

Meet the 2018-2019 LEAD Fellows

Ryan Arredondo, 2020



Ryan was born in Oceanside, CA but grew up in Phoenix, AZ. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 2013 (Beardown!), where he majored in business economics. Before law school, Ryan worked for four years in the exciting and not at all boring field of actuarial healthcare consulting at Mercer Consulting in Phoenix. During his stint in Phoenix, he bought and remodeled a house built in 1950 and backpacked the Grand Canyon. At Duke, Ryan has been involved in numerous organizations, including Duke Bar Association, Hispanic Law Student Association, First Generation Professionals, Federalist Society, and Business Law Society. This summer Ryan worked as a research assistant for Professor Schwarcz. In his free time, Ryan enjoys trying new BBQ restaurants, running, hiking, being left-handed, making Simpsons and the Office references, and playing pick-up sports. Welcome Duke Law Class of 2021!

Meghna Batra, 2020



Meghna grew up right outside Boston, and graduated from The George Washington University with a BA in Anthropology. After graduation, she spent a year teaching and tutoring LSAT prep in DC, Maryland, and Virginia (she totally doesn't still play logic games for fun). During her 1L year, Meghna read to local first-graders with Lawyers for Literacy, coached a middle school Mock Trial program through Street Law, and spoke with Legal Aid clients through Lawyer on the Line. She spent her 1L summer interning at Legal Aid of Greensboro, NC, doing mostly domestic violence and benefits work. Meghna spends about 90% of her free time with her dog, Olive, and the other 10% talking about Olive. Meghna's non-canine interests include knitting and true crime podcasts (she was super cool in high school, as you can imagine). Meghna (and Olive) can't wait to welcome the class of 2021!

Amber Black, 2020



Amber was born in the Bronx, New York and grew up in Lawrenceville, GA and Olmsted Township, OH. She graduated from Duke in 2016 with a degree in English and minors in Spanish and Political Science. During her undergraduate career, Amber participated in several organizations and initiatives focused on supporting refugee and immigrant communities in Durham. She also played club and intramural basketball. After graduation, Amber spent a year as a Duke Chapel Pathways Fellow, living in intentional community in Durham's historic West End neighborhood and working at World Relief Durham, a local refugee resettlement agency. At Duke Law, Amber is a member of the Black Law Students Association. She spent her 1L summer interning at the Duke Health Justice Clinic, where she provided legal support for low-income clients with illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and cancer. Amber is grateful for yet another year at Duke and she is so excited to welcome the class of 2021!

Taylor Brennan, 2020



Taylor is from the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and spent a large part of her middle and high school years in Mobile, Alabama. She attended the University of Virginia in beautiful Charlottesville and graduated in 2014. After undergrad, Taylor moved with her husband Luke to Washington DC where she worked as a wedding and events planner. Taylor is now a dual-degree student at Duke's Law and Divinity schools, concurrently earning a Masters in Theological Studies alongside her JD. She is a certified indoor cycling instructor and teaches regular classes at Duke's Wilson Gym. Around Durham, Taylor loves to run the Al Buehler trail and East

Campus loop, volunteer with Reality Ministries, and have weekly breakfast-for-dinner at Elmo's Diner on Ninth Street. Looking forward to meeting y'all!

Eric Buchanan, 2020



Eric was born and raised in New York, about an hour outside of the City. He graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a degree in political science and Spanish. Eric took one year off before attending Duke to decide if law school was the right choice, while working full time as a sales associate at J. Crew. This summer he worked in Raleigh as a Compliance Intern at Merz North America. At Duke, Eric is the co-president of the National Security Law Society and a member of the Innocence Project's Public Policy Team. In his free time, Eric enjoys going to the beach, skiing, hiking, and exploring Durham with friends. Eric is excited to return for his 2L year and to welcome the Class of 2021!

