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2023

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**LOUIS D. BRANDEIS  
LEGACY FUND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

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Undergraduate  
Fellow Appreciation

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# 2023 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice WOW Recipients

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**Riley Byers '25**  
University of Georgia

**Maggie DiPierdomenico '24**  
Worcester District Attorney's Office

**Sydney Duncan '25**  
Law Office of Attorney Saikon Gbehan

**Ilana Epstein '25**  
Stepping Forward Counseling Center

**Alyssa Golden '26**  
Integrity Institute

**Leah Goldstein '25**  
Child Mind Institute

**Dalya Koller '25**  
Witness to Mass Incarceration

**Grace Lassila '25**  
National Consumers League

**Hannah Lustig '25**  
Jews for Racial and Economic Justice

**Nandini Mandalaju '24**  
Pediatric Epilepsy Internship, Loddenkemper Lab at  
Boston Children's Hospital

**Dahlia Matanky '25**  
Avodah

**Nathan Merin '26**  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office

**Jacob Morse '26**  
Integrity Institute

**Ingrid Nascimento '24**  
Safe Passage Project

**Eden Osiason '24**  
Queer Sex Ed Community Curriculum

**Ifigenia Oxyzolou '26**  
Cardiac Outcomes Research Laboratory (CORELAB)

**Esha Rakesh '25**  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center: Center for  
Virology and Vaccine Research

**Aaron Rosendorf '26**  
The Right to Immigration Institute

**Mina Rowland '25**  
Brown Joy

**Natalie Saltzman '25**  
Lemelson MIT

**Ariel Schultz '25**  
Bikel Rosenthal & Schanfield, LLP

**Elena Soranno '24**  
The Arc of Massachusetts

**Harrison Sugarman '24**  
Rockingham County Attorney's Office

**Lana Taffel '25**  
Oxfam

**Alaina Vermilya '24**  
Citizens for Juvenile Justice

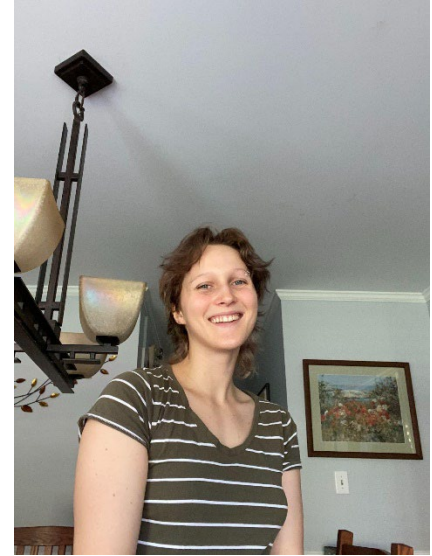
**Hedy Yang '26**  
American Economic Liberties Project

**Phoenix Yuan '26**  
The Right to Immigration Institute

**Makeda Zobot-Hall '24**  
Roxbury Municipal Courts

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your generous support of students seeking to gain valuable hands on experience. I believe this type of opportunity is important because often the work that is least biased, and can do the most good, lacks its own funding for interns. Furthermore, it is incredibly valuable, as a student, to get experience working where social justice is valued. Working in this kind of environment ensures we keep our standards high when it comes to justice, and altruism. I sincerely appreciate your dedication to fostering growth and learning.



I am a Computer Science and Psychology major beginning my 3rd year, and this summer I had the privilege of interning at the Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab at the University of Georgia. From the outset, I was eager to gain hands-on experience in the research process and refine my skills in presenting research findings. As my internship comes to a close, I can confidently say that it has exceeded my expectations in every way. I have not only acquired a comprehensive understanding of the researcher's role but also have developed a diverse set of both hard and soft skills, such as interacting with participants, finding research articles, practical coding, and adapting to where I would be most useful, that will undoubtedly help me in future opportunities. Throughout my time at the lab, I undertook a variety of projects that allowed me to explore different aspects of research methodology and analysis. I am specifically very proud of my quick apprehension of the coding language R and the data analysis program I created.

The Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab undertakes a variety of research projects, the one I was working with was assessing cognitive flexibility in young adults, but one of the lab's main research projects is researching schizophrenia. During my time at the lab, in addition to my own projects, I got to learn a lot about how the lab does research and how schizophrenia is currently researched. This was very useful to my understanding of the disorder and how Neurodivergence is tested.



I am very grateful for this opportunity as it made me realize how passionate I am about neurodivergence and research, giving me academic and professional direction.

Once again, thank you for your generosity,

Riley Byers

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I cannot begin to express how thankful I am for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship for my summer internship at the Worcester County District Attorney's Office. This Fellowship has helped me immensely to accomplish all the goals I set for myself this summer.



My name is Maggie DiPierdomenico, and I am from Woodstock, Connecticut. I am a senior double majoring in American Studies and Politics, Philosophy, & Law (PPL) and double minoring in Legal Studies and Italian Studies. PPL is an Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM) I created in the Fall of 2022. On campus, I am a Community Advisor, an Undergraduate Department Representative (UDR) for the Legal Studies Program, an Undergraduate Department Representative for the Italian Studies Program, the Community and Social Justice Coordinator for Waltham Group, a coordinator for Waltham Group's Big Siblings, President of the Student Association of The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), a BUGS Tutor for Introduction to Law (the introductory course for Legal Studies), and the Director of Communications for the Brandeis Law Journal.

Based on the sheer volume of law-related organizations I am a part of, I plan to go to law school after graduating from Brandeis. Before my internship at the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, I already knew I wanted to become a prosecutor but I never had experience dedicated to learning about the ins and outs of this career. This summer, I got more than I could have asked for. Some of the interesting tasks I was asked to do included reading police reports, watching police cam footage and booking and interrogation videos, filling out witness summons requests and internal discovery requests, copying discovery for the defense, watching bench trials and jury trials, reading motions from attorneys, and sitting in on attorney negotiations. While the majority of my internship I was working at the East Brookfield District Courthouse, my supervisor (the well-connected woman she is) set me up to shadow a Detective at the Southbridge Police Department and Assistant District Attorneys and Forensic Interviewers in the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit. During my time with Southbridge PD, I got the opportunity to go on a ride along and read police files, and with the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit, I got to sit in on forensic interviews and read grand jury minutes.

Beyond all the incredible things I got to do during my internship, the biggest thing I will take away from this experience is the great relationships I made with my co-workers, fellow interns, and supervisor. I received helpful advice and support about the LSAT, applying to law school, and what to do in law school to best prepare myself for a career as a prosecutor, like becoming a 3:03 intern. I consider the relationships I made this summer to be friendships, and I intend to remain in contact with everyone I met. This internship helped me determine that I want to be a prosecutor for child abuse and sexual assault, which is a realization I likely would not have come to without this experience. I hope to return to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, whether as an intern again or an attorney but I know that thanks to this internship experience, it is an option I have for my future.

Sincerely,  
Maggie DiPierdomenico



To the supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Sydney Duncan and I am a Junior at Brandeis. I am majoring in HSSP and minoring in both Psychology and Legal Studies. This summer, your contribution to the Legacy Fund allowed me to pursue an internship with an attorney who runs her own law office in Providence, RI. I worked as a legal assistant, and I had a variety of responsibilities, including conducting legal research, answering the office phone and making calls, drafting and sending correspondence via email and mail, attending client meetings, filing and organizing documents, developing case strategy, and even drafting motions and documents to be submitted to the court. I learned and grew so much from this internship, and none of it would have been possible without your generous contribution.



I am extremely proud of myself for being able to handle all of these tasks at once. My schedule and to-do list in the office would often be long and chaotic, and I needed to be extremely organized and efficient in order to finish everything. I became very good at listening and asking questions, as these skills were necessary for me to understand what my tasks entailed. I also had to be extremely adaptable, as each case and task posed its own unique challenges that needed to be considered and overcome. Throughout the internship, I improved at anticipating the needs of each case, and I was soon able to suggest my own solutions to challenges based on my past experiences on the job. I learned to better vocalize my opinion as I completed tasks, defending my instincts for how to approach a certain challenge or situation. I could tell that the attorney valued my input and was able to truly make meaningful contributions to each case.

