

LLM AMBASSADORS 2024-25



Brittney Carrolline Ajaj, JD '25

Britt is originally from Oak Ridge, NJ. She graduated from the College of New Jersey in 2022 where she majored in Philosophy and English and minored in Business. At TCNJ, she served as the President of the Inter-Greek Council. At Duke, Britt was a 2L Representative for the Duke Bar Association, Vice President of Finance for WLSA, Deputy of Active Investigations for the Innocence Project, and Vice President of External Affairs for 1GP. During her 1L summer, Britt was a SDIS Scholar at Akin Gump. During her 2L summer, Britt was a 2L Summer Associate at Simpson Thacher. When Britt is not in the law school, you can find her taking a tap class, hanging out at a local Durham coffee shop, or doing something adventurous. She looks forward to welcoming the new LLM class and cannot wait to be a resource for you all!

Nihat Akbalık, LLM '25

Nihat is from Ankara, Türkiye. He graduated from two separate undergraduate programs, International Relations and Law (equivalent of J.D.), from two prestigious universities in Türkiye, Hacettepe University and Gazi University, respectively. During his time at Hacettepe, he was interested in international politics and law. Then, after graduating from Gazi University, he decided to combine both degrees and study international law. During his attorney internship at Ankara Bar Association, he participated in negotiations with clients, trials, and case preparation. At Duke Law, Nihat has taken International Law and plans to take International Trade Law and Negotiations this coming fall. In the spring semester, Nihat served as an LLM representative in the Duke University Global Law Student Association. In his country, Nihat is a specialist in the Strategy and Budget Office of the Presidency. He has traveled to 23 countries. Nihat enjoys playing table tennis, watching sports programs, and cooking in his free time. He looks forward to welcoming and meeting the incoming Duke Law LLM class!





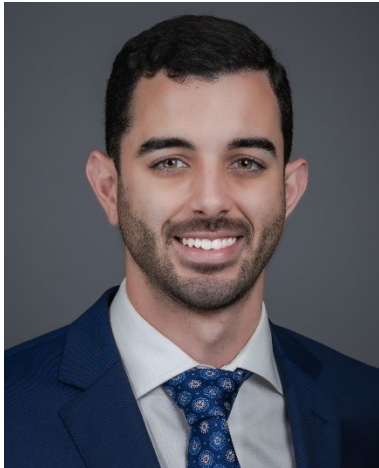
Avery Allen, JD '25

Avery grew up in Corvallis, Oregon and graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 2020. While at Mount Holyoke, Avery studied abroad in Havana, Cuba, tutored for a local ESOL program, and spent a summer teaching women's studies in Japan. After graduating, she spent time working as a bartender, nanny, and health aide, and then was a Fulbright ETA in Colombia, and a Weil Legal Innovator Fellow at RAICES in Houston. At Duke, Avery is the Executive Director of the Duke Immigrant and Refugee Project, as well a board member of the Government and Public Interest Society and the Duke Labor and Workers' Rights Alliance. This summer, she was a Peggy Browning Fellow at CASA in D.C., where she worked on immigrant labor justice matters. In her free time, she likes to run, practice yoga, read, write, and hike. She is so excited to welcome the new LLMs to Duke and Durham!

Seimi Chu, JD/LLM-LE '26

Seimi was born and raised in New York City. She graduated with both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Stanford University. During her time at Stanford, she served as President of Stanford Pre-Law Society and Korean Students Association. At Duke Law, she is the Director of Lawyer on the Line. This summer, she will be a law clerk at the New Civil Liberties Alliance in Washington, D.C. She is very excited to meet the new LLM class!





Julio E. Correa, JD '26

Julio was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He attended undergrad at Boston College, where he majored in Political Science and minored in History. Prior to Duke, he worked as a bartender and in teaching. In law school, he is the Vice President for Academia and Public Interest of the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA) and is a member of the Innocence Project. This summer, he is working at a law firm in Puerto Rico. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis and watching movies. He is very excited to welcome the LLM class of 2025 and is more than happy to be a resource throughout and beyond their time at Duke!