Emma Cervantes, 2020



Emma was born in San Francisco, CA, but has also lived in Chicago, IL, Rochester, NY, and Austin, TX. She graduated from the University of Chicago in 2014, where she majored in Sociology. Between undergrad and law school Emma worked at MongoDB, a tech company in Austin, TX, as the Workplace Manager. "Workplace Manager" ended up being a fancy name for "the person who fixes whatever is broken." During her time in Austin Emma learned to trouble shoot computers, coffee machines, and interpersonal conflicts. Some of her highlights from her 1L year included her participation in the DACA Pro-Bono Renewal Project, finding the best biscuits in Durham (they're at Grub Durham), and going to the North Carolina State Fair. For her 1L summer Emma worked as the Economic Crimes and Major Felonies Intern at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office in Rochester, NY. This coming year at Duke Law Emma will be the Secretary of the Hispanic Law Student Association and the Treasurer of the Coalition Against Gender Violence.

Colm Cross, 2020



Colm was born in Morristown, New Jersey and spent his childhood living in the northern part of the greatest state in the nation. He attended Georgetown University, where he majored in International Politics and was captain of the Club Soccer Team. After graduating, Colm spent 4 years working at Deloitte Consulting in Washington, D.C. where he worked with various Federal Agencies. At Duke, Colm served as a 1L representative for the Duke Bar Association (DBA) and will be DBA's Internal Vice President this year. Colm is also Co-President of the Business Law Society as well as a member of the Mock Trial and Moot Court Boards. He spent his summer working for the Honorable Patty Shwartz on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In his free time, Colm enjoys playing intramural soccer, watching Billions, and taking Fantasy Football very seriously. He's looking forward to meeting his LEAD group and welcoming everyone to Duke!

Roxanne Degens, 2020



Roxanne Degens is a Portland, Oregon native and received her undergraduate degree in Hydrology and Latin American Development at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. After college, she worked as an environmental scientist in Seattle for 5 years and hopes to return to Seattle to practice environmental law after graduating from Duke. This summer, Roxanne worked as a summer law clerk at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon and loved every minute. In her spare time, she moonlights as a distiller at her family's distillery in

Portland, does lots of yoga, laughs at bad jokes, and relishes beating opponents in Scrabble. She also is an avid sleeper.

Caitlin Haefner, 2020



Caitlin grew up in Lakeville, Massachusetts, a small town near the Cape. She graduated from UCLA (go Bruins! #8clap) in 2017, where she majored in history and communication studies. At Duke, Caitlin is involved with the Cancer Pro Bono Project and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. She's also a passionate participant in whatever IM sport is in season. This summer, Caitlin worked at the Solicitor's Office at the Department of Labour, working in employment law. When she's not laughing on the main floor of the library, you can find Caitlin spending time with her friends, cheering on her Bruins, or standing in line to buy coffee. Caitlin can't wait to welcome y'all to Duke Law!

Neil Joseph, 2020



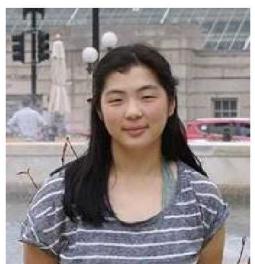
Neil was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio and went to the University of Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, Neil was involved with Student Government, Orientation Weekend, and interhall sports. He also studied abroad in London and interned in Parliament (some people say that he caused Brexit). After graduating with a BA in Political Science and Economics, Neil decided to venture outside of the Midwest. At Duke, Neil is involved with Moot Court Board, the Innocence Project, South Asian Law Students Association, and the Career Center Advisory Board. He also served as captain/player/coach of the Section Five Softball Team which won the 1L championship. This past summer, he interned with Judge Stephen Glickman on the D.C. Court of Appeals. In his spare time, you'll find Neil vehemently defending The Pit as the best restaurant in Durham, playing basketball, or watching college football. Neil is excited to welcome all of you to Duke!

