



# **2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

# FCBA Foundation 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The FCBA Foundation is pleased to announce it has selected 18 students from Washington, DC public high schools for merit and need-based college scholarship awards to be distributed over four years of matriculation. Also, we will award scholarships to seven law school students and stipends to seven law school students who have accepted unpaid public service internships in TMT-related agencies for the summer. None of these awards would be possible without the generous support of the FCBA's members and the organizations in which they work. We thank you for your generosity!

## 2026 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Under the leadership of the Foundation's college scholarship committee, **Van Bloys, Traci Biswese, Jacqui Clary, and Pamela Gallant**, the Foundation reviewed over 100 applications from local high school students. Our scholarship recipients this year came from 12 public high schools: BASIS, Bell Multicultural, Benjamin Banneker, D.C. International School, Duke Ellington, Eastern, Jackson-Reed, MacArthur, McKinley Technology, Richard Wright PCS, Ron Brown College Preparatory, and School Without Walls. All 18 of the recipients will be provided with new laptop computers.

The Foundation thanks **Comcast NBCUniversal** for sponsoring the production of the video, and a special thank you to **Crown Castle** for hosting and sponsoring the College Scholarship Program interviews again this year!

## 2026 LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Foundation's law school scholarship committee, **Kristine Hackman, Angela Kung, Stephanie Power, and Danielle Thumann**, led the efforts to review applications from current students at law schools across the country who demonstrated merit and need, as well as an interest in TMT law and public service. The Foundation awarded a total of \$20,000 in scholarships to seven law school students.

## 2026 PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNSHIP STIPEND PROGRAM

Under the leadership of the Foundation's internship committee, **Angela Dais, Crystal Evans Greenberg, Jamile Kadre, and Daudeline Meme**, the Foundation reviewed applications from students at law schools across the country. The Foundation awarded stipends ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,500 to seven students who have accepted public service positions for the summer.

*Congratulations to all of our scholarship and stipend recipients!*

The Foundation also thanks the following volunteers for their time and talent reviewing college and law school scholarship/stipend applications and interviewing high school students: **Ashley Alvarado, Dennis Amari, Avonne Bell, Ann Bobeck,**

**Karina Bohorquez, Xelef Botan, Rich Boyd, Jessica Campbell, Jon Cohen, Peter Connolly, Tara Corvo, Jamie Dancer, Alexandrine De Bianchi, Lianna Dumeng, Saleshia Ellis, Justin Faulb, Jon Garvin, Anisa Green, Peter Gregory, Erin Griffith, Brett Hallagan, Daniel Havivi, Lisa Higginbotham, Lisa Hone, Amanda Jesteadt, Chris Koves, Angie Kronenberg, Heidi Lankau, Serena Lau, Vanessa Lemme, Matt McCormick, Jaime McCoy, Kasey McGee, Jennifer Mensah, John Miles, Kris Monteith, Evan Morris, Megan Mullin, Kimia Nikseresht, Molly O'Connor, Conor O'Donovan, Brandon Padgett, Nick Page, Lee Petro, Dan Reing, Stephanie Rigizadeh, Logan Samuels, Negheen Sanjar, Marina Sansom, Michelle Schaefer, Madeline Sorg, Iris Spero, Karen Sprung, Daniel Stepanicich, Kyle Stewart, Megan Stull, Johanna Thomas, Matthew Uvas, and Brenda Villanueva.**

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our individual members, law firms, companies, and associations, the FCBA Foundation's fundraising efforts continue to reach amazing levels each year. Thanks to the contributions of many, we've awarded nearly **\$290,000!**

The current list of donors is at the end of this handout and the final list for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, will be included in the Foundation's annual report, in the FCBA newsletter, and on the FCBA Foundation website. To donate, please visit the Foundation's web page: <http://www.fcba.org/foundation>.

Your generous donations of time and talent enable the Foundation to do more in our community, and to nurture aspiring communications professionals. Thank you!

## SPECIAL THANKS FROM VAN BLOYS AND KRISTINE HACKMAN 2025-2026 CO-CHAIRS, FCBA FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We just wrapped another successful year for the FCBA Foundation programs with a substantial amount of funding in the form of scholarships and stipends to be awarded to talented, promising students to help advance their college and law school journeys. We want to convey our sincere appreciation to the many people who continue to donate time and energy to make sure the Foundation can achieve its vital mission, this, and every year. First, the contributions of the FCBA membership and our donors, particularly our corporate donors, whose generosity of time and resources are critical to sustaining the Foundation and make it possible to provide the scholarship awards. Next, we are extremely grateful to the FCBA's remarkable team – **Kerry Loughney, Stephanie Budaker, Wendy Parish, and Elna Gross**. The Foundation simply could not run without the staff's support and hard work. Their continued attention to detail and commitment to the mission is invaluable. They go above and beyond, and words cannot fully express our appreciation.

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Of course, we must extend acknowledgement and gratitude to this year's Board of Trustees for their commitment and hard work in ensuring the programs of the Foundation were executed effectively and efficiently. The Foundation has an ambitious agenda each year, which we could not accomplish without an engaged and devoted Board comprised of individuals willing to volunteer their time and talents, over and above the demands of their day jobs and other personal commitments.

