

Meet the 2019 – 2020 LEAD Fellows

Tristan Baker, 2021



Tristan was born and raised in Tustin, California. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2014 with a BA in Sustainable Geography. While at Texas, Tristan founded Texas Outdoors in order to fulfill his personal love of hiking and nature. Deciding he just couldn't get enough school, Tristan came straight through to law school. At Duke, he is involved with the Law & Economics Society and is on the Hollerin' Committee of the Duke Law Texas Club. Over the summer Tristan worked in the Financial Litigation Division at the Texas Attorney General's Office in addition to working on IP litigation for a small tech company. In his free time, Tristan enjoys curating his Yelp, checking out new breweries and lamenting about the realities of being a UT football fan. He's also a member of the reigning champs of the Duke Law Soccer Tournament. He's looking forward to welcoming the class of 2022 to Duke!

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 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 spent her 1L summer with the Disability Rights Section at the Dept. of Justice and her 2L summer with Smith Anderson in Raleigh. 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 with her 7-month-old son Cornelius at Elmo's Diner on Ninth Street. Looking forward to meeting y'all!

Addison Caruso, 2021



Addison was born in the birthplace of aviation, Dayton, Ohio. After graduating from high school Addison stayed in Ohio and went to Miami University in Oxford. While at school he was a member of Hillel: Association for Jewish Students, Student Court, and Miami Beekeeping Club. After graduating he went straight to law school. During his first year Addison was a member of Jewish Legal Students Association, Duke Mock Trial, and did some environmental research. This summer Addison clerked for Judge Walter Rice of the Southern District of Ohio. In his free time Addison enjoys watching Always Sunny, and going to Duke games.

Andy Esmond, 2021



Andy grew up in Vienna, Virginia. She attended Virginia Tech for undergrad, where she studied English and minored in Leadership and Social Change. While at Virginia Tech, she worked as a Writing Coach at the Writing Center, was the program leader for the YToss sustainability initiative, and held various leadership positions in her sorority. She interned with Sterne Kessler, an IP law firm in DC, for three summers during college. During her 1L summer, she served as a Law Clerk at Gilbert LLP, an insurance litigation boutique in DC (fun fact--coincidentally, both firms happened to be in the same building!). She served as a 1L representative for the American Bar Association and a 2L representative for the Graduate and Professional Student Council. Andy loves to travel, and even planned a spontaneous trip to Mexico before exams last semester (a mistake she will not be repeating), and experienced a hot air balloon crash this summer in Arizona. She loves music, karaoke with friends, the Durham foodie scene, and her kitty, Lucy. She is ecstatic to welcome the 1L class to Duke Law!

Kathy Fernandez, 2021



Kathy Fernandez is a rising 2L from Wilmington, California. She graduated from UCLA in 2016 with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Chicano/a Studies. She is currently pursuing a JD/LLM in International and Comparative Law. Next year, she will serve as co-President of First Generation Professionals (Please reach out if you would like to hear more!) and will serve as the Latin American Law Student Association's Secretary. During her 1L Summer, she worked as a Legal Intern at Barros y Errázuriz in Santiago, Chile. She aspires to work in Los Angeles after graduation and is looking forward to welcoming you to Durham. In her free time she likes photography, the beach, bowling, and traveling!

Henry Gargan, 2021



Henry Gargan grew up in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he still lives. Many suspect he may never leave. After graduating from UNC in 2015, he moved to Denver to work for a magazine, and then back to the Triangle to work as a city hall reporter for the Raleigh News & Observer. As a 1L, Henry was active with the Environmental Law Society, Cancer Pro Bono, Graduate and Professional Student Council, and Duke Law Run Club, of which he is now co-president. He is also vice president of the North Carolina Club. Henry spent the summer in Washington, D.C., where he worked as a legal intern with the Natural Resources Defense Council on clean air and climate advocacy. If he's not at the second table on the left side of the library's main floor, you'll find him either climbing, running, or antagonizing his classmates during basketball season (go Heels!). He's looking forward to 2L and another season of exclusively moral softball victories. Welcome to Duke!

