

2021 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice Fellowship Recipients

Undergraduate Students, World of Work Internship Program

Abdelkader Achibat '23

Lowell Court Service Center, Lowell, MA

Emily Atieh '23

Jane Doe Inc, The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (JDI), Boston, MA

Alison Cantor '22

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston, MA

Michala Coates '23

People's Breakfast Oakland, Oakland, CA

Spencer Cramer '22

National Consumers League, Washington, DC

Sarah Davidson '23

Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, Washington, DC

Elinor Eggers '23

Brandeis Educational Justice Initiative, Waltham, MA

Denezia Fahie '22

Boston Public Schools Office of Equity, Roxbury, MA

Quinn Filler '23

United for a Fair Economy, Boston, MA

Dara Goldfein '23

The Palestine-Israel Journal, East Jerusalem, Israel

Golda Hellman '22

The Color of Health, Woodhaven, NY

Supriya Jain '22

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Division of New Technology, Washington, DC

Zoe Lazar '23

SuitUp, New York, NY

Allie Mundis '22

Oxfam America, Boston, MA

Maheeb Rabbani '23

Health and Education for All (HAEFA), Lexington, MA

Jolecia Saunderson '24

Power In Place, Braintree, VT

Jia Shealy '23

Power in Place, Braintree, VT

Sofia Siegel '23

Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Woburn, MA

Margo Sobel '22

Avodah, New York, NY

Natalie Westrick '22

Genocide Watch, Washington, DC

Natalia Paley Whitman '23

Alliance for Justice, Washington, DC

2021 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice Fellowship Recipients MPP Students, Heller School for Social Policy and Management

Hannah Orbach-Mandel, MPP'22
Time's Up

Stazi Owen, MPP'24
MA Commission on LGBTQIA+ Youth

Louisa Duggan, MPP'22
Vote Mama

Shannell Ciruso, MPP'24
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice

Gerrit Boldt, MPP'22
Institute for Economic and Racial Equity
(IERE): HEAL Winchendon Project

Audrey Herrmann, MPP'22
MA State Rep Dylan Fernandez;
HOPE Institute

Ali Carney, MPP'22
Institute for Economic and Racial Equity
Postsecondary Educational Pathways Project

Kerin Miller, MPP'22
MassHealth CYF Project Management Intern,
Office of State Senator Gomez
Committee on Children, Families, & Persons
with Disabilities

Paulina Rowe, MPP'22
Waltham Partnership for Youth

Vandita Wilson, MPP'22
Institute for Economic and Racial Equity
Predator Student Lending Project

Amelia Youngstrom, MPP'22
Institute for Economic and Racial Equity
Women's Lunch Place evaluation project;
DHCD

2021 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice Fellowship Recipients PhD Students, Heller School for Social Policy and Management

2021 Institute for Economic and Racial Equity (IERE) Fellows

This summer, IERE welcomed its inaugural class of Racial Equity Fellows. These Fellows joined the IERE team this summer to continue their research thanks to fellowships from the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice. The 2021 IERE PhD Racial Equity Fellowship was open to current Heller PhDs in the Economic and Racial Equity concentration who successfully defended their dissertation proposals and whose work focuses on achieving racial equity.

Ofa Liz Ejaife

Stratification Economics and Health: Examining Employment Capital as a Social and Political Determinant of the Black-White Health Disparities

Ofa Ejaife is a doctoral candidate in the Economic and Racial Equity concentration at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Her research primarily focuses on the psychosocial issues of racism, sexism, and social justice, and on forms of structural, direct, and symbolic racism and sexism endemic to U.S. society, through an intersectionality framework. Ofa has a BA in Psychology and an MA in Community Psychology, both from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. With interdisciplinary training—utilizing critical qualitative and quantitative methods—her research is committed to understanding and alleviating various forms of subjugation influencing social realities. Ofa has been involved in various community-based projects including: financial empowerment; credit building initiatives; racial equity in child savings accounts; evaluation of a best-practice gang and youth violence reduction program in four cities in Massachusetts; and providing resources to develop, implement, and sustain policies for programs aimed at promoting housing stability. Currently, her dissertation examines how non-income employment-based wealth building resources are connected to racial stratification and the Black-White health gap.

Joanna Taylor

Pathways Into and Out of Confinement: A Life-Course Study of Girls and School Discipline

Joanna Taylor received her Master's in Education through the Boston Teacher Residency program and a BA in History from Swarthmore College. She taught high school and was a youth worker in Boston for over eight years. Her research interests are in the school-to-prison pipeline, with a focus on reducing racial disparities in discipline. Joanna's dissertation focuses on the long-term consequences of being suspended for young women, following them into early adulthood. With the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights, she published two reports on the state of school discipline in Massachusetts following a 2014 change to the laws governing suspension and expulsions. In addition, Joanna co-authored two articles with Tatjana Meschede examining wealth accumulation for Black and white families with college degrees in the United States.

Jarvis Williams

Wrongfully Convicted? The Challenge of Official Recognition

Jarvis Williams is a doctoral candidate in the Economic and Racial Equity concentration at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. His area of concern revolves around the concept of citizenship and the social fruits that fall from its conceptual tree. As a seminary-trained and ordained Christian minister, Jarvis has attempted to merge his ongoing quest for the Beloved Community by identifying and analyzing our collective concern for specific populations haunted by the stain of social stigma. His overarching thesis suggests that systemic failure is best recognized by analyzing socially stigmatized populations that expose the fragility, and sometimes hypocrisy, of our collective institutional values of truth and justice. With years of ministerial service within marginalized communities, Jarvis is convinced that true transformation must be coupled with an unflinching investigation into the moral sensibilities of some of our most fundamental institutions.

To explore his overarching thesis, Jarvis is asking a very simple question in his dissertation. What happens to wrongfully convicted exonerees after they are released from prison? Equally of interest, what should happen to these newly released citizens? Many states have attempted to address this question through statutory compensation policies. Jarvis will investigate this policy option and assess whether or not it produces the fundamental social fruits of citizenship. By interviewing wrongfully convicted exonerees, Jarvis hopes to learn how the policy of statutory compensation actually impacts the lives of these newly released citizens. As an African American male and descendant of enslaved people in the U.S. with years of research and lived experience, Jarvis sees the concept of citizenship as an elusive ideal when applied to socially stigmatized populations. Indeed, the ongoing challenge for Jarvis is to continue participating as a citizen and demonstrating concern for the socially stigmatized citizens, which proves to be a radical notion within the U.S. Undoubtedly, Jarvis wonders if his own citizenship status will ever be authentically recognized. Nevertheless, his dissertation is a reminder to the socially stigmatized populations within our society, sometimes the socially stigmatized must lead the way in recognizing the socially stigmatized.

“The most important political office is that of the private citizen.”

Justice Louis D. Brandeis

The Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice supports Brandeis students, enhances campus life and promotes the issues of social justice that the former U.S. Supreme Court justice championed throughout his life.

Since its establishment in 2006, the Legacy Fund has sponsored a series of initiatives designed to help students, enrich the university community, and address social justice concerns on and off campus.

The Legacy Fund was founded by Jules Bernstein '57, and is funded in part by Mr. Bernstein and his wife, Linda Lipsett, and the Class of 1969 Fund for Social Justice, an endowment established by the Class of 1969 during their 50th Reunion.

Special gratitude to the Legacy Fund Advisory Committee:

Jules Bernstein '57, Committee Chair

Walter Mossberg '69

Nancy (Sherman) Shapiro '69

Shaina Gilbert '10

Sahar Massachi '11

Contact Us

Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice
Brandeis University
415 South Street
Waltham, MA 02453

781-736-4013