

2026 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.



Farah Afify 1L, Yale

Farah Afify is a member of the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic and a Features Editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law at Yale Law School*. She is also pursuing a Ph.D. in American Studies at the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She recently volunteered with the Brooklyn Legal Services Tenants' Rights Coalition and the International Refugee Assistance Project. This summer, she will be working at the Federal Public Defender Office for the District of Connecticut. Prior to law school, Farah was a Harvard-Cambridge Scholar at the University of Cambridge where she received her MPhil in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Farah graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University where she earned her B.A. in Social Studies.



Oswaldo Ambrosio Lomeli 1L, Stanford

Oswaldo Ambrosio Lomeli is the incoming president of the Stanford Latinx Law Students Association, an Executive Editor of the *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*, and a member of the Stanford Plaintiffs' Law Association. He also serves as a legal counselor with Legal Aid at Work at the Stanford Workers' Rights Pro Bono Project where he helps California workers understand and assert their workplace rights. Oswaldo graduated cum laude from Harvard University where he earned his A.B. in History.



Melissa Barales-Lopez 1L, Yale

Melissa Barales-Lopez is from East Los Angeles, California. Melissa is a 1L Representative for La Sociedad of Latine Students, a Clinical Student for the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project, a Board Member of the Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program, an Editor for the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, and a Research Assistant to two YLS professors. Prior to law school, she worked as a Compliance Associate at the D. E. Shaw Group and served in the firm's Latine affinity group, DESCitos. Melissa graduated Valedictorian, *summa cum laude*, and Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in both Government and Spanish.



Susana Barragan 1L, Yale

Susana Barragán is a Legal Intern at Yale Law School's Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic and Co-President of the YLS Law & Political Economy group. She is Lead Editor for both the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, and the *Yale Law & Policy Review*. She is also a Representative of Yale Law Women+, First Generation Professionals and La Sociedad of Latine Law Students. Prior to law school, Susana was a Policy Analyst for UnidosUS where she spearheaded comprehensive policy strategies to build bipartisan support for economic justice initiatives. She was also an Assistant Policy and Research Fellow for Connecticut Voices for Children where she explored racial wealth disparities in the state. She earned her B.A. with Honors from the University of Connecticut where she majored in both Economics and Human Rights.



Suzanne Castillo 1L, Yale

Suzanne Castillo is a Hurst Horizon Scholar at Yale Law School where she serves as Political Action Chair of La Sociedad, First-Gen College Chair of First Generation Professionals, a Student Attorney at Yale Law School's Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic, and a member of National Lawyers Guild and OutLaws. Previously, Suzanne was a Legal Assistant and Organizer at Public Counsel and served as a Liberty & National Security Program Intern for the Brennan Center for Justice. She graduated with distinction from Yale College with a B.A. in Ethics, Politics & Economics.



Danna Castro Galindo 2L, Yale

Danna Castro Galindo hails from Colombia and is a proud member of Colombia's Pijao tribe. At Yale Law School, Danna is the Managing Development Editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law* and the Co-Chair of the Yale Native American Law Students' Association as well as the Yale Environmental Law Association. Danna is also a Student Attorney in the Yale Environmental Justice Law and Advocacy Clinic where she represents multiple tribal nations in various water rights proceedings before the California State Water Resources Control Board. Danna worked as a Law Fellow at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and as a Teaching Fellow for the Yale School of the Environment. She graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA, earning her B.A. in both International Development Studies and Political Science.



Justin Chock 2L, Yale

Justin Chock is a National Asian Pacific American Bar Association SAIL Scholar and a 2026 MoloLamken Advocacy Academy Scholar. At Yale Law School, he is an Articles Editor for the *Yale Law Journal* and served as an Editor for the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Native American Law Students Association and Professional Development Co-Chair of the Veterans Association. Justin has also served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and as a Political Science and Cyber Science Instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated with Honors from the U.S. Naval Academy and later earned his MPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford.



Nicolas Coleman 1L, Stanford

Nicolas Lambelet Coleman is a Student Volunteer with Stanford Law School's Prisoner Legal Services Pro Bono Project and a Member of the Articles Committee for the Stanford Law & Policy Review. Before law school, Nicolas worked as a painter, exhibiting internationally and completing artist residencies in Dakar and London. Previously, Nicolas worked in investment banking at Bank of America and BNP Paribas. Nicolas earned his B.A. in Political Science at Duke University where he competed in Division I track & field.