Jen Goldshtein, 2021



Jen was born and raised in a small town in Israel before moving to Rockville, Maryland where her family still resides. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 2016 with a BA in Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law. After graduation, she spent two years working as a Paralegal at a small telecommunications company in Reston, Virginia. After serving as a 1L representative last year, Jen will be a Co-President of the Business Law Society this year. She is also the Co-President of the Transactional Law Society, the 2L representative of the Library & Technology Student-Faculty committee, and serves on the Mock Trial Board, the Law Students for Accessibility Board, and the Jewish Law Student Association Board. During her 1L summer, Jen worked as a summer legal intern at DocuSign, a technology company in San Francisco, California. In her free time, Jen likes to complete jigsaw puzzles and watch UVA basketball games (Go Hoos!). Jen is super excited to meet her LEAD group and the rest of the Duke Law Class of 2022!

Andrew Hayes, 2021



Andrew grew up on the southeast coast of Connecticut, then studied Economics and Business at Brandeis University. After graduating, Andrew spent five years in Wisconsin managing healthcare data and technology projects. The year before law school, he travelled through South America, Asia and Europe as a Workaway Volunteer. During 1L, Andrew volunteered with the Expunction Clinic and PILF, while attending as many lunch lectures as possible. Andrew is a Student Director of Lawyer on the Line, Co-President of the Duke Law Revue, and a member of the Moot Court Board. He spent his summer at Disability Rights North Carolina working on prison reform litigation and disaster response advocacy. In his free time, Andrew enjoys tabletop games, gardening, and biking through frostbite-free Durham winters. Welcome Duke Law Class of 2022!

Arielle Hooks, 2021



Arielle was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. She attended The Ohio State University for undergrad, graduating in 2018 with Bachelor's Degrees in Political Science and African American Studies. During her 1L summer, Arielle interned at a law firm in Columbus, Ohio, working on various kinds of corporate projects. This fall, Arielle will be a 2L at Duke where she enjoys participating in organizations such as Lawyers for Literacy and the Black Law Students Association. Additionally, she will be the Social Justice Chair for the Women of Color Collective, a new campus organization. In her free time, Arielle enjoys reading, visiting art museums, trying new food, playing board games, and watching documentaries. She looks forward to welcoming you all to Duke!

Hayley Lawrence, 2021



Hayley is from Centreville, Virginia outside Washington, DC. She attended the University of Virginia for undergrad, majoring in Spanish and Public Policy, and remains a loyal and passionate UVA basketball fan. After undergrad, she lived in DC and worked at Booz Allen Hamilton in data science and machine intelligence. She and her team of developers created an algorithm that detects counterfeit artwork, using technology that resembles facial recognition software. During 1L year, Hayley joined the Innocence Project Active Investigations Team and is a member of the Human Rights Law Society Board. Over the summer, she was a judicial intern for the Honorable Timothy Kelly at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She then spent four weeks in the Netherlands as part of the JD/LLM in International and Comparative Law cohort. Hayley closed out her summer by relaxing with a good book (or 5!) on the beaches of Greece and exploring the incredible culture and food of Istanbul. In her free time, Hayley enjoys yoga, running, spinning classes, watching infinite re-runs of The West Wing, and cooking for her friends. Welcome, Class of 2022!

Christopher Meadows, 2021



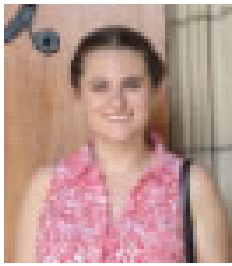
Christopher was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated from Rhodes College in 2018, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science, minored in Spanish, and captained a nationally ranked mock trial team. Before starting law school, Christopher worked at a small nonprofit in Memphis, where he managed a community bail fund and assisted clients with expunging criminal records. This year, Christopher will be the internal vice president of the Black Law Students Association, and the external vice president of the Government and Public Service Society. He also enjoys public speaking and debate, and will compete in moot court and mock trial competitions this year. Christopher spent his summer as a law clerk with the Public Defender Services of the District of Columbia, and is pursuing a career in criminal defense work or impact litigation. Playing soccer and basketball are two of Christopher's favorite hobbies, and he is an avid fan of Premier League Soccer.