Because the attorney runs her own law office, I found myself engaged with every aspect and step of each case. This meant that I was able to more holistically follow and understand each case and to gain a more broad exposure to the legal field. As someone who just declared a legal studies minor last semester and is still deciding whether I want to pursue law as a career, this broad exposure and in-depth understanding was extremely helpful. Working with just one attorney was also beneficial in that I was able to gain a better sense of what the daily life of an attorney is like, allowing me to understand law as a career rather than just a hypothetical field of study.

I have become much more confident in myself and my abilities this summer. This internship also allowed me to better appreciate how fast of a learner I am, as I was able to quickly pick up on the online systems, organizational processes, and legal knowledge necessary to do my job. I have realized that I am truly an asset in the workplace, and as I pursue other opportunities moving forward, I will do so with a newfound sense of confidence, poise, and purpose.

Thank you so much for your contribution. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Sincerely,  
Sydney Duncan

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis. Because of your generosity, I gained hands-on experience in clinical psychology and made a meaningful impact on the lives of children with mental illness. This summer, I was gifted with the opportunity to enter the therapy world and genuinely connect with the clients.



I am a rising junior at Brandeis, majoring in psychology with minors in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and theater. When I was a teenager, I was a camp counselor for most summers. I loved working with children and listening to their stories. After spending summers wishing I could understand why my campers acted the way they did, I decided I wanted to study psychology. My internship at Stepping Forward Counseling Center (SFCC) allowed me to explore my interest in children's behaviors.

SFCC is a therapy clinic located in Chatham, New Jersey that specializes in helping children with emotional and behavioral struggles. During the summer, there is a summer program for children who need extra care. The program is infused with therapeutic techniques, such as CBT and DBT. It also functions under a behavioral modification model, in which the clients are rewarded points based on their behaviors.

As a support intern, I assisted a therapist in supervising the clients while they participated in activities. I would sometimes facilitate discussions or activities about therapeutic ideas, such as how to socialize in a sensitive way. When a client had a behavioral or emotional reaction during an activity, I took them on a break and helped them feel calm and eventually return to the program. By the end of the internship, I was able to take points in the behavioral modification system and record clients' behaviors and emotions.

I am most proud and touched by how I was able to bring out the best in clients who struggled. There was one client in particular who could barely participate in most activities at the beginning of the program due to behavioral issues. I realized that he has a sense of humor and bonded with him. By the end of the program, I had convinced him to participate in some activities and open up more about his emotions.

Thank you so much again for making this experience possible. I learned more than I imagined, and I owe you a thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Ilana Epstein



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,



My name is Alyssa Golden, and I am a rising sophomore intending to major in Anthropology and minor in Hispanic Studies & Legal Studies on the Pre-Law track.

I want to thank you for committing to the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. After having difficulty finding internships due to class year eligibility requirements, I was elated to learn that there were a set of Social Justice Organizations partnering to host Brandeis students.

I feel fortunate to have matched with the Integrity Institute this past summer; I cannot express how appreciative I am to you for making this opportunity available. The Integrity Institute is a startup advocacy think tank that seeks to promote a healthy social internet by holding tech companies accountable and helping the world understand the

importance of integrity work.

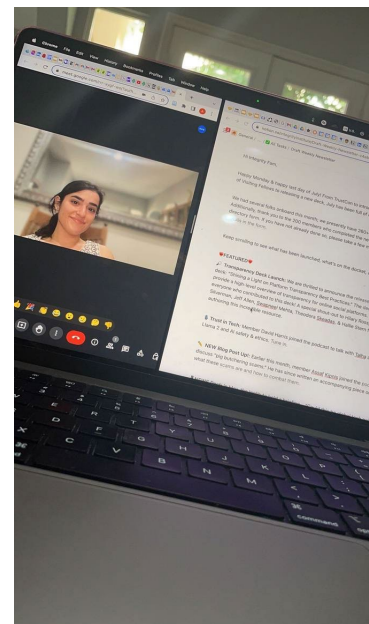
Just a few weeks into my internship, it became remarkably clear that working in a startup entails wearing many hats. At times this was a learning curve, but overall, it illuminated the value of being flexible and resourceful. Accordingly, I had the chance to assist with matters ranging from, but not limited to, research and community operational support. In practice, this entailed taking on a variety of projects such as writing an anonymized summary briefing, auditing the Institute's membership hub, and supporting onboarding processes. I most enjoyed getting to assume responsibilities related to the Institute's community pillar as it allowed me to engage with others and gain insight.

Prior to this experience, I do not think I would have envisioned myself working in the tech sector. However, my internship opened my eyes to ways that individuals can make contributions in Big Tech without necessarily having a comprehensive background in coding or machine learning. I still have a desire to attend law school after college; I am leaving this internship even more interested in exploring internet and privacy law.

Once again, thank you for supporting both my academic and personal pursuits. It is because of your generosity that I had the opportunity to learn and grow as an intern with the Integrity Institute.

Warm Regards,

Alyssa Golden



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis. I am pleased to share how your support has helped me validate my professional aspirations. In the program, I had the opportunity to engage in hands-on work that transformed my understanding of the treatment of children and young people with mental health and learning disabilities. This experience has given me the confidence to pursue helping individuals with behavioral, learning, and social issues.



This summer, I worked as a Behavioral Counselor in the Summer Treatment Program at the Child Mind Institute in New York City, a non-profit organization dedicated to the treatment of children and young people with mental health and learning disabilities. The program is designed for children aged 5-10 who have ADHD, autism, and disruptive behavior patterns. Throughout the summer, I encouraged these children to adopt positive and prosocial behavior when interacting with others. I learned how to use positive behavior management strategies, and promote and supervise recreational activities/games.

My group worked with 5-6-year-olds, where we implemented individually tailored behavior plans and managed behavior data as directed by key personnel. By providing intensive treatment in a natural setting, I was able to effectively evaluate and treat children's difficulties in peer relationships. The program offers 120 hours of treatment in four weeks, which is more than a child with ADHD would receive in two years of typical outpatient treatment! After ten weeks, I was amazed at how much I had learned. I witnessed their self-confidence transform completely. I now understand the significance of working together to help children succeed.

I am incredibly thankful for your support, which has led me to experience the most fulfilling job to date. This experience has taught me that I want to establish a career in psychology and help treat individuals in their behavioral problems. Your generosity has made a profound impact on me and my future career aspirations.

Sincerely,  
Leah Goldstein





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I hope this letter finds you well! My name is Dalya, and I am a junior studying Comparative Literature and Philosophy. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable support in funding my internship with WITNESS to Mass Incarceration. Your generosity has not only made this transformative experience possible but has also played a crucial role in advancing the organization's mission to bring about positive change in the lives of formerly incarcerated individuals.



WITNESS to Mass Incarceration is an organization that works to provide support and resources to currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, with a specific focus on women and those who identify as LGBTQI2AS+. During my internship, I had the privilege of serving as a grant writer and development intern. In my journey with WITNESS, I embarked on several projects that deepened my understanding of the challenges faced by those affected by incarceration. One of the most impactful initiatives I was a part of was the MAP Project. This project addresses a critical issue—the lack of generational wealth among formerly incarcerated individuals upon their release. Through the MAP Project, we support businesses and organizations founded and led by formerly incarcerated people—empowering them to build a better future for themselves and their families—by building a digital map and online database of hundreds of these businesses across the country.

