Journal of Criminal Law and Policy, a 2L Editor for the Stanford Environmental Law Journal, and as an executive board member for the Criminal Law Society, the Social Security Disability Pro Bono Project, and the Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation. After his 1L year, he worked for the Metropolitan Public Defender in Portland, Oregon, on a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases. He is looking forward to beginning his joint MS through the E-IPER program this fall, and to joining the Religious Liberty Clinic in the spring.



Katie McKeon

Katie was born and raised in Orange County, CA, and graduated from Stanford University in 2012 with a B.A. in History. During college, she interned with the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights in D.C. and the National Labor Relations Board. She was also a Research

Assistant for the Levin Center during her senior year. After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a paralegal at a private public interest firm. During her two years there, she worked on international human rights cases, mainly dealing with human trafficking. She spent her 1L summer as a Ford Fellow at Public Advocates in San Francisco, where she worked on housing related issues in the Bay Area. At SLS, she is involved with SLLSA, the Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation, and is a coordinator for the Housing Pro Bono Project. She is looking forward to participating in the Community Law Clinic in the Winter, and completing an externship with the Employment Law Center in the Spring.



Megan McKoy

A Washington, D.C. native, Megan graduated from Stanford University in 2014 with a BA in History. Her research focused on Black-Jewish community relations post-World War II. At SLS, she serves as co-president of the Black Law

Students Association and volunteers as a teacher for the pro bono StreetLaw. She is very committed to racial justice and criminal law reform, and she spent her 1L summer at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn. She is very excited to participate in the Criminal Defense Clinic this year.



Kai Medeiros

Kai is originally from Santa Cruz, California. He attended UCSB for undergrad, majoring in Global Studies and Spanish, and minoring in Linguistics. While at UCSB Kai studied abroad in Mexico, and conducted anthropological field work on local conflict resolution

in an indigenous township in the state of Chiapas. After graduating, he worked as an interpreter and paralegal for a plaintiffs' side employment law firm in Santa Barbara. Since coming to Stanford, Kai has become the co-leader of the Immigration Pro Bono, and has also been working as a research assistant for the Human Rights Center, focusing primarily on detention conditions in Latin America. This upcoming year he looks forward to doing the International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic, as well as

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beginning to work towards his joint degree (JD/MA) with the Center for Latin American Studies.



Daniel Nesbit

Daniel grew up close to Washington, D.C. in Waterford, Virginia and graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a B.S. in International Relations and Politics. During college, he worked on developmental projects in Malawi, Qatar, and India and on President Obama's

reelection campaign in Pittsburgh. As a 1L, Daniel volunteered with the Immigration Pro Bono Project and worked on the Stanford Law and Policy Review. This past summer, he worked at the City Attorney's Office in Palo Alto. He's excited to participate in Moot Court and the Youth & Education Law Project clinic during 2L.



Zehava Robbins

Zehava Robbins is from Austin, Texas. She graduated from Tufts University with a degree in psychology and Latin. After graduating in 2011, she worked for three years in academic publishing for the American Society for Microbiology. At Stanford, Zehava is a Community Co-

Chair for SLA, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Journal of Criminal Law and Policy, and Alumni Chair of the Criminal Law Society. She also was a co-organizer for Alternative Spring Break at Orleans Public Defenders in New Orleans. During her 1L summer, Zehava worked for the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project in DC, and she is looking forward to participating in the Religious Liberty Clinic in the spring.



Mary Rock

Mary graduated from the University of Michigan in 2011. Prior to law school, Mary worked at the National Environmental Law Center, an environmental litigation non-profit, where she was primarily involved in Endangered Species Act and Clean Air Act cases. She

also taught at a literature and creative writing program in New England. Mary spent her 1L summer working at California Rural Legal Assistance in Salinas. With CRLA, she worked on safe drinking water issues and farmworkers' labor and employment cases. At Stanford, Mary is co-chair of programming for Shaking the Foundations, a submissions editor for the Environmental Law Journal, and a volunteer with the Social Security Disability Pro Bono Project.



Matthew Sellers

A native of Perry, Georgia, Matthew attended the University of Georgia and received an A.B. in English in 2012. After graduating, he studied colonial and postcolonial literature for two years at Wolfson College, University of Oxford, where he was Graduate Scholar in Life-

Writing for the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing. At Stanford, Matthew volunteers with the Social Security Disability Pro Bono and serves on the boards of the American Constitution Society, Shaking the Foundations Progressive Lawyering Conference, and OutLaw. He is also a member editor of the Stanford Law Review, and he looks forward to participating in the Immigrants' Rights Clinic this spring. After his 1L summer, Matthew was a law clerk at Public Advocates, a nonprofit civil rights firm in San Francisco, where he worked with the Educational Equity team.



Mari Takemoto-Chock

Mari was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and her M.A. in Humanities and Social Thought from New York University. Before law school, Mari helped launch a

service-learning program for under-resourced Hawai'i youth as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Kupu, an environmental nonprofit. She also worked on securities fraud cases as a litigation assistant for a plaintiffs' class action firm in San Francisco. Mari spent her 1L summer at the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, where she investigated potential claims relating to inadequate mental health services for low-income children and discrimination against COFA migrants. Mari is excited to participate in the Environmental Law Clinic this fall.



