



2024

**LOUIS D. BRANDEIS**

**LEGACY FUND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**UNDERGRADUATE FELLOW APPRECIATION**



# 2024 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice Undergraduate Fellowship Recipients

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**Noa Apple '27**  
Watch CDC

**Guilherme Azeredo Santos '26**  
Oxfam

**Malini Boorgu '26**  
The Sycamore Institute

**Ria Escamilla-Gil '27**  
United for a Fair Economy

**Alodie Gould-Wagenaar '26**  
SafeBAE

**Layla Hay '25**  
Asian American Federation

**Kiah Holmstrom '25**  
United for a Fair Economy

**Anika Jain '26**  
Economic Liberties

**Vincent Jared '27**  
Kenya Scholars Access Program (KenSAP)

**Nemma Kalra '26**  
The Right to Immigration Institute

**Leah Kotkin '26**  
Metrowest Women's Fund

**Victoria Lajous '25**  
D'Mello Lab, UT Southwestern

**Dalya Lessem Elnecave '27**  
JFREJ

**Carol Lu '25**  
The Right to Immigration Institute

**Bylasan Muneer '25**  
Massachusetts General Hospital – Pediatric Global Health Department

**Maya Ollagnon '25**  
Avodah

**Gregory Oppong '26**  
Geaux Network

**Zahira Ramirez Caceres '27**  
Saraki Paraguay

**Cameron Samuels '26**  
Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT) – Project of Katy Lions Foundation

**Lizbeth Sandoval '24**  
Africano Waltham

**Britney Sayegh '26**  
Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund

**Mala Smith '26**  
Thunder Road Projects

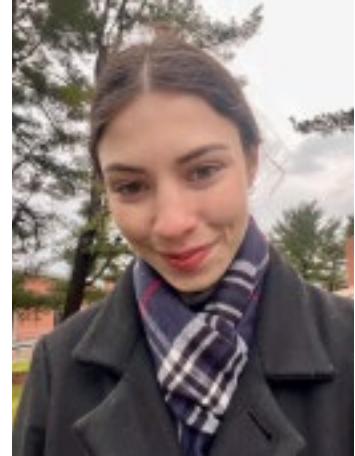
**Ella Tham '26**  
Witness to Mass Incarceration

**Alan Vazquez '26**  
City of Pompano Beach Community Court

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for contributing to the Social Justice WOW fellowship. Your generosity has allowed me and other students to gain invaluable experience in things we are passionate about.

I am majoring in Psychology and hope to get an MSW. My experience this past summer allowed me to gain experience working with people from very different backgrounds. I worked at WATCH CDC, a non-profit in Waltham focusing on community development. There, I worked in the Education Department and taught ESL to adult immigrants in the community. I planned lessons, wrote material (e.g. worksheets), and taught beginner and advanced classes. I built wonderful connections with the students and other employees/volunteers. I am so beyond grateful for this experience and am proud of all the hard work I put in.



I built many skills, mostly in communication. As I was teaching English, I had to study basic grammar to properly explain and teach something I usually don't think much about throughout my day. I also learned different ways of teaching a language and topics in general.

This internship has helped me clarify my career interests in that it's strengthened my core passion and desire that pushes me: to help people improve their lives. I want to be a therapist and after this summer, I know that I want to dedicate a portion of my time to people who don't have as many resources as I or others do. This summer has allowed me to recognize my goals more deeply and to organize them for the rest of my time at Brandeis and beyond.

This experience has already shaped my life and I know it will continue to do so throughout my entire career. This would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Noa Apple '27





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your generous support of the World of Work Social Justice Fellowship. Because of the WOW Fellowship, I and many others could start pursuing a career in social justice, working toward creating positive change in society. Your commitment to advancing Brandeis University's goal of Repairing the World is both inspiring and impactful.

I am a rising Junior, class of 2026, double majoring in International and Global Studies, as well as Anthropology. This past summer, I was an intern at Oxfam America's Private Sector Department (PSD), an office that works to address injustice and inequality in the private sector. My role at PSD was twofold: 1) I was responsible for a variety of administrative and MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) tasks, and 2) I worked on a multitude of specific projects assigned to me by PSD staff (which was the most interesting part of the job).

As a sample of my work, I was tasked with helping to build a company strategy for Hershey's. This was to assist Oxfam if the opportunity arises to work with this company and advocate for equality in the coca extraction industry. I evaluated Hershey's ESG (Environmental, Social, and Government) policies, their current partnerships and initiatives to promote ESG goals and some prominent issues related to inequality and injustice.

I also worked on a data analysis project which will become a post on the Oxfam website, discussing the gaps in the data that Fortune 500 companies disclose publicly and how that's a barrier for organizations such as Oxfam to effectively advocate for change. The essay speaks to investors who might be concerned about potentially risky investments so they can pressure companies to disclose information more openly and consistently.

Over the summer, I learned about the role of international organizations in creating positive change and how I fit into this reality. I realized that I enjoy doing research and that I find writing and communicating fulfilling, such as with my data analysis project. I am now looking forward to pursuing a career in academia, where I can do the type of work I'm passionate about in the field of International Relations.

Thank you once again for your contribution to the WOW Fellowship and for giving me this impactful opportunity to create positive change.

Sincerely,  
Guilherme Azeredo Santos '26

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the support I have received through the World of Work Social Justice fellowship at Brandeis. Through this opportunity, I was allowed to take an internship that gave me project experience, technical and interpersonal skills, connections, and numerous other important experiences. This summer challenged my perspectives and changed my career and academic goals.