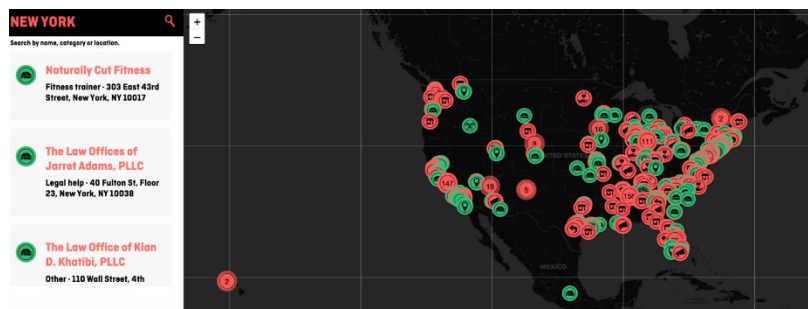
What I am most proud of during my internship is our work on expanding the MAP Project. WITNESS is currently in the process of creating an e-commerce marketplace that will provide a platform for these businesses to thrive. By fostering financial independence and amplifying the impact of these ventures, we aim to create lasting change in the lives of many.

The skills I have developed during this internship are immeasurable. From project management to grant writing, I have honed my abilities in various areas. Grant writing, in particular, has been a challenging yet rewarding endeavor. Crafting persuasive proposals and navigating the complex world of grant applications has equipped me with valuable skills that will serve me well in my future endeavors.

In summary, your generous support has enabled me to immerse myself in the critical work of WITNESS to Mass Incarceration. I have gained a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding incarceration, made meaningful contributions to our projects, and developed essential skills that will stay with me throughout my career. None of this would have been possible without your support, and for that, I am sincerely thankful.

Your commitment to funding internships like mine is a testament to your dedication to creating positive change in our society. I am inspired by your generosity, and I promise to carry the lessons and experiences from this internship forward as I continue to work toward a more equitable and just world. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this transformative experience possible. Your generosity has had a profound impact on my life and the lives of those we strive to help through our work.

All the best,  
Dalya Koller



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

First and foremost, I would like to start off this letter by expressing my thanks and appreciation for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis University. Because of your generous support, I was able to pursue an internship without worrying about my financial standing. I couldn't afford to take an unpaid job or internship this summer, and this program allowed me to gain important work experience in a field I am very much interested in. Thank you again for your continued support of Brandeis students, and allowing us to pursue our dreams!

My name is Grace Lassila and I am a junior at Brandeis majoring in economics, and minoring in mathematics. In addition to my studies, I am also a community advisor with DCL, and I am the President of Period Activists at Deis (PAD), an on-campus advocacy and service club. Through my studies and extracurricular activities, I have become increasingly interested in advocacy and non-profit work. This summer, I had the honor of completing a remote internship with the National Consumers League, where I worked as a Health Policy Intern, within their Health Policy team.

I had a wide range of responsibilities, including attending NCL staff meetings, researching and writing up content for the NCL website, writing my own blog posts, and learning about the behind-the-scenes of consumer advocacy work. I am most proud of my work on the NCL website. One of the main projects I had was to assist my team on refreshing the health policy webpage for the NCL site. This included researching current, and past health policy, as well as the healthcare issues consumers are facing. I feel as though I grew a lot as a researcher, and I learned so much about an area I had not had a ton of experience with before. Combining my interests with economics and advocacy, working at the National Consumers League helped me solidify my career interests for the future, as well as providing me with valuable skills and experience in the field.

Thank you so much again for your support to the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities that it has provided me with this past summer. Without it, I would not have been able to grow both professionally and intellectually.

Sincerely,

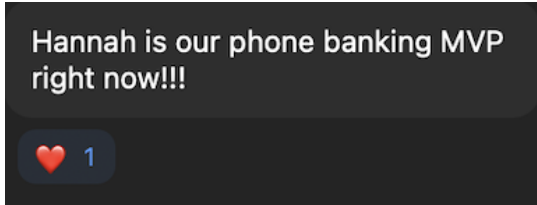
Grace Lassila

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Hannah Lustig, and I am a junior majoring in anthropology at Brandeis. Over the summer, I worked as the Development Intern for Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, a New York City based organization working to make the area more equitable and just for all people. I completed various tasks, but a lot of my work was centered around JFREJ's upcoming fundraiser, the Mazals, which is their largest event of the year. I made hundreds of phone calls asking people to join the Host Committee, was in charge of reaching out to organizations and asking them to buy an ad in the program book, made thank you calls to new donors, sold tickets to the event, helped plan the event including the raffle, worked with the Communications team on social media ideas, and did some graphic design work. My coworkers made sure that I was always really proud of the work I was doing, and it was really amazing to know that the fundraising I did was making a positive difference in the world. I made over \$10,000 for JFREJ during my time there! I was especially proud of the work I did on the ads, since I well exceeded the expected number of ads and for the first time was able to turn the program book into a source of revenue. My favorite memory from working with JFREJ was the day I got to attend the summer membership assembly! Since my internship was remote, I was so happy to help out at an in-person event.



Working at JFREJ was the perfect opportunity for me. The work culture was exactly what I needed to thrive in my position, and I loved the small, tight knit environment. Along with learning new skills and being able to work in a role that I am passionate about, I also found a strong sense of community with JFREJ. I am happy to say that I will continue to join JFREJ meetings occasionally and will help out with future phone banks. I am so grateful for this experience. I was able to learn a lot about myself and what it is like working in a politically focused non-profit. My career plan is to use my anthropology degree to work at a non-profit organization. Although I do not think my dream is to end up working on a development team (I prefer working with people, not money), I had such an incredible summer of learning.



Thank you so much for your support,

Hannah Lustig



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to start off by expressing how thankful I am for your support and encouragement of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship at Brandeis University. I am honored to have been one of the selected Social Justice WOW Fellows for the summer of 2023. Your support of this fellowship enabled me to obtain a clinical research internship at Boston Children's Hospital and if not for your support, I would have missed this life changing opportunity.



I am a senior at Brandeis University, double majoring in Biology and Neuroscience with a minor in HSSP on the pre-health track. I aspire to become a physician, and after this internship I realized I am very interested in pediatric health and neurology. This lab opportunity propelled me to gain more relevant experience in medicine and research, both of which are very important for medical school.



This summer, I worked as a clinical research intern at the Loddenkemper Lab at Boston Children's Hospital. One of the primary missions of the Loddenkemper Lab, led by Dr. Tobias Loddenkemper, is to prevent, predict, detect, and treat every seizure and status epilepticus in children before it occurs. The Loddenkemper lab uses machine learning and predictive algorithms to detect early warning signs of seizures through the Empatica

Wristband. The Empatica Wristband is a revolutionary tool in medicine as it measures physiological data such as heart rate variability and electrodermal activity. We combine these seizure monitoring tools into our in-patient clinical studies to best develop epilepsy care in pediatric patients. Over the summer, I accomplished multiple important projects that are essential for Epilepsy research such as the anti-seizure medication project and the Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) project. The first project studies the effects of anti-seizure medications on the autonomic nervous system. The SUDEP project is a project where I analyzed thousands of EEG reports and labelled different types of seizures. For these projects, I utilized databases such as PowerChart, and REDCap. Additionally, I learned how to utilize medical terminology, read EEGs, and recognize different types of seizures. I also accompanied research fellows from the lab and enrolled patients in clinical studies.

Social justice-wise, I also got a chance to see how Boston Children's Hospital runs as a nonprofit organization. I attended many lectures on the stigmas of how language barriers can affect healthcare.

Once again, I can't thank you enough for supporting me in my interest to pursue social justice work in medicine through the WOW Social Justice Fellowship. I hope to connect with you again in the future.

Sincerely,  
Nandini Mandaloju

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support of the Social Justice WOW Fellowship. Your support of this incredible program allowed me to learn the inner workings of a social justice nonprofit this summer and helped solidify my interest in working in the nonprofit world.

I am a rising junior at Brandeis, double majoring in Anthropology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies with a minor in Near Eastern Judaic Studies. This summer, I worked at one of the designated Social Justice WOW internships as the Recruitment Intern at Avodah, meaning my entire internship was only possible because of this fantastic program! I absolutely loved working at Avodah as I combined my academic interests with my activist passions every day as I worked to recruit social justice leaders interested in grounding their work in Jewish values.

