Every year, the firms and agencies that belong to the Institute for Law and the Workplace, and individual friends and supporters, provide scholarship funds for Chicago-Kent students. Scholarships relieve the debt burden graduates face and expand their career opportunities. We appreciate their generosity.

Named Scholarships

Clark Baird Smith LLP Scholarship

Erin Monforti (JD ’22) graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social & Economic Development Policy. At Chicago-Kent, she is the President of the Women in Law Society, and a student editor for the Illinois Public Employee Relations Report and the Seventh Circuit Review. This past summer, Erin worked as a law clerk at the Chicago law firm Ancel Glink, P.C., where she further developed her passion for local government law.

Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga, LLC Scholarship

Shanti Brantley (JD ’22) graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Philosophy. At Chicago-Kent, she is a member of the Black Law Students Association. In the summer of 2020, she interned with FedEx in the legal department as a member of the employment law practice group. During the 2021 summer, she was a summer associate with Downey Brand LLP, working primarily with the employment litigation group. In her spare time, she runs an Amazon store.

Franczek P.C. Scholarship

Michael Vargas (JD ’22) graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. At Chicago-Kent, he is vice president of the Labor and Employment Law Society as well as the Student Humanitarian Network. Michael currently works as a law clerk at Del Galdo Law Group with the school law practice group.

Fraternal Order of Police Scholarship in Honor of Thomas F. Sonneborn

MaryKate Hresil (JD ’22) graduated from St. Joseph’s College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and English Creative Writing. At Chicago-Kent, she is a member of the Labor and Employment Society, a student editor of the Illinois Public Employees Relations Report, and the treasurer of the Child and Family Law Society. In the summer of 2021, she continued as law clerk for Karlson Garza McQueary, LLC.
Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting Scholarship

Melissa Hall (JD ’24) graduated from Wittenberg University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and from Northern Illinois University with a Master in Public Administration. For eight years, she has worked as an HR Generalist for GovHR USA, a consulting firm that specializes in local government recruitment. She is the current president of the Legacy Project, an organization dedicated to the advancement of women in local government. Additionally, she is active in the Illinois Public Employee Labor Relations Association.

IOUE Local 150 Haymarket Square Scholarship

Ricardo Santiago (JD ’23) graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, Media, and Theater. At Chicago-Kent, he is president of the First-Generation Law Student Association, training manager of the Self-Help Resource Center, associate editor of the Journal of Intellectual Property, and student editor of the Employee Rights & Employment Policy Journal. In the summer of 2021, he was a law clerk extern at Costello, Ginex, & Wideikis, PC.

Laner Muchin Scholarship in Memory of Robert S. Letchinger

Emily Dybas (JD ’22) graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History. At Chicago-Kent, she is a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, and she is one of the student editors of the Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal. In the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Wiedner & McAuliffe, Ltd.

Littler Mendelson P.C. Scholarship

Erin Karnig (JD ’22) graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she was a dean’s list student, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Psychology. She is active in Chicago-Kent’s Moot Court Honor Society. In the summer of 2021, she was a summer associate at Littler Mendelson in the employment law area.

Louis Jackson Memorial Scholarship (Jackson Lewis P.C.)

David Guerra (JD ’23) graduated from Bradley University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. At Chicago-Kent, he is a junior associate in the Chicago-Kent Law Review, enrolled in the Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program, and active with the Hispanic Latinx Law Student Association, Labor and Employment Law Society, and American Constitution Society Chicago-Kent Student Chapter. During summer 2021, he externed with the Office of the Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP Scholarship

Eleni Galanopulos (JD ’22) graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. At Chicago-Kent, she is the Treasurer of the Labor and Employment Law Society. In the summer of 2020, she externed for a federal judge in the Northern District of Illinois, in the spring of 2021 she
interned at the Department of Labor, and in the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Sherwood Law Group.

**Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. Scholarship**

**Victoria Lozano** (JD ‘22) graduated from Appalachian State University with a Master of Arts degree in English, a certificate in rhetoric, and a certificate in women and gender studies. Her decision to pursue a legal career stemmed from her passion for justice and representation of minority women in the field. She currently sits as treasurer of the Student Bar Association, but has held executive positions for Lambda, Disability Advocacy Law Student Association (DALSA), and the American Constitution Society. She is a clerk at SmithAmundsen and is looking forward to her spring internship with the EEOC.

**Seyfarth Shaw LLP Scholarship**

**Jennifer Lind** (JD ‘22) graduated from the University of Illinois, Chicago, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Criminology, Law, & Justice. At Chicago-Kent, she is president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, publicist for the Racial Equity and Advocacy Alliance, and a student editor of the *Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal*. In the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Baum Sigman Auerbach & Neuman, Ltd.

**SmithAmundsen LLC Scholarship**

**Liza Vasilyeva** (JD ’22) graduated magna cum laude from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Geography. At Chicago-Kent, she is an active member of the National Lawyers Guild. In the summer of 2021, she was a summer intern at People’s Law Office, where she assisted in civil rights and criminal cases.