Shanice Guthrie 2L, Yale

Shanice Guthrie serves as Student Director for Yale Law School's Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic and the Co-President of Yale Law Women+. She also serves as the Community Outreach Co-Chair of Yale's Health Law & Policy Society, BLSA-at-Large Co-Chair for the Yale Black Law Student Association, and the Events and Programming Chair for Yale Law and Business Society. Shanice also worked as a Prefectural Language Instructor in Japan and an Intern for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in both Philosophy and Medicine, Science and the Humanities.



Stephanie Lai 1L, Yale

Stephanie Lai is a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Judge Rudolph Contreras of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. At Yale Law School, she is Articles Editor for the *Yale Journal on Regulation* and Lead Editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law* and the *Yale Journal of Law & Policy*. She is a Representative for the Yale International Negotiation Student Association, Yale Law and Business Society, the Asian Pacific American Law Students' Association, and Yale Law Women+. Most recently, she was a summer associate with Susman Godfrey's Los Angeles office and a Legal Intern with the Connecticut Attorney General. Prior to law school, she was a White House Correspondent for Bloomberg News. Stephanie graduated *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Sigma Alpha from Columbia University where she earned her B.A. in Political Science.



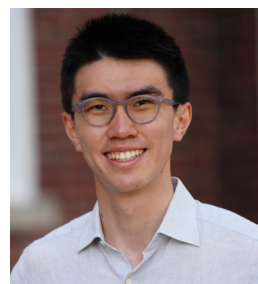
Alexis Lefft 1L, UCLA

Alexis Lefft is a Distinguished Scholars Award Recipient at UCLA School of Law and a 2026 ACLU-NBLSA Southern Legal Intern. She was previously a Teacher at The School of Los Angeles and Chadwick School, and she served as an Intern for the Honorable J. Michelle Childs of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina. Alexis graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a B.A. in American Studies.



Emily F. Liu 1L, Stanford

Emily F. Liu is a 1L Representative for the Plaintiffs' Law Association at Stanford Law School where she is additionally a member of both the Election Law and Native Law Pro Bono Projects. Prior to law school, Emily was Head of Special Projects at Bluesky Social and a Senior Software Engineer for Election Insights at *The Washington Post* where she contributed to Pulitzer Prize-winning public service reporting. She graduated from Duke University with a B.S. in computer science and a certificate in Policy Journalism and Media Studies.



Frederick Liu 2L, Yale

Frederick Liu is Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Journal of Law & Technology* and was an Editor for the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. He is also Co-Captain of Yale Law Soccer and a member of both the International Refugee Assistance Project and the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Clinic. In 2023, he co-founded a software company called Revid Inc. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*, with highest distinction from the University of Rochester with a B.A. in both Computer Science and Political Science, and he received his MPhil in Technology Policy from the University of Cambridge.



Shyam Madhani 2L, Yale

Shyam Madhani is Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law Journal* and served as a Speechwriter for the Yale Law School Dean's Office and a Teaching Assistant for Professor John Fabian Witt. At Yale, he was recently a Law Student Intern for both the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic and Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic. Shyam was a Post-Conviction Litigation Intern with the Innocence Project and a Communications and Project Coordinator for the Brookings Institution. Shyam graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Texas at Austin where he earned a B.A. in Plan II Honors and Government and a B.S. in Communication and Leadership.



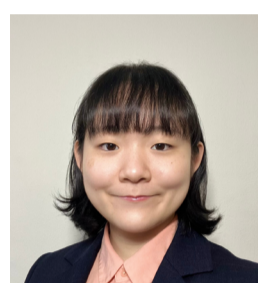
Riley Martinez 2L, Stanford

Riley Martinez, a 2025 IL Summer Associate at Susman Godfrey, is a Notes Editor for the *Stanford Law Review* and Articles Editor for the *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*. At Stanford Law, Riley holds numerous student leadership roles, works as a Teaching Assistant, and participates as a full-time student in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. Previously, he served as a Judicial Intern to the Honorable J. Michelle Childs of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Riley graduated *magna cum laude* from Princeton University with an A.B. in Politics.



Uma Menon 2L, Yale

Uma Menon is a member of the Yale Law Housing Clinic, Forum Editor for the *Yale Law Journal*, and a Solomon Center for Health Law & Policy Research Fellow. She also served on the boards of the Yale Civil Rights Project and Yale Law Democrats and as a Features Editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law*. Uma has held internships with the the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. International Trade Administration. Uma graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University where she earned her A.B. in Public and International Affairs. She's also the author of two children's books.



