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Public Service Scholars Program: Recipient Biographies for the Classes of 2009-2014

Boston College Law School

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PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

MAY 2012

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE CLASSES OF 2009—2014
The Public Service Scholarships provide full tuition annually to highly qualified applicants who plan to practice law in service of the public. In keeping with Boston College Law School's mission of education for service to others, this program encourages students to seek careers in the public sector, notwithstanding the expense and associated debts of their legal education and the relatively low salaries associated with such careers.

The Scholarship Committee has established the following criteria for evaluating applicants:

- a long standing, demonstrated commitment to serve the public through employment, advocacy and/or volunteer activities;
- a stated intent to pursue a career in public interest/public service law;
- evidenced leadership ability; and
- past very strong academic performance and outstanding academic promise.

Recipients must reapply each year for the award. The scholarship committee requests an updated resume and list of activities and summer work (paid and volunteer) that together demonstrate the recipient’s continued commitment to public interest and public service law. Public Service Scholars are required to provide new commitment letters before the beginning of each fall semester. For the scholarship to be renewed, Public Service Scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria:

- work both of their summers during law school for a public interest organization; and
- take a substantial leadership role in the public interest community at the Law School.

Public Service Scholars are expected to work a minimum of five years in public service work after graduation. The Committee conducts individual exit interviews with Public Service Scholars in March of their final year to discuss their career plans. Scholars who decide not to pursue a career in the public sector are expected to repay the Public Service Scholarship. Public Service Scholars who work less than five years in public service are expected to repay the scholarship for whatever part of the five-year commitment that remains.

Each year, the Public Service Scholars coordinate a “Public Interest Retreat” for students, faculty, and alumni. They are also assigned a special faculty advisor.

The following pages contain profiles of BC Law’s current Public Service Scholars. We hope you enjoy reading about their experiences in and dedication to public service.
RAY BURKE
Ray graduated from Boston College in 2005 with a BA in Theology. After graduation, he returned to El Salvador where he had spent a semester studying abroad in 2004. Over the next two and a half years, Ray worked for the same service-learning study abroad program, the Casa de Solidaridad, and a small non-profit organization, Connect Education International, that partners with Salvadoran schools and communities to develop nutrition and education programs for children and youth.

After returning to the U.S., Ray began working for Legal Aid of Western Missouri’s Advocates for Family Health Project. As a paralegal, he primarily represented clients having issues with their Medicaid eligibility and Medicaid managed care health plans. During that time, Ray also worked with law students, attorneys and other community partners outside of Legal Aid to form the Lawrence Worker Justice Coalition in order to address the problem of wage theft in the greater Kansas City area. Ray spent his first summer in the employment unit at Greater Boston Legal Services where he worked on cases involving wrongful denials of unemployment benefits and violations of the state and federal wage laws. Ray hopes to continue exploring issues in poverty law, workers’ rights and human rights while at BC.

JOSEPH FIORE
Joe is originally from Holbrook, New York. In 2009, Joe graduated from Boston University with majors in Environmental Policy and Political Science. While at Boston University, Joe managed two volunteer programs, both of which focused on improving social and educational opportunities for at-risk youth throughout the Boston community. At commencement, Joe was awarded the 2009 Community Service Award for his commitment to public service in the Boston area.

Upon graduation, Joe joined Teach for America as a New York City corps member. Joe worked as a special education teacher at a struggling high school in Brooklyn for two years while also earning his Masters in Special Education. During his first summer, Joe interned with a nonprofit called Children’s Rights in New York whose mission is to improve failing child welfare systems through class action litigation. Joe is currently a Co-President of the Children’s Rights Group and a member of the Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project clinic. While in law school and throughout his career, Joe plans to pursue his interests in juvenile rights and education law. Eventually, Joe plans to found and manage a charter school in New York City.

TERE RAMOS
Tere was born and raised in Puerto Rico. She earned a BA cum laude from Wellesley College and a Masters in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. Tere worked as an academic researcher in the field of intellectual property law and economic development following her graduate degree. She served as the Latin America Director of the Creative and Innovative Economy Center at George Washington University Law School. She also worked at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business and for Harvard Business School doing research projects related to business-government relations and economic development.

