



# FELLOWSHIP SPONSOR BOOKLET

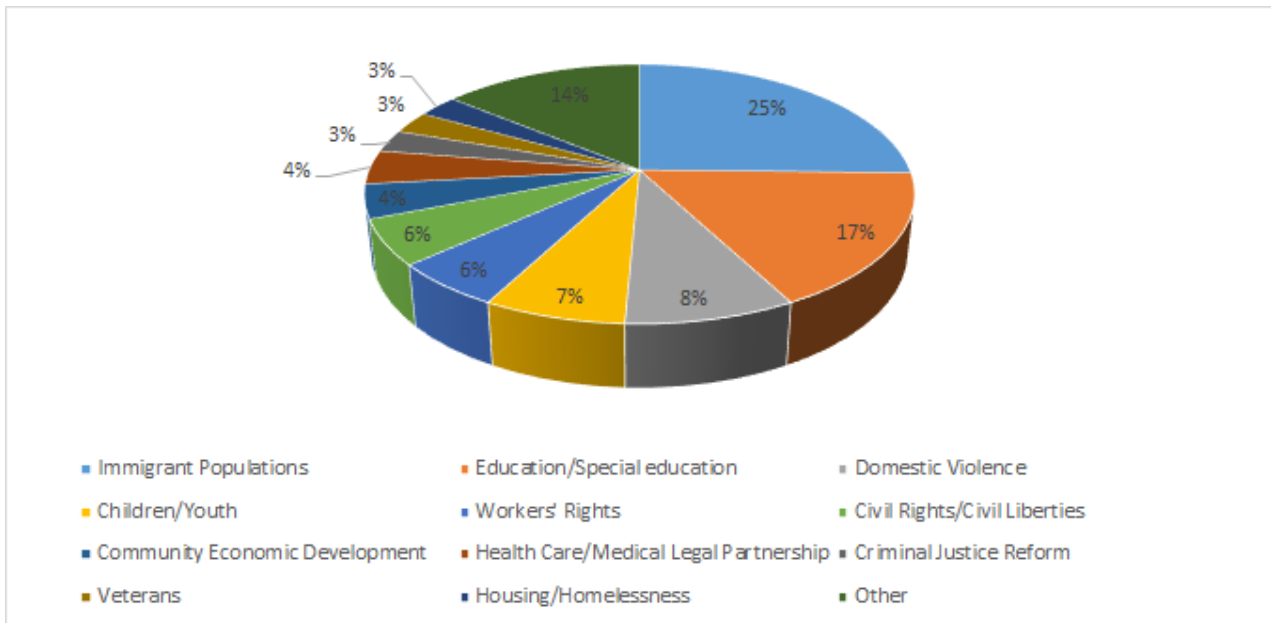
Texas Access to Justice Foundation

1999 - 2021

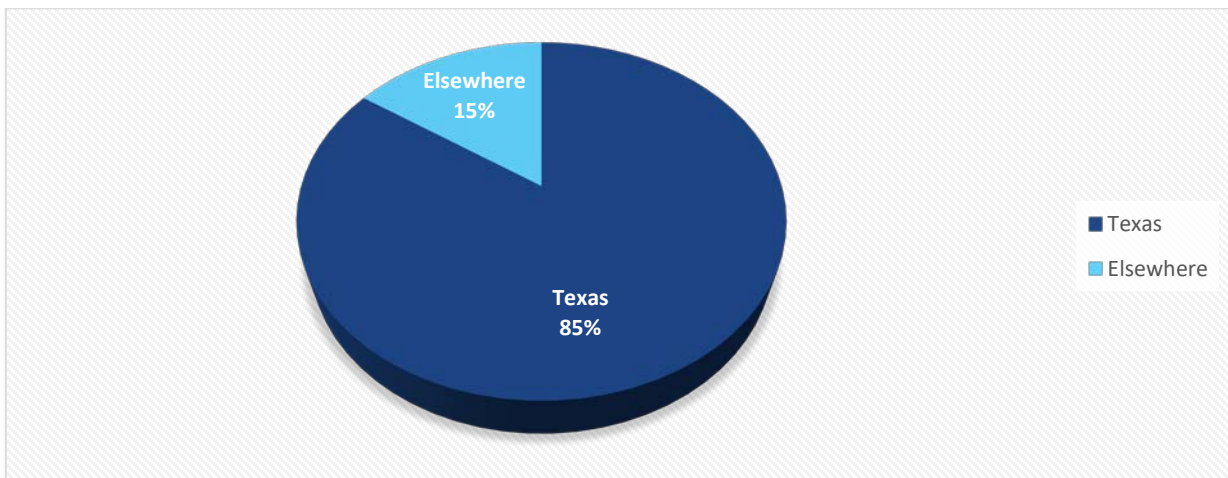
## / Equal Justice Works and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation celebrate 22 years of partnership.