Francie Kelley, 2020



Francie grew up in Arlington, VA. She attended The College of William & Mary where she majored in Finance and Classical Civilizations and minored in Psychology. After graduation, Francie worked in banking in New York before moving to Atlanta to do corporate finance. Over the summer, Francie worked for the Enforcement Division of the Securities Exchange Commission in New York. At Duke, Francie is a member of the Innocence Project's Active Investigations Team and a member of the Women's Law Society Executive Board. Francie is a yoga instructor and fitness fanatic. When Francie is not studying, she is training her friends at the gym. Welcome to Duke!!

Diana Kim, 2020



Diana grew up in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, which is in the mythical region of central Jersey. She then journeyed north to the land of ice and snow to graduate from Boston College in 2016 with a double major in English and Philosophy. She took a year off for an ill-deserved break before coming to Duke Law where she is a JD/LLM in International and Comparative Law. She, unexpectedly, really loves law school and indiscriminately recommends it to everyone she meets. At Duke, Diana is involved with Cancer Pro Bono, Lawyers on the Line, and is the incoming co-director of the Veterans Assistance Program. This summer she worked at TMI Associates in Tokyo, Japan and attended the Duke-Leiden Institute in Global and Transnational Law at the Hague in the Netherlands. In the time she should really be doing her readings for class, Diana

enjoys watching an inordinate amount of tv, boxing, or playing the violin. She looks forward to welcoming the Class of 2021 to Duke!

Kira Latham, 2020



Kira is from the great city of Dallas, Texas (Dez caught it). She attended UCLA for undergrad where she majored in political science and psychology and minored in French. During college, Kira was a part of the club volleyball team, studied abroad in Sweden for a semester, and was a member of the Pediatric AIDS Coalition, helping to organize Dance Marathon. After graduating last spring, Kira came straight through to law school. At Duke, she has been involved in the Cancer Pro Bono Project and is on the board of the Human Rights Law Society. This past summer, Kira worked at a law firm in Geneva, Switzerland before participating in the Duke-Leiden Institute of Transnational Law in the Netherlands. In her spare time, Kira enjoys camping, going to Orangetheory, road tripping, and spending time outdoors. On Tuesdays you can find her at trivia in Chapel Hill (defending champs nbd). She didn't miss a Duke basketball game this past year and you can find her losing her voice at every home game or yelling at the TV at Tobacco Road during away games. Kira is so excited to welcome you to Duke. Go Blue Devils!

Luke Morgan, 2019



Luke was born in Louisville, but grew up all over the Midwest (as well as the Caribbean—his family lived on sailboat in the Virgin Islands for a while). But home for him is "the Region"—the small slice of Indiana that's essentially part of Chicago. So he's a Hoosier at heart. After attending Indiana University, where he majored in political science and wrote for a student-run version of the Onion, he spent two years in D.C., where he worked in politics as an opposition researcher. At Duke, Luke is the Senior Notes Editor for the Duke Law Journal (his own note is being published in October), a member of the Moot Court and Mock Trial Boards, the 3L Representative to the Student-Faculty Teaching Committee, and an LARW Teaching Assistant. After his 1L year, he worked as a research assistant for Professors Blocher and Miller, and during his 2L summer, he was a Summer Associate at Williams & Connolly in D.C. He also has externed with the North Carolina Solicitor General's office, and will be clerking after law school. But he's really just here to play basketball, spend too much time on Twitter, eat barbecue, and hang out with his roommate—a German Shepherd / Lab mix named Toby (after the West Wing character). He's looking forward to welcoming the class of 2021 to Duke!

Molly Petrey, 2019



Molly grew up in Decatur, Georgia, outside of Atlanta, and went to college up north. After graduating from Wellesley College with a degree in English and Spanish, Molly stayed in Boston for a year before coming back down south to Duke. In Boston, she worked days in commercial publishing and then as an office manager for a small post-conviction defense firm, and worked nights as a waitress at an Irish pub. At Duke, Molly has worked in the Wrongful Convictions Clinic, and she's a part of the Mock Trial Board and the Moot Court Board. Molly also is involved with OutLaw and fosters cats with her roommates. She spent her 1L summer at home in Atlanta with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of GA, working in the major crimes section, and her 2L summer with a big firm in New York. Molly loves picnics (LEAD group picnic, anyone?), playing intramural soccer, dancing, and listening to music. She's so excited to welcome you to Duke!