As we close our elections and welcome four new trustees to the Foundation board, we want to recognize those who are coming to the end of their three-year term. The four Trustees moving on from the trustee board this year are: **Van Bloys, Jamile Kadre, Angela Kung, and Danielle Thumann**. Each of these Trustees has played an instrumental role in running the College Scholarship, Law School Scholarship, and Law School Stipend/Internship programs over the last three years. We thank them for their leadership and dedication during their years on the Board.

While one of the dedicated Co-Chairs will be rotating off the Board, Co-Chair **Kristine Hackman**, along with Trustees **Traci Biswese, Jacqui Clary, Angela Dais, Pam Gallant, Crystal Evans Greenberg, Daudeline Meme, and Stephanie Power**, look forward to continuing their work on the Foundation this coming year. We look forward to welcoming the newly elected members from an exceptional set of candidates. Thanks to all the FCBA members who ran for election to the Board—we deeply appreciate your desire to be involved and it is a testament to the generosity of the FCBA community that we have an abundance of individuals that seek to join the Board each year.

Thanks, too, to former FCBA President **Kathy Kirby** for her insights and contributions as the ex-officio liaison between the Executive Committee and Foundation this year. This year's FCBA President **Matt DelNero** continued to emphasize the collaboration between the Foundation and the FCBA and FCBA initiatives like the TMT Pipeline Program, which is a program with interests and goals that align with those of the Foundation. The Board looks forward to Matt's participation as an ex-officio member of the Foundation over the coming year.

We reiterate our sincere thanks to the FCBA membership for your continued support. Remember, as a member of the FCBA, you are also a member of the FCBA Foundation. As Co-Chairs, we've had a unique perspective on how many volunteers it takes to help the Foundation reach its ambitious goals and it is impressive every time how many people raise their hands without reservation to review scholarship applications or to interview applicants, as well as how many are willing to help persuade an employer to support a named scholarship or to make generous monetary contributions themselves. This year was no exception and really served to underscore not only what an incredibly special bar we have, but also how, together, we will ensure that the FCBA continues to positively impact our community. We continue to demonstrate why the DC Bar

awarded the FCBA the distinction of 2023 Voluntary Bar of the Year. FCBA members step up and provide support whenever needed and we, on behalf of the Foundation and program awardees, celebrate and thank you for it.

It is an honor to introduce this year's scholarship and internship stipend awardees:

## 2026 College Award Recipients

### NOAH BAYU

DLA Piper LLP Scholarship (\$20,000)

**Noah Bayu** is a graduating senior at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School who is also in an IB Diploma program. In fall 2026, he plans on attending the University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Noah hopes to be part of advancements made at NASA regarding aerospace technology, innovation, and space exploration. While in high school, Noah has achieved academically while gaining leadership roles and is involved in his community. He has been involved in several honor societies, including Banneker National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), and French National Honor Society. Other than academics, Noah has been involved with internships related to AI, Infrastructure Data Analysis, and Technology, such as Atlasview.co, in which these types of experiences have helped him develop a desire to pursue engineering and to solve problems. At Debre Selam Kidist Mariam Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Noah serves as a Deacon, mentoring youth and participating in worship. He has worked with the US Holocaust Museum's Bringing the Lessons Home Program as a student docent, assisting in educating visitors about history, leadership, and human rights. He co-founded the "Strength in Men" young men's mental health organization in the DMV, providing supportive spaces for open discussions, mentoring, and personal development.



### KEYMAH BONHAM

Qualcomm Incorporated Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Keymah Bonham** is a graduating senior at School Without Walls in Washington, D.C. As a passionate advocate for public health and social justice, she has served as a Youth Health Advocate with the Young Women's Project since 2024. Driven by a deep interest in the intersection of law, health policy, and rhetoric, she recently designed a comprehensive policy proposal tackling food pricing and nutrition equity in



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the District. This fall, Keymah will attend the University of Pittsburgh to major in history, with the ultimate career goal of becoming a medical malpractice attorney. Outside of academic and advocacy work, she enjoys exploring financial literacy and collecting Y2K vintage streetwear. The FCBA Foundation scholarship will provide vital financial support as Keymah pursues her academic and legal ambitions.

### SANTIAGO CAMPOS

AT&T Scholarship (\$15,000)

**Santiago Campos** is a graduating senior at DC International School. He will be attending Georgetown University to study International Politics with a minor in Journalism. In high school, Santiago pursued work in broadcast journalism, producing various video pieces on a variety of issues, with a recent focus on US immigration policy. His work has been featured on PBS NewsHour, Teen Vogue, and various national film festivals and competitions. He also studied abroad in Argentina and Colombia, whilst pursuing his IB diploma. In college, he hopes to pursue international video journalism, combining his passions for video production, politics, and travel.



### NYLA DINKINS

Somos, Inc. Scholarship (\$20,000)

**Nyla Dinkins** is a senior at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and serves as the Student Representative to the District of Columbia State Board of Education, where she advocates for nearly 100,000 students and co-leads the Student Advisory Committee. She has presented student perspectives as a national conference panelist on education policy. Nyla is Vice President of the National Honor Society, a member of the National Spanish Honor Society, an AP Scholar with Honors, and a recipient of the Seal of Bilingualism with Distinction. Her leadership includes competing in policy debate with the Washington Urban Debate League and becoming a two-time national finalist in the National Endowment for the Arts' Poetry Out Loud competition. She has completed over 450 hours of community service and plans to study international relations at Spelman College before earning a J.D. to advance change through law and policy.