This summer, I interned with the Sycamore Institute in Nashville, TN. The Sycamore Institute is a non-profit public policy research institute that focuses on providing quality, non-partisan research about Tennessee. They aim to provide research that does not lobby or push an agenda but shows the true state of Tennessee so that policymakers can make decisions more effectively. I began my internship by holding informational interviews with everyone in the office, where I learned about their education, their careers, and their passions. They all gave me invaluable advice as to what I should pursue next and what it is like to work in the world of policy.

I then began assisting their Senior Policy Analyst with his project: a set of papers detailing the current state of housing policy in Tennessee, the various areas of policy that are affected by housing, and possible policy options for improving the state of homelessness in Tennessee. Later in the internship, I worked on a different project, which delved into the funds Tennessee received from the National Opioid Settlement and how those funds are allocated and used across the state. Through these projects, I independently researched and had complex conversations about a range of topics including the history of housing policy, the intersectoral nature of housing, policy levers used to influence the market, the opioid crisis, state financial practices, the political climate of Tennessee, and much more. It is these conversations that pushed me to pursue politics at Brandeis.

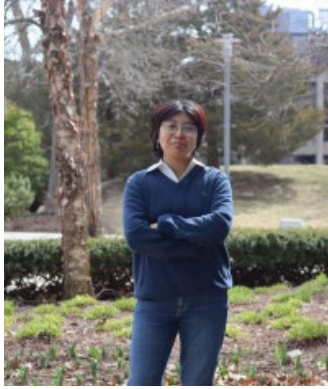
I also gained writing skills through these projects, such as how to organize a policy paper based on your audience. This was a unique perspective I had never encountered as all of my papers in the past have been for academia, but at Sycamore, they write for policymakers who are unlikely to read the whole paper. I learned how to use topic sentences as summary bullet points, data visualizations as succinctly presented evidence, and captions and chart titles as analyses to best get the point across. Finally, I was able to learn and practice new technical skills, like basic R programming and creating data visualizations in both R and PowerPoint. These skills will be invaluable no matter what field I go into.

I am truly proud of my growth during this internship and how much I was able to learn in just one summer. I really felt like I was able to experience what it is like to work at an organization like the Sycamore Institute and clarify the roles of a policy analyst. It solidified my interest in policy and policy writing, affirmed policy analysis as a potential career path, and pushed me to pursue a politics minor at Brandeis. I am fortunate to have had the chance to work with and learn from everyone at Sycamore and I know that this was an extremely meaningful experience. I am eternally grateful to the supporters of the legacy fund for allowing me to devote my full focus to this internship and make the most of this opportunity.

My deepest gratitude,  
Malini Boorgu '26







Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Ria Escamilla-Gil and I am a Sophomore at Brandeis University, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in History and International and Global Studies. I am eternally grateful and appreciative of the opportunity you have given me as a recipient of the World of Work fellowship. Due to your generosity and compassion, I have been able to pursue one of my first professional experiences and work in the nonprofit sector while gaining invaluable experiences and contributing to the larger Boston community and the surrounding region extending to North Carolina, where the other branch of the organization is located.

I spent my summer interning with United for a Fair Economy, where I had the responsibility of contributing to the organization's education and community outreach efforts through research, data entry, and communications projects. This included social media work and communications goals, planning for the organization's 75th anniversary, research, and translation. I felt fulfilled in being able to contribute to an organization that works towards a more equitable and united nation through the lens of economic and social justice, values that are important to me as an undergraduate student at Brandeis University.

Furthermore, as a person who has grown up in a low-income household, being able to see the real numbers of poverty across the United States helped me realize that the issue was more serious and real than I believed it to be. Aside from gaining skills in data entry and analysis, I have gained invaluable knowledge and the opportunity to apply it to a new perspective that can shape future conversations and projects I participate in. I also felt very honored for having been trusted with these responsibilities and being able to feel like I am part of the community made within the organization.

One of the most meaningful ways I spent my time with UFE was collaborating with my supervisor Jen Douglas, a wonderful team member who supported me while navigating United States Census data, Bureau of Justice statistics, and other reliable information sources that could help create workshop and training materials for unions, community organizations, and other groups impacted by wealth inequality. I also gained invaluable knowledge about the intersection of wealth and other topics such as education, race, housing, discrimination, and immigration. Through the translation of materials from Spanish, my first language, to English, I was able to create materials for the organization's website that could be used for years to come, something I was very honored to contribute to and help with. I also had the pleasure of contributing to the website's blog, social media accounts, and even team meetings which I was invited to. I felt very welcomed and appreciated during my time working with United for a Fair Economy, which I will always be eternally grateful for.

Working with United for a Fair Economy proved to be a very rewarding experience, which makes me eternally grateful for programs like the World of Work fellowship, which allowed me to participate in an empowering and educational experience. My proudest moment from my eight weeks at United for a Fair Economy was updating information on the organization's website which had not been edited in ten years. Being able to contribute to the organization's mission through translation, communications work, and research helped me realize the type of work I would be interested in the future as well as how I would like to contribute to my community.

Sincerely,  
Ria Escamilla-Gil '27

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Alodie Gould-Wagenaar. I am a junior from Knysna, South Africa majoring in International and Global Studies and Women's and Gender Studies, with a minor in Studio Art. Outside of classes, I am the President of the Intersectional Feminist Coalition, a Teacher's Assistant at Lemberg Daycare Center, and am on the Executive board of the Adagio Dance Company and TAMID business club. This summer, largely because of the Legacy Fund, I was fortunate enough to intern at SafeBAE; a survivor-founded non-profit organization that works to prevent sexual violence among teenagers across the United States.

