



American Society of International Law

Arthur C. Helton Fellowship 2024 Program Fellows



Steffi Colao is a UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights legal fellow and a recent graduate of the UCLA School of Law, where she specialized in Critical Race Studies and International & Comparative Law. Presently, she works with the immigrant justice organization Project ANAR, representing clients in asylum proceedings and immigration detention. Previously, she has worked at the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Reprieve, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and a federal public defender's office. Her scholarship is forthcoming in the UCLA Law Review and the Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs. Her work concerns the ways national security is invoked to block migration and deprive individuals of human rights. Steffi also holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College in Geography (2019). With the Helton Fellowship, Steffi will work as a research fellow with ECCHR on their Border Justice Team. There, she will examine human rights violations, specifically the denial of legal personhood, for people on the move at the EU borders. She will evaluate firsthand accounts of pushback policies and access to justice for detained migrants, developing reports and contributing to ECCHR's litigation concerning these human rights abuses.



Ben Crawford is a J.D. candidate at American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2024. He currently works as a legal fellow for the American Red Cross: International Humanitarian Law Program and as an intern for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations. He received his undergraduate degree *cum laude* in criminology from Villanova University in 2021. Previously, Ben has worked for Geneva Call's Office of Policy, Programmes, and Legal as well as the Office of General Counsel at Families Against Mandatory Minimums. While at the Washington College of Law, Ben has participated in the War Crimes Research Office's Summer Law Program in the Hague, worked as a student attorney for the Criminal Justice Clinic, competed as part of the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court team at the Jean-Pictet and Clara Barton Competitions, served as a research assistant for the International Law Commission, and worked for the Kovler Project Against Torture. As a Helton Fellow, Ben will return to Geneva Call to work with their regional team in Cotabato City in the Bangsamoro

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the Philippines. Ben's primary focus will be to advocate for the respect of international humanitarian norms in the context of non-international armed conflicts. Specifically, he will accomplish this by assisting with direct engagement with armed groups and *de facto* authorities, capacity building for civil society organizations and religious leaders, and the creation of disseminatable materials to increase widespread knowledge of humanitarian norms.



Nickolas Eburne is a graduate of the civil law (LL.L.), common law (J.D.), and Master of Laws (LL.M.) programs of the University of Ottawa. Specializing in international trade and foreign investment during his graduate studies, he authored a Master's paper examining the interpretation of "territory" in international law, in an effort to determine how investment treaties can apply to occupied territories. In collaboration with the World Refugee and Migration Council, Nickolas' project will focus on both environmental and refugee law; he will travel to regions in Northern Canada to meet with communities who have been displaced by the effects of climate change. His legal research will scope in domestic laws, notably relating to the fishing rights of Indigenous communities, and the international refugee law regime created by both the 1951 *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* and the 1954 *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*. By considering that climate change can produce both internally and externally displaced peoples, Nickolas will seek to identify the types of reforms that would best address the rights of these climate-displaced communities.



Sonia Geba is a third-year JD student at Georgetown University Law Center where she focused on the intersection of international humanitarian law, human rights, and criminal law by working primarily with detained migrants in U.S. immigration detention facilities and war refugees in the United States and Europe. She has worked on these issues with various organizations and in various regions, including the American Bar Association's Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project on the U.S.-Mexico border, the Center for Applied Legal Studies Asylum Clinic in the DC area, and Proyecto Dilley's migrant detention project in South Texas. She has supported strategic litigation efforts for asylum seekers' rights at the Association for Legal Intervention, a Polish NGO based in Warsaw, and she has worked on conflict-related sexual violence and transitional justice at the Ukrainian-Women Lawyers Association in Lviv, Ukraine. She has authored a forthcoming publication in the Georgetown Journal of International Law entitled, "Abduction and Adoption: Rights to Reparation for Forcibly Displaced Children During Armed Conflict." Prior to law school, Sonia served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, and as an education advocate for children with disabilities at Advocates for Children of New York. With the support of the Helton Fellowship, Sonia will travel to the Greek

island of Kos and work with Equal Rights Beyond Borders to provide direct services to detained migrants on the island. She will also support strategic litigation efforts before the European Court of Human Rights, conduct human rights monitoring in local facilities, and research the impacts of climate migration on Greece as the EU rolls out its newly negotiated Pact on Migration and Asylum. Her project will assess Greek detention facilities and border procedures' compliance with EU and international human rights law, refugee law, and emerging climate migration frameworks.



Sarthak Gupta is currently working as a Judicial Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate at the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi. He holds a B.A. and an L.L.B (Hons.) from the Institute of Law, Nirma University, Ahmedabad, India. His research interests revolve around Constitutional law, the Criminal Justice System, and International Human Rights Law, focusing on areas such as Anti-Discrimination law, Digital Constitutionalism, Freedom of Expression, Feminist & Queer Legal theories, and Reproductive Justice. Before his current role, Sarthak served as a Judicial Intern to Chief Justice (now) Dr. Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud and Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha at the Supreme Court of India. He has collaborated with various Indian and international research institutions, including the United Nations International Law Commission, the Center for Criminal Administration Justice & Human Rights, the Vidhi Center for Legal Policy, and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. Additionally, he has contributed as a writer and editor at JURIST, based at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

With the support of the Helton Fellowship, he will work with Columbia Global Freedom of Expression, at Columbia University, New York. At CGFoE, Sarthak will conduct research on the issue of freedom of expression in the digital realm, with a focus on internet shutdowns, online hate speech cases, and online election campaigns in third-world countries. The research will include analyzing regulatory frameworks, evaluating the impact of internet shutdowns, assessing legal responses to hate speech, examining content governance policies, studying the role of online platforms in protests, and exploring instances of digital dictatorship. The research will have a global reach, emphasizing perspective from third-world countries, and will culminate in a detailed country-wise report to contribute valuable insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and scholars interested in promoting freedom of expression and human rights in the digital age.