



TRIAL ADVOCACY | WSAJ

Summer Fellowship Program

INTRODUCING WSAJ'S 2018 FELLOWS



Igor Shapiro (Seattle University) moved to the US from Uzbekistan with his family as refugees when he was a child. This experience, and his time in law school, has made him passionate about ensuring access to justice for injured people. He was drawn to WSAJ's Fellowship program "because it would allow me to learn how to advocate for individuals of diverse backgrounds who may not have the means to advocate for themselves." In his 2L year, he joined the Alternative Dispute Resolution Board, and plans to continue learning the skills associated with ADR.



Raeanne Miller (University of Washington) is a Puget Sound native who endured significant personal and financial hardships in her early life, before becoming the first person in her family to attend college in 2010. Raeanne understands firsthand the importance of "access to compassionate and knowledgeable lawyers who are committed to social justice and ensuring that their clients can reclaim their lives after being injured." She has worked as a legal intern for the Housing Justice Project and as a judicial extern for Justice Mary Yu.



Tirra Seely (Gonzaga University) first explored her interest in social justice through Communities In Schools, a nonprofit for at-risk youth. Over the past year, she's worked with the Unemployment Law Project. This interest in social justice is what led her to WSAJ: "When I entered law school, I anticipated pursuing a career in criminal law," she says. "I wanted to defend the powerless and underserved and stand up for those who do not have an equal voice in society. As I learned more about the legal field I became more and more interested in pursuing my social justice goals through plaintiff's work."



Vanessa James (University of Washington) developed an interest in the plaintiff's practice when she worked as an advocate for victims of domestic violence, and continued as she served as a judicial extern with the Tulalip Tribal Court. "We live with a legal system," says Vanessa, "not necessarily a justice system. Plaintiffs' work provides a way for individuals to access justice in a largely closed off system." Vanessa's goal is to practice plaintiff's law "to advance the struggle for human rights on behalf of other Asian Pacific individuals like myself; to assist individuals in my community."