Tere is the mom of an 11-year-old girl with Autism and a typically developing 10-year-old girl. In 2009, Tere decided to devote her life to special education and disability advocacy and became a special education advocate. Tere is involved in several community organizations, including the Massachusetts Act Early State Team, the Wellesley PAC, and is the co-chair of the Community Advisory Board for WGBH. She was elected to School Committee in the Town of Wellesley in 2012. During her 1L year, Tere was a 1L representative to the Children’s Rights Group and the Women’s Law Center, and participated in the Navajo Nation spring break service trip. She was a summer law intern for Judge Juan R. Torruella, U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit. During her 2L year Tere is the co-president of the Children’s Rights Group and will work as a summer intern for the Disability Law Center.

CLASS OF 2013

PAUL EASTON
Paul spent his early life moving every few years with his family from Virginia to the Philippines, Pennsylvania, California, and finally Washington, DC, where he spent most of his teenage years. He graduated from Duke University in 2002 with a degree in Public Policy and joined the Navy as a junior officer in the submarine force. Following initial nuclear power training in Charleston, SC, he reported aboard a Los Angeles class fast attack submarine based in Norfolk, VA and Portsmouth, NH.

After five years of life alternating between the sea and shipyards up and down the east coast, Paul left the Navy to rejoin his wife, who had begun medical school in Philadelphia. He began seeking out a job where he could have a more tangible impact in the community and chose to join an alternative certification program to teach seventh and eighth grade special education students in a public
school in North Philly - mainly kids with learning disabilities or emotional disturbance.

This past summer, Paul interned at the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts, where he helped draft appellate briefs for clients who have been adjudicated delinquent in the juvenile justice system and conducted research on strategies to combat recidivism among juvenile offenders.

**Jessica Swensen**

Jessica is originally from New Jersey and graduated from Boston College in 2006 with a degree in sociology. She is interested in holistic low-income legal services provision, with a focus on immigration. From college graduation until the beginning of law school, Jessica worked in direct legal services for low-income New York City residents. At the City Bar Justice Center, she represented homeless clients on public benefits issues and later served as the coordinator for a project that advised immigrant detainees of potential relief from deportation.

Jessica returned to Boston and spent her first summer in law school working for the Latinas Know Your Rights Project at Greater Boston Legal Services where she assisted domestic violence survivors with immigration matters. In her second year of law school, she was a full-year student attorney in the Boston College Immigration and Asylum Project clinic in addition to working as an intern at the ACLU of Massachusetts. During this time, she developed an interest in the overlap between criminal and immigration laws. Pursuing this interest, she spent her second summer working for The Bronx Defenders as an immigration intern where she advised noncitizen clients on immigration consequences of plea agreements and wrote requests for clients to be released from detention.

Jessica will spend her final semester of law school working for the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Arizona. She hopes to continue her work in immigration legal services after graduation.

**Beth Zilberman**

Beth was raised in Berkeley, California and graduated from the University of California, Davis in 2007. After graduating she worked for a year as a research assistant with the Center for Gender and Refugee studies in San Francisco where she assisted staff attorneys in their research of gender-based asylum claims for individuals who had suffered from gender-based violence ranging from domestic abuse to honor killings.

For the two years prior to law school, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guyana, South America where she worked with a non-profit that provided social services to people living with HIV and specifically children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV.

Beth spent her first summer at the Children’s Law Center in Washington, D.C. where she worked with children in abuse and neglect proceedings. During her second year, she participated in the Immigration and Asylum clinic. During the past summer, Beth interned at Kids in Need of Defense’s (KIND) Boston office, assisting unaccompanied minors seeking immigration status.

