



2013 NEWSLETTER

BLF Welcomes New Fellow

*Cory Isaacson begins joint fellowship
with BLF and EBCLC.*



We are thrilled to welcome our newest BLF Fellow, Cory Isaacson, who recently started her work in a special two-year joint fellowship funded by the Berkeley Law Foundation and the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). Cory's project aims to break the school-to-prison pipeline.

Cory graduated from Berkeley Law in 2013, where she focused her energy on indigent criminal defense. She worked as a law clerk in the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office, and worked as a BLF summer fellow at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta. She also spent a semester in the Clean Slate Clinic at EBCLC and two semesters in Berkeley Law's Death Penalty Clinic.

Cory's School Justice Project joins the Youth Defender Clinic at EBCLC. Cory is working to derail the school-to-prison pipeline by providing direct representation to Alameda County kids in their criminal/school disciplinary cases. Representing kids holistically—zealously defending them while also identifying and addressing needs outside of their criminal/school disciplinary case—presents the best likelihood of keeping kids in school and out of the justice system.

Cory shared some initial impressions of her work: "In my first couple months as the BLF/EBCLC Fellow, I've seen a lot of really frustrating situations—kids unnecessarily arrested, kids mistreated by judges, students facing expulsion for minor offenses. Seeing up close just how much harm our current systems are causing has been hard. It has also been motivating. The more I learn about the juvenile court and the school discipline systems, the more I want to work to change them. My hope is that as I continue in the fellowship, I will become better and better equipped to do just that."

SAVE THE DATE!

BLF Annual Auction
November 8, 2013
7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
HS Lordships, Berkeley

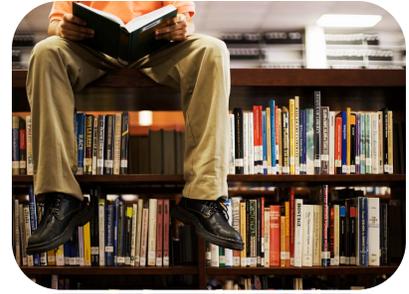


Proceeds from the Auction support the Phoenix Fellowship, a scholarship that provides support to first-year Berkeley Law students from diverse backgrounds who are committed to pursuing careers in social justice.

HOW TO DONATE:

BLF welcomes donations of items for the Auction, as well as financial contributions to the Phoenix Fellowship. Email us at berkeleylawfoundation@gmail.com

As part of her project, Cory is also supervising and collaborating with law students working in the Youth Defender Clinic. The students are a significant part of the project's implementation, and allow for more clients to be represented and more comprehensive services to be offered in each case.



BLF is proud that Cory is helping train the next generation of public-interest lawyers with your support!

"Representing kids holistically presents the best likelihood of keeping kids in school and out of the justice system."

Sebastian Sanchez Wraps Up a Year of Success

2013 has been a tremendous year for Sebastian's WASH NY Campaign. To date, this campaign to organize car wash workers has succeeded in winning seven National Labor Relations Board conducted elections to unionize car washes throughout NYC, winning a successful strike at the Sunny Day Car Wash in the Bronx, saving the jobs of workers at the Soho Car Wash, and securing four union contracts.

As the BLF fellow supporting this campaign at Make the Road New York, Sebastian has been involved in a lot of the behind-the-scenes work. In March, at the first-ever Car Wash Worker Assembly of NYC, Sebastian provided trainings to dozens of car wash workers on how to track their hours, how to identify wage theft, and how to recover any unpaid wages.

Sebastian has interviewed individual car wash workers at several car washes in NYC, analyzing claims for unpaid wages, and providing advice and counsel as he explores their options to recover the unpaid wages. Sebastian provides litigation support, including assistance in settlement conferences for one car wash, and most importantly assistance in the settlement negotiations for the Hi-Tek Astoria car wash workers that helped pave the way for the first-ever union contract for car wash workers in NYC.

Although his fellowship with BLF has ended, Sebastian continues to work with car wash workers and organizers in NYC to achieve a safe and sustainable industry.