SafeBAE was founded in 2015, when the subjects of the Netflix documentary "Audrie and Daisy" joined together to prevent what had happened to them from happening to anyone else. It is the only survivor-founded, student-led national organization working to prevent sexual violence exclusively among middle and high school students. SafeBAE aims to include all school stakeholders in creating social change by providing teenagers with the tools to become peer-to-peer advocates of sexual assault prevention, affirmative consent, safe bystander intervention, survivor care, and Title IX education, while also providing school staff with curricula, policy reform guidance, and trauma-informed response training. They create social media campaigns, present at schools/conferences/events, help students to start clubs in their schools, offer peer educator training certification, create and produce mission driven videos (utilizing a diverse production team all under the age of 25), and provide prevention and response resources to schools. They estimate their reach to be over 5.5 million people since their inception.

Although this organization has had a large influence, SafeBAE is a small, grassroots organization that does not yet offer paid summer internship opportunities. The Social Justice World of Work Fellowship allowed me to remain in the United States for the summer and work for an organization and a cause that I am extremely passionate about.

My position this summer was as the Executive Director's Intern. The internship took place in both Boston and Maine, and my responsibilities included school outreach and collaboration, grant writing, educational content creation, helping run SafeBAE's annual Summer Activist Institute, and aiding the Executive Director with the daily operations of SafeBAE.

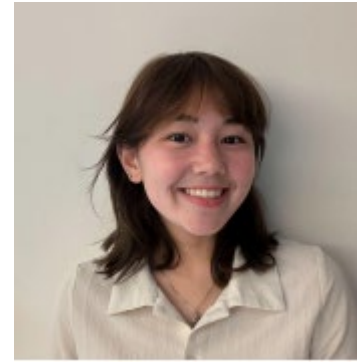
Through this internship, I feel that I have gained a multitude of new skills in the nonprofit sector, as well as confidence in my abilities, that will help me in my future career endeavors. I am extremely grateful to the Legacy Fund for affording me this opportunity to work in a field that I am passionate about, learn so much about non-profit work and my goals for the future, and have a positive impact in the sexual violence prevention sphere.

Best regards,  
Alodie Gould-Wagenaar '26



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for your contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship. This summer, your generosity allowed me to participate in an incredibly rewarding internship with the Asian American Federation, a nonprofit membership organization that represents over 1.5 million Asian New Yorkers. The internship was not only insightful for career development, it was also an opportunity to give back to my community and work on issues I'm passionate about and personally connected to.



As a quick introduction, my name is Layla Hay and I am a senior from New York City. I am majoring in Politics with minors in Sociology and Legal Studies. After graduation, I intend to take a gap year and then attend law school. Ultimately, my goal is to become a lawyer and work in public interest. I wanted to work at the Asian American Federation (AAF) for a variety of reasons. I have long had an interest in working for a community-based nonprofit. Social justice is important to me, and I noticed how nonprofits meet significant needs in many marginalized communities. AAF works in a number of issue areas including mental health, community safety, civic engagement, and small business support. Furthermore, I wanted to explore the intersection of nonprofit work and politics, as I believe policy is a powerful tool for change.

At AAF, I served as a policy and advocacy intern. My team worked on coalition building, civic engagement, and pushing for legislation that will help the Asian American community. As an intern, I had the opportunity to meet city councilmembers, visit City Hall, attend City Council hearings, and learn about city and state budgets. AAF works very closely with city and state elected officials, and I was able to see the direct impact that local politics has on communities. One of the most fulfilling moments of my internship was testifying in front of the NYC Committee on Education in support of religious diversity and anti-hate crime curricula in public schools. Another was attending the New York Immigration Coalitions state-wide roundtable on behalf of AAF, and helping to inform their 10-year policy priorities.

Finally, I conducted my own research project on Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander communities in New York and presented my findings to the entire staff. Overall, I had an amazing internship at AAF and it enabled me to develop both my career and personal goals. Thank you again for your generous support of the WOW fellowship.

Sincerely,  
Layla Hay '25





Dear supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to offer a sincere thank you for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work (WOW) Fellowship program at Brandeis University. With your generous support, I and many other students were able to secure funding for otherwise unpaid internships with organizations across the United States and the world that strive to make a difference.

I am in my final year at Brandeis studying Political Science and Journalism. Once I graduate, I plan on gaining experience in non-profits before I head to law school to become a trade union lawyer. Because of your support of the WOW Fellowship program, I was fortunate enough to spend my summer as a communications intern for United for a Fair Economy (UFE) in the greater Boston area. UFE is a non-profit that focuses on economic inequality in the United States, and how economic inequality disproportionately affects minority and other disadvantaged communities. UFE emphasizes grassroots work and cooperation with trade unions and other activist groups to make our economy work for everyone, not just for the few. As a communications intern, I worked on a variety of projects ranging from website edits, creating social media and promotional content for UFE's upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and updating research presentations.

Being able to have this experience with UFE has been incredibly beneficial for numerous reasons. With having the WOW Fellowship Grant, I was able to choose to work for an organization that shared my core beliefs without having to worry about funding. This internship allowed me to create connections with numerous people in the world of activism, non-profits, and union organizing, which is helpful for my goals of being an aspiring union lawyer in the future. I would like to thank you again for your generosity and support of social justice initiatives, and your belief in my future.