**CLASS of 2012**

**John Thomas (JT) H. Do**

JT hails from the Bay Area and is the proud son of Vietnamese refugees. He received his bachelor’s degree in 2007 from Brown University where he majored in religion and public policy while working as a community organizer. Prior to law school, he worked at the San Francisco Bar Association engaging in eviction defense of individuals with mental health disabilities and then oversaw fund development for San Francisco’s Coalition on Homelessness. During his time at BC, JT served as a Rappaport Law and Policy Fellow at the Mass Housing Finance Agency where he reviewed building permits and bond financing. Most recently, he was an honors intern for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice where he assisted in litigating housing discrimination claims. He is a member of the Boston College Law Review and St. Thomas More Society and currently leads outreach to educate residents in Boston’s Vietnamese and Spanish speaking communities of their rights during foreclosure. His areas of interest include community economic development, indigenous and squatter land rights, and fair housing.

**Mike Knapp**

Mike was born and raised in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2006, majoring in Political Science and Spanish. He lived in Portland, Oregon for three years after college, serving a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and two years as a counselor at a drug treatment center for men on probation.

His legal interests include environmental law, national security law, and criminal defense. During law school Mike has worked at the Conservation Law Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and is currently working in the Dorchester District Court with the BC Defenders Clinic. Mike is an avid runner and bicycle commuter.
**LUMINA SATO**

Lumina was born and raised in Yokohama, Japan, and came to the U.S. to attend Brown University where she majored in Development Studies. Through working with the International Institute of Rhode Island and studying abroad in Puebla, Mexico, she became interested in U.S. immigration law and policy.

Prior to law school Lumina worked as a paralegal at Masferrer & Associates, P.C., a small public interest firm that specializes in criminal and immigration defense. While there, Lumina worked predominantly with immigration clients on their deportation defense and asylum cases, as well as applications for visas and citizenship.

At BC Law, Lumina has served on the boards of the Criminal Justice Law Project, the Immigration Law Group, and the Holocaust & Human Rights Project. She has interned for Prisoners' Legal Services in Boston, and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, Public Defender Division. She has also represented clients as a student attorney through the Boston College Immigration and Asylum Project, and is currently participating in the Boston College Defenders clinic. Lumina will be representing BCLS this spring in the Frederick Douglass National Moot Court Competition. She hopes to pursue a career as a public defender.

**CLASS OF 2011**

**MOIRE DOBRANSKY**

Moire graduated from Fordham University at Lincoln Center in 2004. After college, she worked as a litigation paralegal at Winston & Strawn LLP. As an active participant in Winston & Strawn’s pro bono program, she was the lead paralegal on a death penalty appeal case in Alabama and worked as a case researcher for the Innocence Project. She later worked as a paralegal specialist for the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York in the Public Corruption and International Narcotics Trafficking Units.

While at Boston College Law School, Moire interned for the Honorable Scott Kafker at the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Government Bureau/Trial Division of the Office of the Attorney General, the New England Innocence Project, and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. She is a member of both the Pro Bono Board and the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team. She served as Co-President of the Criminal Justice Law Project during the 2009-2010 academic year. She plans to be a prosecutor after graduation.

**SARAH SHERMAN-STOKES**

Sarah is from the Washington DC area. She earned her B.A. in Latin American Studies, Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude, from Bates College.

Prior to law school Sarah worked as a union organizer for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and as a deportation defense paralegal at the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition.

At BC Law, Sarah served as a first-year representative on the Public Interest Law Foundation Board. She also co-founded the Immigration Law Group and helped to train and coordinate student volunteers to assist in Haiti TPS Legal Clinics in and around Boston. Sarah spent her first summer during law school interning at the Committee for Public Counsel Services in the Immigration Impact and Felony Crimes Units. During her second summer, Sarah interned at the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project, a deportation defense organization in Boston. Sarah is fluent in Spanish and hopes to pursue a career in Immigration Law and/or Criminal Defense.

**CLASS OF 2010**

**ANNA EVANS**

Anna is from Brooklyn, New York. She earned her B.A., magna cum laude, in Metropolitan Studies and Spanish from New York University, College of Arts and Sciences.

While at NYU, Anna taught English in El Salvador and at the Island School. She also interned at the Urban Justice Center for its Mental Health and Outreach and Prevention Projects and at the Restaurant Opportunities Center as an Outreach and Organizing Intern.

