

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS ANNOUNCES 2015 FELLOWSHIP CLASS

#### *Sixty-three recent law school graduates will spend the next two years working to provide legal services to low-income and underserved populations*

**Washington, D.C., June 24, 2015** – Equal Justice Works® has announced the 2015 class of Equal Justice Works Fellows. Sixty-three recent law school graduates will spend the next two years working to provide legal services to low-income and underserved populations on issues including veterans' rights, immigration, homelessness, education, domestic violence, human trafficking, civil rights, and juvenile justice. This year's Fellowship competition attracted 443 applicants from law schools across the country. Equal Justice Works is pleased to announce that we have 63 Fellowships in 2015, an increase from 61 last year.

Seven of the 63 Fellows will comprise a corps of Fellows working on immigration across six designated cities. Those Fellows will be selected in August. Of the 56 Fellows in the Class of 2015 selected to date, 88 percent are women, 32 percent are ethnic minorities, and 18 percent are LGBT.

The 2015 Fellows selected so far include alumni from 32 law schools who will be working at 50 nonprofit organizations in 17 states and the District of Columbia beginning in the fall. Among the sponsors are 24 leading law firms and 17 Fortune 500 corporations.

"We had an exceedingly strong applicant pool this year, which made it extremely difficult to select just 63 Fellows," said Equal Justice Works Executive Director David Stern. "There are many extraordinarily talented young lawyers ready and eager to tackle the vast array of unmet legal needs in this country, if given the chance to do so. Our goal is to create these opportunities by increasing the number of Fellowships funded each year."

The 2015 Fellows have created projects addressing diverse legal issues, including:

- **Nishan Bhaumik**, who will work at New York City Anti-Violence Project in New York to develop the organization's first focused outreach program, pro bono counsel program, and hate violence docket to provide holistic legal services to underserved LGBTQ Asian survivors of intersectional violence. Nishan is sponsored by Thomson Reuters and Shearman & Sterling LLP.
- **Brianna Boone**, who will work at Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women in St. Paul to ensure domestic violence survivors can access confidential health services by protecting their rights under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Brianna is sponsored by Medtronic and Robins Kaplan LLP.

- **Sara Huffman**, who will work with UCSF/UC Hastings Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors in San Francisco to provide comprehensive medical-legal advocacy and outreach to low-income, elderly veterans at the San Francisco Veterans Administration. Sara is sponsored by PG&E and Latham & Watkins.
- **Rick Mula**, who will work at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala. to reduce the bias and violence that LGBT youth in Alabama and Tennessee face in school, foster care, group homes, juvenile detention, and homeless shelters. Rick is sponsored by The Mansfield Family Foundation.
- **Max Tipping**, who will work at Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless in Washington, D.C., to help families in D.C.'s rapid re-housing program remain in housing. Max is sponsored by Greenberg Traurig and Steptoe & Johnson.
- **Alexandra Roffman**, who will work at Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago to advocate for young mothers whose interaction with the criminal justice system threatens their mother-child bonds, addressing the cycle of incarceration, foster care, and violence for young women. Alexandra is sponsored by Aon and Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

“We are so proud to support and guide this class of dedicated lawyers as they embark on their public interest careers to serve vulnerable communities across the country,” Stern said.

Launched in 1992, the privately funded Equal Justice Works Fellowship Program is the largest postgraduate legal Fellowship program in the country, with 117 Fellows currently working on two-year projects targeting the most crucial needs of the communities they serve. The Fellowships are funded by the generous support of law firms, corporations, foundations, and individual donors. Many of the law firms and corporate legal departments utilize their sponsorship to expand their pro bono opportunities, encouraging their legal and non-legal staff to help provide needed services to those who could not otherwise afford them. Seventeen of these Fellowships, or nearly 30 percent of the class, are being sponsored by funding partnerships between law firms and their corporate clients.

Click [here](#) for a full list of the 2015 Equal Justice Works Fellows.

***Equal Justice Works*** is the national leader in creating public interest opportunities for law students and lawyers. Collaborating with the nation’s leading law schools, law firms, corporate legal departments, and nonprofit organizations, Equal Justice Works offers a continuum of opportunities that provide the training and skills that enable attorneys to provide effective representation to underserved communities and causes. Equal Justice Works is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For additional information about Equal Justice Works, please visit [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org).

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