

2022 Summer PILF Grant Recipients

Samuel Coren (King County Superior Court)



Samuel Coren is originally from Portland, Oregon. Sam earned his undergraduate degree from Willamette University with a major in Politics and a minor in History. Growing up in a low-income, LGBTQ+ family, he witnessed firsthand how the law can be used as a tool to either create justice or deny it to the most vulnerable in our community. Sam's passion for civil liberties and criminal justice reform grew while volunteering with Metropolitan Public Defender, where he was exposed to the stark racial and economic inequities present in our criminal justice system. This passion led him to co-author legislation in the Oregon House of Representatives, Intern with an Oregon State Senator, and learn about restorative justice in an inside-out style undergraduate course at the Oregon State

Penitentiary. After college, Sam moved to Seattle, where he worked as a Legal Assistant in the Trademark, Copyright, Internet, and Advertising, group at Perkins Coie. This summer, Sam will be a judicial intern to the Honorable Michael Scott at the King County Superior Court, where he looks forward to honing his legal research and writing skills and witnessing effective trial advocacy.

Myranda Buiquy (Washington State Supreme Court)



Myranda Buiquy is a rising 3L, originally from Federal Way, Washington. She received her bachelor's at Seattle University in Business Administration. She is passionate about working in the AAPI community and specifically dedicated to providing the Vietnamese-American community with bilingual access to news information while increasing voter engagement. Myranda got involved in API events through student clubs at the university and served as the president of the Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association. Before law school, she began working as a case management assistant in the Probation Services at the Municipal Court. Participating at the court sparked her interest in pursuing law and advocating for vulnerable and oppressed communities. This summer, she will be a

judicial intern to the Honorable Justice Mary Yu at the Washington State Supreme Court. Myranda is excited to sharpen her legal skills at the Court in hopes of being an asset and educator for her community in the future.

Ryan Saunders (Northwest Immigrant Rights Project)



Ryan Saunders was born and raised in Seattle and received his undergraduate degree in Human Geography and Spanish from the University of British Columbia. While at UBC, Ryan worked for a student run nonprofit called Kite Vancouver that provides free tutoring and mentorship services at low-income high schools. He also volunteered with Spanish for Community, an organization ran by UBC's Spanish department that supports recent immigrant and refugee arrivals to the Vancouver area. These volunteer and educational experiences allowed him to develop an interest in a number of social issues

including immigration. This summer, Ryan will be working at Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) with their Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) unit as a legal intern. The VAWA unit provides direct representation to immigrant survivors of abuse seeking immigration benefits.

Ariadna Quinares Navarrete (Northwest Immigrant Rights Project)



Ariadna Quinares Navarrete was born in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico and immigrated and was raised in Los Angeles, California. They completed their undergraduate degree at University of California, Davis, majoring in Sociology and Chicano Studies. During their time in undergrad, they interned in immigrant rights organizations and was a research assistant to a professor whose expertise was in immigration. This summer, they will be working at Northwest Immigrant Rights Project in the Legal Orientation Program, where they will assist attorneys who will help immigrants learn how to defend themselves in court pro se. Ariadna is grateful to have this opportunity since immigration work has become so dear to them. In their free time, Ariadna likes to explore the city with a camera in hand to capture beautiful moments as well as collect books and read any type of fiction to escape reality.

Brianne “Bree” Zamora (ACLU of Washington)



Brianne (Bree) Zamora was born in the Philippines but grew up in Maui, Hawaii. She attended the University of San Francisco (USF) and received a bachelor’s degree with a double major in Politics and International Studies and a minor in Asian Studies. Before attending law school, she worked as an immigration case assistant/manager with Goeschl Law Corporation and as a Grants Specialist with Tides Network (Foundation/Center). Brianne entered law school with a two-fold purpose: to represent her community and to diversify the legal profession. She aspires to utilize her voice and platform to fight for justice and equity for her community and all people. At Seattle University School of Law, she is a proud ARCie with the Access Admission Program. During the 2022-23 academic year, she will serve as the President for the Asian Pacific Islander Law Students Association (APILSA). This summer, Brianne is a legal intern with the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington’s (ACLU-WA) Legal Department. She looks forward to conducting legal research, writing legal memoranda, drafting correspondence, developing cases, and supporting ongoing litigation to ensure that every Washingtonian’s civil rights and civil liberties are upheld and respected.

