



Esq. Apprentice

Scholarship, Service, Success

2016 - 2017



Esq. Apprentice

Scholarship, Service, Success

-WELCOME-

-FROM THE DIRECTOR-

-THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORSHIP-

-APPRENTICESHIP-

-YOUR IMPACT-

-CLOSE-

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to Esq. Apprentice's Inaugural Annual Fundraiser! We are so glad you are here. It takes a legal village to raise an apprentice, and we are overjoyed that you are joining our village today.

I started this journey two years ago while doing juvenile reentry work. I realized that sealing a juvenile record alone was not enough of a catalyst to get youth on an economically self-sustaining path. I decided to create a pathway in the field that I know best, law. I imagine a world where officers of the court are just as diverse as those who come in contact with the legal system; a world where attorneys from low-income backgrounds stay in their communities and pave the way for equal access to the law. Apprenticeship is a viable path to the world I imagine.

Esq. Apprentice provides low-income youth of color with the tools necessary to complete California's legal apprenticeship and become California attorneys without debt. We can mend the broken pipeline to gainful employment and legal careers. Together we can raise the bar on access. Won't you join me on the road to making these dreams reality?

ESQ. APPRENTICE BOARD MEMBERS



Nana Duffuor

Nana is a Development Officer at Bay Area Legal Aid. She has over four years of experience fundraising for legal service and advocacy organizations. Prior to joining BALA, Nana worked at the East Bay Community Law Center and the ACLU of Northern California, supporting the growth of the organizations' unrestricted and institutional funding, respectively. Nana is passionate about building up and leveraging resources in her community to support social justice organizations and grassroots movements.



Ruben Farias

Ruben is a Project Manager supporting the development and implementation of HOPE Collaborative's Built Environment work. He has over four years of work experience in community-based projects, including recruiting historically underrepresented students to Occidental College, interning at the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), and recently completing a Policy Fellowship with ChangeLab Solutions. Ruben grew up in South Central Los Angeles with his mother and siblings and experienced slow, inconvenient, and sometimes dangerous trips using public transportation. Thanks in large part to those trips; Ruben is committed to strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of the communities where low-income families live, work, and play.



Serina Rankins

Serina is a Paralegal/Intake Specialist in the Clean State Practice at the East Bay Community Law Center. She has over 9 years of experience working with people who had contact with the criminal justice system, including direct client advocacy and large-scale litigation, to help people overcome barriers to employment, education, housing and civic participation. Serina is an Oakland native who is vitally dedicated to uplifting her community at every turn. In 2015, she received an Award of Merit from the Legal Aid Association of California for her outstanding contributions to the legal field.

THE HONORARY COMMITTEE



Cynthia Chandler

In short, Cynthia is a fairy godmother. In her role as a mentoring attorney with the Bay Area Legal Incubator, she helps entrepreneurial attorneys realize their dreams of building innovative, visionary, and sustainable community law practices that have social impact.

Cynthia has worked on issues of women's health, racial justice, and abolition for over 20 years. Before co-founding Justice Now, Cynthia founded and directed Women's Positive Legal Action Network--the first organization in the US advocating on behalf of HIV+ people in women's prisons. Cynthia has helped launch numerous social justice organizations, including Critical Resistance; TGI Justice Project; and the Eviction Defense Center. In recognition of her support of the leadership of people in prison toward social change, Cynthia was selected as an original recipient of the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award. In 2005, she was selected by the Women's Health Activist Network as a Top 30 Activist for Women's Health. Cynthia helped create the practice of compassionate release for people dying in prison through sponsorship of model decarceration legislation, for which she was designated the 1997 Attorney to Whom California Can Be Most Grateful by California Law Business. She remains one of the only lawyers practicing in this area.



Dorothy L. Fernandez

Dorothy is Pro Bono Counsel based in the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster LLP. She is responsible for managing and promoting the participation of lawyers in the firm's extensive pro bono program which includes, among other things, providing free legal services to low-income individuals, advising nonprofit organizations and assisting in other matters that serve the public interest.

A dedicated advocate for the LGBT community, Dorothy has served as co-chair of the board of directors of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and she also served on the board of the Pride Law Fund, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to law students working on issues related to the equal rights of LGBT citizens and people living with HIV/AIDS. She is currently on the board of directors of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel.

