

Meet Our Fall 2026 Cohort



Lou Bon-Ami

Lou is pursuing a master's in Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies from North Carolina A&T State University and an MA in National Security Studies. He is the Founder and Executive Director of HopeSpring International, a nonprofit organization focused on strengthening education systems globally and connecting social entrepreneurs to meaningful, community-engaged work. Before he transitioned to nonprofit leadership, Lou served in the Marine Corps for over 20 years, leading multi-disciplinary teams in support of international development.



Kaysey Boscico

Kaysey is pursuing a master's in Education Policy at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Florida. Before graduate school, she taught AP Language and special education with Teach for America in Washington, D.C. Kaysey's passion lies at the intersection of education and policy. As an aspiring superintendent, she aims to develop a compassionate education system that reflects and celebrates the diverse life experiences of all students.



Carina Chen

Carina is pursuing a master's in International Affairs at SIPA, Columbia University. She holds a BA in Education and Social Transformation and Political Science from UCLA. Before graduate school, she taught middle school math for two years in Waianae, Hawaii through Teach For America. During her undergraduate studies, she served as an orientation leader, tutored high school students, volunteered in K-4 afterschool programs at the Someone Cares Soup Kitchen, and spearheaded an online English learning initiative for Taiwanese tribal villages. Carina is passionate about advancing educational justice and policy-driven solutions for marginalized communities worldwide.

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Kavyasree Chiguurpati

Kavyasree, who goes by Kavi, is pursuing a master's in Education Policy at Columbia University. A Rutgers Honors College graduate with degrees in Political Science and Labor Studies, she previously spent three years mentoring high school seniors at a nonprofit organization, Genesys Works NYC. She is also a certified Vinyasa yoga teacher. Kavi is passionate about connecting K-12 education, workforce development, mental health, and movement. She aims to build a career using policy, somatic practice, and storytelling to help young people thrive academically and holistically.



Brandon Choi

Brandon is a second-year law student at New York University School of Law. During his undergraduate years at Emory University, he advocated for greater diversity in student mental health resources and developed educational curricula for schools throughout the Northeast. Before law school, he taught English in his hometown of Edison, New Jersey. Brandon aims to draw on his experience serving students in both counseling and educational settings to expand access to high-quality education.



Chloé Clements

Chloé is a rising second-year law student at Howard University School of Law. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Sioux Falls and a Master of Social Work from Louisiana State University. Before law school, Chloé founded and served as Executive Director of ACE Academy, an equity-centered community school serving children and families from diverse backgrounds. She also worked in social services and nonprofit leadership, focusing on youth development and community engagement. Her academic interests include education law, civil rights, and public interest advocacy.

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Bianca Dammholz

Bianca is a second-year law student at Columbia Law School. She received a BA from the University of Oxford and an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center. Before law school, Bianca worked with a variety of nonprofits including the ACLU, Georgetown's Center for Privacy and Technology, and post-conviction defense. During law school, Bianca has focussed on criminal justice reform and education policy with involvement in Columbia's Parole Advocacy Project and Texas Federal Public Defenders.



Nicole Kam

Nicole is pursuing a master's in Education Policy at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds a bachelor's in Education for Sustainability from The Education University of Hong Kong. Before graduate school, Nicole spent seven years working in Hong Kong public schools as a teacher and School Affairs Director. She currently serves as an Education Outreach Intern at LEAP and a Program Assistant for the Summer Principals Academy at Teacher's College. Nicole is passionate about advancing educational equity and bridging school-based practice and policy to better support students and families.



Alicia Kariuki

Alicia is a second-year law student at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She holds a bachelor's in Liberal Studies with a Pre-Law concentration from North Carolina A&T State University. During that time, she interned at the White House and the U.S. House of Representatives, attending education hearings and engaging with organizations on proposed legislation. After graduating, she joined a Global Legal Brigade in Honduras, providing legal support to families and teaching local children. Alicia is passionate about empowering youth through equitable access to educational tools and opportunities.

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Aliyah Kilpatrick

Aliyah is a second-year law student at Columbia Law School. After receiving a BS in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University, she worked as a paralegal for two years at a law firm in New York City. During that time, she assisted in a variety of pro bono cases, focusing on education law, criminal law, and immigration-related matters. During law school, Aliyah has deepened her understanding of education law and is passionate about bringing forth positive changes to help students.



Tucker Kirchberger

Tucker is a second-year law student at NYU School of Law. He received a bachelor's from Wesleyan University, during which he was a public school substitute teacher in his home state of New Jersey and worked for an ed-tech startup. After graduating, he joined Teach for America and became a STEM-focused high school special education teacher in Brooklyn. Tucker went on to receive a Master's in Education from CUNY Hunter College. At NYU Law, he has joined the firm Sidley Austin with a plan to focus on transactional law. Tucker is interested in the intersection of urban planning, architecture, and public education.