Diana Park (Consumer Education and Training Services (CENTS))



Diana Park is from Colorado where she attended the University of Denver and earned a bachelor’s degree in Business. At Seattle University School of Law, Diana has been involved with the Asian Pacific Islander Law Students Association, serving as the Vice President-Elect. This summer, Diana will be working as an intern at Consumer Education and Teaching Services (CENTS), providing legal and financial services to the low-income community, cancer patients, senior citizens, and the AAPI community. Diana is excited to help the attorneys and staff of CENTS to empower many different communities in Washington.

Sasha Mancisidor (KCBA Housing Justice Project)



Sasha Mancisidor is originally from Long Beach, California. She completed her undergraduate degree at Lewis & Clark College with a major in International Affairs. During her time at LC, she felt drawn to law but was unsure how to do it thoughtfully. She spent time away from school and in the past few years became engaged with mutual aid work. A lot of her personal experience comes from working with houseless individuals. Before moving to Seattle, she worked with local organizers in Portland to create a mobile free store that coordinated the delivery of goods and services to houseless encampments (The People's Store). She also currently works with a local Seattle group known as the People's Harm Reduction Alliance (PHRA), which focuses on getting "no barrier" harm reduction supplies, housing, and peer support to individuals throughout Seattle. For her, both pursuits embody a deeply held belief that these issues concerning racial and housing equity are complicated, and it will take intentional community building that includes those most deeply impacted to address these issues. This summer, Sasha will be working with the Housing Justice Project to continue her housing advocacy work. She looks forward to not only gaining experience closely related to the work she hopes to eventually do, but to also learn from fellow attorneys how to utilize this profession in a community-oriented way. She also feels incredibly thankful for the opportunity.

Stephanie Lowry (Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of Virginia)



Stephanie A. Lowry (she/her) was born in Richmond, Virginia. As the daughter of two United States Army veterans, Stephanie moved around often in her childhood and developed a diverse perspective which built the foundation for her global worldview and her passion for equity. Stephanie spent most of her youth in Louisiana and completed her undergraduate degree at Louisiana State University (LSU) with a double major in Religion and Sociology (Criminology). Prior to law school, Stephanie served two years of AmeriCorps and moved to Washington to work in Juvenile Rehabilitation with the My Journey Out Beyond Program at Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, where justice involved youth were provided meaningful career readiness programming to assist in lowering recidivism rates. During her 1L summer, Stephanie interned at Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia researching juvenile fines and fees and working on conditions improvement litigation for justice involved youth. Stephanie recently interned at ACLU-WA working on matters related to homelessness and amicus drafting and at Legal Counsel for Youth and Children working on juvenile court matters and supporting a variety of civil legal aid. This summer as a PILF grantee and a Justice John Paul Stevens Fellow, Stephanie will intern at The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, serving indigent clients charged with federal offenses. Stephanie is thrilled to return to Virginia and she is inspired by the mission of OFPD. Stephanie looks forward to gaining experience representing clients in their struggle against the criminal legal system.

Madeline Pfeiffer (Snohomish County Public Defender Association)



This summer, Madeline will be a rule 9 intern at Snohomish County Public Defense, working in district court defending people accused of misdemeanor crimes. Madeline came to law school after a decade of experience working in community-based projects and mutual aid work. She was motivated to pursue public defense by a dedication to defending the underdog. She is eager to gain the skills and experience she needs to provide a zealous defense to people who cannot afford an attorney.