Dorothy graduated from Stanford University in 1992 with a B.A. in psychology. She earned a J.D. in 1996 from Harvard Law School, where she was a member of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* and co-chair of HLS Lambda. She has taught as an adjunct instructor at both Golden Gate University Law School and Santa Clara University Law School.

THE HONORARY COMMITTEE



Eliza Hersh

Eliza is a leading legal advocate and educator in the movement for criminal justice reform in California and nationally. For the past decade, she has worked at the East Bay Community Law Center's Clean Slate Re-entry Legal Services Practice. Under her direction, the Clean Slate Practice has helped thousands of people with arrest and criminal conviction histories overcome the barriers they face in obtaining housing, employment, and higher education. She has also worked as a victim liaison in capital cases. Hersh received her JD from Berkeley Law School and earned her BA from Wesleyan University. She serves on the board of the national Collateral Consequences Resource Center, and is a frequent trainer and speaker on post-conviction barriers to opportunity.



Sharon Wooden

Sharon hails from Los Angeles, California. Among her proudest accomplishments are her marriage of 26 years and mothering two beautiful sons. After graduating from Scripps College with degrees in International Relations and Latin American Literature Sharon went on to graduate from Boalt Hall in 1982. But perhaps her earliest lessons in law came from her informal legal apprenticeship with her father. By working with her father, Sharon gained practical knowledge of the law and learned first-hand how to manage her legal career. Sharon has enjoyed a career as a deputy attorney general since 1985.

THE INAUGURAL COHORT



Briana Barnes

Briana was born in St. Louis, MO and grew up in the Hunters Point Neighborhood in San Francisco. As the Frontline Coordinator at Bayview Hunters Point Community Legal (BHPCL), she manages reception and helps everyone that comes in the door gets the services and support they need. Briana has a passion for helping people, especially low-income people with limited access to services. Briana wants to be a family law attorney. Before working at BHPCL, she managed reception and operations at Root and Rebound an organization that helps formerly incarcerated people get their lives back on track. She loves spending free time with family and loved ones



Omonigho Oiyemhonlan

When Omonigho first heard about legal apprenticeship, her gut told her it was perfect for her. But self-doubt almost kept her from the opportunity. Omonigho fought through insecurity, did her research, and connected with an attorney mentor. She is now a family law apprentice and mediator with just over of apprenticeship hopes to serve not only as an apprentice, but as a mentor to other apprentices in her cohort.



Mayvell Vallero

Mayvell is a Bay Area native. Her parents were immigrants from the Philippines and taught her how to work hard and never give up on what's important. She's brought that perspective and tenacity to her work as an investigator for Bayview/Hunters Point Community Legal. She helps track down facts and provides support to ensure they win their cases. Mayvell is also apprenticing to one day become an attorney and advocate for disadvantaged people in society. In her spare time, she enjoys going on hikes, spending quality time with loved ones, and marathoning *The Office* on Netflix.



Lacey Wilson

Lacey Wilson is a certified mediator and legal apprentice, studying law through the California Law Office Study Program under the supervision and mentorship of Camille King. After studying special education at Texas State University, Lacey taught for 7 years in public education institutions in Texas and California. During this time, Lacey gained invaluable experience serving students with disabilities in their transition from high school to work and/or college. From these years spent as an educator and counselor, Lacey brings her experience with youth and compassion for families in transition to the area of family law and hopes to expand her learning into other areas of law such as special education, Juvenile law, disability rights, civil rights.



Your Impact!

\$15/Month

One (1) Apprentice's Cal Bar Fees for an Entire Year

Initial apprenticeship registration with California Bar. It costs \$158.00 to register for legal apprenticeship. Your donation of just \$15 /month allows an apprentice to start the law office study program.

\$30/Month

One (1) Apprentice's Initial Fees for an Entire Year

Initial registration and report fees for one (1) apprentice for the first year. Annual reporting fees are \$105. Your donation of just \$30/month enables an apprentice to complete one year of study.

\$100/Month

One (1) Apprentice's Program Fees for an Entire Year

*The total annual cost of attending law school is about \$80,000/year, almost **67 times** that of the annual apprenticeship program cost. Your donation of just \$100/month empowers an apprentice to complete a year of study and take the baby bar exam.*

You can make a difference today.

Join us!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

RETZLAFF

LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

A family owned winery & vineyard. Est. 1985



RAWSPICEBAR



galileo
Innovation camps for kids

PIER
39



MORRISON
FOERSTER