Yuko Nogawa 2L, Northwestern

Yuko Nogawa is a 2L at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. As a 1L, she was a Recipient of the Kirkland & Ellis Scholar Award in Torts and a member of the Northwestern ACLU's Election Law Research Project, as well as Northwestern's Moot Court Team. She recently served as Moot Court Internal Relations Director and competed as a member of Northwestern's Vis Moot Team, for which she received an honorable mention for Best Oralist at the 33rd Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. Yuko served as an Intern with the Legal Council for Health Justice and also worked as a Legal Assistant at Rusin & Maciorowski, Ltd. Yuko graduated Valedictorian, *summa cum laude* and Omicron Delta Kappa from Millsaps College with a B.S. in Political Science and Sociology and a B.A. in Philosophy.



Karolyn Raj 2L, Texas

Karolyn Raj is an Associate Editor for *Texas Law Review* and the Treasurer for Asian Pacific American Law Student Association at the University of Texas School of Law. She served as a student attorney for both the Capital Punishment Clinic and Environmental Clinic and as a Teaching Assistant for Torts. In 2025, she worked as a Legal Intern with Bayou City Waterkeeper and the Environmental Division of Harris County Attorney's Office. Karolyn graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Houston–Clear Lake where she earned her B.S. in Environmental Science. This summer, Karolyn is a Summer Law Clerk for Environmental Integrity Project in Washington, DC.



Chaka Tellem 1L, Yale

Chaka Tellem is Chae Fellow of the Tsai Leadership Program, Lead Editor for the *Yale Law & Policy Review* and Articles Editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law*. He also serves as Professional Development Co-Chair of the Yale Black Law Students Association and a Member of the Yale Entrepreneurship and Innovation Clinic. Chaka has worked on immigration and constitutional litigation matters through Yale Law School clinics and conducted comparative legal and education policy research in Senegal, South Africa, and Colombia. Chaka graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Political Economy.



Summia Tora 2L, Yale

Summia Tora is an Executive Articles Editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law* and an Editor for the *Yale Journal of Regulation* at Yale Law School. She is also a Paul & Daisy Soros Scholar. Summia founded the Dosti Network, a nonprofit supporting at-risk Afghans seeking legal pathways, education, and humanitarian aid. She has also worked with the Malala Fund, the United Nations University, and the World Bank on human rights and refugee issues. Summia earned master's degrees from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar after graduating with distinction from Earlham College.



Elizabeth Tran 2L, Yale

Elizabeth Tran is an Editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and a member of the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project at Yale Law School. She also serves as Co-President of First-Generation Professionals and Co-Vice President of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. Last summer, she interned for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Previously, she worked for nearly four years at the U.S. Department of Justice where her tenure included the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Legal Policy, and the Antitrust Division. Elizabeth graduated from Brown University, earning an A.B. in Public Policy.



Trinh Q. Truong 2L, Yale

Trinh Q. Truong is a Hurst Horizon Scholar at Yale Law School where she is a member of the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic and co-directs the Immigrant Justice Project and the International Refugee Assistance Project. She is a Robert A. Katzmann Fellow with the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project. Trinh has worked at Office of the New York State Attorney General and the Center for American Progress on immigration litigation and policy. She earned her M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from the University of Oxford and her B.A. in Political Science and Human Rights from Yale University.



Kia Turner 2L, Yale

Kia Turner is a Lead Editor for the *Yale Law Journal's* Features & Book Review Committee and a member of the Black Law Students Association at Yale Law School. She also serves as a teaching assistant and research assistant for faculty at the law school. Previously, she was a litigation intern at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Kia earned her Ph.D. from Stanford University and her A.B. from Harvard College.



Liyu Woldemichael 1L, Harvard

Liyu Woldemichael is a NAACP Legal Defense Fund Marshall-Motley Scholar and a member of the Harvard Defenders, the only legal service organization in Massachusetts representing low-income people for free in Criminal Clerk-Magistrate's Hearings. She is also a Solicited Content Editor for the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. Liyu has worked with the Alameda County Board Supervisor on housing policy and served as a Board Member of the Telluride Association. Liyu graduated *cum laude* from Duke University with a B.A. in Public Policy and Africana Studies.



Alex Zhao 2L, Harvard

Alex Zhao is president of the *Harvard Law Review* and a member of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. He works as a research assistant to Professors I. Glenn Cohen and Henry E. Smith. Previously, Alex was a Summer Public Service Fellow with the New York Attorney General's Office and a summer associate at Dovel & Luner. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley where he earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a B.S. in Business Administration as a Regents' and Chancellor's Scholar. He earned an M.S. in Global Affairs from Tsinghua University through Schwarzman Scholars.