Keenan Molaskey, 2021



Keenan was born and raised outside of Tampa, Florida. He graduated from Florida State University with degrees in Accounting and Finance. After undergrad, Keenan worked as an accountant in Washington D.C. for two years and spent a season as an accountant with the Durham Bulls. During 1L, Keenan became involved in the Innocence Project, Cancer Pro Bono, and PILF. Additionally, he "captained" the 1L, Section 6, softball team (1L team champs!). This summer, Keenan returned to Florida to intern with the Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender. When not studying, Keenan loves doing anything involving a body of water, watching TV, and checking out all of the new fun spots opening around Durham. Keenan is excited to meet the Class of 2022 and welcomes you all to Duke Law!

Nicki Phillips, 2021



Nicki was born and raised in Gainesville, GA. She graduated from the University of Georgia in 2017 where she majored in Political Science and Philosophy and minored in Communication Studies (GO DAWGS)! After graduating from Georgia, Nicki took a semester off and worked as a legal assistant for a solo practitioner in family law. At Duke, she is on the Innocence Project's Active Investigations Team and is the Vice President of the Transactional Law Society. This summer, Nicki went back to Georgia and worked at the Southeast Regional Office of the Federal Trade Commission. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her three dogs (yes, you can come play with them to destress), beating everyone at Fantasy Football, and watching too much Netflix. Nicki can't wait to welcome the Class of 2022 to Duke!

Kaitlin Ray, 2021



Kaitlin grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas (but Geaux Tigers – both of her parents went to LSU). She headed west to play tennis for UCLA, where she majored in Communications. After college, she played eight months of professional tennis. The day after suffering a career-ending injury, she bought an LSAT prep book, intent on following her dad's path and becoming a lawyer. But first, she decided to take a few years off and work as an on-air sports reporter for the Lakers' G-League team in Los Angeles. During 1L, she particularly loved her "small section" class, 1L softball, and Section 6 (you will love "your people" too!). She spent her summer working as a legal intern for Major League Baseball's Corporate Group in New York City and will serve as a Co-President of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society this upcoming year. She is looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2022 to Duke Law and being a resource throughout the year!

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 and moved to New York to work in a talent agency mailroom for very little money. After working in a film and television production studio, 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 his 2L summer with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. At Duke, Jonathan is a part of the Duke Law Journal, the Sports & Entertainment Law Society, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and 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 2022!

Matt Schwartz, 2021



Matt grew up in Stamford, Connecticut with his parents, brother, sister (who is a rising Junior at Duke!) and two cats who all his friends ask him to stop putting on his Snapchat story so much. He went to Vassar College where he spent four years dodging hard science classes despite a Science, Technology and Society major, discovering that he lacked the footspeed for college lacrosse, developing a love for fitness and weightlifting, and realizing that winter in the Northeast just isn't worth it. After college, he moved back home for two years, most of which he spent working as a Trusts and Estates paralegal. Last fall, he began at Duke Law School and took up writing exclusively in the third person. During his 1L year, he participated in Moot Court

and Mock Trial. Although he spent the vast majority of the year building his undeniable legacy on the Duke Law School ping-pong table (incoming 1L's, any challengers?), he occasionally found time for academics, socializing, and surprisingly unathletic strikeouts in 1L softball. He is currently working as a summer associate at Carmody, Torrance, Sandak and Hennessey LLP in Stamford. People say that law school is busy and stressful, and it is – but it's also a lot of fun most of the time, and you will make great friends and have lots of very good experiences here. Duke Law School is a great place to be, both because of the Durham area and the people and culture here at Duke Law. If you have any questions prior to starting at Duke Law, please feel free to reach out to me! Welcome to Duke.

