

2025 Susman Godfrey Prize Winners

The Susman Godfrey Prize is an honor awarded annually to up to 25 students of color who are finishing their first or second year of law school. The Prize is part of the firm's ongoing commitment to celebrate and promote diversity among civil trial lawyers.



Daniela Alvarez 2L, Yale Law School

Daniela Alvarez is President of Yale Law School's La Sociedad of Latine Law Students, Executive Editor for Articles with the *Yale Journal of International Law*, a member of Yale's Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team, and a Clinical Student in the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project. She was previously a legal intern with the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Department of Justice. Daniela graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University, where she earned her B.A. in Spanish Language and Culture, and formed part of the University's inaugural transfer cohort after transferring from Miami Dade College. At Princeton, she recieved the Priscilla Glickman Memorial Prize, the Premio Angel Loureiro Prize, and the Center for Human Values Thesis Prize.



Sydney Brown 1L, Yale Law School

Sydney Minetta Brown hails from San Francisco, California. She is an Editor on the *Yale Law & Policy Review* and serves on the Executive Boards of both the Black Law Student Association and Yale Law Women+. She also serves as Research Assistant to two YLS professors. She previously served as Special Assistant to New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, an intern for the Office of President Barack and Michelle Obama, and as a legislative intern with the Office of U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Sydney graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern California, where she received her B.A. in Political Science and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.



Ana Chaves 2L, University of Chicago Law School

Ana Chaves is a Rubenstein Scholar and Salzburg-Cutler Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School. She was named a Kirkland & Ellis Scholar for landing in the top 5% of her cohort at the end of her first year and received the Dean's Award for the highest grade in Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Commercial Transactions, and Elements of Law. Ana serves as the Co-President of the school's International Law Society and as the Vice President of the Human Rights Law Society. She also worked as a research assistant to Professor Tom Ginsburg at UChicago's Malvi Center for the Study of Institutional and Legal Integrity. Ana earned her B.A. in Economics from Harvard University.



Deumjee Choi 2L, University of Washington School of Law

Deumjee Choi is a member of the University of Washington School of Law's Public Interest Law Association and its Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. This past quarter, she served as a Judicial Extern to the Honorable Rebecca Glasglow in the Washington Court of Appeals, Division II, and last summer externed for the Honorable Nicole Gaines Phelps in King County Superior Court. Prior to law school, Deumjee attended the World International Accounting School in Seoul, South Korea, where she passed all sections of the U.S. CPA exam. She then worked as an Assistant State Auditor at the Office of the Washington State Auditor and as a VITA Tax Preparation Volunteer for the United Way of King County. Deumjee earned her B.A. in Economics from Carleton College.



Danielle Cross 2L, Yale Law School

Danielle Cross is a student attorney with the Yale Worker & Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic, serves as the Policy & Features Executive Editor with the *Yale Law & Policy Review*, is a 1L Peer Mentor and former Alumni Co-Chair for the Yale Black Law Students Association. She most recently served as a legal intern and Peggy Browning fellow for Community Legal Services, which provides civil legal assistance to low-income Philadelphians. Danielle graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Connecticut, where she received her B.A. as a double major in Political Science and Psychological Studies and later earned her Master of Public Policy.



Bill De La Rosa 2L, Yale Law School

Bill De La Rosa is the Co-Chair of Humanity in Action's American Planning Board and is the Political Action Co-Chair of La Sociedad of Latine Law Students at Yale Law School. He is also the Development Editor of the *Yale Law and Policy Review* and serves on the school's Clinical Studies Board. Last summer, Bill worked with the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild as a Robert A. Katzmann Fellow. Prior to law school, Bill attended the University of Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, where he earned his M.Sc in Criminology and Criminal Justice and his M.Sc in Migration Studies. Bill earned his B.A in Latin American Studies and Sociology, Phi Beta Kappa, at Bowdoin College, where he was named a Truman Scholar.



Ria Debnath 1L, UCLA School of Law

Ria Debnath is an A. Barry Cappello Scholar at UCLA School of Law. During her undergraduate studies, she was very active in mock trial activities and was an Instructor and Coach for UCLA's Summer Mock Trial Institute, where she taught more than 30 high school students technical trial skills. She also competed as a Double-Sided Attorney Competitor for the school's Mock Trial A Team. In 2022, she conducted field research on Skid Row and authored a paper and produced a podcast on the intersection of houselessness and mental health. During this time, she also volunteered at L.A.'s Midnight Mission, engaging with and supporting unhoused individuals. Ria earned her B.A. in Public Affairs and Sociology from UCLA.



Elijah DeVaughn 1L, Yale Law School

Elijah DeVaughn is a scholar and public servant. He previously served as a presidential speechwriter to U.S President Joe Biden. Hired at the age of 23, he was one of the youngest presidential speechwriters in American history. Elijah also has worked as a policy fellow on Vice President Kamala Harris' domestic policy team, as a legal intern on Governor Gavin Newsom's Clemency Team, as a judicial extern in the chambers of former California Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuellar, and as a legal intern for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the ACLU's National Prison Project. Elijah graduated *cum laude* with highest honors from Harvard University, where he received an A.B. in History and Literature. He then went on to earn an MPhil in History from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.