### JANELLE EDWARDS

USTelecom – The Broadband Association Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Janelle Edwards** is a senior at Eastern Senior High School, born and raised in Washington, D.C., and is a Full International Baccalaureate Student. She is involved in the Young Women's Project Non-Profit Organization, being a persistent sexual health advocate within her school community, and is a youth coach at the George Washington Health Desk to provide technological care to elders in the D.C. Metropolitan area. She also enjoys her time being a part of the IB Advisory board and the National Honor society within her school, where she provides community-based services to help improve her school environment. This fall, Janelle will be attending the University of Tampa to major in Nursing and participate in their honors program. Janelle wants to pursue a career to become a nurse practitioner specializing in disease control to fight against the rising effects of STIs and STDs in the black community, especially amongst the youth of Washington D.C.



### LAILAN FELLS-WATSON

NCTA – The Internet & Television Association Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Lailan Fells-Watson** is a senior at Richard Wright Public Charter School and will attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where she plans to major in Architectural Engineering with aspirations of becoming an architect. During high school, Lailan participated in Outdoor Track and Field, Interact Club, Rotary Club, the Gifted and Talented Forensic Science Program, and served as Honor Society Parliamentarian and School Ambassador. Outside of school, she served as a Site Ambassador for College Bound, traveling to Ghana for service and cultural immersion, and is also involved with the M Street Youth Advisory Council and Spark the Journey. Lailan currently holds a 4.09 GPA, dual enrollment credits, and over 150 community service hours. She hopes to design affordable, sustainable housing for underserved communities.



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## YASMINE FOTY

Fox Corporation Scholarship (\$20,000)

**Yasmine Foty** is a senior at Jackson-Reed High School and will attend the University of Southern California in the fall of 2026, where she plans to study neuroscience. Inspired by her lifelong involvement in music and her experiences in engineering research, she hopes to study how music can be used to support stress regulation and neurological health. Through internships at the University of the District of Columbia and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Yasmine has explored aerospace, acoustic, and mechanical engineering while conducting research on music as a stress mitigation tool in high-pressure environments. Outside of academics, music has remained a central part of her life. She has studied classical guitar and voice for many years, performed classical Arabic music with her family band throughout the DC area, and participated in choir, theater, and music mentorship programs. Yasmine ultimately hopes to combine neuroscience, engineering, and music research to develop innovative approaches that improve mental well-being and quality of life.



## QUANNIKA GRAVES

FCBA Foundation Scholarship (\$20,000)

**Quannika Graves**, during her time at Columbia Heights Education Campus, served as senior class president while maintaining honors throughout her academic career. This fall, she will continue her education at Columbia University, where she plans to major in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. Quannika is passionate about leadership, advocacy, and uplifting underrepresented communities. In the future, she hopes to become a lawyer to help give a voice to those who are often overlooked and make a positive impact through public service. Quannika is proud to represent her school and community as she takes the next step in her academic journey.



## REINA HENRIQUEZ

Verizon Scholarship (\$15,000)

**Reina Henriquez** is a graduating senior at Columbia Heights Educational Campus. She has been involved in her school's band for six years and is involved in her local church community. She has worked alongside youth fellows through The Young Women's Project to advocate for mental health resources and raise awareness of the challenges youth face today. She plans to attend Georgetown University and major in psychology to become a neuropsychologist. With a passion for how the brain works, she hopes to support and advocate for the neurodiverse community.



## SITARA MAZUMDAR

Cox Enterprises Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Sitara Mazumdar** is a graduating senior at BASIS DC. She will be attending Harvard University in the fall, studying Government and Women and Gender Studies. Sitara is Captain of the BASIS DC Policy Debate Team, and was named 2026 National Urban Debater of the Year. Her debate accomplishments have been recognized in Newsweek, PBS Newshour, NPR, and more. She also serves as a Student Representative on the DC State Board of Education, where she shapes local education policy and represents over 99,000 students across DC public and charter schools. Outside of academics, Sitara is an Honors Violinist at the Levine School of Music. She is also dedicated to giving back to her DC community, pioneering period poverty education initiatives like BloomAid DC, and volunteering with the Washington Urban Debate League. Inspired by her passion for policymaking and social justice, Sitara hopes to pursue a career in human rights law.



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## NATHANIEL MCKINNEY

Karen Kincaid Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Nathaniel McKinney** is an honors student graduating from Benjamin Banneker Academic High School as a National Cathedral Scholar, National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta member. A dedicated student-athlete, Nate played competitive basketball while actively participating in a wide range of school activities, from Debate Team to Fashion Club. He especially enjoyed tutoring peers in calculus, physics, and government, combining his passion for academics with mentorship and service. Nate completed more than 300 hours serving disadvantaged and unhoused communities both locally and in Puerto Rico. His growing interest in law and public service led him to participate in the American University Constitutional Law Project, assist with the George Washington University Criminal Defense and Justice Clinic, and intern with Morris Martin & Manning LLP. Nate will attend Tufts University this fall, where he plans to study political science in preparation for a career in law.



