

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

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JOHN MARSHALL LAW STUDENT AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS PEGGY BROWNING FELLOWSHIP

Philadelphia, PA, March 13, 2019 - The Peggy Browning Fund has awarded a 10-week summer fellowship to Sayra Contreras, a first-year student at John Marshall Law School. Sayra will spend the fellowship working at Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project in Chicago, IL. The application process is highly competitive, and the award is a tribute to her outstanding qualifications.

In 2019, the Peggy Browning Fund will support over 80 public interest labor law fellowships nationwide. Securing a Peggy Browning Fellowship is not an easy task, with nearly 450 applicants competing for the honor this year. Peggy Browning Fellows are distinguished students who have not only excelled in law school but who have also demonstrated their commitment to workers' rights through their previous educational, work, volunteer and personal experiences. Sayra Contreras certainly fits this description.

Sayra is a bilingual, first-generation college student who was born in Michoacán, Mexico. Sayra is devoted to making a positive impact in the lives of others by using her knowledge and skills. While working to attain her undergraduate degree, Sayra had a rewarding experience as an intern at the Office of General Counsel for Northern Illinois University. As an intern, Sayra actively participated in various projects and was committed to acquiring new legal skills. Upon graduation, she worked at the DeKalb County Courthouse as a member of the Treatment Court. There, Sayra had a gratifying experience as she provided guidance and legal resources to individuals in need. Sayra is a dedicated individual whose goal is to fight for workplace justice and human rights issues, while always demonstrating humility and respect. Sayra credits her educational success to her Mexican immigrant parents who inspire her to work hard and taught her the importance of determination.

The Peggy Browning Fund is a not for-profit organization established in memory of Margaret A. Browning, a prominent union-side attorney who was a member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from 1994 until 1997. Peggy Browning Fellowships provide law students with unique, diverse and challenging work experiences fighting for social and economic justice. These experiences encourage and inspire students to pursue careers in public interest labor law.

To learn more about the Peggy Browning Fund, contact Julia Watkins, Program Coordinator, by phone at 267-273-7996 or by email at <u>jwatkins@peggybrowningfund.org</u>, or visit <u>www.peggybrowningfund.org</u>.