Prior to law school, Anna worked at the Urban Justice Center as a legal advocate in the Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Project. In her free time, she volunteered at the Legal Aid Society’s Homeless Rights Project and the Urban Justice Center’s Sex Workers Project.

As a first-year law student, Anna serves on the BC Law Pro Bono Program Board of Directors. She spent her spring break at the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center doing domestic violence work. This summer she will intern at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Elderly Unit. Anna is fluent in Russian and Spanish and proficient in German. She plans to pursue a career in poverty and/or immigration law.
Anna is from Gaithersburg, Maryland. She earned her A.B. in Public Policy and International Affairs from Princeton University.

Anna is a former volunteer at a group home for women with HIV and drug addictions and a former intern with the National Network to End Domestic Violence. She was also a fellow with Save the Children U.S. at the Vietnam Field Office in Hanoi. Immediately prior to law school, Anna was a Managing Director at WomensLaw.org.

She spends her free time as a law student volunteer as a hotline responder for WomensLaw.org. During her first summer, she interned at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office in the Family Protection Unit. She will return to the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office to intern in the Boston Municipal Court during her second summer in law school.

Anna is proficient in French and basic Vietnamese, and she has her TEFL certification. She plans to pursue a career in domestic violence law and/or criminal prosecution.

**Margaretta Honsey**

Margaretta is from Wilmington, Delaware. She graduated, cum laude, from Harvard University with a B.A. in History. She was the recipient of a John Harvard Scholarship and a Harvard Center for Public Interest Career Fellowship. As an undergraduate, Margaretta spent summers as a volunteer staff member for Children’s International Summer Villages.

After graduating from Harvard, Margaretta joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as a community organizer at the New York State Tenants and Neighbors Coalition. Immediately prior to law school, Martha was the project coordinator the Legal Clinic for the Homeless (at the New York City Bar Justice Center).

Martha’s many extracurricular activities at BC Law include serving as secretary of the Community and Economic Development Law Group, coordinator of the Immigration Spring Break Trips, and vice-president of the Public Interest Law Foundation. She spent her first spring break in law school performing pro bono work at the Political Asylum Project in Austin, Texas. Martha has participated in two clinics: the Immigration Clinic and the Advanced Immigration Clinic. She is also a staff member on the Boston College Law Review. She spent her first summer interning in the Housing Unit of Neighborhood Legal Services. She will spend her second summer interning in the Health and Disability Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. Martha plans to pursue a career in civil legal services.

**Martha Kashickey**

Martha is from Garfield, New Jersey. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from Yale University. At Yale, Martha was the co-director of a summer school program for gifted and talented inner-city youth and the executive director of undergraduate opera company.

Prior to law school Martha worked as a criminal justice policy associate at the Innocence Project and then as the communications director of the Coalition to Raise the Minimum Standards at New York City Jails.

As a first-year law student Martha won BC Law’s intramural negotiation competition and the Northeast Regional Negotiation Competition, and she was a semi-finalist in the national negotiation competition. She participated in the Immigration Spring Break Trip, serves as president of the Criminal Justice Law Project, and is an investigator for the BC Defenders Clinic. Martha spent her first summer at the Prisoners’ Rights Project at the Legal Aid Society of New York and will spend her second summer at the Bronx Defenders. She also represents low-income clients in family law matters in the Women and the Law Clinic. Martha plans to pursue a career in criminal defense and prisoners’ rights.

**Kate Sabatini**

Kate is from Woodbury, Connecticut. She earned her B.A., cum laude, in International Studies (European Studies) from Middlebury College. She was a College Scholar and on the Dean’s List at Middlebury.

Prior to law school, Kate served as a staff assistant to Congressman James Langevin (RI-02). She then worked as a special assistant and as a research associate for economic policy at the Center for American Progress. At the Center for American Progress, Kate authored a number of articles, which appeared in various publications such as The Baltimore Sun and Challenge: the Magazine of Economic Affairs, and she appeared in a live interview on the BBC World, World Business Report. She was also a volunteer for Everyone Wins! (reading program) and for Echo at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain (aquarium and science center).