## ETHAN PAIR

Mark Van Bergh Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Ethan Pair** attended School Without Walls High School and will be attending Temple University in the fall of 2026. Ethan is a scholar athlete, including being Co-Captain on the varsity soccer team and a member of the basketball and golf teams. Ethan served two terms on the DCPS Chancellor's Student Advisory Board, representing and advocating for his peers. Ethan combined his love for sports with his service, volunteering his time to mentor students and teach athletic skills. Ethan serves as a youth ambassador on an international soccer team where he works to build positive relationships with his peers around the world. Ethan is fluent in Spanish and looks forward to learning more languages. He will be majoring in International Business with a minor in linguistics. Ethan intends to become a Foreign Service Officer and Diplomat. He also wants to use technologies to develop community-based business ventures that build and connect international communities.



## The Karen A. Kincaid Scholarship

**SPONSORED BY WILEY REIN AND KAREN'S FRIENDS**

The Karen A. Kincaid Scholarship is an annual award that pays tribute to the late Karen Kincaid, a partner in Wiley Rein's Communications Practice. Karen is remembered by her friends and colleagues for her warmth, intellect, and a deep commitment to her family and her community, qualities that also are demonstrated by the scholarship recipient, **Nathaniel McKinney**.



Prior to joining Wiley Rein, Karen served as a Senior Attorney-Advisor for the Private Radio Bureau, at the Federal Communications Commission from 1989 to 1993. She was a law clerk to the Honorable J. Smith Hensley, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Honorable Leo Oxenberger, Chief Judge, Iowa Court of Appeals. She received her B.A. from Central College and her J.D. from Drake University.

Friends and colleagues of Karen Kincaid are proud to fund a scholarship in her memory to provide a deserving student assistance toward college tuition.

## Begli PIRMUHAMMEDOV

Young Lawyers and Charity Auction Scholarship (\$20,000)

**Begli Pirmuhammedov** will be graduating from MacArthur High School and will attend Kent State University in the fall of 2026. He plans to major in computer science, with a focus on cybersecurity. Begli hopes to use technology to build software that is not only useful, but also safe, reliable, and accessible. Originally from Turkmenistan, Begli has lived in multiple countries, including Austria and the United States, which has shaped his adaptability, curiosity, and global perspective. In high school, he was involved in the Technology Student Association, where he competed in software development and webmaster events, earning state-level awards and national recognition. He has also built projects, including a school chatbot, a Telegram bot for a large online community, and other software tools. Begli looks forward to continuing his education and growing as a computer scientist.



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## WABI SAMPSON

National Association of Broadcasters Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Wabi Sampson** is a graduating senior at Jackson-Reed High School and will attend Southern Methodist University in the fall, where he plans to study finance at the Cox School of Business. He aspires to build a career in investment banking and private equity, using finance to create opportunities and drive economic growth. At Jackson-Reed, Wabi balanced a rigorous academic schedule with his commitment to athletics as a member of the school's football team. Through sports, he developed discipline, leadership, and teamwork skills that he will carry with him to college and beyond. Wabi is excited to begin this next chapter at SMU and looks forward to making a meaningful impact in business and in his community.



## CHLOE THOMAS

Comcast NBCUniversal Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Chloe Thomas** will be graduating from Duke Ellington School of the Arts with an arts endorsement for Cinematic Arts and Media Production. She will be attending the University of Southern California in the fall of 2026. She plans to attend the School of Cinematic Arts, majoring in Media Studies with a minor in the Entertainment Industry. She pursues higher education, so there is no ceiling on the topics she can address in her upcoming films. Her long-term dream is to create award-winning biopics that raise awareness of new communities and their legends. Chloe is currently a freelance videographer and photographer. Some of her accomplishments in high school include winning the DC citywide Mock Trial in 2025, Editor of Photography for Riot magazine, attending Yale Young Global Scholars, and 1st Place for Teen Category (15-19) for the Sitar Arts Center "Set in DC Film Festival, and Scholastic Gold Key for Region-at-Large-East Art.



## SOLVEIG WARTCHOW

CTIA Scholarship (\$10,000)

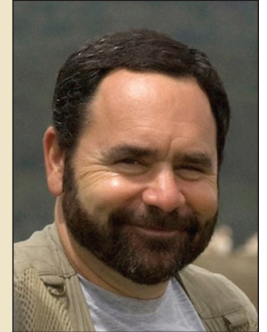
**Solveig Wartchow** is a senior at McKinley Technology High School, where she is a part of the NAF Academy of Biotechnology. Solveig is also a captain of the school's soccer, track, and cross-country programs. She has gotten involved with her community by volunteering with local environmental organizations, including Sierra Club DC, helping to educate people about local environmental initiatives. Last



## The Mark Van Bergh Scholarship

### SPONSORED BY MARK'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

In 2022, family, friends and colleagues established the Mark Van Bergh Scholarship Fund in his memory. Mark was a long-time supporter of the FCBA Foundation and its mission. Each year, he would review applications, interview students, and photograph the award recipients. He had a unique connection with these students and truly cared about their aspirations and achieving their goals. Mark was known to many as FCBA's 'photographer-in-residence,' an unofficial title earned by virtue of his regular presence with a camera at Association events. For decades, Mark not only captured FCBA members at our events, but he was a friend who genuinely cared about everyone.