Michelle Le

Michelle is a third-year law student at UCLA School of Law. She earned a Bachelor's in Public Affairs with a minor in Education Studies from UCLA. During her undergraduate studies, she served as a peer counselor at SEA CLEAR, a student retention organization on campus, supporting students navigating higher education. As a first-generation college graduate, Michelle is dedicated to helping others access the same resources that contributed to her educational journey and success. Through her legal education, Michelle is determined to advocate for all students and the very communities that raised her.

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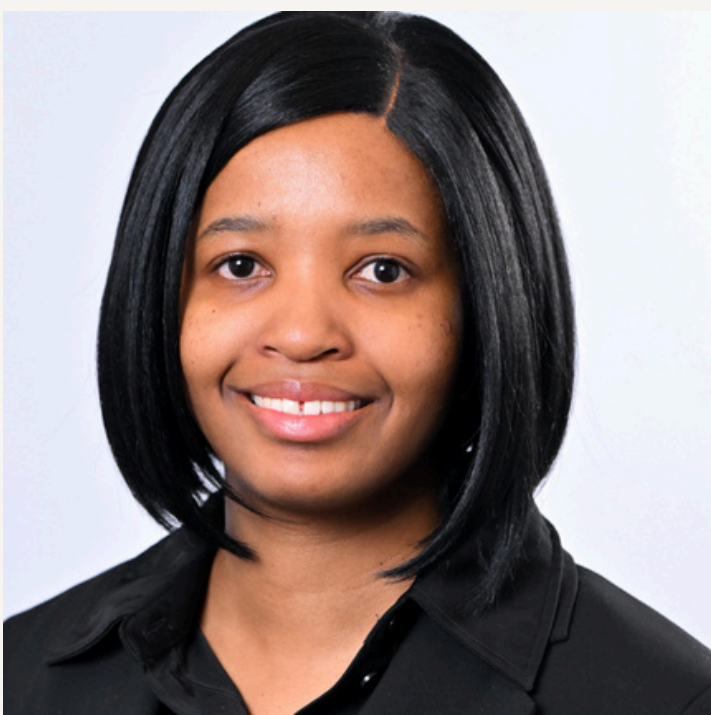
Ryan Leong

Ryan is currently pursuing a Master's in Sociology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He previously graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor's in Psychobiology. For the past six years, Ryan has worked in student affairs at UCLA, supporting and advising undergraduate students. Recently, he created an online college access scholarship program for low-income California high school students. Ryan is deeply committed to expanding access to higher education and hopes to continue the work of making college systems more accessible, equitable, and supportive.



Halima Lugent

Halima is currently pursuing a Master's in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in teaching from Pace University. After more than fifteen years in schools, Halima now supports schools and districts in implementing literacy curriculum. Her current focus is on how evidence-based instructional and psychological practices are implemented in real-world settings.



Gorata Malose

Gorata is a dual-degree student at Columbia University, pursuing a master's degree in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences and a Master of Public Administration. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Columbia University. Before graduate school, she worked in Monitoring and Evaluation, most notably at an organization called Youth Impact, where she gained exposure to challenges related to literacy and numeracy in public education systems. With over two years of experience in the nonprofit sector, she is excited to contribute to initiatives that drive impact at scale.

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Ryan Mazurkiewicz

Ryan is a second-year law student at Columbia Law School. He received a Bachelor's in Political Science from Vassar College while also earning a New York State Teaching Certificate. After graduating, Ryan taught 6th grade math for three years in Elmhurst, Queens. He is currently interested in education policy and the law, with a focus on equitable school funding.



Morgan Minnis

Morgan is a second-year law student at New York University School of Law. She earned a bachelor's degree from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study focused on the intersection between education, race, and politics. Morgan worked as a Presidential Intern in NYU's Office of the Dean of Students, an advisor for NYU's College and Career Lab, and as a Weil Legal Innovator at the Posse Foundation. In law school, Morgan is focused on developing an interdisciplinary foundation for addressing structural barriers to educational equity.



Pauline Moralez

Pauline is a second-year law student at Columbia Law School. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Communications with a minor in Business from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to law school, Pauline worked as a commercial litigation law clerk at Cleveland Krist PLLC and as a corporate paralegal at Westbrook Partners, where she managed corporate compliance and asset transactions. She is dedicated to leveraging her legal education to advance economic progress, social equity, and systemic change within underserved communities.

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Bianca Murray

Bianca is a second-year law student at USC Gould School of Law. She received a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley, during which she conducted extensive research at UC Berkeley Law School's Human Rights Center and Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law. Prior to law school, she served as a political strategist for a California Assembly campaign and as a legal assistant at an employment and labor defense firm. Bianca is passionate about the intersection of law, policy, and research in strengthening educational systems.



Mukund Nair

Mukund is a rising third-year law student at the University of Michigan Law School. He holds a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from Williams College and a Masters in Pubic Health from UTHHealth Houston, where he focused on community health initiatives. Throughout law school, Mukund has worked as a student attorney on pro bono matters ranging from custody cases to nonprofit legal support. He is passionate about leveraging advocacy and his public health experience to create positive change in local communities.