Joe Donohue, JD '25

Joe Donohue was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He attended undergrad at Boston College, where he majored in Communication and minored in Economics. Prior to Duke Law, he worked as a legal intern for a plaintiffs' firm in New York City where the majority of his work focused on cases representing human trafficking survivors against their traffickers. He also volunteered with a nonprofit victim services organization, in their anti-trafficking program where he helped survivors explore lawsuit options, navigate the visa process and obtain counseling. At Duke, he is a member of both the Business Law Society and 1GP (First Generation Professionals) and enjoys playing in the law school softball league. In his free time, he enjoys practicing mixed martial arts, traveling to new places, and trying the local restaurants of Durham. He is incredibly excited to welcome the LLMs to the Duke Law community and is happy to help in any way!





Cristian Garcia, JD '26

Cristian was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. He attended Pepperdine University for his undergraduate education and graduated in 2020. At Duke, Cristian is involved with the Duke Immigrant Stories Lab and the Coalition Against Gendered Violence. He is also active in the Duke Immigrant & Refugee Pro Bono Project. This past summer, Cristian interned with the United States Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. He is extremely excited to welcome the LLM class and looks forward to serving as a resource in any way possible!

Giuliana Gechelin, JD '26

Giuliana was born and raised in Lima, Peru but her parents and sibling are Argentinian. She moved to Florida during high school and later attended the Ohio State University, where she graduated in 2023 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Environmental Policy. During her time at OSU, she interned at the Ohio Legislature and worked in solar photovoltaic energy research to help reduce the university's carbon emissions. At Duke Law, Giuliana is the VP of Communications for both the Duke Law Energy Society and the Environmental Law Society, as well as a Pro Bono Director for the Duke immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. This summer she is working at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington D.C. In her free time, Giuliana enjoys reading mystery novels, going on hikes, trying new restaurants, running, and wildlife photography. She is extremely excited about welcoming the incoming LLM class and assisting them however she can!





Solange Hackshaw, JD '26

Solange is a second-year law student who calls both Trinidad and Tobago and South Florida home. Before Duke, Solange went to Boston University for undergrad, where she studied communications and political science. Her interests include intellectual property and finance. On campus, she is involved in the Black Law Students Association and the Women of Color Collective. Outside of law school, Solange enjoys reading books, especially contemporary Caribbean fiction, and trying new recipes.

Raj Koshal, JD '26

Raj Koshal is a 2L at Duke Law School. He earned a B.A from Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris as part of their Dual BA program. Prior to law school, he was a Legal Analyst for a New York city law firm. At Duke Raj is involved in Moot Court and Mock Trial. In his free time he enjoys all racquet sports, swimming, and traveling. He is looking forward to welcoming and meeting the incoming Duke Law LLM Class!



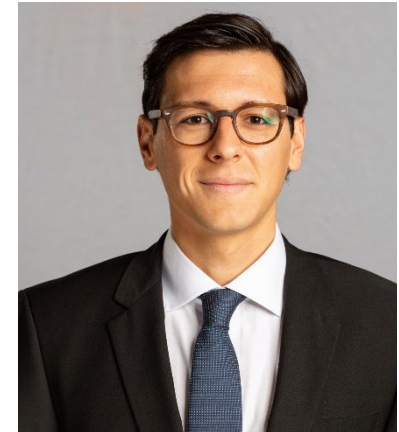


Maria Lacroix, LLM '23, JD '26

I am originally from Mexico City, Mexico, where I graduated with a law degree from *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México* (ITAM) and am licensed to practice law. I worked in the Antitrust practice at González Calvillo in Mexico City before graduating from the LLM program at Duke Law in May 2023 from which I obtained my Business Law Certificate and was awarded the Class of 2023 Pro Bono All-Star Award. I also served as a summer judicial intern for the Honorable Doretta Walker at the North Carolina District Court, 14th Judicial District. Currently, I am enrolled in the JD program at Duke Law, and will graduate in May 2026. After obtaining my JD law degree, I plan to work in a corporate practice with a focus on cross-border transactions. In my free time, I enjoy cooking, hiking, and exploring restaurants around Durham.

Lorenzo Lamo, JD/LLM '26

Lorenzo is a 2L in the JD/LLM program in International and Comparative Law. Originally from Miami, Florida, Lorenzo earned his B.A. in Economics from Sciences Po Paris and B.A. in Political Science & Human Rights from Columbia University. This summer, he worked as an intern in the São Paulo office of Pinheiro Neto Advogados. In his free time, Lorenzo enjoys traveling, playing tennis, and trying to learn Arabic. Welcome to Duke Law!