Sincerely,  
Kiah Holmstrom '25



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work fellowship to fund my summer internship at the American Economic Liberties Project (AELP). As a junior at Brandeis University studying Politics and Journalism, this opportunity has given me transformative, hands-on experience in research and advocacy.

AELP is a nonpartisan organization committed to advancing economic justice and fair competition through antitrust enforcement, anti-corruption measures, and corporate accountability. My primary role involved researching various shortcomings in current anti-monopoly policies, particularly focusing on the impact of state and local subsidies granted to Big Tech companies. Understanding how these tech subsidies influence market dynamics and affect local communities has taught me the importance of economic development policies that hold monopolistic corporations accountable. I also helped create a comprehensive toolkit with resources and insights to aid policymakers in tackling state utilities challenges through more informed and equitable policies.

This internship has sharpened my research and policy analysis skills through projects that required me to conduct data-driven evaluations of economic policies. One of my key takeaways from this experience is that current laws often fall short of balancing corporate interests with public needs, which has strengthened my resolve to advocate for fair and transparent policies.

On a personal level, this summer has taught me the importance of adaptability and discipline in the workplace, especially in remote positions. Working on these projects has also reinforced my desire to pursue a career in public policy. Working alongside dedicated professionals at AELP that are spearheading the anti-monopoly movement has been both inspiring and educational, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be mentored by them.

This experience would not have been possible without your support, so thank you for believing in the potential of students like me. Your contribution has made a meaningful difference in my educational and professional journey.

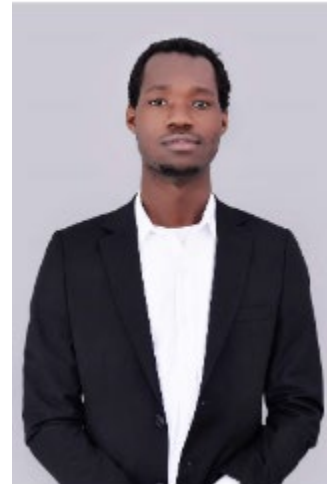
Sincerely,  
Anika Jain '26



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am deeply grateful for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. Your generous contribution has not only enabled me but also other students to pursue career paths that align with our interests, a significant and lasting impact of your support.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern with the Kenya Scholars Access Program. This non-profit organization helps bright but underserved students in Kenya gain admission to top US universities. As an instructor, my primary roles included instructing the KenSAP students on SAT-related material, teaching college-style courses such as Economics, and guiding students through the college application. My daily interactions with the students taught them about American culture and life on US college campuses, which is quite different from the one in Kenya.



One of the most satisfying experiences was my ability to participate in the selection process of new scholars. As part of the selection process, I read and analyzed detailed applications from over 500 qualified applicants. Through this role, I witnessed the joy and smiles I had two years ago when I received that call that I had been accepted into the KenSAP program.

Besides mentoring the scholars, I also had the chance to contribute to discussions on educational equity and help devise and shape the strategies KenSAP uses to meet the needs of underprivileged students. These experiences have been enriching and have strengthened my commitment to addressing educational inequality and disparities, particularly in Kenya. Skills in strategic planning, leadership, and problem-solving are all valuable in my hope of founding a nonprofit organization in my home area, the Soweto slums in Nairobi. The internship has helped me clarify my career goals and gain a deeper understanding of non-profit operations. The experience has emphasized my desire to work at the intersection of education and social entrepreneurship, ensuring students from marginalized areas have access to quality education.

I cannot express enough gratitude for your support. Your contribution has allowed me to have a transformative internship experience, free from financial worries. This experience has shaped my career goals and my commitment to advancing educational equity, and I look forward to continuing this work in the future.

Sincerely,  
Vincent Jared '27





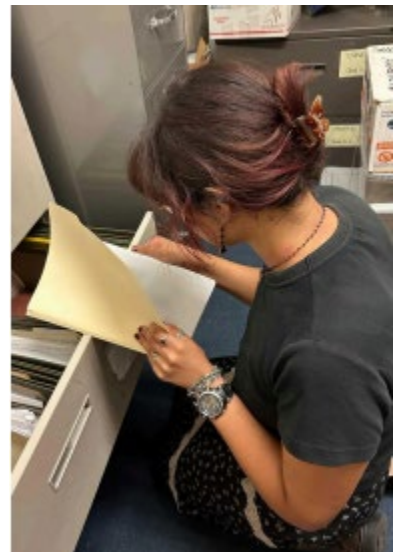
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your generous support of the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship. Thanks to this scholarship, I had the opportunity to pursue an internship in a career path I am incredibly passionate about. Over the summer, I gained invaluable experience that I am confident will serve me well in my future career.

I am currently a junior at Brandeis, majoring in Psychology and an Independent Interdisciplinary Major of Social Policy. With your contribution, this summer I was able to work at The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), a pro-bono immigration legal service located in the heart of Waltham. At TRII, we provide legal services for low-income individuals and families, assisting with everything from Temporary Protected Status forms, work permits, and green cards, to asylum cases for individuals fleeing extreme persecution from their country of origin. TRII as an organization functions primarily on the efforts of student volunteers, Americore Fellows, and licensed attorneys and accredited representatives. During the school year, I am able to volunteer there as my schedule permits; however, with the WOW grant, I worked full time and saw what it means to work in public-interest law.