Equal Justice Works would like to thank the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for the tremendous contributions the Foundation has made to America's largest postgraduate legal fellowship program. Since 1999, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation has supported **over 65 two-year Fellowships in Texas**. These Design-Your-Own Fellows have delivered critically needed legal services at more than **20 nonprofit host organizations**, working on a variety of issues including special education, disability rights, immigration, veterans' rights, and community economic development. Among the Texas Access to Justice Foundation Fellowship Alumni, **over 85 percent remain in public interest** today. This compendium demonstrates the impact that the Texas Access to Justice Foundation has had in launching the public interest careers of these attorneys. Equal Justice Works thanks the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for this outstanding commitment to ensuring equal access to the justice system for underserved individuals and communities.

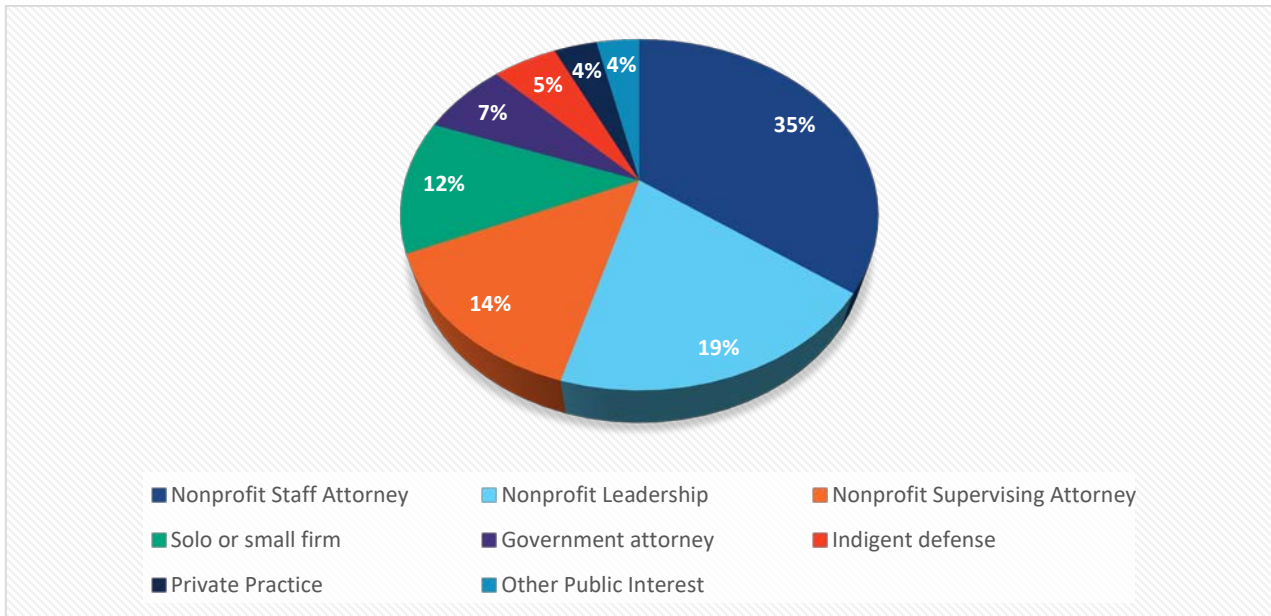
## / TAJF Fellows by Fellowship Issue Area



## / TAJF Alumni Continuing to Serve in Texas



## / Career Breakdown of TAJF Alumni



## / Words of Thanks from Fellows

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*“When I heard the Texas Access to Justice Foundation had agreed to support a project to increase access to legal services for undocumented survivors of domestic violence in Laredo, I was delighted. I would like to thank the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for their support as we worked to increase access to legal services for survivors of violence in the Laredo-Webb County area. Together we played an important role in empowering survivors!”*

**Adriana Rodriguez, Class of 2011**

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*“I would like to thank the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for sponsoring my Equal Justice Works fellowship with Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc. (FVPS). The sponsorship of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation provides me with the opportunity not only to deter violations of court orders regarding domestic violence, but also to enable victims and their families to attain stability and safety. I am very excited about the opportunity to build on FVPS's history of providing comprehensive rehabilitative services to victims of domestic violence in San Antonio.”*

**Meghan Kempf, Class of 2012**

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*“I am very grateful for the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for allowing me the opportunity to serve my community of West Dallas and empower residents through non-traditional means of advocacy that I would not have been able to pursue in my professional capacity without the Equal Justice Works fellowship.”*

**Stephanie Champion, Class of 2017**

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*“The Texas Access to Justice Foundation is integral to the fabric of the legal community in the Lone Star State and unmatched in its commitment to the continued provision of legal services to low-income Texans. I have been incredibly privileged to work closely with TAJF in the development and implementation of this project and will always have immense gratitude for the trust and faith they placed in me.”*

**Brady Granger, Class of 2018**

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## ILYCE SHUGALL

**Year:** 1999

**Host Organization:** South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR)

**City/State:** Harlingen, TX

**Law School:** DePaul University College of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Co-Sponsor:** American Immigrant Lawyers Association

**Project Description:** Provide all immigration detainees at the nation's largest Immigration and Naturalization Service detention center with legal services, education, and increased access to counsel.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Ilyce practiced for 10 years at Van Der Hout LLP, a private firm in San Francisco with a notable immigration and nationality law practice. In 2012, Ilyce joined Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, serving as Directing Attorney for the Immigration Program for five years. Ilyce then served as an immigration judge with the San Francisco Immigration Court and then as Director of the Immigrant Legal Defense Program at the Bar Association of San Francisco. Ilyce currently serves as a Managing Attorney at Immigrant Legal Defense and Senior Counsel in the Immigration Program at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto.