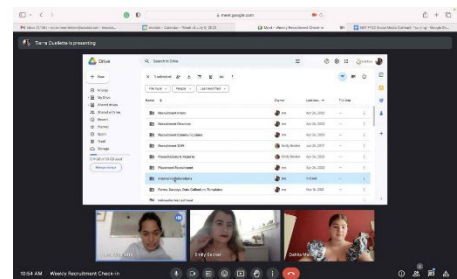


I spent most of my internship creating and developing databases for Avodah's two main programs: The Jewish Service Corps and The Justice Fellowship. I also assisted in outreach, generated candidates, and performed crucial research for the organization as a whole. I loved working at Avodah as they encouraged me to go beyond my job description, allowing me to learn and help with a variety of work, from graphic design and media writing to aiding the communications department with merchandising ideas. They also gave me diverse opportunities to network and connect, from the bi-weekly full staff meetings to individualized meetings with staff whose roles I was interested in. Additionally, the skills I learned and improved upon this summer are easily transferable to any organization, allowing me to build upon my resume toolbox and ensure I can work in a myriad of roles before I finalize my future path.

Although this was not my first internship in the nonprofit world, this was my first time working at a Jewish nonprofit. It was a transformative experience to see an entire organization using their Jewish identities as a grounding for their social justice work rather than viewing the two as separate entities. At Brandeis, I have had opportunities to combine these identities, such as in my role in the Jewish Feminist Association of Brandeis or my cross-listed NEJS/WGS courses, but this was the first time I got to work at this intersection in the real world. This has helped shape my desire to make a career out of this intersection as I could follow my passions while positively impacting my community.

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to make a true impact this summer in a role that would not have been possible without your immense generosity. On behalf of myself and my peers, thank you!

Sincerely,  
Dahlia Matanky



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your very generous contribution to the WOW Social Justice fellowship, and for helping me and other dedicated students work towards addressing social justice issues across the country. I especially wanted to thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn more about the vital work done every day by victim advocates in the San Francisco area.



This summer, I had the chance to work at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division, and learn about what it means to be a victim advocate. The SFDA's Victim Services Division works with victims of crime at all stages of the judicial system; from the aftermath of a crime, to potential prosecution, and after a verdict has been reached. Each victim is assigned an advocate who strives to assist them with financial restitution, inform them on updates to the case, and support them through what can often feel like a cold and difficult-to-navigate system.



Throughout my internship, I myself was given a variety of thoughtful tasks by my supervisors which allowed me to learn and develop a whole array of different skills. These assignments included shadowing advocates in the office and during their court appearances, as well as assisting with victim outreach and research, in order to help the advocates balance their victims' varying needs. These experiences have taught me so much about how to reach out to people in a work environment, and make myself available to help them in the best way I can, while also communicating

with my supervisors when I need additional direction or guidance. The times I have cherished the most have been learning from the advocates through shadowing their phone calls and meetings with victims, and being inspired by the impact these services can have on the lives of these individuals and their families.

As an incoming sophomore at Brandeis University, this was an invaluable experience to me both personally and within my own academic career, as it helped me to open my eyes to the various available positions in the fields of social work, counseling, and legal services. It has pushed me to think deeper about our own judicial system, and ask questions about what I can do to help.

I am so thankful to this fund for supporting my work at the SFDA's Victim Services Division, showing me the impact I can have on my community, and showing me the other potential opportunities I can strive for in the future. I hope to continue working with the District Attorneys' Office, or similar organizations that support victims of crime, and work towards crime prevention and public safety alongside judicial reform.

Sincerely,

Nathan Merin

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to begin by thanking you for supporting the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis. With your support, I was able to pursue an incredible opportunity with an exceptional team of staff and volunteers.

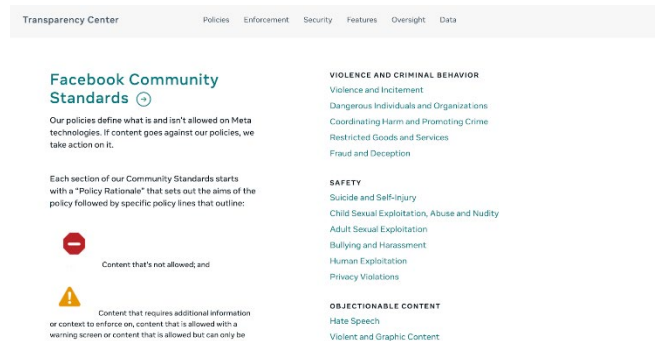
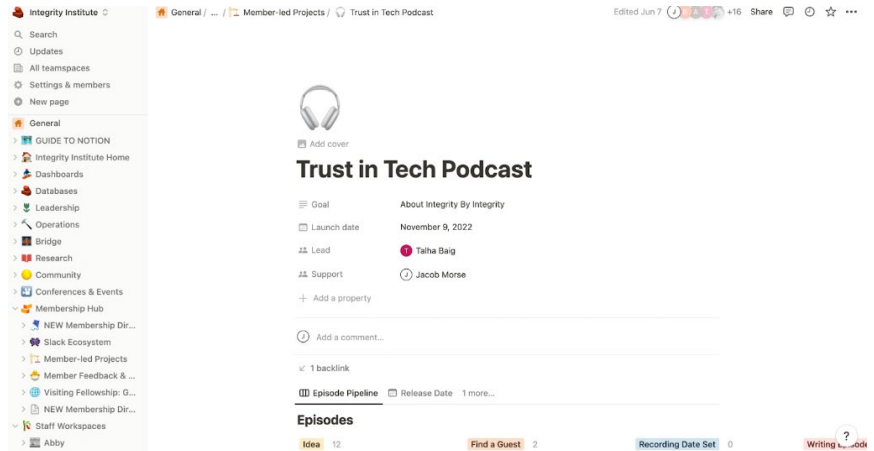
This summer, I worked with the Integrity Institute, a think tank that helps companies improve their policy to improve their

platforms/spaces integrity. So, what does integrity mean? On my first day of work, I had no idea what integrity meant or what the institute did for work. I was previously familiar with the terms trust and safety, but it had been explained to me that integrity work was different, and I needed help understanding how. One day, while workshopping writing for the cofounder and executive director, Sahar Massachi (a Brandeis alum), I understood integrity work through the model of a car. Trust and safety work is like the airbags on a car; it handles the problems that pop up on social platforms after they occur. But Integrity work acknowledges other issues in the vehicle, such as, let's say, fuel efficiency, and works to make the car better for its users. Understanding this concept played a huge role in my understanding of the work I was helping with.

The majority of my work was spent as a producer and editor for the Trust in Tech Podcast, which is supported by the Integrity Institute. The podcast interviews members of the Integrity Institute community about their work in specific fields of social platform safety. In my time working on the podcast, I gained a better understanding of how Large Language Models work. Through the podcast, I have also learned from top data scientists at major companies and received valuable career advice. I have also received a return opportunity and will continue as a podcast editor this fall.

This opportunity has taught me invaluable lessons about office relations and managing my work-life balance. I cannot thank you all enough for providing me with a space to further my learning and make such valuable connections.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Morse



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I'd like to express my gratitude for your contribution to the Social Justice WOW fellowship!

I'm currently a senior at Brandeis, double majoring in Linguistics and Anthropology. As an immigrant who has had to navigate the countless challenges of the U.S. immigration system, my main aspiration is to one day be able to help others as they do the same. I'm happy to say that, this summer, I did exactly that by interning at Safe Passage Project!

Safe Passage (or SPP) is a New York-based non-profit organization committed to guiding unaccompanied immigrant children and youth through the American immigration system by providing them with free legal representation. As an intern, I completed a series of administrative (and legal) tasks such as translating documents between Spanish and English, providing interpreting services in legal screenings, assisting with the completion of immigration forms and electronic file database (on platforms such as Dropbox and Salesforce), as well as observing Immigration Court and Family Court appearances.



