



Amber C. Bolden

Rudin Fellow

*Bachelor of Science and Arts in Chemistry and Foreign Affairs
University of Virginia, 2018*

Amber is passionate about ensuring the voices and concerns of underrepresented and marginalized people are heard and addressed. Born and raised in New York City in a Puerto Rican and African American household, social injustices were always present and have remained a constant source of motivation in her choice of study, work, and community involvement.

At the University of Virginia, she held memberships and leadership positions in a number of minority-based organizations to better understand the unique issues faced by different communities. She also took the time to organize social, political, and educational events which highlighted those different experiences for the greater UVA community. While studying chemistry, politics, and classics, Amber found an interest in how language creates both barriers and gateways when trying to hear and understand people. She has worked at the U.S. Court of Appeals, the Charlottesville Legal Aid, and the Albemarle County Victim Witness Program to further her understanding of how language, laws, and policies affect the people governed by them.

As a Coro Fellow, she hopes to continue learning about the ways in which she can utilize her opportunities and skills to aid the people who need it most and disrupt the status quo.



Emma Dunlap

Hudson Companies Fellow

*Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History
Middlebury College, 2018*

A Seattle native, Emma recently earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History with honors from Middlebury College. She developed a strong interest in local government, urban issues, and data-driven public policy while working as a research assistant for Middlebury's Political Science department. This interest led her to an internship with Bloomberg Philanthropies' Government Innovation team, working to support innovative solutions to urban challenges through public-private partnerships and strong local leadership.

Previously, Emma worked in the Careers Center at a women's college in Rwanda that seeks to increase economic opportunities for women through education, empowerment, and advocating for jobs by building partnerships with local businesses. She is driven by a desire to better understand the relationships between income, zip code, and opportunity, and how better policy, leadership, and cross-sector collaboration can improve the lives of urban residents. Given these experiences, Emma is interested in policies that lead to inclusive economic development and address unaffordable housing in New York City. Through Coro's experiential learning platform, Emma is excited to engage with equitable solutions to such urban challenges, to ask critical questions about how the City can better serve its residents, and to hone her analytical and communications skills.



Eric Danowski

*Bachelor of Arts in American Studies
Brandeis University, 2018*

Eric Danowski is committed to creating and sustaining spaces that build community and belonging in urban environments. A Queens native with a deep devotion to the borough, Eric has experienced how an institutional dedication to arts, education, and recreation can connect people and create opportunities to thrive.

Eric's connection to place and people has been the impetus for pursuing community-based work in New York. He has worked with arts-driven organizations at the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning and the Asian American International Film Festival, supporting spaces for arts activism and racial justice. More recently, he has worked for the Brandeis Admissions Office and Scholars Strategy Network, and continues to volunteer with Y Tu Tambien, a program mentoring NYC high school students in preparation for their college applications.

As a Coro Fellow, Eric hopes to develop a wider understanding of New York. He seeks to explore how the different sectors of the city can collaborate to foster community that feels empowering and equitable. Looking to the future, Eric believes he will be a lifelong New Yorker, and aspires to support the civic life of New York at both policy and direct service levels for years to come.



Evan Solomon

Capalino+Company Fellow

*Master of Arts in Ethics and Society, Fordham University, 2018
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and International Political Economy,
Fordham University, 2017*

Evan is a Cheshire, Connecticut native who has called New York City home for over five years. He majored in Philosophy and International Political Economy at Fordham University. During a semester at University College London, he wrote a research paper on gentrification in London, an issue that closely mirrors the realities in NYC.

Most recently, Evan completed his Master's in Ethics and Society at Fordham while working as a Graduate Assistant in Fordham's Center for Ethics Education. He also worked as a Development Associate at Union Settlement, an on-the-ground social service nonprofit in East Harlem he continues to support as a member of their Associate Board.

These experiences focused his interest on government and the ways in which it can change societal structures to better represent the needs of underserved and oppressed populations. As a Coro Fellow, he is excited to learn how businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations interact with government to influence this process. After the fellowship, Evan will seek opportunities where he can craft solutions for public problems facing NYC, ensuring it remains the greatest city in the world for generations to come.

In his free time, Evan incessantly follows city, state, national, and international politics.



