

Spring 2024

Humans of NYLS: Spring 2024 Collection

Student Bar Association

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/community_news



WE ARE NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOL

Humans of NYLS

Meet a few of the students who make up NYLS's vibrant community.

Throughout the year, the NYLS Student Bar Association highlights the achievements and contributions of members of the student body, who are nominated by their peers, with the "Humans of NYLS" series. Interested in meeting more Humans of NYLS? Visit news.nyls.edu to read highlights of more of our students.

NYLS Student Bar Association • Published Spring 2024



Find more
NYLS stories at
news.nyls.edu.

DARRYL BOBB '24 EVENING



Darryl Bobb '24 Evening is a 4L evening student with a wide range of interests. He's not just passionate about law but also plays basketball, is a fashion design enthusiast, a film buff, a concert lover, an avid reader, and a restaurant and museum explorer. Beyond his hobbies, Bobb's deeply involved in the NYLS community. He's the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Evening Vice President, a student intern in the PTO Trademark Clinic, a teaching assistant for Professor Anthony Iliakostas's Entertainment Law class, the Development and Communications Editor for the *ABA Family Law Quarterly Journal*, and an affiliate with both the Tricarico Institute for the Business of Law and In-House Counsel and the Innovation Center for Law and Technology.

With his diverse interests and dedication, he is shaping a promising future in the legal field while bringing his vibrant personality to every endeavor.

JON FINKEL '25 EVENING



Jon Finkel '25 Evening is a 3L evening student. He loves to travel and has traveled to 45 states and 41 countries. As an

undergraduate in college, he founded a student-led film society and led weekly trivia nights at a student union. In fact, Finkel still loves watching movies and going to trivia nights in NYC!

After law school, Finkel wants to apply his business immigration law experience from his time as a paralegal in adjacent pathways and contexts, including human resources (HR) operations, employment law, and I-9 compliance. He really enjoyed providing onsite immigration support to a large multinational corporation because he was exposed to a diverse array of company stakeholders. In fact, he will soon begin a new HR operations role with a specific focus on immigration law, where he hopes to apply the legal skills he's developed at NYLS.

JAKE FINKELSTEIN '25



Jake Finkelstein '25 is a 2L day student. He grew up in Port Washington, New York, and graduated from the University of Delaware with a double major in marketing and management. Prior to attending NYLS, Finkelstein worked as a marketing associate at KISS Products. In the summer of 2023, Finkelstein interned for Hon. Joel H. Slomsky in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where he had the opportunity to draft legal opinions and observe court proceedings.

Finkelstein is currently the Junior Staff Editor for the *New York Law School Law Review*, a student intern in the Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic, a teaching assistant for Property and Contracts, and a member of the Jewish Law Student Association. This summer, he will be joining Proskauer Rose LLP as a summer associate.

Outside of law school, Jake enjoys trying new restaurants, listening to music, and watching the Mets, Knicks, and Giants.

CONOR GALLAGHER '27 EVENING



Conor Gallagher '27 Evening is a 1L evening student at NYLS. He grew up in Beaufort, South Carolina, before moving to Columbia to attend the University of South Carolina as a theater major. Gallagher appeared in many shows while in college and, in his senior year, he directed *By the Bog of Cats*, written by Marina Carr. During college, he also spent a semester living abroad in Dublin, Ireland, where he attended the Gaiety School of Acting. After graduating, Gallagher moved to New York with hopes of becoming an actor. Since moving, he has worked in an escape room, the food and beverage industry, the education field, aviation staffing and recruiting, and most extensively, in office staff roles for a few different law firms. Gallagher has always been interested in the law and had lots of exposure to the field, coming from a family of attorneys.

As someone who has always been invested in the arts and storytelling, Gallagher aims to work in entertainment or intellectual property law after law school, in a field that helps facilitate creativity.