## AMY MAGEE

**Year:** 2002

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Project

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Engage in a statewide Title IX reform effort using education and litigation to provide communities with the foundation necessary to address youth education inequities.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Amy joined the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), where she served as a Senior Attorney and Community College Counsel, focusing on community college and special education issues. In 2018, Amy became the Director of Community College Services. As director, Amy oversees the activities of the department as well as provides support to TASB's community college members and TASB's other service areas that assist the colleges.

## SHERI TOLLIVER

**Year:** 2002

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Project

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** Vanderbilt University Law School

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Engage in a statewide Title IX reform effort using education and litigation to provide communities with the foundation necessary to address youth education inequities.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Sheri stayed on at Texas Civil Rights Project for several years before becoming an Attorney for the Southern Disability Law Center. In 2018, she moved to Colorado, where she and her husband formed the Tolliver Law Firm, as well as launched the Yampa Valley Law & Advocacy Center, a legal organization that advances the rights of children who have experienced abuse, neglect or instability, and defends the rights of victims of domestic and sexual violence. Sheri serves as the organization's Executive Director.

## JUDGE BARBARA STALDER

**Year:** 2003

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Children/Youth

**Project Description:** Create a start-up children's law program providing legal services to abused and neglected children in Harris County, TX.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Barbara worked as an attorney for Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse. She then joined the Civil Practice Clinic at University of Houston Law Center and practiced family law at Stalder Law Office. Barbara was selected as a member to the Burta Rhoads Raborn Family Law Inn of Court and was appointed to the State Bar of Texas Civil Legal Services to the Poor Committee. Barbara now serves as judge in the 280<sup>th</sup> Family District Court in Harris County.

## MATTHEW SEYMOUR

**Year:** 2004

**Host Organization:** Dallas Legal Hospice

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

**Issue Area:** Health Care; HIV/AIDS

**Project Description:** Provide civil, health-related legal representation to persons living with HIV/AIDS and terminal illness in rural North Texas.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Matthew worked with the Human Rights Initiative of North Texas. Matthew currently serves as an Assistant Public Defender in the Dallas County Public Defender's Office.

## SEAN PEVSNER

**Year:** 2005

**Host Organization:** Advocacy Inc. (now Disability Rights Texas)

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education; Disability Rights

**Project Description:** Assist students with disabilities to obtain the proper accommodations in their educational and employment careers.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Sean continued to assist clients with disabilities, including obtaining services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for clients with cerebral palsy. Sean founded the law firm of Whitburn & Pevsner, PLLC, where he has developed a vibrant special education practice and worked on other aspects of education law, as well as guardianship and other probate proceedings.

## BERNADETTE SEGURA

**Year:** 2005

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** San Antonio, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Housing/Homelessness

**Project Description:** Provide legal representation, advocacy, and outreach to San Antonio's homeless population.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Bernadette remained with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, where she is currently a Staff Attorney specializing in state and federal benefits and federally subsidized housing. She is also a team manager for the organization's Medical Legal Partnerships for El Paso. Bernadette also serves as the Chairperson for the Board of Directors at Project BRAVO, an organization that provides crisis intervention and case management assistance to low-income families.

## RAMEY KO

**Year:** 2006

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Weslaco, TX

**Law School:** University of Chicago Law School

**Issue Area:** Domestic Violence; Housing/Homelessness

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence facing discrimination in public, subsidized and private housing.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Ramey served as an Attorney with the Texas Advocacy Project, where he continued to serve victims of domestic violence. He then became an Associate Judge with the Austin Municipal Court. In 2010, President Obama appointed Ramey to serve on the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He has also been a Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Asian American Studies. Ramey is currently a member of The Ko Law Firm, PLLC and an Adjunct Professor at Texas Health and Science University. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of the Asian American Resource Center.

## DAVID SADEGH

**Year:** 2006

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Housing/Homelessness

**Project Description:** Provide low-income tenants in Harris County with the information and legal resources they need to keep their homes.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, David remained at Lone Star Legal Aid as a Staff Attorney until 2011. He later founded the Law Offices of David J. Sadegh, where he focused on landlord-tenant cases. David conducted numerous presentations and CLE trainings on landlord-tenant law, including classes for the People's Law School, the NAACP legal clinic, and the Poverty Law section of the State Bar of Texas.

## DUSTIN W. RYNDERS

**Year:** 2006

**Host Organization:** Advocacy Inc. (now Disability Rights Texas)

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Represent low-income students disadvantaged by "zero tolerance" discipline policies and advocate for systemic reform.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Dustin remained at Disability Rights Texas, where he became the organization's resident expert on voting rights policy and provided support in the areas of special education and juvenile justice. Dustin is currently a Supervising Attorney on the DRTx Education Team, representing students and parents in special education litigation and supervising a team of advocates and attorneys.