Sophie Nduati

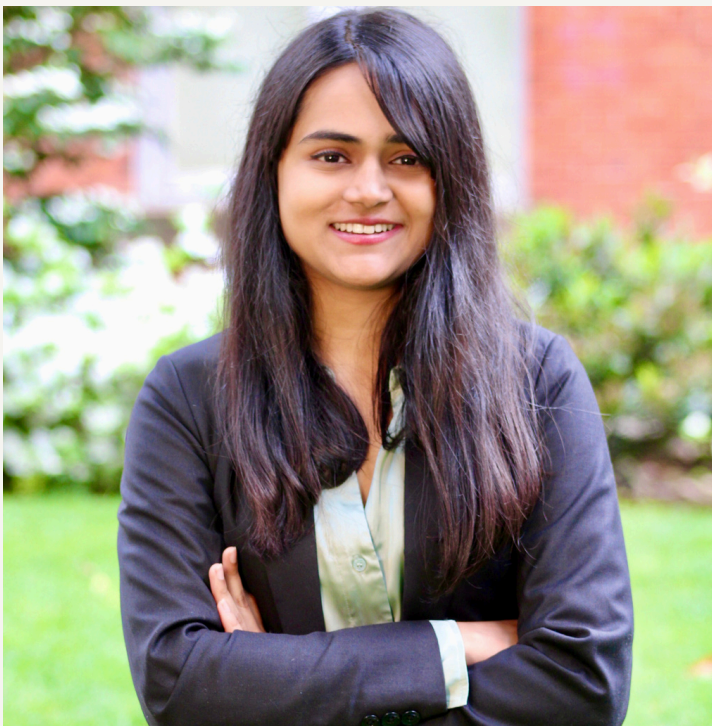
Sophie is a third-year law student at Howard University School of Law. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from California State University, Sacramento. Before law school, she volunteered with the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals, helping underserved clients navigate complex legal paperwork. During law school, Sophie is a member of the Movement Lawyering Clinic and worked as a Summer Associate at Wolfe & Wyman LLP. She is passionate about corporate transactional work, public policy, and equity-focused legal advocacy.

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Sage Pope

Sage is a third-year law student at Fordham Law School. She earned a B.A. in Music and Public Health from Vanderbilt, graduating magna cum laude. During law school, Sage worked in Brooklyn Housing Court representing New Yorkers facing eviction, and with Lincoln Square Legal Services' Legislative and Policy Advocacy Clinic. She advocated for harm reduction legislation in New York State, improving the safety and treatment of sex workers and LGBTQIA+ individuals within the criminal justice system. Sage is committed to advancing equitable policies and providing impactful advocacy for underserved communities through direct representation and systemic legal reform.



Katyayani Raghuvanshi

Katyayani is currently receiving a Masters of Public Administration in Development Practice at Columbia University, SIPA where she focuses on education, governance, and evidence-based development practice. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Delhi. Katyayani began her career teaching in a low-income government school in Delhi as a Teach For India Fellow, an experience that shaped her commitment to educational equity. She has also supported policy advisory, project monitoring, stakeholder coordination, and field-based research across public-sector and governance initiatives in India. Her academic and professional interests center on strengthening education systems through inclusive, data-informed, and accountable policy solutions.



Ruben Ramirez

Ruben is a second-year law student at Columbia Law School. He received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Davis, where he also worked as a tutor and learning assistant, supporting students in their academic development and helping them navigate challenging coursework. At Columbia, Ruben is interested in the intersection of education, government, and criminal law, with a focus on supporting students and individuals seeking re-entry or greater access to legal and educational opportunities.

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Emma Thelke

Emma is a PhD student in Politics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a B.S. in Education Studies and Political Science, Emma worked in Wisconsin politics, both as a policy advisor to Governor Tony Evers and for a voter outreach organization targeting college students in the state. Currently, Emma works as a research assistant in the Center for Educational Equity's S-BYE Lab and has research interests in how students and families utilize their social networks to engage in student advocacy work.



Jack Valentino

Jack is a second-year law student at NYU School of Law. He holds a B.A. in Institutional Politics from Bates College. Before law school, Jack taught at a charter school in Harlem, NY where he became particularly interested in the relationship between school design, parental engagement, and student outcomes. Currently, Jack serves on the board of the Suspension Representation Project, representing DOE students in disciplinary hearings. Drawing from his experience in public, private, and charter systems, Jack is passionate about dismantling legal barriers to innovation in the education space.



Emy Yamamoto

Emy is pursuing her Masters in Learning Analytics at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds a B.S. in Business and Enterprise Management and Psychology from Wake Forest University. Her experience includes sustainability education, arts and student programming, and research focused on learning and student outcomes. Originally a Lemann Fellow from Brazil, Emy is interested in using data to create more equitable learning experiences.

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Yingrou Zhu

Yingrou is currently a student at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and will also pursue a PhD in Education at Columbia. Previously, she studied public policy at Brown University and data science at Georgia Tech. She has worked in the education and labor sectors in China and at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Columbia's Climate School. Yingrou also leads the Entrepreneurship YouthFund, a nonprofit supporting youth access to opportunity. Her research examines university board governance, donor-trustee dynamics, and endowment stewardship, with a focus on advancing social mobility and equitable access to higher education.