Amy Tannenbaum

Amy is from Kirksville, MO and upstate New York. She attended Hamilton College, where she studied comparative literature with a focus on French and performance art. After graduating, Amy worked for four years in D.C. on workplace and education justice at the

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and the National Women's Law Center. At Stanford, she has worked on the Housing Pro Bono and is looking forward to starting a new worker's rights pro bono this year. She is the co-founder and co-coordinator of the SLS National Lawyers Guild, and is also involved with the Stanford Critical Law Society, BLSA, OutLaw, and a student/faculty committee on race and the curriculum. She spent her 1L summer at

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the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, CA, working on fair-chance hiring policies for individuals with conviction records and other racial and economic justice reforms for low-wage workers, and at Young Workers United, conducting Know Your Rights presentations on San Francisco's Retail Workers Bill of Rights. Amy is excited to participate in the Community Law Clinic this spring.



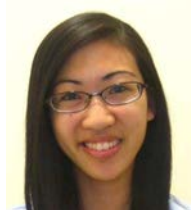
John Ugai

John is originally from Durango, which is a very small town in Southwestern Colorado. After growing up in Durango, he moved to Los Angeles to attend Occidental College, where he graduated with a degree in Economics. Before law school John worked at both the Children's Law Center and Hadsell, Stormer, and Renick. At Stanford, he is involved in the Access to Justice Pro Bono, the Environmental Law Pro Bono, Stanford's Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Shaking the Foundations. Finally, this past summer John worked in San Francisco at Asian Americans Advancing Justice - The Asian Law Caucus on criminal justice reform issues.



George Warner

George grew up outside Boston, Mass. and graduated from Brown University in 2010. Between college and law school, he lived in Brooklyn, New York. Before law school, George worked as a journalist and as paralegal at a boutique litigation firm and at a foreclosure prevention clinic. George plans on pursuing a career that focuses on addressing economic justice issues, and this past summer he worked at New Economy Project, a New York City non-profit that assists low-income city residents facing debt collection and works with community groups to advocate on behalf of low-income New Yorkers. At Stanford, he is involved in the Social Security Disability Project, the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, OUTLAW, Shaking the Foundations, National Lawyers Guild, and the Housing Probono. He is looking forward to participating in the International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic this spring.



Michelle Wu

Michelle is from Orangeburg, NY, and graduated from Princeton University in 2011 with a degree in ecology and evolutionary biology. After college, she worked for one year as a program associate at the Association to Benefit Children, and for two years as a litigation assistant at the Natural Resources Defense Council. At

Stanford, she is involved with the Environmental Law Journal, Shaking the Foundations, APILSA, and the Environmental and Immigration Pro Bono projects. Michelle is also pursuing a joint MS in Environment and Resources through the E-IPER program. She spent her 1L summer at the California Attorney General's Oakland office, working for the Environment and Land Law sections. Michelle looks forward to participating in the Environmental Law Clinic this winter.



Mengyi Xu

Mengyi was born in China, but spent the most formative years of her childhood and teenage era in Paris and Chicago. She graduated from Princeton University in 2014 with a degree from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs and certificates in Global Health Policy and Translation & Intercultural Communication. At Stanford, Mengyi is the co-chair of the Stanford Law Association Academics Committee, an officer of the International Law Society, and the executive editor of the Stanford Law and Policy Review. Professionally, Mengyi is interested in various transnational legal issues, ranging from business & human rights and rule of law, to the nexus between investment law and development, and cross-border data protection. She is also drawn to exploring the growing space for technological and design innovation in legal service delivery. Mengyi spent her 1L summer interning with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna, Austria.



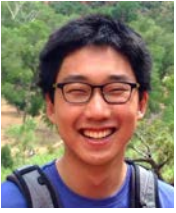
Mike Yakima

Mike earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, followed by an MPA in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School. He then served for four years in the U.S. Air Force as an Intelligence officer, managing teams responsible for analytic and targeting support for U.S. operations in the Middle East. At Stanford, Mike is a mentor and the Business School Liaison for Project ReMADE. He is also involved with the Paul Lomio Veteran's Legal Assistance Project, Stanford Social Entrepreneurial Students Association, and Stanford Technology Law Review. Mike spent his first-year summer as an Associate with Third Sector Capital Partners, a nonprofit offering pay-for-success/social impact bond advisory services. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two children and loves meeting new people from all walks of life.

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James Yoon

James was born in Korea and raised in Atlanta on a healthy diet of southern cuisine. He graduated from Harvard in 2012 with a degree in psychology and health policy. In college, he was the play-by-play and color commentator for the Harvard Basketball team. After graduation, James designed the health insurance exchange for Hawai'i, translating the Affordable Care Act and other healthcare regulations into software code. At Stanford, James is Co-President of the Stanford Law Association and editor on the Stanford Technology Law Review. He is looking forward to joining Community Law Clinic this winter. Professionally, James is interested in how the criminal justice system responds to new technologies and spent the past summer at the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Department of Justice, assisting on hacking and digital piracy prosecutions. In his spare time, James enjoys watching *The West Wing*, reading coming-of-age novels, and eating breakfast tacos.



Lauren Zack

Lauren grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and graduated from Arizona State University in 2014. Though she earned her degrees in Creative Writing and Psychology, she completed a thesis within the Women and Gender Studies department on reproductive health policy in Romania, which motivated her to come straight through to Stanford Law School. Lauren is Development Editor of *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*, Pro Bono Director of Law Students for Reproductive Justice, Mentorship Director of OutLaw, and a volunteer for the Social Security Disability pro bono project. She absolutely loved her 1L summer job at Planned Parenthood Federation of America in New York and hopes to practice impact litigation for a large-scale nonprofit, though she's looking forward to exploring direct services work with the Community Law Clinic this winter.