## JESSICA ALAS

**Year:** 2007

**Host Organization:** Montgomery County Women's Center

**City/State:** Conroe, TX

**Law School:** Loyola University - New Orleans School of Law

**Issue Area:** Pro Se

**Project Description:** Provide civil legal services and pro se clinics to qualifying individuals while building a pro bono volunteer network among area attorneys.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Jessica began working with Lone Star Legal Aid in Houston, where she continues to advocate on behalf of low-income Texans.

## JENNIFER LANDAU

**Year:** 2007

**Host Organization:** Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services

**City/State:** El Paso, TX

**Law School:** University of New Mexico School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Provide legal representation to immigrants facing removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review at the satellite El Paso, Texas holding facilities, with a special focus on refugees and victims of crime, torture, domestic violence, and trafficking.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Jennifer remained with Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services. She then co-founded the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, where she is the Executive Director. Jennifer is a past chair of the Immigration and International Section of the State Bar of New Mexico and a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law's Medical-Legal Alliance.

## CORINNA SPENCER-SCHEURICH

**Year:** 2007

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Projects

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** Lewis and Clark, Northwestern School of Law

**Issue Area:** Consumer Rights; Community Economic Development

**Project Description:** Establish and coordinate a self-education and self-organization effort by low-income, Spanish-speaking, rural *colonia* residents along the Texas-Mexico border for consumer rights and economic justice.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Corinna remained at Texas Civil Rights Project and became the director of the South Texas Civil Rights Project. She then moved to Oregon and joined Northwest Workers' Justice Project, which provides high quality legal support and education to workers and their organizations, most recently serving as Executive Director.

## JACOB WEDEMEYER

**Year:** 2007

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Weslaco, TX

**Law School:** University of Iowa College of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations; Workers' Rights

**Project Description:** Protect eligible Texas workers and temporary foreign workers in the H-2A, H-2B and proposed H-2C guest worker visa programs from employer abuse of the visa process and employment relationship.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Jacob served as an Assistant County Attorney for Val Verde County in Del Rio and later at the El Paso County Attorney's Office, where he worked as an Assistant County Attorney in the General Counsel Unit. Jacob then returned to Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, where he served as an Attorney and the Branch Manager of the Del Rio office.

## COLLEEN ELBE

**Year:** 2008

**Host Organization:** Advocacy Inc. (now Disability Rights Texas)

**City/State:** Lubbock, TX

**Law School:** Texas Tech University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Provide legal representation, advocacy, and training to children with unmet special education needs involved in the Lubbock County Juvenile Court or probation departments.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Colleen remained at Disability Rights Texas, where she works as a supervising attorney and continues to practice special education law and civil rights law. Colleen represents students with disabilities who are denied appropriate special education services or are illegally restrained, secluded, or disciplined as interventions to manifestations of their disability. Additionally, she works with inmates at the county jail level to ensure appropriate access to mental health services.

## HELENA (CORONADO-SALAZAR) VENTURINI

**Year:** 2008

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Workers' Rights

**Project Description:** Provide innovative legal representation to open new access to the justice system in Texas allowing working poor people to fully collect unpaid wages that they have earned but been denied.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Helena practiced at Watson, Caraway, Midkiff & Lunningham, LLP, where she focused on health care professional liability defense, school law, landlord-tenant law, and civil litigation.

## AMBER VANSCHUYVER

**Year:** 2008

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Weslaco, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Domestic Violence

**Project Description:** Enhance economic self-sufficiency for survivors of domestic violence through community education, litigation, and job creation by a worker-owned cooperative.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Amber remained at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, where she serves as the Domestic Violence/Family Law Team Manager in the Edinburg office.



## SARAH BELLINGER BEEBE

**Year:** 2009

**Host Organization:** Advocacy Inc. (now Disability Rights Texas)

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** William & Mary School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education; Disability Rights

**Project Description:** Create a pro bono Special Education Clinic consisting of lawyers from the private bar to provide advice and representation to low-income students entitled to special education services.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Sarah remained with Disability Rights Texas as a Supervising Attorney, where she continues to provide direct representation to students with disabilities in need of legal services. Sarah conducts outreach and provides educational presentations and training to parents, lawyers, advocates, and all interested parties on the topic of special education law. She also works on systemic litigation and projects that help students with disabilities across Texas.

## JESSICA CASSIDY

**Year:** 2009

**Host Organization:** Texas Legal Services Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** DePaul University College of Law

**Issue Area:** Domestic Violence

**Project Description:** Develop the economic self-sufficiency of victims of domestic violence with children so they are not compelled to return to their batterers for financial support.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Jessica remained at Texas Legal Services Center as a Staff Attorney, focusing primarily on consumer, health, and family law. Jessica then joined Whole Foods Market in Austin, where she currently serves as Senior Data Governance Counsel.

## ABIGAIL FRANK

**Year:** 2009

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Project

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** Georgetown University Law Center

**Issue Area:** Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

**Project Description:** Serve the needs of Limited English Proficiency individuals in civil proceedings by educating judges and county policy makers about improving interpretation services and developing litigation to effect systemic change.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Abigail remained with Texas Civil Rights Project as a Staff Attorney, where she continued the work she started during her Fellowship to improve language access in a variety of settings including courts, hospitals, and jails. Abigail then joined Texas Legal Services Center.

