

HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOUNDATION 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The HBA-DC Foundation (“Foundation”) was established in 1995 by the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HBA-DC FOUNDATION

The following attorneys served as members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation:

Officers:

President: Robert Raben

Vice President: Linda M. Estrada

Secretary: Kenia Seoane-Lopez

Treasurer: Jilma Lasso

At Large Directors:

Leila Jade Levi (HBA-DC Representative)

Maria Holleran Rivera

Jocelyn Nieva

Attachment A sets forth the list of the 2016 Foundation Committee members.

II. 2016 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

One of the primary missions of the Foundation includes supporting the law student community by providing fellowships for law students working during the summer for public interest legal organizations principally serving the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. These fellowships allow students to gain valuable work experience and exposure to an area of public interest law. At the same time, these students assist with providing legal services and advocacy to individuals or groups served by the legal service entities. Sponsoring organizations are non-profit, non-governmental organizations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that provide legal services or advocacy at little or no cost to clients.

The fellowships are intended to support a law student, who works with a public interest organization in the DC-metropolitan area, in a position that is not otherwise compensated by the sponsoring entity. To be eligible in 2016, an applicant had to be: (1) a first or second year law student; (2) actively enrolled in, and attending, one of the following accredited law schools located in the District of Columbia or its immediate suburbs: Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, George Mason University Law School, George Washington University’s National Law Center, Georgetown University Law Center, Howard University School of Law, the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia or the Washington College of Law at American University; and (3) with an arrangement to work full-time for a minimum of eight weeks

with a sponsoring entity. The sponsoring entity must be: (1) a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization; (2) located in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area; (3) providing direct legal services; and (4) at low cost or no cost to the clients. Preference was given to students working with organizations serving the D.C. Latino community among the client base and this information was included in the application.

The following criteria (not in ranked order) was used to evaluate applicants for the Foundation's Fellowships:

1. Applicant's commitment to public interest law;
2. Benefit to the sponsoring organization;
3. Contribution of the placement to the applicant's professional development;
4. Benefit to DC's Hispanic community;
5. Financial need of the applicant;
6. Quality of applicant's writing; and
7. References.

Through the HBA-DC website, the Foundation is assigned an electronic mailbox solely for the receipt of electronic fellowship applications. The Foundation received several applications, which were reviewed by the 2016 Fellowship Committee. The Foundation awarded four fellowships of \$5,000 each in 2016.

In addition, in 2016, the Foundation established the Claudio Grossman Public Interest Fellowship. This fellowship honors the many contributions by Dean Claudio Grossman to the law as he retires as Dean of the Washington College of Law. The Foundation established this fellowship to express its gratitude to Dean Grossman for his friendship and many years of support. The fellowship will be awarded to a qualified, first or second year law student from the Washington College of Law, who will be working unpaid for the summer at a public interest organization in the Washington Metropolitan area.

III. 2016 HBA-DC FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Foundation Fellowship recipients are noted below:

Cassandra Estassi

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP Fellow

The 2016 recipient of the Sutherland, Asbill, and Brennan LLP Public Interest Fellowship is Cassandra Estassi, a rising 3L at the Georgetown University Law Center (GULC). Cassandra will spend her summer representing detained immigrants in removal proceedings at the Capital Area Immigration Rights (CAIR) Coalition in Washington, DC. She has extensive experience providing legal services for the immigrant community at the Catholic Charities, Cabrini Center in Houston, Texas; Pathways to Citizenship and Bay Area Legal Aid in San Francisco, CA; the Office of Special Counsel of the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC; and has represented asylum seekers in removal proceedings in immigration court as a student Attorney with the Center for Applied Legal Studies. Cassandra is a *cum laude* graduate of Boston College, where she majored in International Studies with a focus on Hispanic Studies and studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador.

Nicole J. Martinez

Claudio Grossman Public Interest Fellow

As a rising 3L at American University, Washington College of Law (WCL), Nicole J. Martinez is the inaugural recipient of the Claudio Grossman Public Interest Fellowship. This summer, she will serve Latino/a children through the medical-legal partnership at the Children's Law Center in Washington, DC. She has previously interned in the Special Education Civil Legal Services of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. At WCL, she is active with the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Program, the Latino/a Law Students' Association (LaLSA), and ADVANCE, a strategic mentoring initiative for first generation law students. Nicole is a *cum laude* graduate in Sociology and Philosophy from the University of Texas, El Paso.

HBA-DC Public Interest Fellowships:

HBA-DC funded two public interest fellowships in 2016 and these were awarded to the following law students:

Solangel Gonzalez is a rising 2L at the George Washington (GW) University School of Law and a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Miami, Florida, where she majored in Political Science, Religious Studies, and studied abroad in Rome, Italy. At GW, she is active with the Street Law and the Hispanic Law Students' Association.