KRISTEN GRENNAN '26 EVENING



Kristen Grennan '26 Evening is a 2L evening student who works full time at the New York City Mayor's Public Engagement Unit as Director of Strategic Communications. In this role, she translates government policies into digestible language for the public so that all New Yorkers can fully realize their rights and the benefits they deserve. Grennan hopes to use her law degree to further advocate for systemic change across multiple levels of government.

After law school, she plans to spend a few years clerking for a judge and working in the private sector before pivoting back to public service. There, she hopes to work within the intersection of law, advocacy, and communications.

MICHELLE GUERRERO '25 EVENING



Michelle Guerrero '25 Evening is a 3L evening student who is passionate about the intersection of law and entertainment. She grew up in the vibrant landscapes of Ecuador before moving to the United States at the age of 17. She received her bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State

University, where she pursued a major in video production and public relations.

After college, Guerrero worked as a business immigration paralegal at Fragomen in New York City and Mayer Brown in Washington, D.C. After a rewarding, seven-year career in immigration, Guerrero is now gearing up for a new chapter in the realm of intellectual property.

An avid lover of the arts, Guerrero considers herself a creative spirit. In her free time, she loves exploring, capturing the perfect image, going to museums, and spending quality time with friends and family.

NICOLE HELLER '24



Nicole Heller '24 is a 3L day student who was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador. At the age of 18, she had no choice but to leave her country behind as it became unsafe for her. She moved to the United Kingdom, where she pursued her undergraduate degree. Ecuador's escalating crime rates made it unsafe for her to return home, so, five years ago, she relocated to the United States as an international student to pursue a master's degree and later, a law degree.

Before law school, Heller joined the nonprofit Safe Passage Project to help immigrants stay in the United States. Throughout her time at NYLS, she continued to support Safe Passage Project, and she remains committed to advocating for immigrants' rights in the United States.

ALEXANDRA HOUGH '24 EVENING



Alexandra Hough '24 Evening is a 4L evening student. She currently works as a legal coordinator at the leading private lender in the northeast for providing working capital to staffing companies. Previously, she worked in the commercial lending division of a mid-size real estate law firm. As an undergraduate at the University of Delaware, Hough concentrated her studies in media communications and journalism and began her career doing editorial work in celebrity and entertainment news.

After law school, Hough plans to continue working in-house as a transactional attorney and ultimately aspires to be barred and practice law in both New Jersey and New York.

JENNIFER HUTZ '26 EVENING



Jennifer Hutz '26 Evening is a 2L evening student. She is originally from North Carolina, but has lived in Brooklyn for over 20 years. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a major in studio art. Hutz started her career in New York as a production

assistant and then producer for top celebrity photographers, producing photo shoots for magazines including *Vanity Fair*, *GQ*, and *Rolling Stone*. After working as the publicist liaison for Exclusive by Getty Images, she opened her own commercial photographer repping agency, Jennifer Hutz Inc., in 2010. When she is not working with her artists or studying, she is a grassroots organizer with Swing Left, where she trains electoral volunteers on the most effective ways to get people to vote. She also co-leads a weekly food pantry out of her neighborhood bar, Union Pool.

After law school, Hutz wants to help people, either by protecting artists in business and copyright issues or working to expand voting rights to protect democracy or — as she does now — both.

MEREDITH INNOCENT '25



Meredith Innocent '25 is a 2L day student. She was born and partly raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Innocent speaks Haitian Creole fluently and understands French. Her favorite part of being Haitian is that Haitian people are resilient. She attended CUNY York College, where she studied political science with a minor in international relations. Innocent graduated in the fall of 2020 ahead of her class and used the extra time before law school to take a gap year where she worked at Fragomen, a business immigration firm.

After law school, her goal is to work for a medium-sized immigration firm doing business immigration and humanitarian immigration pro bono.

RACE JOHNSON '26



Race Johnson '26 is a 1L in the Day Division at New York Law School. He graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana in 2017 with a degree in economics. During college, he also played football. Johnson has worked as a real estate agent, a consultant in the Alliance of American Football (AAF) for the Atlanta Legends, in operations in college athletic fundraising for the John Purdue Club, and as a fitness coach for a tech start-up, Future.