Jonathan Schwartz, 2020



Originally from sunny South Florida, Jonathan attended Northwestern University where he studied Economics and Political Science. However, he inexplicably decided to lean into his Film & Media Studies minor instead and moved to New York to work in a talent agency mailroom for very little money. After becoming an agent trainee, he took his own talents to a film and television production studio, where he decided to make the leap to law school. He worked as a paralegal in Los Angeles before returning to the East Coast to attend Duke. Older and (barely) wiser, Jonathan spent his 1L summer working for a federal magistrate judge in the Southern District of New York and cooking Blue Apron dinners. At Duke, Jonathan is a co-president of the Sports & Entertainment Law Society, a co-director of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and a member of the Transactional Law Competition board. When he's not drowning in work, Jonathan loves trying out local barbecue restaurants, playing with strangers' dogs, watching college football and catching up on old movies. Welcome to Duke, Class of 2021!

Kayla Scott, 2020



Kayla grew up in Huntington Beach, California (west coast, best coast). She attended the George Washington University where she majored in International Affairs, with a concentration in Middle Eastern Studies, and minored in Economics. After graduating, Kayla worked as a legal assistant in the International Trade Practice of Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C. At Duke, Kayla is enrolled in the J.D./LL.M. program in International and Comparative Law and in her first year she served as a 1L Representative for the Women Law Students Association (WLSA). Kayla also enjoyed participating in section softball and field day. This summer, Kayla split her time working for a law firm in Santiago, Chile and studying at the Duke-Leiden Institute in Global and Transnational Law. This upcoming year, Kayla will serve as the Vice President of Special Events for WLSA. Kayla is excited to meet the incoming class and hopes they all enjoy their time at Duke Law as much as she has.

Ellie Shingleton, 2020



Ellie was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, with a short stint in Paris, France for middle school. She went to George Washington University where she majored in History and Political Science. After graduating, Ellie stayed in Washington, DC to work on Capitol Hill and later as a lobbyist for a nonprofit called Americans for the Arts. This past summer, she interned for the Federal Public Defender in Richmond. At Duke, Ellie is involved in the Government and Public Service Society and PILF. In her spare time, she likes spending time with her dog who she so wisely adopted right before 1L fall finals, trying new restaurants around Durham, hiking around Eno River State Park, and binge watching Netflix. She's excited to meet y'all and welcome you to Duke!

Dylan Stonecipher, 2020



Born in Portland, Oregon, but raised in Austin, Texas, Dylan attended St. Edward's University as an undergrad, double majoring in History and Global Studies. In his first year at Duke, Dylan volunteered with PILF and Lawyer on the Line, took a swing at Mock Trial and foolishly acquired a dog. He was also a member of championship teams for the Duke Law 1L Softball League, the Duke Law Bowling League, and the inaugural 1L Field Day. Dylan spent his summer interning at Justice For Our Neighbors, a non-profit in Austin focusing on immigration law. If he's not studying, you can catch Dylan playing pickup at Wilson Gym, cooking

below average versions of things he found on the internet, running with his dog, Ainsley, or serving in his role as a coach for the Duke Men's Rowing Team! Dylan is so excited to welcome the next group of Duke Law students to the family!

Stephanie Turner, 2020



Stephanie is a military brat who spent her childhood moving back and forth between Texas and Georgia. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a major in Political Science and minors in Women's Studies & African American Studies, Stephanie spent a year working for a non-profit after school program. After leaving the classroom, Stephanie went on to Duke Law with a renewed interest in education law & policy. At Duke, Stephanie is the Programming Director for BLSA and is involved with Duke Law's Innocence Project. Stephanie spent the summer after her 1L year working at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh and Greensboro learning more about education and employment law. In her free time, Stephanie enjoys HGTV, weekend road trips, and watching Georgia Football. She is looking forward to showing off all the southern hospitality that Durham has to offer and welcoming the Class of 2021 to Duke Law!

