

# CAL welcomes our new fall class!



From left to right: Laura McFeely, Fernando Morales, Molly Booth, Julio Castillo, Nkechi Erongu, Nick Adamo, Cathy Liu, & Rashad Moore

*Laura joins us as a law graduate.* Laura received her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was a recipient of the Lowenstein Fellowship for dedication to public interest law and the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Prize for outstanding academic achievement. At Columbia, she was a Max Berger '71 Public Interest/Public Service Fellow and an Articles Editor for *A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual*. She interned with the Legal Aid Society and the Federal Defenders for the Middle District of Alabama, where she worked on trial and capital habeas cases. She also externed at CAL and the Bronx Defenders and participated in the Paralegal Pathways Initiative, which helps to prepare formerly incarcerated people for careers in the legal field.

*Fernando joins us as IT administrator.* Fernando began his IT career in public transit with Palm Tran in sunny West Palm Beach. Eventually moving to New York City to be a Network Administrator at AKRF, an environmental engineering firm. Finally, Fernando was an IT Systems Administrator at Kedrion Biopharma before joining CAL.

*Molly joins us as appellate counsel.* Molly has spent over a decade in criminal defense and has represented clients at both trial and appellate levels. Prior to joining CAL, Molly was a senior staff attorney at Brooklyn Defender Services where she fought for New Yorkers charged with felonies and misdemeanors at the trial level. Molly has also worked at a private firm, where she represented individuals in white-collar criminal and regulatory investigations. Molly graduated with honors from the University of Chicago Law School where she was a member of the University of Chicago Law Review.

*Julio joins our Immigrant Justice Project as appellate counsel.* Julio received his J.D. from NYU School of Law, where he was a Latinx Rights Scholar. Prior to joining CAL, Julio clerked for the Hon. Andrew L. Carter, Jr. of the Southern District of New York. While at NYU, Julio was a student advocate in the Immigrant Rights Clinic, and he interned with Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem in their Immigration Defense Practice, the ACLU's Racial Justice Program, and Wardenski. P.C., a civil rights law firm based in Brooklyn, NY. He also served as the Co-President of NYU's Latinx Law Student Association (LaLSA), Diversity Co-Chair of NYU OUTLaw, and Staff Editor in the NYU Review of Law and Social Change. Julio received his B.A. from Princeton University in 2017 and he worked as a paralegal with the Public Policy Litigation and Law team at Planned Parenthood Federation from 2017 to 2019.

*Nkechi joins us as a law graduate.* Nkechi received her J.D. from Columbia Law School where she was a Greene Public Service Scholar, Racial and Social Justice Fellow, Max Berger '71 Public Interest/Public Service Fellow, and Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. While at Columbia, Nkechi interned at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and the Bronx Defenders and externed at CAL and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She also served as Executive Notes Editor of the Columbia Law Review, Empowering Women of Color Secretary, and the Black Law Students Association Scholarship Chair. Nkechi was the recipient of the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Scholarship, Constance Baker Motley Scholarship, and Sheila Abdus-Salaam Award for her dedication to public service and social justice. Prior to law school, Nkechi was a justice policy researcher at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. She holds a BA in Political Science and African & African American Studies from Stanford University.

*Nick joins us as a paralegal.* Nick received his B.A. from Hunter College, cum laude, with a triple major in Interdisciplinary Honors, History and Political Science. He also minored in Sociology, was a member of the Thomas Hunter Honors Program, and was a recipient of the Helen E. Witmer prize for excellence in the study of History at graduation. Nick participated in two public policy fellowships at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute and a judicial internship with the Honorable Ruth Pickholz, during his three years as an undergraduate student. He also received a master's degree in public administration from the Marxe School of Public & International Affairs at Baruch College and was a recipient of the Marxe Dean's Excellence award at graduation. Before joining CAL, Nick worked as a Senior Legal Specialist for a large investment firm, and as a Project Manager for the Legal

Aid Society, where he helped pair immigrants in ICE custody with pro-bono legal services. He also spent six years as a paralegal in the Army Reserves.

*Cathy joins us as appellate counsel.* Before joining CAL in 2023, Cathy served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Kathleen M. Williams, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and worked as a Litigation Associate in private practice, where she focused on criminal defense and commercial litigation. Through her pro bono practice, Cathy represented indigent criminal defendants in federal court. Cathy received her J.D. in 2017 from Columbia Law School, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, a competing member of the Immigration Law Moot Court, and a publishing member of the "Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems." Cathy also interned at the Legal Aid Society of New York, where she represented non-citizens facing deportation proceedings. Cathy received her B.A. in Political Science and Economics in 2012 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Honor's College.

*Rashad joins us as appellate counsel.* Rashad graduated *cum laude* from St. John's University School of Law. There, he served as a senior staff member for the Moot Court Honor Society and Journal for Civil Rights and Economic Development (JCRED). During law school, Rashad interned at the Legal Aid Society's Decarceration unit and CAL, externed at the Appellate Division Second Department, and was a Student Advocate in St. John's Defense & Advocacy Clinic. In his final year, Rashad was a Pro-Bono Scholar at the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Appeals Bureau.