Mark Grujic 1L, UCLA School of Law

Mark Grujic serves as Community Outreach Co-Chair for UCLA's Asian/Pacific Islander Law Students Association. He is a member of UCLA's Business Law Association and a pro bono volunteer for the Section 8 Acceptance Project, which assists in investigations and litigation by the Housing Rights Center. Prior to law school, Mark was Deputy Editor-in-Chief for the *Vanderbilt Political Review* and active with Vanderbilt University's Habitat for Humanity chapter, serving as Builds Chair and Outreach Co-Chair. Additionally, he held several research positions and received a Rankin Scholarship. Mark graduated *summa cum laude* from Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in History and Public Policy.



Cindy Guo 1L, Harvard Law School

Cindy Guo is the Membership Chair of Harvard's Plaintiff's Law Association and a member of the Harvard Law Entrepreneurship Project, which provides pro bono legal research and analysis to entrepreneurs at Harvard and MIT. This summer, Cindy will be working for California Attorney General Rob Bonta as a legal intern in his office's Consumer Protection Section. Prior to law school, she worked in investment banking at J.P. Morgan and M&A at Samsung. Cindy earned her B.A. in Statistics and Economics from Carleton College where she graduated *magna cum laude*.



Avi Gupta 2L, Yale Law School

Avi Gupta is a Features & Book Reviews Editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and President of Yale's American Constitution Society. He also is an intern with Yale Law School's Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic, supporting ongoing federal litigation on rule-of-law issues, and Yale Law School's Veterans Legal Services Clinic, where he represents individuals and veterans' organizations in litigation and policy advocacy. Avi was a 1L Summer Associate at Susman Godfrey last year and previously interned at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the White House Office of Management and Budget. Avi earned his B.A. in Political Science and M.S. in Computer Science from Stanford University.



Liliana Gutierrez 1L, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

Liliana Gutierrez is a member of the La Alianza Law Students Association at U.C. Berkeley School of Law and serves as the co-leader of the Berkeley Immigration Group (BIG), where she will be overseeing students as they work on a variety of pro-bono immigration projects next year. Prior to law school, Liliana served as a Volunteer and Clinics Coordinator for the Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco, where she coordinated walk-in Legal Advice & Referral Clinics (LARCS), increasing the number of consultations provided by LARC by 220% in 2023. She earned her B.A. in Political Science and Anthropology from U.C. Berkeley.



Niki Hua 2L, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Niki Hua is a Notes Editor for the *Northwestern University Law Review* and sits on the boards of the school's American Constitution Society and Labor and Employment Law Society. She has externed for the Honorable Edmond E. Chang for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. Prior to law school, Niki worked at Complexly, an educational media company, and the DOJ's Criminal Division, Fraud Section. She earned her B.A. in Government and Music from the University of Virginia.



Janis Jin 1L, Yale Law School

Janis Jin is a student intern in the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic at Yale Law School, where she works on matters related to immigration detention. She earned her B.A. *magna cum laude* in English from Yale University. As an undergraduate student, she received the Theron Rockwell Field Prize for best senior humanities thesis, the Edward Thompkins McLaughlin Prize for top student in the English major, and the Nakanishi Prize for leadership in advancing race and ethnic relations at Yale. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project, a non-profit that serves more than 1 million immigrants across the United States.



Jorge Ledesma 2L, Yale Law School

Jorge Ledesma serves as Co-Chair of Yale Law School's Student Representatives and as Academics Co-Chair of La Sociedad of Latine Law Students. He is a Notes & Comments Editor for the *Yale Law Journal* and is a member of the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project. Jorge previously interned at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division in D.C. supporting attorneys within the Disability Rights Section on cases enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act and worked in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts. Jorge earned his A.B. *summa cum laude* in Social Studies with a minor in English from Harvard University. He also earned an MPhil in Comparative Social Policy with distinction at the University of Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar.



Alex Liang 2L, Harvard Law School

Alex Liang serves on the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* and as a Teaching Fellow and a Research Assistant. He completed his first year of law school at the University of Texas School of Law, where he was invited to the *Texas Law Review* and earned the Dean's Achievement Award for Outstanding Student in Persuasive Writing and Advocacy. Before attending law school, Alex was the Fox International Fellow at the Australian National University and published research on international affairs and civil rights. He earned his B.A. in Global Affairs from Yale University, where he won the Cogswell Award, the Class of '59 Award, and the Dwight Waterman Prize. Alex also is an accomplished highland bagpiper and won 3rd place at the World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland.