Following law school, Johnson plans to pursue a career in international business.

CHLOE LEVINE '26



Chloe Levine '26 is a 1L day student. She grew up in Long Island, New York, and graduated from Penn State in May 2022 where she majored in marketing. Prior to starting at the Law School, Levine took a gap year to work as a paralegal at Slater Slater Schulman, LLP, a full-service law firm that represents survivors of catastrophic and traumatic events. She is interested in practicing financial law and, after law school, she aspires to become a partner in a law firm that specializes in the practice area.

KIKI LIN '24



Kiki Lin '24 is a 3L day student, interested in practicing immigration and humanitarian law. She was born and raised in Indiana and graduated from Indiana University in 2020 with a B.A. in political science.

After college, Lin went into the immigration and refugee advocacy field and started working at organizations that help migrants return to their employment fields in the United States. During the day, she is a law clerk at a local immigration law firm, and she continues her immigration advocacy work at Upwardly Global. She is currently enrolled in the NYLS Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic.

In her spare time, she enjoys painting, taking care of plants, writing poetry, and photography. After law school, Lin plans to practice immigration and humanitarian law, and eventually open her own coffee shop.

BENJAMIN NEWMAN '24 EVENING



Benjamin Newman '24 Evening is a 4L evening student. As an undergraduate at Colgate University, Newman majored in English with an emphasis in creative writing and minored in economics. He

started his post-college career in Los Angeles as a production assistant for the show *Divorce Court*, then moved to a talent agency, assisting talent agents in representing actors and writers.

While completing his legal education at NYLS, Newman worked as a paralegal in residential real estate. After graduating this May, his goal is to continue learning as he begins his legal career.

ELISABETH PEARSON '24



Elisabeth Pearson '24 is a 3L day student. She is from New York City and attended George Washington University, where she graduated *magna cum laude*. At New York Law School, she is affiliated with the Tricarico Institute for the Business of Law and In-House Counsel and is also a member of the Legal Association for Women. Last summer, she interned for the general counsel at Union Square Hospitality Group, where she handled matters regarding commercial leases, vendor agreements, and employment law. She is currently a student intern with the Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic. Outside of her legal career, Pearson loves to cook, try new restaurants, and the outdoors.

After law school, Pearson wants to pursue a legal career in commercial real estate in New York City.

SARA PONCE '26 EVENING



Sara Ponce '26 Evening is a 2L evening student. She was born in Mexico City and raised in Oxford, Connecticut, after moving to the United States in 2001. She earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Connecticut, where she graduated with honors in 2018. After graduation, Ponce began her career at Moody's Investors Service where she is currently a lead ratings associate on the Project Finance and Infrastructure team. At Moody's, she is involved in the Moody's Cyber Working Group, Moody's Recruitment and Retention Council, Latinx Business Resource Group, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Ponce is passionate about prison reform and is a volunteer for the Petey Greene Program. Before needing to switch to virtual tutoring during COVID, she tutored individuals in person at Rikers Island.

In 2018, Ponce founded Pretty & Petite, a petite clothing brand focused on providing a convenient, empowering shopping experience and community for petite women like herself.

KENNY SANTOS '27 EVENING



Kenny Santos '27 Evening is a 1L evening student. He is a native New Yorker with proud Latin and Caribbean roots. Outside of law school, he is a senior paralegal at a personal injury and litigation firm and a part-time private investigator. Prior to NYLS, Santos was a business student at Pace University and a psychology student at NYU, where he had life-changing experiences while studying abroad and volunteering in Shanghai, China.

Santos spends his free time as an amateur anthropologist, learning from and about the many cultures and subcultures of the city. His time amongst fellow investigators, hackers, techies, and philosophers has led him to pursue the niche and emerging field of cybersecurity law.