For my position, I worked independently and alongside our attorneys and accredited representatives on various forms of immigration cases. Being in the office full time, I often handled impromptu appointments and legal matters which resulted in me working on Temporary Protected Status filings, green card, and citizenship applications. I learned a great deal about our legal system. Additionally, I got more involved with my own and others' asylum cases. I would conduct weekly meetings with my clients in an effort to build trust and understand the full scope of the harms and abuses they faced before seeking relief in the United States.

I'm deeply grateful to the supporters of the Legacy for this life-changing experience. I learned what it means to be an empathetic, client-centered legal advocate and gained hands-on experience navigating a complex legal environment. As I continue studying human rights and prepare for law school, I'll carry the lessons from this summer with me every step of the way.



Sincerely,  
Nemna Kalra '26



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am so grateful for your support. This summer, I was granted the Social Justice World of Work Fellowship, which allowed me to complete an internship with the Metrowest Women's Fund, a nonprofit organization that focuses on meeting the needs of women and girls in the community. It felt amazing to work towards a common goal with their amazing team and to give back to those around me.



I am a junior from Framingham, MA majoring in Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and minoring in Hispanic Studies. I hope to one day be a psychologist with my own practice. Outside of class, I am an Admissions Fellow, where I staff the front desk, as well as give tours, interviews, and information sessions to prospective students. Additionally, I am on the Executive Board of the Ballet Club, and I am a member of the Pilates Club and the Pottery Club.

The Metrowest Women's Fund was founded five years ago by Rachel Sagan and Rebecca Parkhill, due to the growing need for resources and support for women and girls in Metrowest. Few organizations are dedicated specifically to women and girls. MWWF has three main projects: the Single Mother Student Emergency Fund, the Girls' Mental Health Grant, and the Needs Assessment of Middle School Girls in Metrowest.

This summer, I did donor prospect research. I used databases like Candid to research potential donors and learn about their giving and interests. It was an interesting process, and I learned a lot about grantmaking and fundraising. I also got to attend an exciting event at the State House in Boston at the beginning of my internship. Co-founders Rachel and Rebecca were given Commonwealth Heroine Awards from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status Women. It was amazing to see their work be recognized, and I was so proud to be a part of their organization. Additionally, I hand-addressed almost 1,500 envelopes, which will go out to potential donors.

This internship really opened my eyes to the needs of those around me in my community. It was amazing to make connections with people, give back to others, and gain important research and communication skills. I got to read many needs assessments for children in the Metrowest, as well as articles about mental health, domestic violence, and sexual assault. I am so much more knowledgeable on these topics, thanks to my experience this summer.



I am so grateful for the Legacy Fund, as it allowed me to complete my internship this summer. I would not have been able to work for such an incredible organization without it. I grew so much personally and professionally.

Best,  
Leah Kotkin '26

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your support of and contribution to the WOW Fellowship. I am a senior who is triple majoring in Neuroscience, Psychology, and Health: Science, Society, and Policy. In addition to my regular studies, this year I will be completing a senior thesis and working with the Lurie Institute on Disability Policy.

This past summer, I worked with Dr. Anila D'Mello at the University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) where I helped out with several different autism research projects. I also took the primary role in running a stereotype threat study, where we looked at how activating stereotype threat influenced performance on commonly used diagnostic measures. While the effects of stereotype threat on women and racial minorities, no work has been done on people with disabilities. It is particularly important to know how test performance is influenced by stereotype threat because it impacts how and when people are diagnosed.

This internship also helped confirm for me that I do want to go into the field of autism research. I really enjoyed the work I did there and the knowledge of the importance of properly done autism research is something that makes me happy. I also really liked the lab culture and would like my job to have a similar culture.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Lajous '25



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Dalya Lessem Elnecave and I am a sophomore majoring in Politics and Psychology at Brandeis. My internship for this summer was with Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) in New York. I was their communications and development intern for the summer, although I primarily worked on the development team assisting with membership support and the planning of their annual gala which I will be attending. In addition, I assisted with their social media team, where I continue to support their work.



I have been a fan of JFREJ for several years now and it was an absolute dream to be able to work for them. It is incredibly important to me and my Jewish practice that I pursue justice consistently and Jewishly and JFREJ is an organization that is central to that. Their work to keep public libraries open, support migrants, and build a Care Economy is essential to building a better world and I am so lucky to have been able to help even a little bit with this work. I am also glad that I got to grow my skills and understanding of moving money in order to achieve social justice and how to support a membership-driven nonprofit while also being class conscious and supporting marginalized members.



I am also deeply lucky for the connections I have made through this internship including being recommended by a coworker to write for New Voices which is a national Jewish student publication, and Abby Stein who is an incredible leader in Jewish social justice spaces. I was able to travel to New York a few times this summer because of the internship and the connections I have built from that will be able to both support my career interests for years to come and allow me to continue supporting social justice as I continue at Brandeis. Thank you for your generosity, it has meant the absolute world.

Todah Rabah (Thank You),  
Dalya Lessem Elnecave '27

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Carol Lu and I am a senior majoring in philosophy and minoring in legal studies. Over the past summer, I interned with The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free legal services and assistance to asylum seekers, refugees, and undocumented members of the greater Boston community. My role at TRII was to be a legal advocate for clients. On a daily basis, I would take intake meetings with many clients to discuss how TRII could potentially help them or refer their case to other non-profit organizations.