Michael Wajda, 2020



Michael Wajda was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating from Walsh Jesuit High School, he attended the University of Notre Dame where he majored in Economics and completed two minors: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and Constitutional Studies. At Notre Dame, Michael was actively involved in hall government and served as a two-year captain of the Parliamentary Debate Team. He also spent the Fall 2012 Semester living in Washington, DC and working on Capitol Hill. After graduation, Michael moved down to New Orleans, Louisiana, to work for Causeway Solutions, a political data company. At Causeway, Michael designed, fielded, and analyzed public opinion polls, created models to predict voter behavior, and advised local and statewide campaigns on political strategy regarding voter contact. After that, he worked in Portland, Oregon for Swagelok Northwest as a Customer Service Support Specialist. At Duke Law, Michael is the Co-President of the Duke Law Federalist Society, a Student Coordinator for the Cancer Pro Bono Project, and a Twiggs-Beskind Tournament Coordinator for the Mock Trial Board. He also serves as a Student Representative on the Judicial Appeals Board. This summer, Michael worked as a Judicial Intern for Judge Eric G. Bruggink on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC.

Emani Walks, 2019



Emani grew up in Potomac, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC. Emani graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park (go Terps!) with a Government and Politics degree. She decided she should leave (the amazing state of) Maryland for a few years and came straight to Duke after graduating from Maryland in 2016. Following her 1L year, Emani returned home and worked at the US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia in the Misdemeanors Unit. Following 2L, Emani worked as a summer associate at Latham & Watkins in Washington, DC where she will return after graduation. At Duke, Emani is involved in the Moot Court Board, the Mock Trial Board, and the Black Law Students Association. She currently serves as the Managing Editor of the Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy, and the Treasurer for the Duke Bar Association (Duke Law's student government). In her free time, you can find Emani looking for the best biscuit in Durham, watching any and all D.C. sports teams, or baking cupcakes. Emani is so excited to welcome you all to Duke!

Charlie White, 2020



Charlie was born and raised in Southwest Florida, but left the unbearable heat and humidity to go to school at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. In Asheville, he found his interest in the law while organizing voter engagement campaigns. After graduating in 2017 with majors in Political Science and French, he came back down the mountain to Duke. At Duke, he serves as the Treasurer of the Government and Public Service Society, which seeks to foster a community of students interested in public service careers. This summer, he went back to the mountains to work at Legal Aid of North Carolina's Boone office, primarily assisting with domestic violence cases and drafting wills for elderly clients. Outside of law school, he enjoys grabbing Thai Café with his best friend Lucy and learning good southern cooking from his grandmother, who grew up in Durham.

Katie Wong, 2019



Katie is excited to be a Lead Fellow again as a 3L. She was born in New York City and grew up in Port Jefferson, Long Island. She graduated from Duke University in 2012 with a double major in English and Public Policy after having been a Duke basketball fan since childhood. Believing that she would be a teacher for the rest of her life, she attended Columbia Teachers College to obtain a Master's in English Education and taught for three years in New York City and Charlottesville, Virginia. She fell in love with the law by accident and then decided to give this whole law school thing a try. She loves law school, especially at Duke, surrounded by amazing colleagues and professors. She is the Notes Editor on the Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy and is also involved on the Mock Trial Board and Asian Law Students Association. She is also a member of the Civil Justice Clinic. In her free time, she enjoys running, swimming, hiking, watching ungodly amounts of TV, and cheering for the Duke basketball team. During her 1L summer, she worked at Brooks Pierce and Wyrick Robbins, two Raleigh law firms. During her 2L summer, she worked at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York and Brooks Pierce. She is excited to welcome you all to Durham and Duke Law and help you fall in love with this great city.