## PATRICIA FRESHWATER

**Year:** 2009

**Host Organization:** Catholic Charities of Dallas

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** University of Virginia School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Co-Sponsor:** Baker & McKenzie

**Project Description:** Provide legal services to detained immigrants by educating them regarding their rights and offering training and support to pro bono attorneys.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Patricia started a private immigration law practice, Lopez & Freshwater PLLC, where she focuses on family-based visa petitions, deportation, and removal defense in Immigration Court, appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, asylum, waivers, Violence Against Women Act and U visa cases for victims of crimes, and deferred action for childhood arrivals.

## KRISTIN (CONNOR) KIMMELMAN

**Year:** 2010

**Host Organization:** Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services

**City/State:** El Paso, TX

**Law School:** Florida State University College of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Provide abandoned, abused, and neglected immigrant youth in west Texas and southern New Mexico a path to citizenship through legal advocacy, community outreach, and organizational capacity building.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Kristin became a research and writing specialist with the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Western District of Texas in El Paso, continuing to work on her former Fellowship project on a pro bono basis. She is now an Assistant Federal Public Defender in San Antonio.

## CELINA MORENO

**Year:** 2010

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** San Antonio, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Obstruct the school-to-prison pipeline in San Antonio and nearby areas by informing families of their rights, collaborating with schools, fostering policy reform, and offering direct representation.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Celina continued working at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid on school-to-prison pipeline issues, as well as broader education and juvenile justice cases. In 2013, Celina became a Staff Attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in San Antonio. She also served as MALDEF's Interim Southwest Regional Counsel. Celina is currently the President & CEO of the Intercultural Development Research Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to equity and excellence in education.

## ANDRÉS DURÁ

**Year:** 2010

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Workers' Rights

**Project Description:** Provide innovative legal representation to open new access to the justice system in the San Antonio area for working poor people who labor in construction jobs and are denied the wages they have earned.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Andrés started his own law firm in Austin, where he worked with foreign entities seeking to do business in Texas. Andrés currently serves as a Staff Attorney with the Texas Department of Insurance. In his free time, Andrés has volunteered as a teacher of free seminars to small and mid-size Spanish-speaking business owners in Central Texas, helping them grow their companies as part of the Hispanic Alliance's innovative Emprededor U program.

## ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

**Year:** 2011

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Laredo, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Provide legal representation and access to services for undocumented Texans who are victims of intimate partner violence and suffer from mental illness, including substance abuse.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Adriana joined her host organization, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, where she now serves as Director of Training, Recruitment and Operations.

## MICHELLE SMITH

**Year:** 2011

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Project

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Prisoners' Rights

**Project Description:** End the "accidental death penalty" for individuals confined in Texas jails, prisons, and detention centers through education, implementation, and advocacy.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Michelle accepted a position as an Assistant County Attorney for Montgomery County, Texas, where she worked in the Child Protective Services Division helping children who have been abused or neglected.

## MEGHAN KEMPF

**Year:** 2012

**Host Organization:** Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.

**City/State:** San Antonio, TX

**Law School:** St. Mary's University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Domestic Violence

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence to address the inadequate enforcement of civil family law court orders in San Antonio, Texas through litigation services and a community education program.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Meghan joined the Policy Section of the Office of Chief Counsel at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which provides legal and policy expertise relating to Human and Health Agency Programs. She now serves as the Associate Director of Policy.

## SARAH (LOEFFLE) FORD

**Year:** 2012

**Host Organization:** Montgomery County Women's Center

**City/State:** Conroe, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Domestic Violence

**Co-Sponsor:** The John M. O'Quinn Foundation

**Project Description:** Provide permanent legal solutions to victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County, Texas through direct representation, public education, and community involvement.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Sarah served as the Acting Deputy of Client Services Division for the Staff Judge Advocate. In 2016, Sarah became a Labor Law Attorney in Fort Bragg, NC. She then served as an Attorney-Advisor with US Army Future Command, and now serves as an Attorney-Advisor with the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

## CHRISTINE NISHIMURA

**Year:** 2012

**Host Organization:** Disability Rights Texas

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education; Children/Youth

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy and teacher and attorney training to ensure minority special education students at risk of the juvenile justice system receive academically and culturally appropriate literacy programs and other necessary special education services to improve educational and life outcomes for these students.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Christine joined Disability Rights Texas as a Staff Attorney and then became General Counsel at the Texas Charter Schools Association. She recently became Executive Director at Teach for America in Austin. Christine also served as an adjunct professor at The University of Texas School of Law, where she taught trial skills courses and coached mock trial.

## KEEGAN WARREN-CLEM

**Year:** 2012

**Host Organization:** Texas Legal Services Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Health Care/Medical Legal Partnership

**Project Description:** Create a medical-legal partnership (MLP) in the underserved community of Dove Springs in Austin, Texas, to assist patient-clients with legal issues causing or exacerbating their medical conditions.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Keegan joined her host organization, Texas Legal Services Center, where she serves as a Managing Attorney. Keegan is also an adjunct professor of law at The University of Texas at Austin, where she teaches an interprofessional course for graduate and doctoral students.