I have worked at TRII part-time for about two years prior to last summer, but being able to work there full-time under this fellowship has allowed me the opportunity to focus on developing closer relationships with my preexisting clients, work on their cases more efficiently as well as a wide variety of other immigration documents that I previously did not have a chance to work on. This summer, I am most proud of completing many TPS applications. Every case I took on had something out of the ordinary that I did not learn



how to file during my training. By working with attorneys and peers at the office and asking endless questions, I was able to understand better and better with each case how these applications work. In addition, I also focused on learning how the USCIS online portal works, which a lot of times would save our clients time and money when filing.

As a pre-law student, this internship also reinforced my passion for law and solidified my decision to pursue it as my career path. I saw how important or even life-saving the work we do at TRII can be, and this instilled in me a sense of responsibility for my clients, and the general determination I have to help people.

Last but definitely not least, TRII has been such an important experience for me because of the workplace. I see the attorneys and senior staff there as role models, and other students there as my close friends. Thank you so much for allowing me this opportunity to grow professionally and personally.

Most sincerely,  
Carol Lu '25



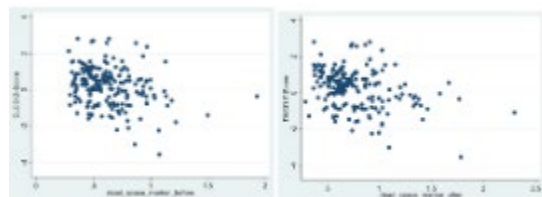
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. With your support, I was able to help the health sector in Uganda and intend to continue to do so during the academic year. This internship allowed me to be sure that I want to be a doctor one day.



My name is Bylasan, and I'm a senior at Brandeis majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry on the pre-medical track. This summer, I had the opportunity to work as a research assistant at Mass General Hospital - Department of Pediatric Public Health. My lab mainly investigated pulmonary issues and affects in Uganda. I worked on three main projects this summer.

In the first one, I helped investigate the effects of household air pollution on children, where we examined the pulmonary effects of cooking utensils, such as gas or wooden stoves on 255 children under the age of two through nine visits.



The second project I helped with was analyzing gas exchange abnormalities in patients with post COVID-19 exercise limitation. We worked with patients in Uganda over the age of 18 who were diagnosed with severe COVID-19 and assessed the quality of gas exchange using MediPines AGM100 Alveolar Gas Monitoring System in a temperature,

oxygen and carbon dioxide-controlled setting. Our findings now are being written, reviewed and awaiting publication.

Additionally, I have taken charge of all the logistics of our lab in Boston, which includes measuring the weights of filters before and after exposure to air pollution, arranging work schedules, giving access to the platforms we use, giving IRB access, signing and verifying contracts, and handling the finances. Moreover, I worked on cleaning, sorting and verifying all the data from the two papers I worked on over the summer. I'm very delighted that I got an offer to continue working part-time during the academic year!

Again, thank you so much for your support of this fellowship. Without it, I would not have been able to sustain myself this summer and focus on achieving so many great things. My internship helped and is helping people in Uganda everyday get better healthcare in a very underserved community, and well as granting access to medical professionals to a better understanding of the effects of newer illnesses, like COVID-19.

Sincerely,  
Bylasan Muneer '25

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to express my gratitude for your contribution towards the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship.

This summer, the generosity of this funding allowed me to complete an internship with the organization Avodah, which is a nonprofit that focuses on social justice work that is informed by Jewish values. Avodah is based in New York City, but I was working the internship remotely. This organization runs a series of programs aimed at engaging young professionals in social justice work through combining direct service, community organizing, and Jewish learning. They have multiple programs, but I was most involved in working on their Jewish Service Corps which is a service year program for young adults who are passionate about social justice and interested in engaging with the Jewish community located in Chicago, New Orleans, New York, or Washington DC. The other Avodah program that I worked on was their Justice Fellowship, which is a program for individuals in their twenties or thirties who have already been engaging in social and economic justice work. My formal role with the organization was working as the recruitment intern.



To further introduce myself, my name is Maya and I am from Massachusetts. I am majoring in Sociology and International and Global Studies, and will be graduating Brandeis at the end of this year. After graduating, I am interested in working for a non-profit organization and want to involve myself in social impact work. This summer has been informative for clarifying my career goals and interests as it has reaffirmed my appreciation for the impactful work done by nonprofit organizations. It also affirmed my desire to work in this sector, where I can contribute to social justice initiatives and community development. Additionally, I have built important networks in this field and developed a practical understanding of the operational aspects of nonprofit organizations which is crucial for broadening my knowledge of nonprofit work.

Sincerely,  
Maya Ollagnon '25



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the WOW Social Fellowship grant that allowed me to pursue my summer internship at Geaux Network, a start-up making multimedia accessible to minorities and older people. As a Full Stack Developer Intern, I was focused on developing a cart feature in the company website that made items accessible to minorities. I was able to contribute to this meaningful project that directly aligned with the company's mission, thanks to this generous funding.

During my internship, I worked on several exciting projects that have honed my skills in frontend and backend development. I also learnt a great deal about the impact technology can have on underrepresented communities. This experience has had a profound influence on my career aspirations, and I am truly thankful for the support that made it possible.

The grant not only helped me grow as a software engineer but also empowered me to contribute to a cause that I am passionate about. I will carry the lessons and skills from this internship with me throughout my career, and I owe a significant part of that to your generosity.

Thank you once again for your support and for enabling me to take part in such a rewarding and impactful opportunity.

Warm regards,  
Gregory Oppong '26

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Zahira Ramirez Caceres, an international student from Paraguay. I am currently a sophomore majoring in Computer Science and Economics. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your support of the Legacy Fund. Your generosity enabled me to undertake an impactful internship with Saraki Paraguay, the largest non-governmental organization in Paraguay dedicated to advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce.