Jillian Free
Accenture Fellow
Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy
University of California, Berkeley, 2018

Jillian Free, a recent New York transplant hailing from Southern California, is an advocate for equitable institutions of power and aspires to disrupt social norms through public affairs.

While at UC Berkeley, Jillian examined the intersections of economic, environmental, and racial inequality in public policy. Committed to putting theory to practice, Jillian spent her four years advocating for social justice through policy work, direct service, and social impact consulting. As the elected Student Advocate in UC Berkeley's student government, Jillian implemented the university's first emergency housing fund for supporting homeless students, led a community space campaign for students with disabilities, and advocated for critical student needs to campus leaders and beyond. Prior to this role, Jillian served as a caseworker to students accused of violating the Code of Conduct. She also acted as a Project Manager for Net Impact Berkeley's consulting chapter, where she crafted a workforce development strategy targeting underrepresented communities in tech.

Jillian looks to these nine months with an eagerness to learn and an appreciation for New York as her new classroom. She is excited to explore through the Fellows Program how to have the tough conversations, shift cultures and environments, and build bridges across social divides.



Jordan Greenberg
Propel Capital Fellow
Bachelor of Arts in History
University of Texas at Austin, 2015

Jordan is passionate about supporting culturally and linguistically responsive practices that allow underserved and underrepresented communities to thrive. Born and raised in a Jewish community in Austin, Texas, she was drawn to the study of Arabic language and literature as a way to challenge dominant, xenophobic narratives around Arab culture. With a B.A. in Plan II Liberal Arts Honors, History, and Arabic from the University of Texas at Austin, she is committed to centering issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and citizenship in her work.

Prior to Coro, Jordan worked in Brooklyn as the Development and Communications Manager at the Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC). At AAFSC, Jordan diversified the organization's funding streams, helping to nearly double their net assets, and supported youth-led rallies against anti-Muslim travel bans. She was also an Education Pioneers Fellow on Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School's Operations Team. After working at the grassroots level in New York City, Jordan is honored to join the Coro Fellowship program and looks forward to gaining a more nuanced understanding of the interconnected systems that drive inequities in the city. After Coro, Jordan aims to promote strengths-based education policies and practices that holistically serve students and their families.



Mark Merino

Related Companies Fellow

*Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Spanish
Bucknell University, 2017*

Mark Merino is a proud Los Angeles native and current New York City resident determined to make his adopted city his classroom throughout the Fellows program year. Mark graduated in 2017 from Bucknell University, where he was able to seek out various immersive and service-oriented opportunities that made his studies truly experiential and fulfilling. On top of his studies, Mark involved himself in Bucknell Student Government, where he rose to the position of President, an incredible challenge that certainly shaped his college experience. Following his graduation, Mark completed a service year as an AmeriCorps Urban Education Fellow at Great Oaks Charter School in Manhattan, where he served as a full-time math tutor for seventh grade students. Through this experience, Mark developed a deep understanding and appreciation of New York City through the eyes of his students, and it is with this service-driven commitment that he takes on the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs.

With plans to attend the London School of Economics for a Master's in Comparative Politics in Fall 2019, Mark believes the exposure to new skills, networks, and experiences in the Coro Fellows Program will be critical in shaping his future beyond graduate school.



Michael Lukauskas

*Bachelor of Arts in American Culture Studies and Political Science
Washington University, 2018*

A New York City native, Michael is passionate about how public policy can confront socioeconomic inequality and build more equitable communities.

As an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis, Michael was profoundly influenced by the death of Michael Brown at the hands of a white St. Louis police officer. This event, and the protests following a grand jury's decision not to indict the officer, motivated Michael to study issues of criminality and structural inequality. As the culmination of his degrees in Political Science and American Studies, he produced an independent research project examining the role of local financial institutions in driving exclusionary development on Harlem's 125th Street.

During the 2016 election season, Michael worked for the Missouri gubernatorial campaign of Chris Koster, the only candidate who advocated for police reform, and assisted with the candidate's debate preparation and opposition research. Later, Michael created a physical and digital database of promotional materials for HELP USA, a nonprofit providing housing and other social services to combat homelessness in New York City.

As a Coro Fellow, Michael hopes to develop his leadership capacity to more effectively support underserved communities and pursue cross-sector solutions that address issues of homelessness and affordable housing.



