

Meet Our 2023 Brandeis/Heller Segal Fellows

The Segal Citizen Leadership Program welcomes and extends our congratulations to the five new 2023 Segal Fellows. These inspiring and dedicated individuals join a Network of 155 lifelong Fellows across a wide range of issue areas and sectors. Through their participation in the Program, each Fellow will be supported with resources and training to continue their development as leaders and agents for social change.



Jovita Bell (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)

Jovita Bell is an adventurous fitness enthusiast from Decatur, Georgia. She is a sophomore at Brandeis University majoring in Neuroscience on a pre-dental track. Jovita is passionate about advocating for health inequities and disparities that disproportionately impact the health and wellness of marginalized groups. She is also committed to creating a more equitable health system to address injustices and discrimination many face in our healthcare system. During her leisure time, she loves to explore and ride bikes in the city, roller skate, dance, read and make memories with her friends and family. At Brandeis, Jovita is a Posse scholar,

health coordinator for Advocates 4 Health, and an active member of Brandeis' Black Student Organization and African Student Organization. **As a Segal Fellow, Jovita is excited to deepen her understanding of our current healthcare system's infrastructure and policies, intertwined with social determinants of health that influence health outcomes.**



Saynab Maalin (Heller MPP Segal Fellow)

Saynab Maalin is a MPP/MBA candidate at the Heller School of Social Policy and Management concentrating in Economic and Racial Equity. She was born in a refugee camp and immigrated to Massachusetts over twenty years ago. Since then, she studied at the College of the Holy Cross, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and minored in Peace and Conflict studies. Currently, Saynab is working part-time as a Policy and Advocacy Fellow at the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts. When Saynab is not working, you can find her in the hot room doing yoga

and hanging out with family and friends. **As a Segal Fellow this summer, Saynab is excited to work for an organization that is dedicated to eliminating the racial wealth gap especially when it comes to housing disparities.**



Katherine Nace (Heller MPP Segal Fellow)

Katherine Nace is a Master of Public Policy candidate at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management with a concentration in Economic and Racial Equity. She is passionate about advancing civil rights of those incarcerated, especially surrounding mental health. Since being at Brandeis, she has interned for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in their Affiliate Support and Nationwide Initiatives Department and will intern in the National Political Advocacy Department for Spring 2023. Before coming to Heller, she worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Institute of Agriculture, as a Program Assistant supporting the competitive grant review process. Katherine also served in the Peace Corps in Guyana as an Adolescent Health Promoter from 2019-2020, until evacuation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Katherine graduated magna cum laude from Truman State University in 2019, majoring in Psychology with minors in Sociology and Statistics. Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Katherine loves listening to podcasts, going to sporting events, and traveling to new places. **Katherine is excited to engage in reform efforts surrounding the intersection of the criminal punishment system and mental health policy as a Segal Fellow this summer.**



Anthony Ruiz (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)

Originally from Snellville, Georgia, Anthony Ruiz is a sophomore at Brandeis University, double-majoring in Anthropology and Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (LACLS), with a double minor in Hispanic Studies and Business. He is passionate about civil rights law, and his interests lie in the intersectionality of immigration policy and LGBTQ+ rights. Throughout the course of multiple legal internships, Anthony has cultivated a specialized knowledge of immigration law. At Brandeis, Anthony is Secretary for the Brandeis Student Association for the Right to Immigration Institute, as well as a Coordinator for the Waltham Group, a Community Advisor, and a Posse scholar. Anthony currently volunteers with the Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), a non-profit dedicated to empowering community members to represent people in immigration matters, in Waltham, MA. He serves as an Accredited Representative through the Department of Justice's "Recognition & Accreditation (R&A)" Program, assisting with tasks such as translations, casework, and client meetings. Throughout his work with TRII, Anthony seeks to empower immigrant communities and his clients by providing access to knowledge and resources needed for self-sufficiency and independence in the American cosmopolitan. He believes knowledge catalyzes self-autonomy, an essential for protecting oneself against systemic oppression and structural violence. **Anthony is excited to get more involved in advocacy work for immigration policy change and immigrants' rights as a Segal Fellow this summer.**



Amelia Trahan (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)

Amelia Trahan (she/they) is an Asian American activist born and raised in Western Massachusetts. They express their biracial identity through their studies at Brandeis University, with a double major in English and Sociology as well as a minor in AAPI Studies. As a member of the Class of 2024, she has been able to gain experience, while also forging a place in the Brandeis community through her membership in the Student Support Services Program (SSSP), FirstGen Network, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship. They have been able to gain leadership experience through their role as a writing teacher for rising high schoolers this summer at Breakthrough Collaborative, where they worked with a

team of aspiring teachers to establish a safe and growing learning space for students from underserved communities. Amelia finds that her true passion is within education, and because of this, seeks to abolish racially systemic barriers that challenge the opportunities for young students of color. **As a Segal Fellow, Amelia is excited to immerse herself within an educational environment geared towards erasing racial disparities, while also gaining a better understanding of the different strategies that institutions are adopting to improve how they serve the greater community.**