



# 2023 NEWSLETTER

## BLF Welcomes Post-Graduate Fellow Sarah Chen Small

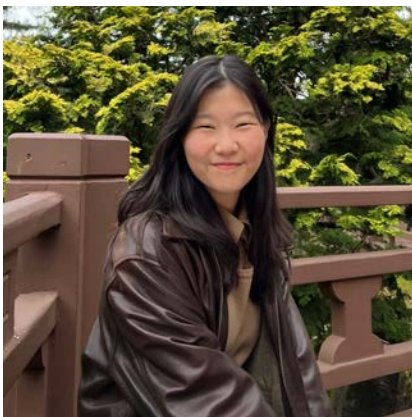


Sarah is a born-and-raised San Franciscan and a graduate of UC Davis School of Law with certificates in environmental and public service law. Sarah's project with Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), a leading environmental justice nonprofit, seeks to empower communities in Richmond and East Oakland to lead us to a Just Transition. A Just Transition shifts us from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy, wherein communities determine their own healthy future. For decades, predominantly Black and Latinx Richmond and East Oakland residents have faced severe health consequences from industrial emissions. Currently, there are significant proposed changes in the most pollution-heavy industries in these communities,

including: expanding warehouse shipping operations, Chevron refinery expansion and use of so-called biofuels, proposed airport expansion, and redevelopment proposals. This is a critical time to challenge industry's status-quo false solutions through litigation, policy, and organizing efforts. Sarah's work with CBE is part of a vision wherein, rather than continually playing defense against corporate pollution while the environmental crisis worsens, communities build a livable healthy future.

## 2023 Broussard Phoenix Fellows Arrive at Berkeley Law

*BLF is proud to welcome this year's Broussard Phoenix Fellows, who entered Berkeley Law this fall. BLF's Broussard Phoenix Fellowship provides tuition support to outstanding students of color who are committed to social justice work.*



**Tenzin Yigha** grew up in various Tibetan communities in India, moved to the Bay Area to pursue her education, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Stanford University. At Stanford, Tenzin was chair of the Tibetan Student Union, and was deeply involved in efforts to raise awareness of the Tibetan cause. After graduating, Tenzin worked at Human Rights Watch's Silicon Valley office, focusing on fundraising and cultivating an informed human rights community through various outreach efforts.



**Faith Magbero**'s journey is shaped by the diverse community she grew up with in Los Angeles, California. Raised by her resilient single mother, a Filipina immigrant, Faith learned the value of perseverance and determination through her mother's unwavering commitment to her family and community at large. After attending Pasadena City College, Faith transferred to UC Berkeley. After graduation, Faith worked in immigration law as a paralegal and performed pro bono immigration work for Afghan refugees. Faith plans to pursue public interest law during her time at Berkeley Law, including tenants' rights, immigration, and international human rights, with the intent of helping those who are not just in her community, but all those that need legal support.

**Victoria Esparza** was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of 12 years old. She was raised in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she majored in Political Science and Spanish. Victoria grew up in the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant until 2021. Her experiences as an undocumented first-generation student and professional have greatly contributed to her passion towards international human rights. As she enters Berkeley Law, Victoria hopes to use her legal education to serve and advocate for the immigrant community and assist legislative immigration and human rights reform efforts.



From Queens, NY, **Susan Naseri** is in her first year as a JD candidate at Berkeley Law. In 2020, Susan completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Connecticut with a double major in Political Science and Human Rights, as an Honors Scholar in both majors and as a member of the Special Program in Law. Following graduation, she amassed extensive experience as a litigation paralegal in New York City, primarily at a boutique firm that specializes in international human rights law, arbitration and class action lawsuits. An Afghan-American and Muslim woman, Susan remains committed and engaged in assisting and advocating for her communities.

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