**Louis Jackson Memorial Scholarship (Jackson Lewis P.C.)**

**David Guerra** (JD ’23) graduated from Bradley University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. At Chicago-Kent, he is a junior associate in the Chicago-Kent Law Review, enrolled in the Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program, and active with the Hispanic Latinx Law Student Association, Labor and Employment Law Society, and American Constitution Society Chicago-Kent Student Chapter. During summer 2021, he externed with the Office of the Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

**Joshua Holleb Scholarship**

**Laura Bradley-Hufford** (JD ‘22) graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy. At Chicago-Kent, she is vice president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and she held the position of marshal before being elected as clerk of Phi Alpha Delta. In the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Sexner Law Group, LLC.
Kyle Johansen Scholarship

Eleni Galanopulos (JD ’22) graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. At Chicago-Kent, she is the Treasurer of the Labor and Employment Law Society. In the summer of 2020, she externed for a federal judge in the Northern District of Illinois, in the spring of 2021 she interned at the Department of Labor, and in the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Sherwood Law Group.

MPK Scholarship

Erin Karnig (JD ’22) graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she was a dean’s list student, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Psychology. She is active in Chicago-Kent’s Moot Court Honor Society. In the summer of 2021, she was a summer associate at Littler Mendelson in the employment law area.

Gary Bailey Scholarship

Enrique Espinoza (JD ’21) is a graduate of the Universidad Veracruzana. He was one of twenty-four law students nationwide awarded fellowships by the American Arbitration Association to attend the AAA ADR Diversity Law Student Summit in 2019, and he received the Gary Laser Professionalism Award in 2020. A longtime member of UNITE HERE 1, where he is a shop steward, he worked in the summer of 2021 with the National Legal Advocacy Network as a Peggy Browning Fellow. He is a student editor of the Illinois Public Employee Relations Report.

Stickler & Nelson Endowment Scholarship

This scholarship is made possible by the generosity of K. Bruce Stickler & Mark D. Nelson through a fully funded endowment. Prior to its merger with Gardner Carton & Douglas, Stickler & Nelson was one of the earliest members of the Institute for Law and the Workplace and played a leadership role in the Institute. Ever since they joined the Institute, they have sponsored the Stickler & Nelson Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a highly qualified student in the Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program.

Elizabeth Varon (JD ’22) graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary School Teaching. At Chicago-Kent, she serves as the President of the Labor & Employment Law Society, a student editor for the Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal, and a Chicago-Kent Advocate. She is currently a legal intern with arbitrator and mediator Jacalyn J. Zimmerman.

Law and the Workplace Scholarships

We gratefully acknowledge Fish Potter Bolaños P.C.; Vedder Price P.C.; Cozen O’Connor; and Schiff Hardin LLP for contributing these funds.

Laura Bradley-Hufford (JD ’22) graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy. At Chicago-Kent, she is vice president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and she
held the position of marshal before being elected as clerk of Phi Alpha Delta. In the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Sexner Law Group, LLC.

**Rebecca Chmielewski** (JD ’23) graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Capital and Society from the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations. She is secretary of the Labor and Employment Law Society and a student editor of the *Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal*. In the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at Malman Law. She loves to cook in her free time.

**Elizabeth Varon** (JD ’22) graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary School Teaching. At Chicago-Kent, she serves as the President of the Labor & Employment Law Society, a student editor for the *Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal*, and a Chicago-Kent Advocate. She is currently a legal intern with arbitrator and mediator Jacalyn J. Zimmerman.

**Organized Labor Scholarships**

*Katz, Friedman, Eagle, Eisenstein, Johnson & Bareck, P.C.; Allison, Slutsky & Kennedy, P.C.; Baum Sigman Auerbach & Neuman, Ltd.; the Illinois Education Association; McGann Ketterman & Rioux Ltd.; Asher, Gittler & D’Alba, Ltd.; Dowd, Bloch, Bennett, Cervone, Auerbach & Yokich; International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local Union 705; and Jacobs, Burns, Orlove & Hernandez for contributing these funds.*

**Olivia Povedano** (JD ’23) graduated summa cum laude from The Catholic University of America with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Theory. At Chicago-Kent, she is a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, a junior associate for the Chicago-Kent Law Review, and a student editor for the *Employee Rights & Employment Policy Journal*. In the summer of 2021, she was a law clerk at a boutique plaintiff-side employment law firm in South Florida.

**Michael Vargas** (JD ’22) graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. At Chicago-Kent, he is vice president of the Labor and Employment Law Society as well as the Student Humanitarian Network. Michael currently works as a law clerk at Del Galdo Law Group with the school law practice group.

**Externship Scholarships**

*Externship Scholarships are funded in part by the Masters Family Endowment. The Masters Family Endowment, established in 2000 by The Honorable Edward F. Masters ’72, supports areas of greatest need within the Institute for the Law and the Workplace. This endowment enables the Institute to continually deliver an exceptional experience for our students and the Chicago labor and employment law community.*

**Humberto Ochoa Jr.** (JD ’22) graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he was a Gates Millennium Scholar, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He is from the southwest side of Chicago and began his social justice work at a young age, helping his mother organize workers in the workplace and fighting against unfair labor practices. At Chicago-Kent, he is involved with the
Ricardo Santiago (JD ’23) graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, Media, and Theater. At Chicago-Kent, he is president of the First-Generation Law Student Association, training manager of the Self-Help Resource Center, associate editor of the *Journal of Intellectual Property*, and student editor of the *Employee Rights & Employment Policy Journal*. In the summer of 2021, he was a law clerk extern at Costello, Ginex, & Wideikis, PC.