Stephen Shuchart, 2021



Stephen was born and raised in Houston, Texas and graduated as a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2018! At A&M, he studied communication, worked for Texas State Senator Robert Nichols, and served as the student representative on the University System Board of Regents. At Duke, Stephen has participated in the National Security Law Society, Federalist Society, the Duke Bar Association, the Cancer Project Pro Bono and, most loudly, the Texas Law Club. The highlight of his 1L year was his multiple appearances on TV during Duke Basketball games. He is working in Houston at Norton Rose Fulbright this summer. When he isn't defending Texas's honor or catching up on Professor Sachs' reading, he is trying to find a way into basketball games, he is playing pick-up basketball, waking his roommate to Everton goals, or going to Nanataco for \$1 tacos. Stephen is excited to welcome y'all to Duke!

Lauren Smith, 2021



Lauren was born in Maryland, but grew up just outside Indianapolis and graduated from Indiana University with a B.S.P.A. in Law and Public Policy in 2018. Go Hoosiers! During undergrad, she played with the IU Trombone Choir, completed half of an M.P.A., and spent a semester in D.C. as part of President Obama's final class of White House Interns. At Duke, she is the Vice President of the Public Interest Law Foundation, a member of the Transactional Law Society Board, a volunteer with VITA and the Innocence Project, and a member of First Generation Professionals and Off the Record A Cappella. This summer, Lauren worked in D.C. for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Federal Tort Claims Act Section. In her free time, she loves to do trivia, watch movies, and bake, with the goal of one day making the perfect croquembouche. She also recently picked up running and completed her first half marathon in June. Lauren is so excited to welcome the class of 2022 to Duke!

Amanda Soled, 2021



Amanda was born in Randolph, New Jersey. She graduated from Haverford College with a BA in Political Science. During her undergraduate tenure, Amanda was a co-captain of her fencing team and a writing tutor at the school's Writing Center. At Duke, Amanda is on the executive board of the Human Rights Law Society and the Jewish Law Society. She also works on the Communications Team of the Innocence Project, and she volunteers her time with the Cancer Pro Bono Project. When she's not studying at a coffee shop, Amanda is attempting culinary perfection at home (namely in the form of avocado toast), trying to spend as much time outside as possible, and tuning her ping pong skills in the Blue Lounge. Amanda is fluent in obscure Office and South Park references, and she loves rainbows more than just about anything else. Amanda can't wait to welcome the Duke Law School Class of 2022!

Becki Thompson, 2021



Becki was born and raised in the small town of Fallon, Nevada, outside of Reno. Moving to the east coast, she attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where she majored in regional comparative studies and minored in Mandarin Chinese. After graduating in 2018, she went straight to Duke Law as part of the JD/LLM in International and Comparative Law program. At Duke, she has been involved in the Duke Immigration and Refugee Project and is one of the incoming coordinators for the Cancer Pro Bono Project. This past summer, Becki worked at a law firm in São Paulo, Brazil before attending the Duke-Leiden Institute of Transnational Law in the Netherlands. In her free time, she loves trying new restaurants around Durham, getting too invested in watching the Bachelor/Bachelorette, and searching for the best coffee in town. She is excited to return to Duke for her 2L year and can't wait to welcome the class of 2022!!

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. In 2015, Michael moved 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 has served in leadership positions for the Duke Law Federalist Society, the Cancer Pro Bono Project, the Mock Trial Board, and the Judicial Appeals Board. He is completing the Public Interest and Public Service Certificate. Michael worked as a Judicial Intern for Judge Eric G. Bruggink on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC during his 1L summer. He spent his 2L summer as a Summer Law Intern with the Department of Justice's Tax Division, working in both the Civil Trial Section and the Criminal Enforcement Section