Throughout the internship, I took on many projects that helped me build on my organization, writing, research, and translation/interpreting skills. However, the most challenging, yet most rewarding, tasks were the ones where I was able to directly interact with clients. For example, I worked with a client who had obtained their work authorization, but never received their Social Security Card (SSC) in the mail. While the process to obtain a replacement SSC is fairly straightforward, it can be a daunting process if one doesn't speak English. As an intern, I worked alongside them to gather all the documents necessary for their application, contacted their local Social Security Office and assisted them throughout the entirety of their appointment. In my last week at Safe Passage, they finally received their replacement card, which meant that they could now apply for jobs, obtain a driver's license and get access to several other benefits that weren't viable before. This experience gave me an enormous sense of fulfillment, and further reinforced my desire to continue pursuing a career in immigration law.

This opportunity not only strengthened my desire to pursue my passions, but it made me learn more about myself and my interests in a professional setting, and embark on a new chapter of my life. None of this would have been possible had it not been for your generosity in contributing to this fellowship, I'm extremely grateful!

Sincerely,  
Ingrid Nascimento

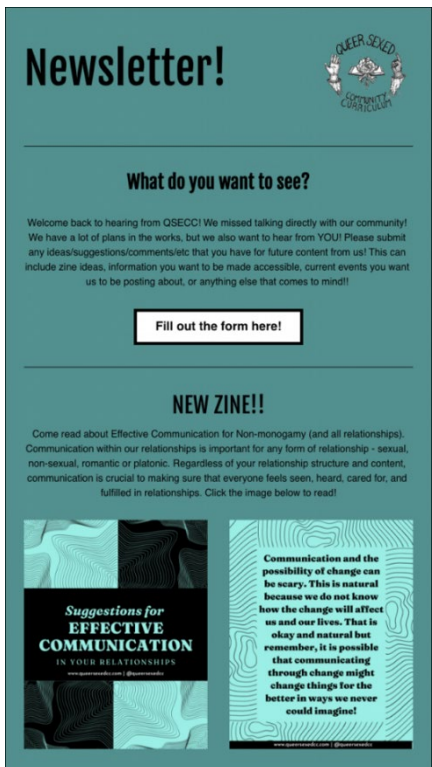


Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Eden Osiason and I will be graduating in the Spring of 2024 from Brandeis University. I am a Sociology major with a triple minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies, Social Justice and Social Policy, and Journalism. This summer, I was fortunate enough to intern at QSECC (Queer Sex-Ed Community Curriculum), not in small part because of the Legacy Fund.



This organization is committed to providing free and accessible resources for sexual education while creating curriculums that are pleasure-centered, trauma-informed, queer-inclusive, and socially conscious. Their goal is to obtain information for this community curriculum from a variety of authors such as sexual education teachers, members of the queer community, trauma counselors, etc.



Throughout this summer, I created monthly newsletters for the organization as well as managed their social media presence. This helped to grow the audience base of the organization which is vital when it comes to receiving funding and accomplishing the mission of making inclusive sexual education widespread. Furthermore, the social media presence is going to be used to create partnerships with other organizations, creators, political groups, etc. that could possibly help us in our mission. I also assisted in getting some of QSECC's Zines available at community centers and events and continuing their accessibility.

This organization also taught me skills that will serve me well after I graduate. A lot of my workload here was self-assigned based on my ideas and suggestions. It was also up to me to speak up and request meetings or reach out to others for help if needed. This is different from academia where professors often assign work and follow up. In this internship, I was expected to be self-sufficient, a skill that is extremely valuable for the future as I aim to work in similar organizations long-term.

On this note, working for QSECC allowed me to determine that I love to work for a queer organization post-graduation from Brandeis. I fell in love with the inclusivity and accepting nature of the organization as well as our ability to speak openly with each other about somewhat controversial issues. The LGBTQIA+ movement is also very dear to me and working within this field allows me to have an impact on a social movement that I aim to support. Without the Legacy Fund, I would not have been able to define my career interests for the future. I enjoyed my time with QSECC immensely and hope to continue to stay in contact with this organization.

Thank you for your support of the Legacy Fund.

Sincerely,  
Eden Osiason

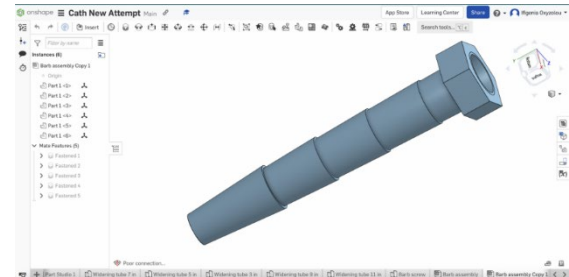
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Ifigenia and I am a sophomore at Brandeis planning to major in Neuroscience or Biology, and minor in Architectural Studies. I also hope to pursue Brandeis' five-year engineering program with Columbia. This summer I was able to explore my interests in biomedical engineering and clinical research by working as a research volunteer at the CORELAB.

The CORELAB, or formally the Cardiac Outcomes Research Lab, is located at the University of California Los Angeles. My internship introduced me to the intellectually challenging possibilities in medical research and bioengineering prototyping. With the mission of exploring clinical outcomes to better understand how to maximize care and minimize disparities in access to procedures, the CORELAB is a very self-driven lab with a diversity of options for research. Through data analysis, scientific writing, and digital design, I was able to practice and develop a plethora of skills.

I participated in literature searches, data retrieval and analysis, and manuscript preparation with the aim of understanding how to increase access and outcomes of life saving procedures. One of the lab's main focuses is on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), a treatment for those in cardiac or respiratory failure. This treatment essentially takes deoxygenated blood from patients and oxygenates it before returning it to the patients. It became especially prominent during the pandemic for treating COVID patients with respiratory failure.

When I first joined the lab, my goals were to immerse myself in biomedical engineering and learn more about the design process behind medical devices. My first project (which I am still involved in) was learning CAD design for an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation catheter tube. This project really allowed me to develop my skills in problem solving and tinkering with prototypes. I played around with different methods of prototyping including 3D printing and molding.



This summer taught me that biodesign and engineering are interconnected with medical outcomes, and practicing both is invaluable to bettering our healthcare systems. My major is still formally undeclared, but my experience with the CORELAB made me realize that I want to explore this overlap of fields. I want to learn more about how engineering and artificial design interplays with the brain and the functioning's of the natural world.

Beyond this summer, I am actually continuing my work with the CORELAB and will be presenting at a conference in February.

Finally, I want to earnestly thank you for supporting unpaid internships, as this is a particular issue in STEM. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to expand my horizons and knowledge in engineering and medical research with the support of your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Ifigenia Oxyzolou



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund:

I want to express my deepest gratitude for helping make my summer experience possible. Due to your generous contributions, I was able to learn so much about the fields of vaccine research, clinical trial administration, and immunology without having the pressure of having to work another part time job. Your contributions helped me have an amazing educational experience while being able to save up for when I'll be studying abroad next semester.

This summer I had the privilege of interning for the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) within the Center of Vaccinology and Vaccine Research (CVVR) at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the Longwood Medical Area in Boston. My role as an intern was mostly to soak up as much knowledge as I could about the different units within the CVVR, including the CTU, lab, and Bioinformatics departments. I was also able to help out with creating recruitment brochures for future trials, and researching and participating in community engagement events. Through this experience, I'm most proud of my willingness to be proactive. I took notes at the different meetings I attended, and tried to look up mechanisms or procedures I didn't understand (there were a lot!). I'm pretty shy, so I did my best to ask questions when I was confused.

This internship also helped me greatly in clarifying my career interests. Through Beth Israel's connection with its neighboring hospital, I was able to shadow a prenatal genetic counselor. Genetics has always been really interesting to me, but this shadowing experience in particular opened my eyes to how I want to spend at least part of my future career working with people. As someone interested in many fields of study including legal studies, sociology, and public health, it is disappointing that I don't have the time to study it all! Talking to genetic counselors helped me realize the numerous opportunities to grow in these diverse fields, including working as a patient advocate, genetics researcher, and genetic counselor, all of which are positions that students in Genetic Counseling programs may be exposed to and can work in.