Madeleine Powers (Habeas Corpus Resource Center)



Maddy Powers was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a degree in Comparative Politics and Spanish. As an undergraduate student, she interned for the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound, a nonprofit that offers a college program inside the Washington Corrections Center for Women. There, she developed a passion for criminal justice reform and advocacy for the rights of incarcerated individuals. After graduating, Maddy worked as a legal assistant in immigration matters, mainly assisting in the preparation of humanitarian visas for youth. Maddy decided to pursue law school with the goal of advocating for individuals navigating oppressive legal systems. This past summer, Maddy worked as a fellow at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project in Wenatchee, Washington, where she worked on a diverse array of complex immigration matters, particularly focusing on the impact of criminal convictions on immigration status. This summer, Maddy will be heading to San Francisco to work at the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, a part of the California judicial branch that represents indigent persons sentenced to death in habeas matters. There, she will assist in investigating and challenging the constitutionality of capital convictions.

Zulen Pantoja-Ortega (Columbia Legal Services)



Zulen Pantoja-Ortega is a Washingtonian native born and raised in Mount Vernon, WA. She attended the University of Washington, majoring in Law, Societies, and Justice. Zulen spent every summer from the age of 12 to 18 in the fields alongside her parents, learning first-hand about agricultural work in Washington; it was here that she found her passion for social justice and equity. Before law school, she worked as an administrative assistant for the King County Department of Public Defense in Seattle, Washington, and as a paralegal for the Law Offices of Bart Klein. At DPD and her experience with USCIS and helping people prepare for immigration interviews inspired Zulen to apply to law school with the hope of being a lawyer for her community. In law school, Zulen has been named the 2021 Scholar for Justice; she is an executive member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Board, Undoculaw Student Association, and serves on the Student Bar Association. This summer, Zulen will be working with Columbia Legal Services splitting her time on advocacy centered on Promoting Immigrant Equity (PIE) and Ending Mass Incarceration (EMI). The work will include litigation support and community outreach.

Caitlin “Cait” Nold (Participatory Justice)



Cait was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California. They moved to Seattle in 2014 to attend the University of Washington, where they majored in Law, Societies, and Justice. Since then, Cait has worked alongside individuals and communities affected by mass criminalization, particularly criminalized survivors of domestic and sexual violence and incarcerated queer and trans young people and adults. Cait is committed to creative visioning toward a world in which nobody is imprisoned and all people have access to dignity, agency, and healing. This summer, Cait will continue their work with Participatory Justice, where they

organize with people impacted by the criminal legal system and intimate partner and gender-based violence to develop and implement short-term participatory defense campaigns and long-term community-based responses to harm and violence that address root causes and reduce the impact of the criminal legal system.

Molly Gunther (Washington Court of Appeals, Division II)



As a member of the Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and an undergraduate of the University of Washington, majoring in American Indian Studies, Molly came to Seattle University School of Law enamored with the prospects of using a law degree to help others. Her desire to work in the public interest sector of the law comes from her deep desire and duty to give back to her community, and to be an advocate for all underserved communities. It is her belief that there is no greater public interest than working towards creating an equitable, just society which prioritizes access to opportunities, education, health, and a humane standard of living for all. She hopes to utilize her time in law school,

and the opportunities given to her as a PILF grantee, to continue working towards a future that allows her to maintain this goal as a cornerstone of her career and purpose.

Stephanie Cortes (Snohomish County Legal Services)



Stephanie Cortes is originally from Rancho Cucamonga, California. She completed her undergraduate degree at the California State Polytechnic University of Pomona with a Bachelor in Political Science and Minor in Management of Human Resources. After graduating, she worked with the national-service program, Americorps JusticeCorps and the non-profit organization, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, where she educated litigants that were not represented by an attorney on how to navigate the court system. Working at the legal-aid centers has provided her with an insight

on the challenges that marginalized communities encounter and has further inspired her to bridge access to justice initiatives. This Summer, she is working as a legal intern at the Snohomish County Legal Services. Stephanie looks forward to providing community legal services and resources that will empower low-income individuals navigating through family and housing law proceedings.