Mark was born in New York City on November 28, 1956. He attended high school in White Plains, and then Syracuse University, graduating in 1978 magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in political science. He then attended George Washington University School of Law, graduating in 1981 with honors. Mark practiced communications law with Jim Edmundson and, later, Richard Waysdorf, and with firms such as Gardner, Carton & Douglas, Roberts & Eckard, and Arter & Hadden. He was a solo practitioner from 2003.

Mark was also a long-time FCBA member and held virtually every position in the Association other than President, including Secretary, Treasurer, and member of the Executive Committee, and member of the Board and Chair of the FCBA Foundation.

Parallel to his legal career was Mark's work as a photographer. Besides his assistance for the FCBA and FCBA Foundation, Mark photographed many things over the years, including weddings of friends and colleagues, travels to exotic parts of the world, and local events, such as those at the National Zoo, and much more.

In honor of Mark, the scholarship will provide deserving students assistance toward college tuition, a program that Mark whole-heartedly supported for over 25 years. This year, scholarships will be provided to two students, **Ethan Pair** and **Glen Yonkers III**.

# FCBA Foundation 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

summer, Solveig interned with the U.S. Naval Research Lab, where she helped to graph and animate historical data as part of an ongoing Arctic research project. This experience encouraged her to pursue a career in research as a bioengineer. In the fall, Solveig will be attending the University of Rochester, where she plans to major in biochemistry with a minor in materials science.

## ASA WATSON

Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP Scholarship (\$13,000)

**Asa Watson** is a senior at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School and an incoming student at Morgan State University, where he plans to begin coursework in the summer to get an early start on his academic journey. With a strong foundation in leadership as a JROTC Battalion Commander and Student Government Association President, Asa has demonstrated a commitment to discipline, service, and growth. He intends to participate in Georgia State's ROTC program, with the long-term goal of commissioning as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army. Asa is passionate about leadership development, community impact, and preparing himself for a career that combines structure, accountability, and service to others. Through early college engagement and continued involvement in ROTC, he aims to build the skills necessary to lead effectively and make a lasting difference in both military and civilian communities.



## GLEN YONKERS III

Mark Van Bergh Scholarship (\$10,000)

**Glen Yonkers, III**, is a senior at McKinley Technology High School in Washington, DC, where he serves as a Student Ambassador. In the fall, he will be attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, studying mechanical engineering. He is actively involved in his community, accumulating over 100 hours of community service. He enjoys being a beacon to others and a leader amongst his peers, engaging and connecting with his community. He participates in various extracurriculars, such as being a captain for the McKinley Tech Basketball Team, the DC Rhinos Mentoring Program, and a proud member of College Bound DC. He looks forward to continuing his education using the opportunities he's had in the past to achieve success and continue to support and inspire other young, diverse students in his community to achieve their goals.



## 2026 Law School Scholarship and Internship Stipend Recipients

### ELIZABETH BAILEY

Internship: Wireline Competition Bureau, Access Policy Division, FCC

Recipient of the Julie Veach Internship Stipend

**Ellie Bailey** is a rising 3L at William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia. Prior to law school, she graduated from Davidson College where she studied Political Science with a minor in Spanish. She currently serves as President of the William & Mary chapter of the American Constitution Society and is a member of the Moot Court Team. Before attending law school, she gained valuable professional experience interning for Senator Mark Warner on Capitol Hill and at Monument Advocacy, a government relations firm. Most recently, she externed in the office of FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez. This summer, she returns to the FCC to join the Wireline Competition Bureau as part of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division. As the third generation in her family to work in telecommunications, she is committed to building a career in public service and advancing telecommunications policy that benefits all Americans.

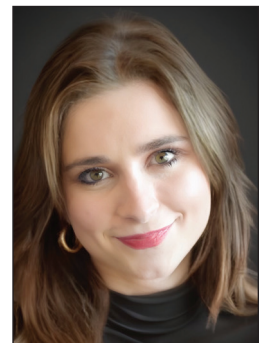


### SARAH JOY CASTER

Internship: Space Bureau, Satellite Programs and Policy Division, FCC

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Sarah Joy Caster** is a rising 3rd-year J.D. candidate at the University of Colorado Law School. With strong support from mentors, professors, and classmates, she has developed her interests in technology law, communications policy, and emerging space operations into a clear professional identity. In law school, she has served as Vice President of the Space Law Society, facilitating connections between Colorado and national commercial space law leaders and students through career panels and events. She also actively participates in Silicon Flatirons, including co-authoring the 2025 Sustaining Space as a Resource Conference Outcomes Report under the excellent guidance of Keith Gremban. This summer, Sarah Joy will intern at the FCC's Space Bureau, Satellite Programs and Policy Division, where she is eager to contribute to initiatives that promote innovation, competition, and public interest in commercial space and satellite communication.



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## ZOE CROSS

Internship: Office of International Affairs, Global Strategy & Negotiations Division, FCC

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Zoe Cross** is a rising 2L at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School with interests in communications law, cybersecurity, emerging technology policy, and national security. She earned bachelor's degrees in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, in spring 2025, along with a minor in Global Terrorism Studies. Prior to law school, she worked with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Inspector General and the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, where she focused on regulatory compliance, public safety, and policy research. She is also the founder of infOasis, a Department of Homeland Security award-winning media literacy initiative designed to help students navigate misinformation and AI generated content online. She is excited to join the FCC's Office of International Affairs in the Global Strategy and Negotiations Division for the summer of 2026.