Thank you again for this incredible opportunity!

Sincerely,  
Esha Rakesh



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for providing experiences that enable so many students, such as myself, not just to gain valuable experiences that will set us up for success in our early careers, but for also allowing us to make a positive impact while doing so.

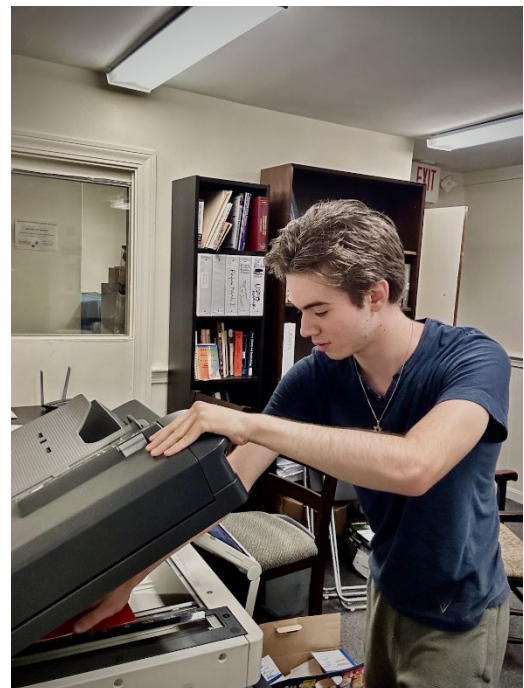
Through the Social Justice WOW fellowship, I was able to work at The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), a non-profit based out of Waltham that offers free legal aid to immigrants. This organization primarily serves low-income immigrants in the greater Boston area to support navigating asylum and various other legal obstacles. I had the opportunity to work at TRII to take on clients, build asylum cases with them through an understanding of their stories, and collect research to support their claims.

At TRII, I gained skills in navigating a non-user-friendly bureaucracy and confidence in my ability to be comfortable with picking up the information I need to know quickly and effectively.

In my day-to-day work, I met with clients to understand their legal needs, wrote affidavits to portray the experiences of clients fleeing for their lives accurately, and did deep research into the country conditions and unique experiences of our clients to back up their claims with evidence. I learned the ins and outs of what was required for various forms of immigration claims, whether that be asylum, U-Visas, SIJ, and more, and learned to collaborate in an effective way.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to spend my summer not just gaining valuable work experience in a career I want to work in but to be a force for positive change. I will carry these experiences with me for the rest of my life.

With the sincerest of thanks,  
Aaron Rosendorf



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Mina Rowland. I am a self-taught artist and creative entering into my junior year at Brandeis University. Not only do I have interests in fine art, social media and film but I plan to create my own major in Digital Storytelling and Creativity. This summer I had the opportunity to be a creative intern for Brown Joy LLC. Brown Joy is a small company that recently celebrated its first-year anniversary. Run by Charminta Brown, a single Black mother, Brown Joy aims to celebrate and increase positive representations of Black and Brown children through affirmation stickers.



While I initiated the internship through an email after discovering the company on LinkedIn, the paid aspect of the internship was only possible with the help of the WOW Fellowship and the Legacy Fund. During my time at Brown Joy I had the opportunity to use graphic design in my work with email and social media marketing. I designed several posters and created newsletters to increase community engagement and create more business relationships. I worked closely with Miss Brown to initiate and propose pitches to Back-to-School programs to increase sales of Brown Joy products including character sheets, affirmations stickers and Tee-shirts. Not only did we succeed in many of our pitches but I also had the opportunity to work on a pitch to ABC's hit television series

Abbott Elementary. We plan to have Brown Joy products featured in one of the episodes at some point in the near future.

Lastly, I created a workbook for children to learn about design thinking using Brown Joy characters and helping kids ages 8 to 13 learn more about problem solving. While working with Brown Joy and attending weekly meetings with Miss Brown, not only did I work on my own creativity but I also gained confidence to share my ideas and opinions with her and the Brown Joy Team. I have been able to learn more about tone and color palette and reflect storytelling through brand and marketing. I enjoyed being able to discuss my future plans regarding my career and classes I would take with Miss Brown as well. She was truly a joy to work with (pun intended).



I am very excited to gain more knowledge and experience with digital marketing and media. I am very interested in graphic design and plan to build a creative portfolio and work in a creative industry combining my interests in filmmaking, writing and digital art.

Sincerely,  
Mina Rowland

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice WOW Fellowship program at Brandeis University. Your contributions have created countless opportunities, empowering numerous students including myself, to engage in transformative hands-on internship experiences. Through your generosity, you have dismantled financial barriers that often hinder students from pursuing enriching internships.

I am a current junior at Brandeis double majoring in Sociology and Anthropology with a minor in Climate Justice, Science, and Policy (CJSP). Without your help, I would not have been able to intern this summer as an Ethnographic Research Fellow at Lemelson-MIT. The Lemelson-MIT student fellows' program is a six-week program that allows students to learn and gain experience in ethnographic and qualitative research. Their mission is to bring invention education to low-income communities and minority groups. As a student fellow, my role was to learn, observe, and conclude.



The program unfolded in distinct phases. The initial two weeks of the program was spent learning about ethnography and training for our forthcoming observations. The next 2 weeks were spent observing the Biotech in Action program at Lemelson-MIT. This required utilizing all that we'd learned in the past few weeks to observe and research the structure of the program. The last two weeks were spent report writing. We worked as a team to produce a roughly 100-page

publication about the facets of the program we researched.

During my engagement in this program, I embraced diverse roles and responsibilities that were pivotal aspects in shaping the research's outcome. When conducting observations, I was assigned to specific tasks and responsibilities, that without my data, the research would not have come to fruition. Towards the end when we were report writing, I was able to compile the data I'd found and utilize in various portions of the report. Overall, taking on these different roles helped me obtain leadership skills, and taught me how to effectively conduct ethnographic and qualitative research.

Before coming to this internship, my path forward lacked clarity. While I'm still unsure of what my future holds, this internship substantially solidified my aspirations of taking part in some sort of qualitative research. I would love to receive my Ph.D. and conduct research on a matter I'm passionate about. I've learned that I want to use my skills and knowledge from this internship to develop my own research questions on environmental redlining and housing segregation.

I am so grateful to have had the privilege of working with Lemelson-MIT this summer and receiving funding from WOW. None of this would have been possible without your kindness and dedication to this matter. I have learned so much about myself and my career goals after this opportunity, and I look forward to what the future holds. Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to explore my passions and contribute to an amazing program and cause.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Saltzman

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to start this letter by thanking you for supporting the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Program. Thanks to your incredible support I was able to spend my summer pursuing my professional dreams and gain real, hands-on experience in the “World of Work”. It was a transformative summer and I would not have been able to do it if not for you!

I am a rising junior majoring in American Studies and minoring in theater. This summer I interned at Bikel Rosenthal & Schanfield, a boutique family law firm. I had the opportunity to work with and learn from world-class family lawyers during my internship. As a legal intern my primary job was working through legal research, studying different cases in order to find important precedents that would support the partners in their cases. I sat in on all different kinds of mediations, hearings, and court proceedings learning each step of the way what the role of an attorney is and how the family court system works. I am very proud of my work throughout my time as an intern although one case that stands out to me was the work I did on a pro bono case. Getting the opportunity to help someone without any return or reward is a special opportunity and helped show me that I could combine my passion for social justice with my interest in the legal world.



I have gained a ton of valuable experience and worked on important skills that will help me as a student and in the future. My time management skills have meaningfully improved as a result of my commute into Manhattan from New Jersey. My research ability has vastly grown thanks to the hundreds of hours I spent researching while at work. I grew in my writing ability thanks to my time spent editing and drafting motions. I became a more organized person thanks to the large workload I took on and managed. This summer was such a success that it really solidified my career interests. Coming into the summer I hoped that working at a law firm could give me a taste of what being an attorney might be like and whether I was cut out for that work. I am thrilled to say that I truly enjoyed my work throughout the summer and feel comfortable and secure in my career interests. I learned so much this summer and it is all thanks to the gracious support of the Legacy Fund. Your support means the world to me!