Kylee McGill (Washington State Attorney General's Office)



Kylee McGill was born and raised in Placerville, California. She attended Arizona State University, where she received her undergraduate degree in Psychology. During her time in college, Kylee worked with children that suffered from a tumultuous home life. She loved psychology because it found ways of helping children overcome barriers. After graduating from ASU, Kylee decided she wanted to do more for the community and decided to go to law school. This summer, Kylee will be working as a Rule 9 intern with the Attorney General's office. She will be in court representing the State in cases involving dependency matters as well as labor disputes. Kylee is looking forward to gaining valuable knowledge in the courtroom and building upon her oral advocacy skills.

Hailey Berry (KCBA Housing Justice Project)



Hailey Berry is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Disability Studies from the University of Georgia in 2019. After graduating, Hailey moved to Utah to work as a wilderness therapy field guide. This work combined her interest in mental health with her passion for the outdoors. During this time, Hailey worked with teens that were struggling with mental health issues and learning disabilities. Wilderness therapy promotes confidence, self-advocacy, and interpersonal skills in the students through challenging therapeutic and adventure activities. This experience solidified Hailey's interest in justice and access to resources concerning mental health and disabilities. This summer, Hailey will be interning at the KCBA Housing Justice Project. The Housing Justice Project provides free legal aid to individuals that are facing eviction in King County. Housing Justice sits at an intersection of Hailey's interests in mental health and disability rights concerning access to resources.

Olivia Baginski (Northwest Consumer Law Center)



Olivia Baginski is from Chicago, Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in May 2021. She double majored in English Literature with a focus in rhetoric and Communication Media and Research. During college, Olivia volunteered with the Chicago Period Project and worked for a local startup company that helped empower local voices and spread awareness on voters' rights and racial and gender injustice. She also was involved in local school organizations which assisted students by gaining access to necessary resources like SNAP and screening conversations and assessing a student's qualifications to waive their fees. This summer, Olivia will be interning for the Northwest Consumer Law Center to assist low-income individuals have equal legal representation regarding loan modification, bankruptcy filings, and educating homeowners about their legal rights. Olivia hopes in the future to continue to challenge ideologies that are suppressing individuals and marginalized communities with an intersectional lens. In her free time, Olivia enjoys bingeing television shows and leisurely walks and hikes around the Seattle area.

Nora Hendricks (Southeast Louisiana Legal Services/Equal Justice Works)



Nora is a Pacific Northwest native and grew up in Edmonds, Washington. She attended the University of Portland and graduated with a degree in biology and a minor in Spanish. Nora joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps following graduation and was placed at the Tennessee Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm in Nashville, Tennessee. She worked directly with clients from around the state who were encountering barriers to accessing the state's Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs. She also worked with clients on sharing their stories with lawmakers and the public to advocate for more accessible healthcare in Tennessee. Nora stayed at the organization following her year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and transitioned to a role doing healthcare policy and advocacy work. When a destructive tornado tore through Nashville in 2020, Nora saw firsthand how lower-income communities were often overlooked during the city's recovery and rebuilding process. This summer, Nora is excited to return to the South as an Equal Justice Works Disaster Resilience Fellow working at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services. She will be providing direct legal services to disaster survivors facing evictions, connecting with communities in disaster-prone neighborhoods, and learning more about disaster resilience lawyering.

T.K. Anney (Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services)



T.K. Anney (they/them) is a white, queer, non-binary, neurodivergent organizer, teacher, and parent living on stolen Squaxin territory. They are a rising 2L at Seattle University School of Law. As a teacher, child advocate, and parent, they are passionate about protecting kids and empowering families. They are interested in practicing eviction defense and family law. In their free time, they garden, cook, read, run, play music, and play video games.