## PETER MCGRAW

**Year:** 2013

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Corpus Christi, TX

**Law School:** University of Michigan Law School

**Issue Area:** Criminal Law

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence to address the inadequate enforcement of civil family law court orders in San Antonio, Texas through litigation services and a community education program.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Peter remained at his host organization, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, as a Staff Attorney. He is now the Manager of the Civil Rights Team.

## AMANDA PFEIFFER

**Year:** 2013

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**Law School:** South Texas College of Law

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations; Domestic Violence

**Project Description:** Provide family law services to refugee families and immigrant victims of domestic violence by creating a direct referral program between Lone Star Legal Aid and local immigration legal aid organizations.



## EMILY SCHOOLS

**Year:** 2013

**Host Organization:** Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

**City/State:** Abilene, TX

**Law School:** St. Mary's University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Children/Youth

**Project Description:** Create a juvenile division in the Abilene office of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas that provides education and advocacy for youth struggling with homelessness and the barriers created by their prior involvement with the justice system.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Emily joined her host organization, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, as a Staff Attorney. She then moved to Virginia, where she serves as a Managing Attorney at Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia.

## STEPHANIE TRUONG

**Year:** 2013

**Host Organization:** South Texas College of Law

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** South Texas College of Law

**Issue Area:** Children/Youth

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy and support to youth aging out of foster care in Harris County, Texas to improve their social, education, and occupational opportunities as adults.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Stephanie joined Beacon Law as a Staff Attorney and now serves as Program Director.

## OLIVIA BARVIN

**Year:** 2014

**Host Organization:** Catholic Charities Cabrini Center

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Human Trafficking/Slavery

**Project Description:** Provide holistic legal representation to victims of human trafficking in Houston and create a framework through which nonprofits and pro bono attorneys can meet victims' wide-ranging legal needs.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Olivia remained at her host organization, where she continued to represent immigrants. She continues her immigration practice now at Barvin Law.

## GONZALO SERRANO

**Year:** 2014

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

**Issue Area:** Workers' Rights

**Project Description:** Bring wage recovery and employment justice legal services to low-wage immigrant working men and women in Dallas/Ft. Worth, the largest urban area in the nation that lacks legal services of this kind.

**Where is he now?** Following his Fellowship, Gonzalo joined his host organization as a Staff Attorney. He then served as an Assistant District Attorney at the Dallas County District Attorney's office. Gonzalo now practices criminal defense at Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian in McKinney, TX.

## JOHNATHAN SILVA

**Year:** 2014

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

**Issue Area:** Veterans' Rights

**Project Description:** Advocate and appeal on behalf of returning veterans who are being denied the full benefits that their service and/or level of service-related injury merit.

**Where are they now?** Johnathan practices at J.D. Silva & Associates, PLLC, where he focuses on commercial litigation and personal injury.

## MANI NEZAMI

**Year:** 2014

**Host Organization:** Earl Carl Institute

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** South Texas College of Law

**Issue Area:** Children/Youth; Criminal Law

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Address the issue of disproportionate minority contact through a holistic approach by providing legal representation to children who are in the criminal justice system, the mental health system and foster care system.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Mani joined the Earl Carl Institute as a Staff Attorney with the Juvenile Justice Project. He then opened The Law Office of Mani Nezami, PLLC where he practices juvenile criminal defense.

## ESTHER KIM

**Year:** 2015

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations ; Domestic Violence

**Project Description:** Provide the Asian community in Harris and Fort Bend Counties with legal services in guardianship and domestic violence cases through direct representation, outreach, and collaboration with local organizations.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Esther stayed on with Lone Star Legal Aid as a Staff Attorney in the Family Law Unit.

## TOVAH PENTLEOVITCH

**Year:** 2015

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Curb problematic use of Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs in Austin and underserved regions through outreach and representation of the most at-risk students in school disciplinary proceedings.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Tovah remained at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid as a Staff Attorney through the fall of 2021. She now works as an Investigator with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

## HANNAH ALEXANDER

**Year:** 2016

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Workers' Rights

**Project Description:** Provide representation to help low-wage, immigrant janitorial workers challenge and prevent workplace sexual assault, theft-of-wages, employer fraud schemes, and similar severe employment abuses.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Hannah joined her host organization, Equal Justice Center, as a Staff Attorney. Hannah is now a Staff Attorney at the Workers Defense Project in Austin, where she represents workers in employment-related cases, supports WDP's organizing efforts, and does policy work.

## BROOKE BISCHOFF

**Year:** 2016

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Project

**City/State:** El Paso, TX

**Law School:** Northeastern University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Challenge currently unaddressed civil rights violations in immigrant communities, including detention center conditions, due process violations, and the arbitrary denial of U visa certifications by law enforcement agencies.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Brooke began working with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center's Non-Detained Deportation Defense team, where she specializes in asylum and appeals. She now serves as a Managing Attorney.