Sincerely,  
Ariel Schultz

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Elena Soranno, I am a current Junior majoring in Health: Science, Society, and Policy. This summer I had the valuable opportunity to be a public policy intern at The Arc of Massachusetts. The Arc of Massachusetts is a disability advocacy organization which advocates for policy change through legislative efforts and community outreach. In this position, I had the fortune to testify at numerous legislative hearings, contribute to government affairs committee meetings, and meet influential figures in the Massachusetts legislative system.

I took on various projects including presenting testimony, researching policy initiatives and solutions, creating resources for joint committees to review, and altering resources for both Operation House Call and general usage by constituents to assist in navigating complicated state resources and paperwork. However, communicating with other states' agencies was the most difficult yet rewarding task. When researching quantitative and qualitative data in favor of a bill, finding comparisons with similar programs in other states helps to prove cause and effectiveness. In this role, I contacted government agencies in Ohio, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania in order to further develop our legislative evidence about the efficiency and cost effectiveness of numerous bills. I also learned that maintaining relationships is the key to good faith in voting. In advocating for our legislative agenda and state budget proposals, it is important to be physically present at the Massachusetts State House, and hand out our agenda and make a connection with the office.

I am most proud of my growth as a person resulting from this summer. I learned a lot about myself as an advocate and as a person. I am proud of the growth I've made socially through networking and expanding my working knowledge, as well as growing academically and professionally while completing research and orchestrating legislative strategy in favor of bills on The Arc's legislative agenda. A huge win for it is when a bill is pushed into the Ways and Means Committee. Though only 600 of 6,500 bills get passed through Ways and Means each legislative cycle, I am hopeful that the meaningful testimonies, plethora of evidence, and political precedent will be enough to push each bill to the finish line.



Further, this internship helped me to clarify my career interests and gave me valuable connections and resources which I will use to advance my knowledge of disability policy. I will take this real-life experience and run with it when I complete my undergraduate research project throughout this year. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be involved in such a meaningful mission, and I am so thankful for the supporters of the Brandeis University Legacy Fund, who have made my summer unimaginably informative and allowed me to explore my passion for pursuing social justice for underserved populations, and my academic interests, which no doubt will help me in my future endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Elena Soranno





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Harrison Sugarman, and I am a rising senior who is majoring in Politics and History and minoring in Legal Studies. Thank you so much for your generous support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. Your donation allowed me to pursue an unpaid internship in my field of interest which turned out to be a life changing experience and opportunity.

I interned at the Rockingham County Attorney's Office (RCAO), in Brentwood, NH, from May 31 through August 4. I worked as a legal assistant for the senior prosecutors at RCAO, chiefly Megan Ryan, Rusty Chadwick, and Assistant County Attorney, Kristin Vartanian. My assignments consisted of evidentiary summaries in three forms: discovery summaries, jail call summaries, and intercase analysis. For all these assignments, I needed to condense thousands of pages of discovery and hours of audio recordings into digestible summaries for my supervisors within a matter of days. Thanks to my diligence, I had the distinct privilege of meeting with several victims and police officers who were involved in the cases I summarized.

This internship certainly clarified my career interest by opening my mind to criminal law. I had only considered a career in civil litigation prior to my internship because my previous internship and academic experiences portrayed it as more lucrative and intellectually stimulating. While this may be true, I learned that prosecuting is incredibly rewarding in its own right; all of the prosecutors at RCAO feel immensely proud that they represent the interest of the common good and help victims realize closure. My own sense of positivity and enthusiasm meshed well with my supervisors which created a very positive workplace environment. I will certainly remember these lessons moving forward in my career.

I am incredibly grateful for your generosity, and I look forward to the reception in October.

Sincerely,

Harrison Sugarman





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Lana Taffel, and I'm currently a junior at Brandeis in the class of 2025, majoring in Philosophy and Politics, with a minor in History of Ideas. I'd like to thank you personally for your contribution to the Social Justice World of Work Fellowship Program, as it enabled me to spend my summer getting extremely valuable experience doing what is meaningful to me and my future career goals. With your assistance, I had a really interesting opportunity to explore the non-profit world, and build my understanding of the private sector.

This summer, I was an intern in the Private Sector Department at Oxfam America - focused on how non-profit and other actors can encourage corporate social responsibility. This team specifically works with large companies that contribute significantly to injustices in workplaces and supply chains, looking to measure, foster, and encourage gender and racial justice, sustainability and climate outcomes, and many other important social issues through a variety of approaches.

On this team, I was responsible for tracking progress, accomplishments, and media hits in respective projects of team members, as well as compiling this information. I also assisted on various specialized projects, such as working with and promoting gender disaggregated data and tools in agriculture supply chains, working on a campaign to protect workers' rights as e-commerce advances in big corporations, researching how to measure how corporations contribute to inequalities through their practices, and some other projects.

In this internship, I most definitely learned more about the research, process, and strategies that one can use to approach social change - especially when dealing with key contributing actors. These skills I built can be carried into many different practices, and the research has broadened my understanding of the role of the private sector and the many avenues through which we can change it. Though I ultimately am hoping to pursue a law degree (a very different field for sure), I am determined to pursue civil rights law and work from a different perspective on the very same issues I worked on with Oxfam. I believe it has been very valuable to get experience in a sector I hope to work beside one day in the fight for social change, which takes place on many fronts.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to you for supporting me in my ability to do this internship. And more broadly, thank you for your commitment to helping Brandeis students like me find their career path. This summer was truly valuable to me, and will guide me in my future internships, opportunities, career, and life.

Sincerely,  
Lana Taffel

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Alaina Vermilya, Class of 2024. I am a Sociology major with minors in Social Justice and Social Policy, Education Studies, and Women's, Genders, and Sexuality Studies. This summer, I had the privilege of interning with the Boston-based Citizens for Juvenile Justice, an independent, state-wide nonprofit whose mission is to improve the juvenile justice system and other youth-serving systems in Massachusetts - the only of its kind throughout the entire state. CfJJ's work centers around changing *systems*: they conduct research, organize in and involve local communities, produce reports, and advocate at the legal level, not for individuals, but for systemic policy reform. Joining in coalition with a number of other Massachusetts-based organizations, they advocate together for an end to the school-to-prison pipeline and school-hardening policies that criminalize youth in their learning spaces, emphasize rehabilitation, advocate for raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, and much more.



My tasks this summer revolved around two main projects. The first was creating a Respect Youth Stories Presentation. I created this presentation based off of the Respect Youth Stories Toolkit, published by CfJJ and the National Juvenile Justice Network in 2021. This toolkit, made in partnership with a number of youth advocates, details steps that advocacy organizations should take to more ethically include youth stories in their work and ensure that youth are not tokenized, taken advantage of, or reharmed when

sharing their experiences. This presentation will be given to local advocacy groups by CfJJ in the fall.

My second main project was building Youth Roundtables on school safety. One of my supervisor and I's main aims when designing the roundtables is to have them center around bi-directional learning: we, as facilitators, will not only give them access to more information and validation, but, more importantly, they will teach us about their valuable insight and knowledge.

This internship was better than what I imagined: I improved my oral and written communication skills, interpersonal skills, time management, self-advocacy, and critical thinking. Additionally, my increased understanding of juvenile justice issues, criminal legal system issues, racial justice, gender justice, and LGBTQ+-justice, as I discussed above, will allow me to continue to do better, more informed advocacy work in these areas, as I intend to do post-graduation.

Thank you so much for your support of the Legacy Fund, which has helped make an incredible and impactful opportunity, like this one, possible for me!

Gratefully,  
Alaina Vermilya  
Pronouns: she/her



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for your support for the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund. Your contributions have enabled students like myself to pursue professional experiences in fields we may not otherwise have had the opportunity to explore. My internship experience this summer has helped me clarify my career aspirations and reshape my worldview, and that truly could not have been possible without your support.