Niloofer Irani (Northwest Justice Project)



Niloofer Irani is originally from Sacramento, California, and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in History. While at UCLA, she was fortunate enough to accept a position with JusticeCorps. This superior court-based AmeriCorps national service program allowed her to receive hands-on experience assisting individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds who struggled to resolve crucial legal matters affecting their family, housing, personal safety, and financial stability. At the Pasadena Superior Courthouse - Self-Help Legal Center, she prepared and reviewed legal documents for self-represented litigants. She also held trial preparation workshops to help those who entered the courtroom with little knowledge of the trial process. Through this experience, she witnessed countless individuals facing blatant injustices and systemic barriers to vital resources which motivated her further to advocate for their rights and assist as much as possible in navigating the complexities of the law. This summer, with the help of a grant from the Public Interest Law Foundation, Niloofer will be joining Northwest Justice Project's Eviction Unit. As a legal intern, she is looking forward to working with the legal aid organization to assist individuals with a wide array of issues pertaining to housing concerns.

Gunnar Olson (Washington State Attorney General's Office)



Gunnar Olson grew up in Portland, Oregon. He attended undergrad at the University of Oregon in Eugene. There, he double majored in Political Science and History with a particular focus on different types of political systems. Gunnar found his passion for public service early, serving on his county's youth council and volunteering his time to local political campaigns in high school and while in college. He hopes to use his law degree to give a voice to those who have been left behind. He is grateful for the opportunity to work for the Washington Attorney General's office this summer where he will work in the Labor and Industries division.

Sophia Anderson (Washington State Attorney General's Office)



Sophia Anderson is from Tacoma, Washington. They attended the University of Washington, where they majored in English Literature and Political Science with a focus on American labor and social movements. After graduating, they worked at the University of Washington for a year helping students through the pandemic. From that experience, Sophia realized that they wanted to go into public service law serving the people of Washington state. This summer, Sophia will work for the Attorney General's office in the SFS division. While with the AGO, Sophia looks forward to learning more about oral advocacy, appeals work, and legislative lobbying.

Joseph Phillippi (Unemployment Law Project)



Joe Phillippi is a rising 2L, who relocated from the East coast to start at Seattle University school of Law in the Fall of 2021. He lived in the Philadelphia area most of his life, besides his undergraduate years at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he majored in screenwriting and took several classes in political and cultural theory. After graduating, he worked in restaurants for several years, until the Covid shutdowns placed him on unemployment indefinitely. Following the murder of George Floyd, and in the midst of a labor dispute he helped organize against his former employers, Joe decided to move towards a line of work that would be part of an effort to right some of the many wrongs he sees our society plagued by: racial inequality, mass incarceration, and flimsy protections of workers' rights, to name a few. A career in law quickly emerged as a logical step in that direction, and Joe chose Seattle U for its reputation as a school that promotes social justice and public interest efforts. Joe will spend his summer working at the Unemployment Law Project - a non-profit organization assisting people who are struggling to secure unemployment benefits. This work has a special place in his heart, as someone who has experienced the difficulties of the unemployment system, but also has immense gratitude for the space and security that those benefits afforded him, including the ability to take the time to prepare for the LSAT and law school application process. Joe hopes to gain valuable perspective and be a source of helpful energy this summer in conducting client intake interviews, directly advocating for clients at appeal hearings, and possibly doing research and writing on employment policy.

David Gary (Whatcom County Public Defender)



David was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, a graduate of Garfield High School. David received his undergraduate degree in political science from Western Washington University. Following graduation, David worked as an intern for the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington and the United States House of Representatives. David then worked as a grant and development coordinator for Classical KING FM and as a legal assistant for the King County Department of Public Defense. It was at the Department of Public Defense where David discovered his passion for public interest law and social justice and decided to attend law school. In law school, David works on the Seattle Journal for Social Justice and has worked at GLP Attorneys and with the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Washington. David will be working at the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office in the summer of 2022. In his free time David likes to ski, hike, backpack, and explore.