## HANNAH HERZOG

**Year:** 2016

**Host Organization:** Texas Civil Rights Project

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

**Project Description:** Address and remedy the refusal of Texas officials to identify, accommodate, and treat people with mental health needs in institutions through litigation, outreach, direct services, and advocacy.

**Where are they now?** Hannah serves as an Assistant Public Defender in Harris County. She also serves as a Board Member of Casa de Esperanza de Los Ninos (the House of Hope for Children), a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect, or the effects of HIV.

## TED EVANS

**Year:** 2016

**Host Organization:** Disability Rights Texas

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Disability Rights

**Co-Sponsor:** Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy and community outreach to people with disabilities isolated in work shelters earning pennies an hour in poor work conditions and shut down the school-to-work shelter pipeline.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Ted continued at his host organization, Disability Rights Texas, as a Staff Attorney, where he continues his advocacy.

## BEATRICE ROGER

**Year:** 2016

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** Northwestern University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Children/Youth

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Provide legal advocacy to crime victims, address the cyclical nature of crime by acknowledging and managing trauma, and diminish juvenile crime by incorporating restorative practices into schools.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Beatrice became a Staff Attorney at Oregon Health Justice Center and an Adjunct Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law.

## STEPHANIE CHAMPION

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** University of California at Los Angeles School of Law

**Issue Area:** Community Economic Development

**Project Description:** Equip local residents and community groups in West Dallas with legal tools and strategies to advocate for equitable development in order to enhance social and economic opportunity.

**Where are they now?** Stephanie remained at her host organization, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, where she serves as a Staff Attorney.

## REBECCA EISENBREY

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Michigan Law School

**Issue Area:** Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

**Project Description:** Protect the civil rights and jobs of low-income Texans striving to overcome criminal records, using direct advocacy and enforcement of federal, state, and local civil rights laws and employment laws.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Rebecca remained at her host organization, Equal Justice Center, as a Staff Attorney for three years. She now serves as a Staff Attorney with the Project on Predatory Student Lending at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School.

## ANN GARCIA

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** RAICES

**City/State:** Fort Worth, TX

**Law School:** American University, Washington College of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Provide free legal services to vulnerable immigrants detained in ICE detention centers or in criminal custody in north Texas.

**Where are they now?** Ann now serves as a Staff Attorney with the Defending Vulnerable Populations section of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. in Denver, CO.



## BRITTANY WHITTLE

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** Disability Rights Texas

**City/State:** San Antonio, TX

**Law School:** Georgetown University Law Center

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Advocate for parents and students to ensure that special education identification, evaluation, placement, and service provision is not influenced by a student's race.

**Where are they now?** Brittany serves as an Assistant Attorney General in the Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section of the Texas Attorney General.

## BRETTNEY MOORE

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** Beacon Law

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** South Texas College of Law

**Issue Area:** Criminal Justice Reform

**Project Description:** Assist individuals who are on probation, enrolled in a diversion program, or recently released from jail or prison obtain the treatment and resources necessary to successfully re-integrate into society.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Brettney became a Staff Attorney at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas.

## CRISTIAN SANCHEZ

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** RAICES

**City/State:** San Antonio, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Represent immigrant populations that are newly in danger of immigration enforcement through community education, preparation, and direct representation.

**Where are they now?** Following his Fellowship, Cristian remained at his host organization, RAICES, as a Staff Attorney.

## NATALIE CADWALADER-SCHULTHEIS

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR)

**City/State:** Harlingen, TX

**Law School:** University of California, Berkeley School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations; Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

**Project Description:** Represent transition-age youth in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention, work with pro bono attorneys to improve transition-age youth's access to immigration legal services and develop best practices and legal orientation materials for attorneys working with this population.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Natalie joined the San Antonio Region Justice for Our Neighbors as a Staff Attorney, where she serves those pursuing humanitarian relief with a focus on asylum seekers. Additionally, she evaluates and identifies possible paths towards legal status for immigrants currently living the *colonias*.

## CAMILLE VAN KOTE

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Provide family law representation to low-income immigrant women who have been victims of crime and establish a referral network to meet the victims' wide-ranging legal needs.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Camille became the Executive Director of Esperanza Immigration Legal Services (EILS). Since 2009, EILS has empowered clients seeking a path to full participation in American society.

## DAPHNE MCGEE (WILSON)

**Year:** 2017

**Host Organization:** Texas Legal Services Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** Emory University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Health Care/Medical Legal Partnership

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Introduce a legal checkup to specifically and systematically address the legal needs of underserved pregnant and non-pregnant patients of the new Center for Women's Health and their families.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Daphne remained at her host organization, Texas Legal Services Center, where she continued her work with Medical-Legal Partnerships. Daphne now serves as a Housing Stability Staff Attorney.

## REEMA ALI

**Year:** 2018

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Build a new model of integrated employment-and-immigration legal services for vulnerable immigrant working families by combining employment law expertise with immigration law expertise.

**Where are they now?** Following her Fellowship, Reema remained at her host organization, Equal Justice Center, as a Staff Attorney. She now serves as Vice President of Partnerships at MannMukti, where she advises and manages teams to advance the organization's mission to encourage healthy, open dialogue of South Asian mental health issues in an effort to remove stigma, improve awareness and promote self-care.