## SAMUEL DODSON

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Sam Dodson** is a rising second-year at the University of Colorado Law School, interested in telecom and spectrum policy. By serving as a research assistant this past academic year, he explored and analyzed legislative history behind certain FCC and ITU regulations. Sam is eager to learn more about technology law, emerging technologies, and compliance challenges. He is excited to serve in Commissioner Trusty's office in the summer of 2026 and gain experience within regulatory frameworks.



## ADRIANA ECONOMOU

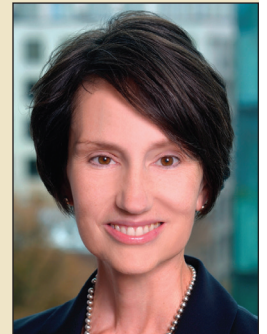
FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Adriana Economou** is a 2L at California Western School of Law. She earned her B.S. in Nursing from San Diego State University. Adriana is a registered nurse with more than 15 years of experience in emergency medicine and interventional radiology, and she currently works as a school nurse while attending law school. Her clinical background sparked a strong interest in the intersection of law and emerging



## The Julie Veach Internship Stipend

In 2026, friends and colleagues established the Julie Veach Internship Fund in memory of a remarkable lawyer, trusted mentor, and dedicated public servant. Julie built an extraordinary career at the FCC over 14 years. She joined the Commission as an Attorney Adviser in 2001 and rose to serve as Deputy General Counsel and then Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau from 2012 to 2015, a tenure marked by foundational contributions to broadband policy, universal service modernization, and the E-rate program. As Bureau Chief, she led a staff of more than 150 professionals and earned wide praise for her leadership, her can-do attitude, and her tireless investment in the attorneys and colleagues around her.



Prior to joining the FCC, Julie clerked for the Honorable Michael S. Kanne of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1998 to take a position at Wilmer, Cutler, and Pickering (now WilmerHale). After her tenure at the Commission, she joined HWG as a partner in 2015, where she advised a broad range of communications clients and helped navigate FCC rulemakings, transactions, and enforcement matters. Julie also served on the FCBA Executive Committee in 2024–2025.

In honor of Julie, the Julie Veach Internship Fund supports law students accepting unpaid summer internships in the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau or Office of General Counsel. This year's recipients are **Elizabeth Bailey** and **Abigail Hicks**.

healthcare technologies. Adriana hopes to build a career in healthcare technology, policy, or regulatory compliance, where she can combine her clinical experience with legal advocacy to address evolving privacy and ethical challenges in the digital age. This summer, she is excited to work at the California Office of the Attorney General in the Health, Education, and Welfare Section.

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## OLIVIA FERGERSTROM

Internship: Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Disability Rights Office, FCC

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

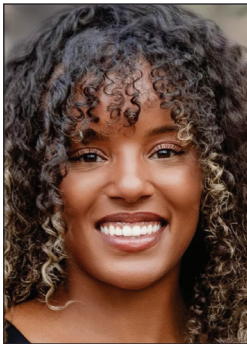
**Olivia Fergerstrom** is a rising 2L at the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and a member of the Law and Technology Institute, where she is pursuing a certificate in communications and data privacy law. Before law school, she earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia and worked as a paralegal with the telecommunications team at Nelson Mullins. Her interests in technology and communications policy focus on affordable broadband access, accessibility in communications technologies, and the development of sustainable artificial intelligence. This summer, Olivia will work as a legal intern in the Disability Rights Office of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at the FCC, where she will support accessibility-related rulemaking and policy initiatives.



## AUDREA FRYAR

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Audrea Fryar** is a rising 3L at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. Her interests include entertainment, technology, privacy, and corporate law. At Pepperdine, Audrea serves as a research assistant and President of Pepperdine's Black Law Students Association, where she focuses on mentorship, advocacy, and expanding opportunities for underrepresented students in the legal profession. Her academic work explores emerging issues involving AI, NIL, and digital privacy. This summer, she will work as a summer associate at Mastagni Holstedt, A.P.C. in Los Angeles. Before law school, she worked in legal recruiting and operations at Baker McKenzie LLP, where she coordinated the summer associate program and diversity recruitment initiatives, including the NBLSA Tax Mentorship Program. Audrea graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021, where she co-founded the Center for African and African American Studies. She hopes to build a career that combines legal practice with meaningful community impact.

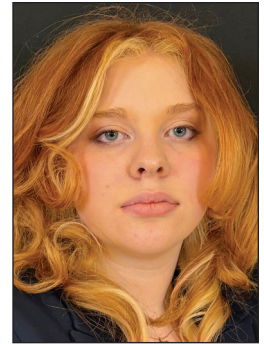


## ABIGAIL HICKS

Internship: Wireline Competition Bureau, Pricing Policy Division, FCC

Recipient of the Julie Veach Internship Stipend

**Abigail Hicks** is a rising 3L at American University Washington College of Law with a strong interest in telecommunications, media, and technology law. Last summer, she participated in the FCBA Pipeline Program where she gained valuable exposure to the telecommunications industry and connected with attorneys, policymakers, and professionals across the communications law field. At American, Abigail is a member of the American University Business Law Review and will serve as the incoming President of the Communications and Media Law Society. Through these experiences, she has strengthened her interests in regulatory and transactional issues impacting communications and emerging technologies. Abigail is passionate about exploring how legal and policy frameworks shape innovation, access, and competition within the telecommunications sector, and looks forward to continuing to grow professionally within the field.