At BC Law, Kate is chair of the Community and Economic Development student organization and a teaching assistant for Civil Procedure. Additionally, she is a staff writer on the Boston College Law Review and is currently interning for the Honorable William Robinson, III on the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Kate also represents clients in the Housing Law Clinic. She spent her first summer as a public housing intern at the Business and Professional People for the Public Interest in Chicago, Illinois. She will spend her
second summer as an intern at the Attorney General of Rhode Island’s Appellate Division and Juvenile Prosecution Unit.

Kate is fluent in Italian and conversant in Spanish. She plans to pursue a career in housing law, community development, and/or consumer protection.

CLASS OF 2009

EMILY BARBOUR

Emily is from Underhill, Vermont. She earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies from Oberlin College. While at Oberlin, Emily worked with OhioPIRG, the Sexual Assault Support Team, the Oberlin Boys & Girls Club, and with students in Oberlin middle school.

After graduation, Emily joined Teach for America and taught middle school special education in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As a teacher, she started a school newspaper club, organized a parish-wide in-service on special education co-teaching, and won the Sue Lehman Regional Award for going above and beyond to achieve significant gains with her students. Emily then moved to California to serve as the Teen Program Coordinator for the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco.

Emily has been actively involved in student organizations at BC Law. She started the Gulf Coast Recovery Trip and served as First-Year Representative and then as President of the Public Interest Law Foundation. She was also a member of the Children’s Rights Group and the Class Gift Education & Outreach Committee. Emily works during the academic year at the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. She was also a clinical student in the Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project Clinic. She spent her first summer as an intern at Massachusetts Advocates for Children and her second summer as an intern at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Chelsea District Court. Kristin is fluent in Spanish. She plans to pursue a career as a prosecutor.

JASON LANGBERG

Jason is from Asheville, North Carolina. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received his B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Social and Economic Justice. As an undergraduate, Jason tutored in local housing projects, was a Big Brother, led an Alternative Spring Break service trip, chaired the Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship program and the campus UNICEF chapter, worked on the White Ribbon Men Against Domestic Violence Campaign, and interned at the Children’s Defense Fund. For his public service, he received the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award, and was inducted into the Orders of the Golden Fleece, Old Well, and Grail-Valkyries.

Prior to law school, Jason worked at Advocates for Children and Youth in Baltimore where he focused on fundraising and organizational development. In Baltimore, he also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, mentor for Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, and intake worker for the Homeless Persons Representation Project. Jason then moved to Rhinebeck, New York where he worked as a Program Specialist and Head Counselor at Ramapo for Children, a nonprofit that offers outdoor experiences for children with a wide-range of emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities.

At BC Law, Jason has held leadership positions in various student organizations, including the Public Interest Law Foundation, the Children’s Rights Group, and the Criminal Justice Law Project. He co-founded the BC Law Pro Bono Program and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. Jason has been a student in two clinics: the Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project and the Criminal Justice (Defense) Clinic. He also works as an assistant to the Associate Director of Public Interest Programs.
Jason spent his first summer as an intern at the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts and his second summer as a clerk at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. During the academic year he has continued working for the Children’s Law Center, and performed pro bono work for the ACLU of Massachusetts, New England Innocence Project, Domestic Violence Institute at Northeastern University School of Law, and Legal Aid of North Carolina (Domestic Violent Prevention Initiative and Advocates for Children’s Services projects).

Jason was awarded BC Law’s Champy Fellowship and the Public Interest Law Foundation’s “Outstanding Student Contribution” award. He was also the recipient of a Bergstrom Child Welfare Law Summer Fellowship, an Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Fellowship, and an Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellowship.

Following graduation, Jason will begin working as an Everett Fellow at Advocates for Children’s Services, a statewide project of the Legal Aid of North Carolina. He will represent youth from low-income communities in special education, school discipline, child welfare, juvenile delinquency, and government benefits proceedings.