## BRADY GRANGER

**Year:** 2018

**Host Organization:** Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

**City/State:** Lubbock, TX

**Law School:** University of California at Los Angeles School of Law

**Issue Area:** Veterans' Rights

**Project Description:** Design and implement a robust and cohesive program of legal clinics, legal representation, outreach, and community education sessions serving the community of veterans in West Texas.

**Where are they now?** Following his fellowship, Brady accepted a Staff Attorney position in the Lubbock office of his host organization, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas.

## HUDSON KYLE

**Year:** 2018

**Host Organization:** RAICES

**City/State:** San Antonio, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Prevent the rapid deportation of immigrants in south Texas with prior removal orders, reopen their proceedings, and help them seek relief.

**Where are they now?** Following his fellowship, Kyle remained at his host organization, RAICES, as a Staff Attorney.

## KARLA PEREZ

**Year:** 2018

**Host Organization:** Tahirih Justice Center

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Houston Law Center

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Increase access to culturally competent, holistic legal services to immigrant women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence in underserved communities in the greater Houston region.

**Where are they now?** Following her fellowship, Karla remained at her host organization, Tahirih Justice Center, as a Staff Attorney.

## EVA SIKES

**Year:** 2018

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.

**City/State:** Brownsville, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Consumer Rights

**Project Description:** Combat displacement and housing instability of low-income homeowners in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas through legal advocacy and outreach.

**Where are they now?** Following her fellowship, Eva remained at her host organization, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, as a Staff Attorney.

## KASSANDRA GONZALEZ

**Year:** 2019

**Host Organization:** Texas Legal Services Center

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Health Care/Medical Legal Partnership

**Co-Sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Expand the Austin Medical-Legal Partnership to a school-linked health center and integrate legal interventions to address the long-term negative health effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on at-risk youth.

**Where are they now?** Following her fellowship, Kassi joined Texas Civil Rights project as an Attorney and Manne Family Fellow in their Racial and Economic Justice practice group, where she will continue advocating for underrepresented communities.

## DANIEL PHAM

**Year:** 2019

**Host Organization:** Equal Justice Center

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** Duke University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Help build the first legal aid office in Houston specializing in employment law assistance for immigrant and low wage working men and women regardless of their immigration status.

**Where are they now?** Following his fellowship, Daniel remained with the Equal Justice Center as a Staff Attorney, where he will continue representing low-wage workers and increasing the organization's impact in the Houston area.

## ALICIA ALVARADO

**Year:** 2020

**Host Organization:** American Gateways

**City/State:** Waco, TX

**Law School:** Baylor Law School

**Issue Area:** Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Provide direct immigration legal services to noncitizens detained in rural jails and immigration detention centers surrounding the Waco, TX area as well as noncitizens who have been recently released.



## LESLIE ALVAREZ

Year: 2020

**Host Organization:** Disability Rights Texas

**City/State:** McAllen, TX

**Law School:** St. Mary's University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Education/Special Education

**Project Description:** Ensure indigent children with disabilities in South Texas receive Early Childhood Intervention and special education services that will decrease future needs through legal representation and outreach.

## CHASE PORTER

Year: 2020

**Host Organization:** Lone Star Legal Aid

**City/State:** Houston, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Environmental Justice

**Project Description:** Uphold the rights of low-income communities to be heard and respected during the development of port infrastructure along the Texas coast through community engagement, education, and advocacy.

## LAURA TUCKER

**Year:** 2020

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

**City/State:** Alpine, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Consumer Rights

**Project Description:** Richard L. Tate Rural Justice Fellowship. Provide civil services to low-income clients in rural Far West Texas.

## CAITLIN PEVEY

**Year:** 2020

**Host Organization:** Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** University of Texas School of Law

**Issue Area:** Homelessness

**Co-sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Promote housing stability and income maintenance for adults with serious mental illness in Dallas County through direct representation, community partnerships for intake and referral, and education.

## HOPE BETTLER

**Year:** 2021

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc

**City/State:** Del Rio, TX

**Law School:** Emory University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Civil rights/Civil Liberties, Public Benefits/Welfare Reform

**Project Description:** Richard L. Tate Rural Justice Fellowship. Provide direct legal services for citizens in rural Texas border communities facing obstacles to obtaining proof of identity and citizenship.

## LEILA BLATT

**Year:** 2021

**Host Organization:** Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc

**City/State:** Austin, TX

**Law School:** Yale Law School

**Issue Area:** Family law, Racial Justice

**Co-sponsor:** Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Project Description:** Defend low-income Black families in the greater Austin area against aggressive child protective services interventions through direct representation, relationship building, and community education.

## CLAIRE BROWN

**Year:** 2021

**Host Organization:** Catholic Charities Dallas

**City/State:** Dallas, TX

**Law School:** Texas A&M University School of Law

**Issue Area:** Human rights, Immigrant Populations

**Project Description:** Provide appellate representation to detained indigent immigrants in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, with a focus on direct representation, pro se education, and pro bono attorney training.