Nicholas Stewart
HR&A Advisors Fellow
Bachelor of Arts in History
Yale University, 2018

A born-and-bred New Yorker, Nicholas hopes to leverage real estate, land use, and urban planning in order to remake the built environment of his hometown.

Nicholas graduated Magna Cum Laude from Yale University, where he majored in History with Honors. At Yale, he pursued a longstanding interest in cities through his concentration in Urban Studies. He received a Mellon Forum Grant for his senior essay on atomic-age New York City, and his research—on real-estate development in Abu Dhabi and the nationalization of Havana’s golf courses—was published in the *Yale Historical Review* and *Chicago Journal of History*. Outside of the classroom, he served as a Writing Partner for Yale College and a Student Guide at the Yale Center for British Art.

Most recently, Nicholas worked on large-scale rezoning and affordable-housing initiatives at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Previously, at NO Architecture and Architecture Research Office, he contributed to design projects including a worship space in Midtown Manhattan and a proposed satellite city in Giza, Egypt.

As a Coro Fellow, Nicholas is eager to engage with facets of urban life he has yet to encounter and to gain deep familiarity with mechanisms of change-making in New York City.



Olivia Zayas Ryan
Goldman Sachs Fellow
Bachelor of Arts in Policy Studies
Elon University, 2018

Olivia Zayas Ryan grew up in Glen Rock, New Jersey, before moving across the Hudson River to her current neighborhood of Crown Heights. She graduated cum laude from Elon University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Policy Studies and minors in Journalism, Leadership Studies and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. At Elon, Olivia served as the Opinions Editor for Elon News Network for three years, where she wrote weekly staff editorials and sparked meaningful conversations among students, faculty, and staff on topics such as sexual assault, intersectional feminism and race relations.

Professionally, Olivia found a connection among her passions for storytelling, community building, and advocacy through internships with Global Strategy Group, PR Council, and GLAAD. As an intern at Elon’s Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, Olivia worked to build representation and visibility of the Latinx/Hispanic community on campus. Through Coro, Olivia hopes to better understand the systems influencing public policy in New York and give back to the city that shaped her by leading, listening, and learning. After Coro, she plans to apply to law school and aspires to defend those disenfranchised by the current legal system.



William Andreycak
Bloomberg Philanthropies Fellow

Master of Arts in Teaching, Relay Graduate School of Education, 2015
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of Vermont, 2013

Will is a former educator who spent five years teaching in New York City Schools. His experience with his students and their families underlies his commitment to eradicating systemic barriers that stand in the way of children's ability to access opportunity and fulfill their potential.

A graduate of the University of Vermont with an honors degree in Political Science, Will studied political history, variables that influence political attitudes, and the history of racial and economic inequality. His academic work led him toward a career that would further develop his ability to understand and influence the web of systemic forces that impact an individual's ability to succeed.

In 2013, Will was named a Teach for America Corps Member and worked for two years as an elementary-school educator in the South Bronx. Following Teach for America, Will worked as a teacher in Canarsie, Brooklyn for three additional years. During this time, he earned his MA in Teaching, graduating from the Relay Graduate School of Education in 2015. In 2016, he was elected to serve on the board of an affordable housing not-for-profit in Westchester County.

As a Coro Fellow, Will intends to develop his ability to identify and influence critical leverage points within societal systems that impact pathways of opportunity for children everywhere.



Zakiya Browne

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
University at Albany, State University of New York, 2018

Zakiya Browne is a Brooklyn, New York native and recent graduate from the University at Albany, SUNY. Zakiya's experiences maneuvering New York City's public schools profoundly shaped her interest in the intersection of class and race in regards to education. As a student, she saw the differences in public school education based on school zones and the disparities in access to quality education for Black and Brown children. She pursued this interest as a Summer Research Fellow through the Leadership Alliance at Princeton University, examining the relationship between gentrification and the quality of schools in her neighborhood of Bedford Stuyvesant. Zakiya also joined Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity to get a better understanding of the political landscape and the legal precedents that overwhelmingly impact communities of color. Along with her academic pursuits, Zakiya was active in organizations that allowed her to foster meaningful relationships with the local Albany community, including the NAACP and Project U, a community service organization. In addition to expanding her professional development during her Coro Fellowship year, Zakiya is most looking forward to gaining the tools necessary to effect positive change in communities of color.