

## **CATEGORY 1: PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYER NOMINEES**

**Ryan Downer ('08)** is an Associate at Relman, Dane & Colfax (RD&C), a private civil rights law firm. Ryan's practice concentrates on housing discrimination, employment discrimination, and public accommodation. Prior to joining RD&C, Ryan was Assistant Counsel for the Economic Justice Project at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where he had previously served as a Skadden Fellow and legal intern. While at LDF, he litigated employment, housing and environmental justice cases. Ryan is a frequent lecturer and presenter at legal conferences and universities, including the Airlie Civil Rights Training Conference. He also serves as an executive officer on the board of the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, an organization that administers an opportunity-based voucher program for the Baltimore region.

**Justine Olderman ('98)** is the Managing Director of the Bronx Defenders, overseeing the Criminal, Family, and Civil practices as well as the internal operations of the organization. After joining the Bronx Defenders in 2000 and working for a number of years as a staff attorney, Olderman became a training team supervisor for new lawyers, then a team leader for experienced practitioners, and then the Managing Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice. As Managing Attorney, Justine oversaw the expansion of the criminal practice from 40 lawyers handling 12,500 cases a year to a practice of more than 100 lawyers handling 30,000 cases a year. Justine also created an in-house forensic practice group, an adolescent defense practice, and spearheaded a city-wide bail initiative bringing together public defenders across the city to address the problem of bail in New York.

**Alisa Wellek ('10)** is the Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) where she oversees challenges to government programs that funnel immigrants into detention and deportation systems. She currently leads IDP's federal advocacy efforts, coordinating a communications strategy designed to change the dominant narratives surrounding immigrants convicted of crimes and provide public education in support of legislative strategies and grassroots field operations. Prior to joining IDP, Alisa worked as an Equal Justice Works fellow, serving as the National Campaign and Advocacy Manager at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center in New York City.

## **CATEGORY 2: STUDENT GROUP NOMINEES**

**Bail Fund:** Working with the Washington Square Legal Services Bail Fund, NYU Law students launched the first charitable bail fund in Manhattan and recruited student case managers and bail bonds-people to implement it. Student case managers have worked with individuals in the criminal justice system at every stage of the bail process including assessing applications for bail, writing advocacy letters, and following up with bail recipients to ensure they return to court. Bonds-people coordinate with various city agencies and post bail to ensure individuals are released from jail.

**Domestic Violence Advocacy Project (DVAP):** The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project (DVAP) works in various ways to help women who are the victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project operates two public service programs for students,

supervised by Sanctuary for Families, a New York organization that assists battered women. Through one of the programs, the Courtroom Advocates Program (CAP), NYU Law students assist women at Family Court in getting orders of protection from their batterers and through the other, the Uncontested Divorce Project (UDP), students assist women in obtaining a divorce from their batterer by working directly with a client from the interview stage to the point when the final papers are filed in court.

**Identity Documents Project:** Begun this academic year by the student group, OUTLaw, the NYU Law students who work as part of the Identity Documents Project assist transgender individuals to update their gender markers and names on their identity documents such as passports and Social Security cards. Each client faces different challenges and requires assistance with updating different sort of legal documents, and the NYU Law student volunteers have been instrumental in helping these clients overcome some of the legal and bureaucratic challenges that they confront.

### **CATEGORY 3: PRO BONO ATTORNEY NOMINEES**

**Jessica Klein ('03)** is Special Counsel to Sullivan & Cromwell and Head of its Pro Bono Practice. She has led the firm's pro bono program since August 2011. Inspired by her clinical work at NYU Law, within a few months of starting as an associate in the Litigation Group, Jessica reached out to the NAACP to ask how she could help. An active pro bono docket throughout her years at S&C followed. In addition to overseeing the firm's broad array of pro bono matters and initiatives and supervising junior lawyers who wish to do pro bono, Jessica maintains an active docket of cases in many areas of public interest law, including asylum, domestic violence, education law and civil rights. She is active in Sullivan & Cromwell's efforts to expand access to justice and serves as Counsel to The New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice. Jessica has been recognized with a number of awards, including the Safe Haven Award from Immigration Equality and the Above and Beyond Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Advocacy from Sanctuary for Families.

**Lucy McMillan ('04)** is a Senior Attorney for Pro Bono at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer, managing pro bono activities in the New York office in conjunction with the firm's pro bono program. Before joining APKS, Lucy clerked for the Honorable Roanne Mann of federal district court in the Eastern District of New York and served as a staff attorney at Advocates for Children. In her current role, Lucy is responsible for furthering her firm's relationships with legal services organizations and not-for-profits, organizing and developing pro bono training programs, and assisting attorneys in obtaining pro bono matters. She also handles and supervises individual pro bono matters. McMillan has been recognized by Legal Services New York City as part of its Pro Bono Honor Roll 2012. After the Orlando nightclub massacre and a string of other mass shootings, with Lucy at the helm, Arnold & Porter formed a coalition with gun control groups and several other big law firms, committing tens of millions of dollars in free legal services from top corporate lawyers who typically bill clients \$1,000 an hour or more.

**Marc Shapiro ('03)** is a Senior Associate at Orrick, representing clients in federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels. Prior to joining Orrick, Marc worked for Bryan

Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative for over eight years, and clerked on the Ninth Circuit. Marc's commercial practice spans a number of areas, and he typically devotes on average 800 hours annually to his pro bono work. He has been honored by the New York City Bar Association's Capital Punishment Committee, which awarded Orrick the 2016 Norman Redlich Capital Defense Distinguished Service Pro Bono Award for the firm's excellence in the representation of death-row inmates and in advocating for the abolition of the death penalty. Marc successfully argued before the Sixth Circuit to overturn sabotage convictions against an elderly nun and two other peace activists for breaking into a Tennessee nuclear defense facility in 2012. Marc also argued *GB v. Carrion* in the Second Circuit, which was an appeal from the denial of a preliminary injunction in a case challenging abuse at juvenile detention facilities across New York State.