

The Fried Frank Fellowship Opens Doors

The prestigious Fried Frank Fellowship has introduced our Fellows to incredible opportunities, relationships, and possibilities. Participation in the Fellowship Program, which provides unique experience with both a premier New York City law firm and a renowned civil rights organization, has provided unparalleled access to opportunities at the highest levels of public interest law, private practice, academia, and government service. The Fried Frank Fellows are at the cutting edge of legal practice in diverse fields across the country. Their experience as Fellows has uniquely positioned them as leaders and difference makers. Fellows cite the Program's reach and dual focus as instrumental to their professional and personal development.

LDF Fellows



Elise Boddie

Recently, Elise rejoined LDF as Deputy Director of Litigation & Senior Policy Counsel. Before returning to LDF, she was Associate Professor of Law at New York Law School and Associate Director of the Racial Justice Project at NYLS. Previously, she was Director of LDF's Education Group and Associate Director of Litigation.



Janai Nelson

Janai is now Associate Professor and the Associate Director of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John's University School of Law. She has also served as LDF's Director of Political Participation and was later a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship.



Ryan Paul Haygood

After his Fellowship, Ryan formally joined LDF and is now Director of the LDF Voting Group. He recently argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals against the State of Washington's felon disenfranchisement law as a violation of the Voting Rights Act.



Olga Akselrod

Olga is currently a staff attorney at the Innocence Project at Cardozo Law School, where she is also an adjunct clinical law professor.



Jenigh Garrett

Following her Fellowship, Jenigh joined the staff of LDF, where she was an assistant counsel focusing on voting rights issues. She is currently a staff attorney in the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section.

For full profiles, please visit friedfrank.com/fellowships



Marc Kevin Battle

Currently the Assistant General Counsel at Pepco Holdings, Inc., Marc holds the distinction of being the first African-American ever elected to the Borough of Haledon Council in New Jersey.



Alexis Karteron

Alexis served as a White House associate staff secretary for the Obama administration after completing her Fellowship. She is currently a staff attorney for the New York Civil Liberties Union.



Dale Ho

Following his Fellowship, Dale joined the staff of LDF as Assistant Counsel in the Political Participation Group. He recently helped represent plaintiffs in a suit concerning Louisiana's failure to provide public assistance recipients the opportunity to register to vote as required by the federal National Voter Registration Act.



Johnathan Smith

Johnathan currently works at LDF as Assistant Counsel in the Economic Justice Group. He was counsel in a suit filed on behalf of African-American homeowners affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as a suit challenging the NYPD's practice of routinely subjecting residents and their visitors to questionable stops and arrests.

"The invaluable training I received as an associate at Fried Frank enabled me to contribute to LDF's work in a way that simply would not have been possible had I joined LDF immediately after law school."

— Ryan Haygood, LDF Fellow

MALDEF Fellows

For full profiles, please visit friedfrank.com/fellowships



Maribel Medina

Maribel is chair of the Education Law Practice Group at Los Angeles law firm Meyers Nave and Deputy General Counsel of the Fontana Unified School District. She previously served as General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District, president of the Mexican-American Bar Association, and General Counsel to the Hispanic National Bar Association.



Hector Villagra

Hector joined the MALDEF staff after his Fellowship and became its Regional Counsel for the Los Angeles office. He is now Executive Director of the ACLU of Southern California, the first Latino to hold this position.



Leticia Saucedo

Leticia is currently a Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Legal Education at the University of California, Davis School of Law, where she teaches immigration law, employment law.



Maureen Guadalupe Tellez

Maureen has opened her own practice in Los Angeles representing indigenous Mayans, Mexicans and immigrants in removal proceedings.



Carlos Becerra

After his Fellowship, Carlos became a MALDEF staff attorney and later a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He currently owns the Becerra Law Group in the Chicago, Illinois area.



Diana Sagorika Sen

Diana is currently Senior Counsel at LatinoJustice PRLDEF where she heads the southeastern practice. She is the former President of the Hispanic National Bar Association and received the ABA Outstanding In-House Counsel Award for distinguished service by a nonprofit in-house counsel.



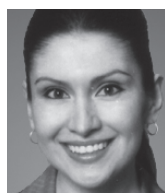
Shaheena Ahmad Simons

Following her Fellowship, Shaheena became a regional counsel for MALDEF. She is currently Deputy Chief in the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice.



David Herrera Urias

David is currently an associate in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he focuses on civil rights law, election law, antitrust and class action law. He served with MALDEF after his Fellowship as a staff attorney.



Gladys Limón

Gladys is currently an associate in Pasadena, CA. During her time at MALDEF, she litigated cases on behalf of Latinos in employment, civil rights, and immigrant rights.



Iván Espinoza-Madrigal

Following his work at MALDEF, Ivan is currently a staff attorney at Lambda Legal, where he focuses on legal issues facing LGBT people of color, LGBT immigrants, and low-income LGBT communities.

“Together, my desire for change, Fried Frank’s abundant resources and MALDEF’s progressive activism form a partnership that transcends the traditional segmentation of the private and public sectors. The Fellowship has provided me with inestimable experience and has made me a better attorney.”

— Diana Sen, MALDEF Fellow