Kelly Muenchen is a rising 2L at Georgetown University Law Center (GULC) and an International Studies graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she studied abroad in Kampala, Uganda. Prior to attending law school, Kelly served as a Peace Corps education volunteer in the Kyrgyz Republic. She has previously interned with the unaccompanied refugee minors program at the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Focus on Youth, and the Hispanic's Ministry La Vida Eterna.

HBA-DC Foundation Fellow:

Katelyn J. Davis is a rising 2L at American University, Washington College of Law. She will provide low-cost, humanitarian-based immigration services including deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), U and T visa applications at Just Neighbors in Falls Church, VA. Katelyn previously interned at the Workers' Defense Project in Dallas, Texas and Asian Pacific Mission for Migrants in Hong Kong, China. She is a graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she majored in History and she studied abroad in Amman, Jordan.

IV. PASOS 2016

In addition to administering the Fellowship Program, the Foundation also organizes and hosts an annual graduation celebration called PASOS, which takes place in the spring of each year. PASOS is a celebration attended by graduating law students, their families and friends, members of the Hispanic Bar, and others from the community.

Through this event, the Foundation acknowledges the many Hispanic students, who are graduating that year from all law schools in the DC area, namely, the Washington College of Law at American University; Georgetown University Law Center; George Washington University's National Law Center; Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America; Howard University School of Law; the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia; and the George Mason University School of Law.

PASOS 2016 took place on Friday, May 20, 2016 at the Washington College of Law at American University and the Foundation "graduated" a record number of law students. The event was attended by over 70 guests including the graduates, their families and members of the local legal community.

The keynote speaker for the event was Felicia Escobar, Special Assistant to the President for Immigration Policy, The White House. The Foundation is grateful to Dean Claudio Grossman and the Washington College of Law at American University for the continued support of the Foundation and PASOS by providing the venue as well as food and beverages for all attendees.

V. HBA-DC SCHOLARSHIPS

The HBA-DC is committed to the advancement and progress of Latinos in the legal profession. To further its commitment, HBA-DC established a scholarship for 3L students. In 2016, HBA-DC, awarded four \$2,500.00 scholarships to eligible 3L students. The Foundation administered the scholarships. The recipients of the 2016 scholarships are:

Elizabeth Limones, a 3L at the University of the District of Columbia-David A. Clark School of Law; Juliana Pérez Calle, a 3L at the Washington College of Law at American University; Tatiana Pino, a 3L at the George Washington University school of Law; and Diana Saavedra, a 3L at the Howard University School of Law.

VI. FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

In 2016, the Foundation raised a total of \$ 42,675. The Foundation awarded \$25,000 in fellowships. The Foundation also awarded two scholarships of \$2,500 sponsored by HBA-DC. Attachment B sets forth the list of donors to the Foundation in 2016.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

The Foundation held several board meetings and committee meetings throughout 2016 both in person, via telephone and via email.

VIII. WEBSITE

The Foundation's home page is available through the website of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia at: <http://www.hbadc.org/site/page/foundation>. This is at no cost to the Foundation.

2016 HBA-DC Foundation Annual Report:



President

ATTACHMENT A

2016 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Fellowships Committee

Jose Campos
Linda Estrada
Maria Holleran Rivera
Jocelyn Nieva
M. Lucero Ortiz
Wendy Patton

PASOS Committee and Event Volunteers

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Edgar Class | Kate Azevedo |
| Lyzka P. DeLaCruz | Sandra Bellew |
| Erin Dominguez | Elizabeth Briones |
| Linda M. Estrada | Erik Burgos |
| Leila Jade Levi | Giselle Fuentes |
| Jilma Lasso | Ruben Reyna |
| M. Lucero Ortiz | Richard Rodriguez |
| Robert Raben | Yisel Valdes |
| William Alvarado Rivera | Juan Sempertegui |
| Hon. Kenia Seoane López | |

ATTACHMENT B

2016 Donors to the HBA-DC Foundation

Full Fellowship Sponsor:

Hispanic Bar Association of DC (HBA-DC)

Full Fellowship Sponsor:

Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP

Gold Fellowship Sponsors:

Sidley Austin Foundation LLP
O'Melveny

Silver Fellowship Sponsors:

Alston & Bird, LLP
Baker & McKenzie
Edgar Class, Esquire
Gray Plant Moody
Kirkland & Ellis
Skadden, LLP
Wiley Rein, LLP

Host of PASOS 2016:

The Washington College of Law, American University

Additional Donors:

Honorable Hiram Puig Lugo
Chevron
Carlos Siso