My name is Hedy Yang, and I am a rising sophomore studying Economics and Environmental Studies. This summer, I was a research intern with the American

Economic Liberties Project, a nonprofit based in Washington D.C. that fights against monopolies and concentrated corporate power. As a political advocacy group, the organization seeks to demonstrate that all levels of government can leverage their powers to promote a fair and competitive economy.

One critical aspect of the work Economic Liberties does is create ‘policy products.’ These include policy briefs, which are quick informational write-ups that help both the public and lawmakers understand an issue and the best practices to address them. The organization also creates full reports analyzing antitrust policy under the Obama administration, and ‘toolkits’ that specifically provide guidance for policymakers. As a research intern this summer, I conducted much of the research behind certain policy products, working across issues like junk fees, the Kroger-Albertsons merger and consolidation in the grocery industry, investor-owned utilities and their involvement in the political process, and much more. I’m excited that my policy brief on junk fees was published last month and has supposedly been inspiring legislation in various states.

This experience has helped me realize that the importance of information-sharing, advocacy, and ensuring that policy is accessible and inclusive cannot be understated. It has been an honor to work with an advocacy/justice-oriented organization whose values are so in line with those of Brandeis, and to play a role in empowering the public not just in their role as consumers, but also as citizens, to realize a world of economic liberty for all. I have had an eye-opening and transformative work experience that has shaped my future career aspirations and how I understand and seek to interact with the world, and this truly would not have been possible without your support.

Sincerely,  
Hedy Yang

## How States Can Take on Junk Fees

Hedy Yang  
August 2023

In May 2023, one TripAdvisor user was stung by the \$50 “check-in fee” that Hanalei Bay Resort in Hawaii charged just for checking in to the resort. Also earlier this year, a \$2,659 Beyond concert ticket had a \$68 “service fee” added on, equaling almost a quarter of the ticket’s face value.<sup>1</sup>

“Junk fees” like these have overrun the American economy, costing consumers billions of dollars per year. Junk fees are extra fees that companies add, often at the end of the purchasing process, for no discernable reason and with no associated cost for the company or benefit to the consumer. These junk fees have proliferated across industries and products – other examples include airline seating fees, bank overdraft fees, “convenience fees” for online services, resort fees, rental car “airport concession fees,” and more.

### WHY JUNK FEES ARE HARMFUL

Junk fees are not just an annoying and deceptive way to rip off consumers. Competitive and fair markets depend on transparent pricing, but by distorting the true prices of products, junk fees harm both consumers and businesses, while undermining competition in the market itself.<sup>2</sup>

1. Will Davidson, “Not all credit tip culture needs summer travel: Are you ready for a \$19 daily charge for staff tips and \$50 ‘junk-in fee’?” Business Insider, June 8, 2023, <https://www.businessinsider.com/credit-cards-and-tips-for-summer-travel>, accessed August 2023.  
2. Jonathan Brown, “Not Cheap: What do ‘convenience’ service fees cover?” WDCU Charlotte, February 26, 2023, <https://www.wduz.com/story/news/business/2023/02/26/convenience-fees-what-they-cover/7213633002/>, accessed August 2023.  
3. “The hidden cost of junk fees,” Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, February 2, 2023, <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/the-hidden-cost-of-junk-fees/>, accessed August 2023.  
4. “Guide for states: Cracking down on junk fees to lower costs for consumers,” The White House, March 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WH-Junk-Fees-Guide-for-States.pdf>.

Dear Supporters of the WOW Legacy Fund,

I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for your invaluable support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship Fund at Brandeis University. It is with the utmost formality and gratitude that I convey my profound thanks for the remarkable impact your generosity has had on my personal and academic journey.

With your generous contributions, I had the privilege of participating in a transformative experience during the summer—an internship at The Right to Immigration Institute. This opportunity allowed me to immerse myself in the intricate realm of immigration and asylum law, an experience that has left an indelible mark on my life.

Throughout the summer, I was entrusted with the responsibility of working on asylum applications for individuals hailing from various corners of the world, all seeking refuge within the United States. These asylum seekers faced persecution based on their religion, nationality, political opinions, or membership in specific groups. Your support empowered me to aid these individuals in their pursuit of safety and justice, offering them a glimmer of hope and the promise of a brighter future.

In addition to my work on asylum cases, I also had the privilege of conducting mock asylum interviews. These preparatory sessions played a pivotal role in equipping my clients with the confidence and clarity needed for their impending asylum interviews. Your gracious contributions facilitated this critical aspect of my internship, allowing me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those seeking sanctuary.

Furthermore, I had the honor of contributing to several green card applications. This experience provided me with a deeper understanding of the dreams and aspirations of individuals seeking permanent residence in the United States. Your support not only made these aspirations attainable but also underscored the importance of accessible pathways to legal immigration, reinforcing the principles of fairness and justice.

Your commitment to the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship Fund serves as a beacon of inspiration. Your belief in the transformative power of education, advocacy, and social justice motivates me to continue my journey in this noble endeavor.

As I reflect upon the profound impact of this summer experience, I am acutely aware of the debt of gratitude I owe to you, our esteemed supporters. Your generosity has afforded me the opportunity to gain invaluable real-world experience, develop essential skills, and make a meaningful impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals. I pledge to carry forward the principles of justice and compassion that you have instilled in me through your support.

Once more, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for making this transformative experience possible. Your investment in my education and your unwavering dedication to the cause of social justice will continue to resonate, not only in my life but also in other lives I aspire to positively influence in the future.

With profound formality and appreciation,

Phoenix Yuan

Dear Supporters of the Legacy fund,

I am currently a Senior studying African and African American Studies with a double minor in legal studies & journalism. This past summer I interned in the Suffolk County District courts in Roxbury, MA. I served as a legal intern for a number of attorneys that worked in the office. I also worked alongside three other law students that were also legal interns. Going into this internship, I had no idea what to expect. Court starts promptly at 9:00, and from 9:00 to 4:30 interns and attorneys run between six different courtrooms. While attorneys stand on various cases and trials, the interns assist them in anything they may need. This includes grabbing files, calling superior court, calling the jail, writing up superior court reviews and much more. Before this summer, I never knew that working in a court is just like how it is portrayed in some of your favorite law and order crime shows.



Every day was something different and I was able to understand more deeply the many faults and flaws the legal system in the US holds. Prior to this internship, I thought of the legal system as quite black and white. Although I now understand this system was built to keep minorities under and caged in within a system that only wants to see them failed. While in court, I was stuck in an interesting power dynamic. Being a Black and Jewish woman, I realized a lot of the defendants I was seeing come into court, or stand handcuffed in the holding cell, looked a lot like me, and we almost always shared the same skin color. Oftentimes I felt very elitist, and wondered what the defendants thought of a Black woman working for the prosecution. Although, what made this experience easier, was having the ability to work under mostly women of color. The Roxbury district court has an abundance of diverse attorneys, this includes race and gender. I was able to talk through some of the emotions I was feeling, with older mentors that had been in my position once before, and are still in my position as they now work as full time Assistant District Attorneys.

Although this internship was emotionally tolling at times, I am forever grateful that I was given this opportunity, and am even more grateful that the legacy fund was able to take the financial burden off me this summer. Receiving this fellowship gave me the opportunity to fully immerse myself in the court system, without having to overwork myself with a second job. Working an unpaid internship is a privilege, and I am grateful that Brandeis has the tools and resources to have made this possible.



After this summer, it is clear that I will not pursue a career as a prosecutor, and may be leaning closer to criminal juvenile defense. This internship showed me that I can confidently say I belong in the legal world and more specifically in a courtroom. I am grateful for the networking I was able to do this summer, as I now have attorneys and law students I can reach out to in the future. This internship was a once in a lifetime experience and it is hard to put into words the impact it has had on me as a whole.

Again, I would like to thank the legacy fund.

Best,  
Makeda Zabol-Hall

*“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:**

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