Kelsey Lu, JD '26

Kelsey grew up in the Bay Area. She graduated from Boston University with a B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science. Prior to coming to Duke Law, she worked for Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Boston Globe, and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. At Duke Law, she is the incoming President of the Health Law Society, Vice President of Internal Relations of APALSA, and Director of External Relations for the Duke Immigrant Stories Lab. This summer, she worked as a Law Clerk for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. In her free time, she enjoys gaming (Stardew Valley, Undertale, Fire Emblem), watching musical theater (Hamilton, Wicked, Cats), practicing yoga, and singing.

Ji Ma, SJD Candidate

Ji grew up in Henan Province, China. Previously, he studied at Peking University, Oxford University, and Yale Law School. His academic interests are in international economic law and international environmental law. His writings have appeared in the Journal of World Investment & Trade, Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, book chapters published by CUP, among others. He has presented at Yale, University of Chicago, Oxford, UCSD, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Peking University. At Duke, Ji was selected as part of Duke Delegation to COP 28 in Dubai, UAE. Now he is working as an Article Editor for the Duke Journal of International and Comparative Law. During his leisure time, Ji enjoys playing Ping-Pong (Ji helped organize the Inaugural 2024 Duke Law Ping-Pong Tournament), watching movies, cooking, and exploring various restaurants in Durham and around. He is looking forward to meeting and talking with the incoming Duke Law LLM class.



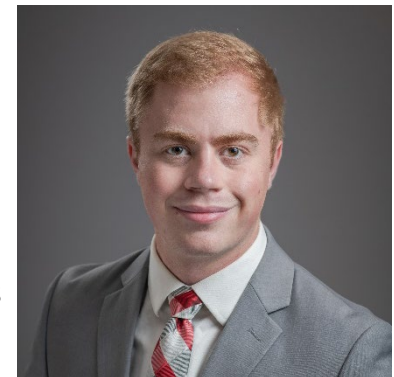


Holly Merrill, JD '26

Hello! My name is Holly, and I am a rising 2L at Duke University School of Law. I have greatly enjoyed my time so far at Duke. I am a member of the Moot Court Board and Transactional Law Board. I will also be a 2L Representative for the ACLU campus chapter this upcoming school year. Last year, I participated in an LGBTQ+ Name Change Clinic and a spring break pro bono trip where I helped expunge low-level criminal offenses. This summer, I am thrilled to be interning with the Labor Section of the North Carolina Department of Justice. My primary interests are appellate litigation, administrative law, and government contracts. Prior to law school, I spent several years working as a paralegal in a family law and estate planning small law firm. While going to school at American University in Washington, DC, I interned in Congress for Senator Dan Sullivan (AK) and for a nonprofit that worked to counter violent extremism in the United States. I am originally from Alaska, where I was born and raised in a very small town of approximately 3,500 people. I've also lived in Florida, Washington State, the District of Columbia, and California. My hobbies are reading, hiking, board games, travelling, and making mixed drinks. I am also a huge foodie and love to go thrifting. I am excited to share my favorite Durham restaurants, cafe's, thrift stores, concert venues, and other attractions with you all!

James Mullen, JD '25

James grew up in Idaho and moved to northeastern Brazil, where he lived for two years after high school. James returned to the United States for college and graduated from Utah State University (go aggies!) with a degree in mechanical engineering. James worked for several years at an aerospace engineering firm before applying to law school. At Duke, James is a member of the *Duke Law Journal*, the Intellectual Property Law Society, the Texas Law Club, and the Mock Trial Board. James just finished his second summer at Fish & Richardson's Dallas office. When he's not studying, James enjoys fly fishing, frisbee golf, card games, watching college sports, futsal, and baking. After graduating, he wants to practice patent litigation and to announce high school football games on the side. He is excited to welcome the Duke LLM Class of 2025!