## CAMDEN MEAD

Internship: National Security Division, Cyber Section, Department of Justice

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Camden Mead** is a rising 2L at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, where his interests lie at the intersection of national security, technology, and law. He earned his B.S. in National Security Studies from Utah Valley University, graduating magna cum laude. Before law school, Camden spent three years at the Emerging Technology Policy Lab as a cyber threat analyst, team lead, and graduate research associate, working with federal and state agencies to identify cyber vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure across the water, energy, and power sectors. He has previously won the Atlantic Council's Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge in 2025 and placed second in 2024. Camden currently serves as President of the Federal Bar Association's University of Utah chapter. This summer, he will intern with the Department of Justice's National Security Division, Cyber Section, focusing on disrupting foreign cyber threats.



# FCBA Foundation 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## HAFSA NADEEM

Internship: Office of International Affairs,  
Telecommunications and Analysis Division, FCC

Recipient of the Diane Cornell Internship Stipend

**Hafsa Nadeem** is a rising 3L at the University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law, interested in regulatory, privacy, and international law. Prior to law school, Hafsa was a paralegal at Wiley Rein LLP in Washington DC where she assisted the appellate litigation practice group with administrative law litigation before various circuit courts. During her 2L year, she was the Vice President of the Cyber Law and Data Privacy Association, and Outreach Chair for the Muslim Law Student Association. In Fall 2025, Hafsa interned with the FCC's Office of International Affairs, Global Strategy & Negotiations Division where she assisted attorney advisors with preparing for telecommunications conferences and recommended updates for licensing rules. This summer, Hafsa will intern with the FCC's Office of International Affairs, Telecommunications & Analysis Division where she will focus on how foreign entities seeking access to U.S. telecommunications markets must navigate the domestic legal framework.



## JOSEF NOVACEK

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Josef Novacek** is a rising 3L at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and a member of the Law and Technology Institute, where he is pursuing a certificate in communications and data privacy law. He is the incoming President of the Law and Technology Student Association and the First Generation Law Student Union, and serves as the Vice Chancellor of the Moot Court Association's National Telecommunications and Technology Competition. This spring, he served as the Spring Intern in the office of FCC Commissioner Olivia Trusty. This summer, he will join AT&T's External and Legislative Affairs team as a Legal Intern. Prior to law school, Josef graduated from Ursinus College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Neuroscience, and he worked at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as a human immunologist.



## The Diane Cornell Internship Stipend

In 2020, friends and colleagues established the Diane Cornell Internship Fund in memory of their colleague, mentor, and friend. Diane not only rose to prominence but changed institutions she became a part of, a truly rare quality. She spent two tours of duty and many years at the FCC holding an expansive list of positions, first joining the Common Carrier Bureau's Division of Policy and Program Planning in 1987, and finally as Special Counsel to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler prior to her retirement in 2016. Other ranks of great responsibility Diane held included Chief of the International Policy Division of the Common Carrier Bureau, Chief of the Telecommunications Division of the International Bureau, and the Chief of Staff/Associate Chief of the Wireless Communications Bureau. She also served as legal advisor to FCC Commissioners Patricia Diaz Dennis and Sherrie Marshall, and as Acting Senior Legal Advisor to FCC Chairman Reed H. Hundt.



Prior to joining the FCC in 1987 Diane began her career at the law firm Squire, Sanders and Dempsey (now Squire Patton Boggs). Between Diane's two stints at the FCC she served as vice president at CTIA and Inmarsat where she led regulatory and government relations departments. Diane also served as FCBA President from 2007-2008.

Diane's unique combination of keen intellect and transformative work ethic leave behind a legacy as a lawyer, policy maker, advocate, and passionate public servant that most can only imagine.

In honor of Diane, the Diane Cornell Internship Fund supports law students accepting unpaid summer internships. This year's recipient is **Hafsa Nadeem**.

# FCBA Foundation 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## **BENJAMIN SHATZ**

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Benjamin Shatz** is a rising 2L at the University of Colorado, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Physics and Secondary Science Education. Before entering Colorado Law, Ben had a successful career as a physics instructor, tutor, and freelance science writer, alongside other odd jobs including train conductor, horticulturist, and election organizer. He's brought his interdisciplinary nature to law school, where he studies the intersection of public service, AI, business, and ethics. He's been named a Dale Hatfield scholar, and this summer he looks forward to a legal internship with the Office of Engineering and Technology at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC.



## **SHREYA SHIVAKUMAR**

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Shreya Shivakumar** is a rising 2L at Columbia Law School. She is a proud first-generation Indian-American who grew up in Manhattan, Queens, and New Jersey. Shreya is a magna cum laude graduate of Barnard College, where she earned her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Science and Public Policy. At Barnard, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Undergraduate Law Review and chaired her college's Honor



Board. Shreya is committed to using her legal education to advise startup companies in the technology and media sectors. At Columbia Law, she is a staff editor at the Science and Technology Law Review, Vice President of Empowering Women of Color, and Private Sector Chair of the South Asian Law Students Association. Passionate about volunteer service leadership, Shreya is the founder of Nourish America, an anti-hunger nonprofit, and she serves on the American Heart Association's National Youth Leadership Council.