During my time at Saraki, I worked directly with the “America Inclusiva” program, where my responsibilities included updating the organization’s website, maintaining their extensive database, and actively engaging with beneficiaries to enhance user experience. These tasks deepened my understanding of how technology can play a critical role in promoting inclusivity and highlighted the importance of constant collaboration and feedback with the community we aim to serve.

One of my proudest achievements was organizing and executing workshops focused on entrepreneurship and innovation for people with disabilities. This initiative required creativity, teamwork, and adaptability to meet diverse learning needs. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, and witnessing their growth in confidence, reinforced my belief in the transformative power of education and technology to drive social change.

This internship experience has clarified my career goals, reinforcing my commitment to a path at the intersection of technology, social impact, and policy reform. I learned that real inclusion is about more than just accessibility; it requires active collaboration with those affected by the programs and policies we develop.

I sincerely thank you for making this opportunity possible. Your support has been instrumental in my personal and professional growth. The discovery I had throughout this summer has been a key for my career and the focus I want to take with it. A huge thank you for that.



With gratitude,  
Zahira Ramirez Caceres '27





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Taking on a summer internship as Executive Director of SEAT (Students Engaged in Advancing Texas) was an incredible and unforgettable experience. Heading into my third year as a Politics and Journalism student, this internship will have a lasting and profound impact on my professional trajectory, academic journey, and leadership development.

I express the warmest gratitude for your generosity in foundationally supporting the youngest generation of Brandeisians who are committed to seeking truth, becoming community leaders, and pursuing justice as change agents. Thank you, immensely. This summer, I led a movement of young people developing transferable skills and demonstrating youth visibility in policymaking. As primary stakeholders in education, we are centering student narratives in decisions affecting our futures. With 90+ student organizers across Texas, I facilitated students building intergenerational partnerships and demanding a SEAT at the Table.

With an emphasis on dismantling oppressive power structures in local, state, and federal policy, my summer was filled with community organizing and policy transformation at school boards, the state legislature, Congress, and The White House. I testified before policymakers and mobilized student testimony on issues like legislation prohibiting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on college campuses. Our team navigated the complex legal landscape of challenges to Title IX nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ students by authoring an advisory letter to Texas' 1,000+ superintendents about their duty to uphold students' rights.



As policy situations developed, I spearheaded our communications and press strategy, including a press conference on Capitol Hill, publishing student op-eds, fielding countless press inquiries, and designing social media content. Networking organizational partnerships, I delivered keynotes at conferences like the American School Counselor Association to 5,000+ attendees. Launching our federal policy agenda, we held 100+ meetings with Congress and attained co-sponsorships on two student-authored bills. I am beyond proud and grateful to have received several invitations to the White House and to President Biden's visit to Austin. And I could not be prouder to share this past summer held even more powerful and honorable events.

Coinciding with my academics, I brought instructional learning into practice this summer. I am undoubtedly committed to pursuing justice through sustainable organizing pedagogy and fostering self-actualization among those with lived experience. I have realized my strong capability of community organizing in professional coalitions as a full-time job, directing me in a path toward a career after Brandeis. This internship was indescribably meaningful to me, and I am extremely thankful for your trust in my leadership.

Onward,  
Cameron Samuels '26

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity to participate in the Social Justice WOW Fellowship this summer. As a Business and Psychology major at Brandeis University, I was thrilled to intern with Africano Waltham, an organization dedicated to empowering African immigrant youth and their families through a holistic approach, providing a safe space, educational and mental health support, and fostering connections through visual and performing arts.



My role at Africano Waltham involved developing a summer session for Melody Mentors, an initiative close to my heart. During this session, I had the privilege of teaching students how to create a beat from scratch, guiding them through the creative process. Additionally, I assisted in the early stages of establishing Africano Waltham's first-ever mobile recording studio. One of my favorite aspects of this project was planning every detail, from organizing transportation and meals to structuring the beat-making lessons. Witnessing the excitement and pride on the students' faces as they produced their own beats was incredibly rewarding.

Through this internship, I honed several important skills, including mentorship, event planning, budget management, and interpersonal communication. These experiences not only enhanced my practical abilities but also reinforced my passion for working with youth. Growing up in church, I saw firsthand the value of mentorship, especially when learning a new instrument. Those experiences have deeply influenced my approach to Melody Mentors, and this summer, I was able to create something that resonated with the students in a meaningful way.

This internship has also helped clarify my career interests. I discovered how much I enjoy working in a collaborative environment, where ideas are shared, and everyone is treated with respect and equality. I am especially grateful to Juliet, the founder of Africano Waltham, who welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like an integral part of the team from day one.

Thank you again for your generous support, which made this transformative experience possible. Your contribution not only impacted my personal and professional growth but also made a lasting difference in the lives of the youth I worked with. I am excited to continue applying the skills and insights I gained this summer as I move forward in my academic and career journey.

Sincerely,  
Lizbeth Sandoval '24

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support, which made my internship as a Community Liaison and Volunteer Recruitment intern at the Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund possible this past summer. Your contribution allowed me to pursue this opportunity and immerse myself fully in the work of driving progressive social change without the financial barriers that would accompany an unpaid internship.



