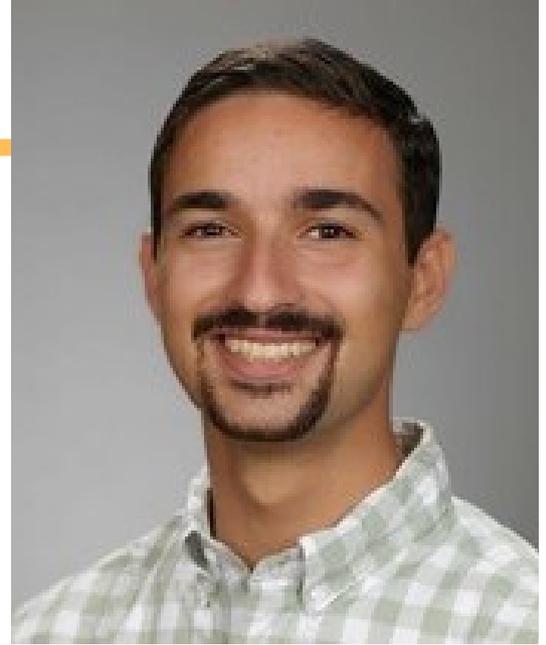




GRANTEE TESTIMONIALS

Alexander Watson, '22 California Indian Legal Services

"Over the summer, I worked for California Indian Legal Services, a nonprofit that exclusively serves Native American clients in California. For over half a century, they have handled a wide variety of issues, including protecting water rights, land and forests, securing federal funding, and continue to provide legal services to individuals across the state. I worked primarily on expungement cases, helping clients get old convictions removed from their records. While the pandemic slowed down the progress of their cases, getting to know the clients was the highlight of my summer. All of them were seeking expungements in order to avoid setbacks in becoming educators, engineers, medical professionals, and more; I'm proud to have aided them even slightly in pursuing their goals of giving back to their communities."



Rachel Schroder, '22 Sacramento County Public Defender



See public defenders hold 'die-in' protest for racial justice at Sacramento courthouse

Photo Courtesy of Sacramento Bee

"In Sacramento County's Mental Health Treatment Court, judges, probation officers, district attorneys, and public defenders work collaboratively to find just solutions for criminal charges arising from mental illness. When the Sacramento courts shut down in March, the collaborative court program had to dramatically change. Thanks to KHLF funding, the small team of public defenders in mental health court had an intern to personally reach out to every participant. Throughout the summer, I called all over Sacramento County to make sure each client was receiving the care and support they needed to graduate the program and have their charges dismissed. My internship provided crucial, hands-on

experiences for legal research and writing, but it was the opportunity to connect with each client and demonstrate that the public defenders office was still there for them during the pandemic that made me feel like my internship last summer truly made a difference."



Catalina Huang '22 Contra Costa Public Defender

"This summer, I clerked for the Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender under the supervision of a deputy public defender on their immigration team. I conducted client intakes for motions; researched and wrote memorandums on various immigration law issues, including changed country conditions and standards for immigration judges' inquiry during an immigration proceeding; and drafted a motion to reopen a client's case sua sponte. The highlight of my work experience was learning more about federal immigration law and policy and how it intersects with criminal law because I had come to law school with practicing immigration law in mind; I was very excited to see what the relevant issues were and what kind of cases the immigration team of a public defender's office worked on. The human connection to the work helped ground me and encouraged me to produce at a high standard. Speaking to my supervisor and mentor also confirmed for me that the area of crimmigration — the intersection of criminal and immigration law — is the practice area I want to pursue."



Charles Sloan-Hillier, '22 Public Counsel

"Last summer, I worked as a volunteer clerk for Public Counsel. Public Counsel is the largest pro bono law firm in the United States, specializing in providing pro bono legal services to vulnerable groups, including disadvantaged children and immigrants. As a volunteer clerk with the Children's Rights Project, I reviewed and revised legal documents including complaints and motions, drafted legal briefs, and assisted my supervising attorney with legal research. The highlight of my experience was working on an agency adoption for a grandmother who was adopting her three grandsons. Being adopted myself, it was a very rewarding experience."



Khrystan Nicole Policarpio, '22 NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund

"I spent my 1L summer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund ('LDF'), the nation's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans. During my summer with LDF, I worked primarily on educational equity cases, conducting legal research, drafting motions, and working with clients. I had the opportunity to attend a three-day virtual preliminary injunction hearing at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas for the main case I was assigned to, and provided on-the-spot research as the hearing took place."



Jesse Ricks, '22 Yolo County Public Defender

"During the summer of 2020 I interned at the Yolo County Public Defender's Office. I had the opportunity to conduct legal research and prepare motions to the court. The highlight of my time at the office was the success of a motion I worked on. The drive and motivation to uphold justice and ensure equity under the law opened my eyes to the meaning of public service and would not have been possible if not for the support of the funding provided by King Hall Legal Foundation."