## **ELIZABETH SIGWARTH**

FCBA Foundation Scholarship

**Elizabeth Sigwarth** is a rising 3L at the University of Iowa College of Law, where she has demonstrated a deep commitment to public service and the promotion of transparency in communications law. Her dedication to advocacy—a core value since a young age—led her to volunteer with Iowa Legal Aid during her 1L year, an experience that resulted in her induction into the University of Iowa Pro Bono Society. Through her work with the University of Iowa Technology Law Clinic, Elizabeth has advised clients on complex legal issues arising from emerging technologies, with a particular focus on surveillance and artificial intelligence. She is committed to using her legal education to protect personal information and ensure that vulnerable populations are not excluded from essential legal protections. Elizabeth looks forward to continuing this mission in the fall as she joins the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council.





## Honorary Degrees (Organizations)

Inspired by the Foundation's mission to support educational and professional pursuits, organizations and their collaborative individuals' donations, this year so far, have been recognized with the following honorary degrees:

### **DEGREES ALL THEIR OWN**

(\$10,000 and above)

AT&T

Comcast NBCUniversal

Cox Enterprises

CTIA

DLA Piper LLP (US)

Fox Corporation

Google

Karen Kincaid: Sponsored by Wiley Rein and Karen's Friends

Mark Van Bergh: Sponsored by Mark's Family and Friends

National Association of Broadcasters

NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

Qualcomm Incorporated

Somos, Inc.

USTelecom – The Broadband Association

Verizon

Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

Young Lawyers and Charity Auction

### **MASTERS OF MEDIA**

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Davis Wright Tremaine

HWG LLP

Mintz

### **BACHELORS OF BROADBAND**

(\$2,000 - \$4,999)

The Colinvaux Zamore Family

Crown Castle

Jenner & Block LLP



## Gems

Donations this year that will be going to support the Foundation's public service programs have been recognized at the following "birth stone" levels:

### DIAMOND

(\$1,000 and above)

Annick M. Banoun  
Angela F. Collins  
Christine Crowe  
Scott & Sapna Delacourt  
Seth A. Davidson  
Margaret Flinner  
Shiva Goel  
Patrick Halley  
Russ Hanser  
Lisa Higginbotham  
Wayne Johnsen  
Adam Krinsky  
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Steven Miller  
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Karen Sprung  
Megan A. Stull & Gregory Hoobler  
Jennifer Tatel  
Toodles Foundation  
James and Agnieszka Van Bergh  
Ryan G. Wallach  
Tom & Carol Wheeler  
Hannah Whelan  
Rachel Wolkowitz

### EMERALD

(\$500 - \$999)

Matthew W. Botwin  
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Matt DelNero  
Ian Dillner  
Eric and Cheryl Einhorn Family  
Michael Hazzard  
Julie Kearney  
C. Keller  
Jean Kiddoo  
Frank Lamancusa  
Lloyd Mayer  
Jackson McNeal  
Terri Natoli  
Steve Nieslawski  
David O'Connor  
Bill Richardson  
Moiria Smith  
Nancy Victory  
Chris Wood  
Dean Zerbe

### PEARL

(\$250 - \$499)

Christopher Bjornson  
Van Bloys  
Mark Denbo  
Madeleine Findley  
Mrs. Michael S. Kanne  
Diana Kelley  
Kathleen A. Kirby  
Phil Marchesiello  
Daudeline Meme  
Austin Schlick  
John T. Scott III  
C. Sean Spivey  
Scott Tollefsen



## Gems

### RUBY

(\$100 - \$249)

The Ash Family  
Robert Beizer  
James S. Blitz  
Chad Breckinridge  
Evelyn Brody and Jack Siegel  
Board of the Children's School of Science  
Susan and Michael Burke  
Diane Burstein  
James Carr  
Adam Copeland  
Rhonda Cooperstein  
Bill Davenport  
Alan Davidson  
Ariel Diamond  
Jim Fishman  
David Furth  
Jeffrey Gee  
Sharon Gillett  
Renee Gregory  
The GW Law Faculty  
J.G. Harrington  
Shannon Heim  
Hines Family  
Mary Huang  
Adair Iacono  
Mike Jacobs  
Deirdre James  
Vicki Judson  
Daniel Kahn  
Shelly Korman

Christopher D. Libertelli  
Jodie May  
Mary McManus  
Ruth Milkman  
Brian Murray  
Tejas N. Narechania  
Hope, Katy & Irene O'Connell  
Jason Oxman  
Elissa Preheim  
Kim Scardino  
Morgan Schick  
Jim Schlichting  
Heidi and Steve Schooner  
Eugene Steuerle  
David Turetsky  
Ryan E. Weber & Stacey Marie Weber  
Chin Yoo

### SAPPHIRE

(\$99 and below)

Jonathan Campbell  
Sean Flaim  
Alan and Marti Galbreth  
Renee Gregory  
Mary Graw Leary  
Haran C. Rashes  
Stephanie Rigizadeh  
Andrew Jay Schwartzman  
Michelle Sclater  
Gene Takagi  
S. Jenell Trigg  
K. Michele Walters



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