I am an Economics and International and Global Studies double major in the class of 2026 at Brandeis. My passion for social justice is what drove me to seek and find an opportunity like this where I was able to contribute to meaningful change, through community engagement, policy research, or advocacy for underrepresented groups, all while exploring the global economic factors that impact inequality and human rights. My internship with the Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund was an enriching experience that has allowed me to engage firsthand with the organization's mission of promoting economic justice through education and advocacy. The CSJ Education Fund is dedicated to addressing systemic inequalities and empowering marginalized communities by focusing on issues such as affordable housing, workers' rights, and access to quality education.

One of my primary responsibilities was to lead the development of a comprehensive resource guide focused on education and transportation in South-Eastern Massachusetts, specifically targeting areas such as Attleboro, Brockton, Cape Cod, Fall River, Randolph, New Bedford, and Taunton. This guide aims to provide community members with accessible information on educational resources and information such as transportation options, helping to address the barriers that often prevent marginalized populations from accessing these essential services. In addition to the resource guide, I also created two presentations. The first was a "skills" presentation on Journaling for Self-Reflection and Goal-Setting to teach individuals how to use journaling as a tool for personal development and empowerment. The second was a "topic" presentation on Senior and Disability Services, where I discussed the challenges faced by these populations and the resources available to support them. At the end of the summer, the program had an intern event where I presented on these topics.

Thanks to your funding, I was able to fully dedicate myself to this opportunity, where I contributed to initiatives that fostered progressive social change, developed resources for local communities, and gained very valuable experience. Your support has had a meaningful impact not only on my personal growth but also on the broader mission of social justice.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and for making this summer's experience such a meaningful one for me.

Sincerely,  
Britney Sayegh '26



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am deeply thankful for your generous support, which enabled me to take part in an incredible learning experience this summer. I was awarded the Social Justice World of Work Fellowship, which allowed me to complete an internship with Thunder Road Projects (TRP), a public relations creative production company based in Boston.

As a junior at Brandeis University with an Independent Interdisciplinary Major in Black Visuality and minors in Fine Arts and Business, this opportunity was not only professionally enriching but also deeply aligned with my academic and career aspirations.

The primary mission of my internship with Thunder Road Projects was to deliver high-quality, compelling visual projects in advertising and conceptual marketing while amplifying voices within the Boston BIPOC community. During my time with TRP as a Jr. Producer intern, I was involved in various aspects of their operations. My tasks included production assistance, handling equipment, managing logistics such as scheduling, supporting the crew's needs, and coordinating social media. During pre-production, I contributed to pitch development and new business coordination. I also aided in TRP's ongoing efforts toward BIPOC community outreach, both on-camera and behind the scenes. My favorite moment was getting a photographer credit on an Arc'teryx project as well as getting to see the different cinematographers approach a project.

This past summer I learned to overcome my initial insecurities about feeling like an outsider and recognized the importance of adaptability in building trust within a team. I discovered that I thrive in environments where I can contribute to both the creative and logistical aspects of a project, and that I'm motivated by the challenge of bringing ambitious ideas to life through collaboration. The work I did with TRP opened my eyes to the power of visual storytelling in promoting community engagement, and I feel more committed than ever to pursuing a career that merges my creative passions with community-centered outreach. This internship also helped me clarify my vision of establishing my own multimedia studio, where I can continue to uplift authentic narratives of modern Black experiences.

Thank you again to the Legacy Fund supporters for making this experience possible. I am so grateful for your generosity and am eager to carry these lessons with me as I continue my studies and career journey.

Kind Regards,  
Mala Smith '26



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis University. This fellowship gave me the opportunity to pursue an internship at Witness to Mass Incarceration, a nonprofit that works to foster economic liberation for formerly incarcerated individuals. I hope to work in social advocacy and justice through law in my future, and this internship was a valuable opportunity to involve myself in social justice work, in various capacities in my role at Witness. I was able to accomplish all the goals that I had set for myself this summer, one major one being to involve myself in social justice work, in order to give me experience for what I hope will be a future career in defending civil liberties.



Currently, I am a junior, double-majoring in Linguistics and Psychology and minoring in Legal Studies. This summer, I joined the journalism team at Witness as an intern, and was tasked with working on a project titled 'the MAP project.' This project works to help people overcome what is known as 'reentry barriers,' by building an online directory of businesses and services run by formerly incarcerated people (FIP), serving to build a network that can support them as they face structural

barriers as entrepreneurs and small businesses owners, and provide a pathway to a successful reintegration. An aspect of this project is a newsletter, and each article shares the personal accounts of formerly incarcerated people, their relationship with the carceral system, and the successful lives they've built following their release. This both provides a voice to many that have been systematically oppressed, and promotes their successful business venture. My role in this project was to research these various business owners, and write and peer-review articles for the newsletter. Bringing attention to the success of formerly incarcerated people was highly gratifying, as was working to change the narrative about prison and those affected by the system.

Working so closely with those affected by the system truly reinforced my desire to use a law degree to work in the field of social justice, defending civil liberties. I know that this experience will only help me going into law school and a career as a lawyer. Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to take part in this fellowship and explore social justice.

Sincerely,  
Ella Tham '26

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

*Justice Louis D. Brandeis*

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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, Legacy Fund Founder and Committee Chair

Walter Mossberg '69

Nancy (Sherman) Shapiro '69

Shaina Gilbert '10

Sahar Massachi '11

Elena Lewis, MA '11

Ajai Scott '15, MA'19, MBA'19

Leah Goldstein '25

The Legacy Fund's Undergraduate Social Justice Fellowship is administered by the Brandeis University Hiatt Career Center through the World of Work (WOW) Fellowship program.

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