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Cardozo Celebrates Public Service at 31st Annual Inspire! Awards

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Cardozo Celebrates Public Service at 31st Annual Inspire! Awards



Cardozo’s Center for Public Service Law celebrated the Inspire! Awards on May 23, a yearly event that honors students, alumni and community leaders who have made strides in public service over the past year. This year’s ceremony celebrated those who work to protect and advance the rights of marginalized communities in the public and private sectors.

Zach Dugan, Assistant Director, Career Services and Center for Public Service Law, welcomed the attendees both in-person and on Zoom, saying to the nominees, “thank you for the light you bring to the legal profession, your countless clients, families and communities, past, present and future.”

The Center’s Community Impact honorees included Nina Frank ’11, Counsel at Outten & Golden LLP; Taylor Brown ’17, Staff Attorney in the ACLU’s LGBTQ & HIV Project; Deb Guston ’88, Partner at Guston & Guston LLP; and Jason Starr ’10, former and founding Director of Litigation and current Senior Strategist at the Human Rights Campaign. All the honorees have spent their careers fighting for LGBTQ+ rights in the legal world and beyond. They also participated in Cardozo’s alumni panel, “Making a Career Working for LGBTQ+ Rights”, sponsored by OUTlaw and moderated by Dean Melanie Leslie in February.

Dean Leslie congratulated the awardees by saying, “you are making a tremendous difference in the world. These are difficult times. There is a lot of polarization and a lot of challenges, like bigotry and hatred, but knowing that you are making a

difference in the lives of the people that you touch means so much to all of us here at Cardozo. We are all so grateful to play even a small role in supporting or enabling the work that you do. You give us hope for the future, and it is our pleasure to honor you tonight.”

A complete list of awardees can be found below:

Community Impact Honorees

Nina R. Frank '11, Outten & Golden LLP

Taylor Brown '17, ACLU LGBTQ & HIV Project

Deb Guston '88, Guston & Guston, LLP

Jason Starr '10, Human Rights Campaign

Student Service Awards

Emma Bratman '25

Tanuja Gupta '25

Gowri Cheepurupalli '24

Rachel Barkley '24

Shelley Wu '23

Peri Feldstein '23

Champions of Change Awards

Davis Villano '23

Zoë Glaser '23

Molly Dower '23

Leaders in Service Awards

Christopher Alexander '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Stephen Cucolo '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Juliana D'Alleva '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Zoë Glaser '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Abraham Hoffman '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Katherine Jenkins '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Meghan Kacsmar '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Jennifer Mikhaylov '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Alexis Narotzky '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Sharon Shimonova '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Tatsiana Zhuk '23 - Pro Bono Scholar

Shelley Wu '23 & Briann Ricks '24 - Courtroom Advocates Project

Bailey Cook Dailey '24 - Suspension Representation Project

Chris Chuang '24 - Suspension Representation Project

Tara Ansari '24 - Suspension Representation Project

Chelsea Hill '24 - Unemployment Action Center

Julia Mark '24 - Uncontested Divorce Project