Elizabeth E. Martin 2L, University of Texas Law School

Elizabeth Martin is the Staff Editor for the *University of Texas School of Law Review of Litigation* and is a member of the school's Supreme Court clinic. She also serves as Vice President of Events for the Sports & Entertainment Law Society and Director of Events for the Election Law Society. Elizabeth is a mentor with the Texas Law Pipeline Program, which is committed to promoting access for all Texans to pursue legal careers, and a member of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society. Elizabeth earned her B.A. in Political Science and Sports Management from Rice University.



Ikenna "Ike" Okoye 1L, University of Houston Law Center

Ikenna Okoye is a member of the Corporate and Tax Law Society, Health Law Organization, and Black Law Student Association (BLSA) at the University of Houston Law Center. Before law school, he served as a Policy Advisor to Texas State Senator Donna Campbell, where he helped research, draft, and ultimately pass numerous pieces of legislation, including Senate Bill 240, a Workplace Violence Prevention Bill, and HB 3144, which designated October as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month. Ikenna earned his B.S. and B.A. in Human Development and Family Sciences from the University of Texas.



Sky Park 1L, Stanford Law School

Sky Park is a Member Editor of the *Stanford Law & Policy Review* and is a part of the Stanford Men's Ice Hockey Team. He also is Co-President of Asian and Pacific Islander Law Student Association. Prior to Stanford, Sky was the Operational Director of Passionfruit, a bilingual nonprofit organization based out of Seoul, South Korea, that inspires domestic and expatriate Korean youth to be at the forefront of social reform on global and domestic levels. Sky received his B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Swarthmore College, where he was also a Sprinter on the Varsity Track and Field team. At Swarthmore, he received the Phi Beta Kappa, Hopkins International Public Policy Awards and was named a Leedom Fellow.



Lauren Parker 2L, UCLA School of Law

Lauren Parker is a two-time recipient of the Masin Family Academic Excellence Gold Award, presented to the UCLA Law student with the highest grade in a competitive, curved course. She is an active member of the Trial Team, Student Bar Association, and Black Law Students Association. Lauren recently competed in two national mock trial competitions, earning top-three finishes in both. She holds a B.A. in History and Early Modern World Studies from Brown University, where she received the 2022 R. Douglas Cope Memorial Undergraduate History Award. She also is a recipient of the National Night Stalker Foundation Scholarship and the Huntsville Night Stalker Association Scholarship.



Yi Qu 1L, Harvard Law School

Yi Qu is a member of the Harvard Law Entrepreneurship Project and the school's Intellectual Property Law Association. She received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was an Ann and Paul Steinfeld Memorial Fellow and served as a Graduate Research Assistant. As an enthusiast of materials science and nano-technology, Yi has published multiple peer-reviewed articles in leading chemistry journals. Ranked first in her class, Yi earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Nanjing University.



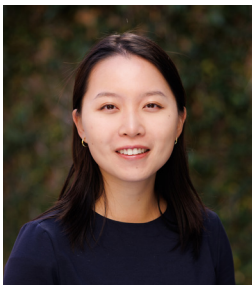
Janice Rotich 1L, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Janice Rotich serves as an Associate Editor for the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law and Social Change*, as well as the Co-President for the Penn Plaintiff's Law Association. Working in both federal and local government prior to law school, she most recently served as a Graduate Policy Fellow for Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, where she advised the Mayor and his Chief of Staff on crucial policy topics, including equitable zoning, tenants' rights to counsel and recidivism reduction. Janice graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Cincinnati, earning a B.S. in Political Science, B.A. in Africana Studies, and a Master in Public Administration - Social Justice.



G. Terrell Seabrooks 2L, Harvard Law School

Gregory "Terrell" Seabrooks is the President of the *Harvard Law Review*, Co-Chair of the Black Law Student Association's Academic Affairs Committee, Civil Procedure Teaching Fellow, and Ames Moot Court Finalist. Last summer, he worked as a Commercial Litigation Summer Intern in the U.S. Department of Justice. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University, where he received a B.A. in Public Policy and International Affairs and was a member of the University's Division I Varsity Men's Lacrosse team.



Jessica Wang 2L, Stanford Law School

Jessica Wang serves as a Civil Justice Fellow at the Rhode Center on the Legal Profession, co-leads the Housing Pro Bono Project, and is a Notes Editor on the *Stanford Law Review*. Jessica is currently a member of the Religious Liberty Clinic and was a quarterfinalist in Stanford's Kirkwood Moot Court competition. She graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in Economics and Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley.



Brian Xu 2L, Stanford Law School

Brian Xu serves as a Civil Justice Fellow at the Deborah L. Rhode Center on the Legal Profession and a Harry Bremond-Wilson Sonsini Fellow with the Stanford Center for Racial Justice. In addition to attending Stanford Law School, he is currently studying for his Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Brian previously worked as a Legal Extern for Public Justice, a non-profit in Washington, D.C., and as a Legal Intern in the ACLU's Racial Justice Program. Brian graduated *summa cum laude* from Georgetown University with a B.S. in Foreign Service. He will be a 2L Summer Associate in Susman Godfrey's Los Angeles office this summer.