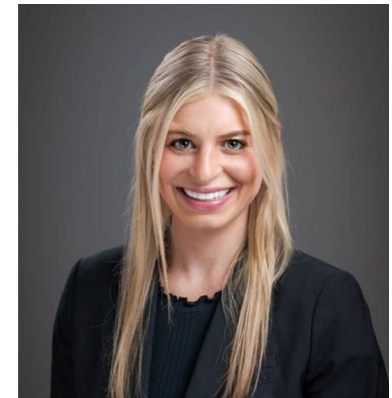


Gabriela Nagle Alverio, JD-PhD '25

Gabriela Nagle Alverio '25 is a J.D.-Ph.D. candidate studying the impacts of climate change on human rights and the legal and policy solutions therein. She received her B.A. in International Relations and M.A. in Environmental Communications from Stanford University. Prior to her time at Duke, she worked as a Consultant for a diversity and inclusion consulting firm, Inclusion Design Group. At Duke, Gabriela is proud to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the Duke Law Journal and the Senior Articles Editor for the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum. Last year, she served as the Executive Director of the Immigrant and Refugee Project and the Vice President for Public Interest and Academia of the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA). This summer she is in D.C. at Covington and Burling. In her free time, you can find Gabriela doing yoga, eating (but not cooking) delicious food, or traveling. She is very excited to welcome the LLM class of 2025 and is more than happy to be a resource throughout and beyond their time at Duke!

Claire Tanenbaum, JD '25

Claire Tanenbaum '25, is a proud native of Memphis, TN. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 2020 with a degree in Mental Health. Following graduation, she moved to Denver, Colorado, where she worked as a Paralegal for two years. At Duke Law, Claire is a member of the Jewish Law Student's Association, Outlaw, and Tricky Dick. Over the summer, Claire worked as a Summer Associate at Jones Day in Chicago. Beyond her legal pursuits, Claire is a certified yoga instructor and a dedicated albeit slow runner. She is looking forward to getting to know the LLM Class of 2025!



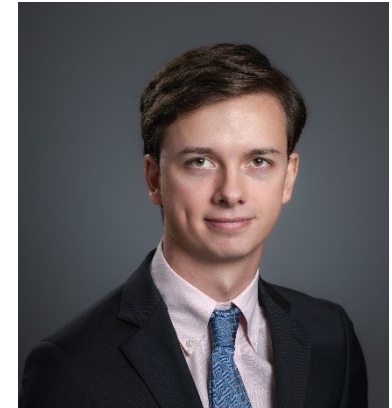


Zeke Tobin, JD '25

Zeke Tobin is from Virginia Beach, VA. He attended Washington & Lee University where he studied Business and German language, but the German skills are a little bit rusty nowadays. After college, he worked in Charlotte, NC for a software company and then came to law school. He is currently working as a Summer Associate for Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C. Zeke is involved with the Guardian Ad Litem pro bono project. In his free time, he enjoys, running, lifting, hiking, and playing with his mini-dachshund.

Andres Williamson Leite, JD '26

Andres was born in Bogota, Colombia, and moved to the United States at the age of thirteen. He grew up in Boca Raton, Florida, and eventually moved to Southern California – graduating from USC in May of 2021. After graduating, Andres lived in NYC for a year and worked for Citibank. Afterwards, Andres took law and film classes abroad in Madrid for a semester – a place he frequently visits with his family. In addition to being a law student, Andres is also a foodie, film enthusiast, table tennis fan, and amateur boulderer. At Duke Law, Andres has been involved in the Innocence Project, the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and Latin American Law Student Association – where he will be Co-President this year. He spent the last summer working as a diversity fellow summer associate for Gibson Dunn & Crutcher out of the Los Angeles office, where he had a chance to work in both Litigation and Corporate assignments. Andres is elated about the upcoming year and looking forward to meeting and welcoming the new LLM class and showing them around Durham!





Tuba Yeşil, LL.M '25

Tuba Yeşil, an Antitrust Specialist and a public lawyer from Ankara, Turkey, has dedicated her career to promoting fair competition and justice. With a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Ankara University School of Law and a Master of Law (LLM) in Private Law, she delved deep into complex legal frameworks, particularly in areas like antitrust law and consumer protection. During her tenure at the Turkish Competition Authority, she honed her expertise as a Competition Specialist, diligently litigating antitrust investigations and contributing to legislative efforts aimed at aligning Turkish regulations with EU standards. Tuba's publications and editorial leadership underscore her commitment to advancing legal discourse. In addition to her professional achievements, Tuba is a devoted mother of two who finds joy in family life. In her leisure time, Tuba enjoys practicing vinyasa yoga, exploring new destinations through travel, delving into literature on psychology, and recently picked up tennis and professional photography as hobbies. Tuba currently holds a position on the Dean's Advisory Council, serves as a summer intern at the North Carolina Department of Justice, and has represented LL.M. students as a delegate within the Global Law Students Association, where she has actively advocated for the integration and support of international students. With her blend of legal acumen, personal pursuits, and family commitments, Tuba stands as a dynamic professional dedicated to making a positive impact in the legal realm and beyond.