

THE VERDICT

Newsletter



Above, Seniors attend a Professional Exposure event at Goldman Sachs

Light Shines Through the Darkness

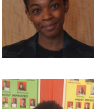
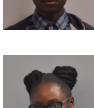




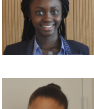

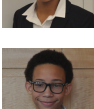
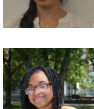

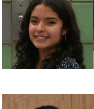
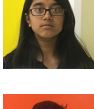
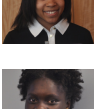

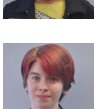
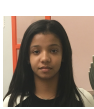

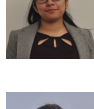
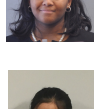
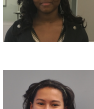
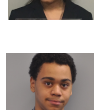
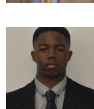



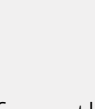
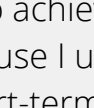
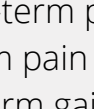
A note from the Executive Director, James O'Neal

No one could have predicted that 2020 would be a year of social, economic and political turmoil. No one knew that our lives would be consumed by the pandemic, the economic crisis, and social discord resulting from the death of George Floyd and others who have lost their lives at the hands of the police.

Yet, in the midst of the darkness, rays of light emerge that give us hope and compel us to press forward. In this spring issue of the Verdict, I'm pleased to share with you two of those rays of sunshine. The first is the college matriculation list for the Legal Outreach class of 2020. The names of their colleges are well known: Harvard, Yale, Williams (2), Columbia, Cornell (2), U. VA, U. Rochester (2), NYU, Hamilton (2), Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Boston College, Northeastern, Skidmore, Hobart and William Smith (2), Syracuse (3), Fordham, Spelman, Lehigh, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Stony Brook, and many more.

The second source of light was emitted by those of you who helped us meet our Emergency Relief Fundraising goal. Your generosity has helped ensure that the students accepted to the colleges above whose parents have lost jobs will have the support needed to continue their journey. Creating opportunity changes the world for the better. Thanks for doing your part to give life, hope and light.

Congratulations to all our LO2020 Seniors!

 Divine Agidah Hobart and William Smith Colleges	 David Alvarracin University of Rochester
 Michael Amo-Adu Northeastern University	 Philip Austin Stony Brook University
 Jhanique Berridge Cornell University	 Cassandra Brewster Harvard University
 Daniela Cardenas Boston College	 Ashley Craig SUNY Plattsburgh
 Juliana Dominguez Canisius College	 Aayusha Duwadi Goucher College
 Deon Eweka Syracuse University	 Nikalis Exume Allegheny College
 Khadidiatou Faye Ithaca College	 Jhoana Flores Hamilton College
 Jadyn Francois New York University	 Maya Giardina Hamilton College
 Christopher Glover Syracuse University	 Asia Harford University of Virginia
 Nehemiah Henry Drexel University	 Dave Jasmin Lehigh University
 Daniel Jones Florida Gulf Coast University	 Nathaniel Lopez SUNY Baruch
 Samantha Luna Williams College	 Sazida Marzia SUNY Baruch
 Jada McBeth Spelman College	 Gabriel Montana CITY College of New York
 Nogaye Ndiaye Syracuse University	 Melodie Nerestant Williams College
 Jeimy Nunez University of Rochester	 Kayla Powers Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Stacy Raphael Cornell University	 Nicole Rodriguez Yale University
 Maille Romulus Mt. Holyoke University	 Richard Sherpa Hamilton College
 Vanessa Nicole Silva Burgos Smith College	 Ngozi Simmons Queensboro College
 Laila Smith Marymount Manhattan College	 Ophelia Thompson Lehigh University
 Kasang Tobtsang Columbia University	 Luana Uchida Ithaca College
 Jordin White SUNY Binghamton	 Jadena Williams Ithaca College
 Jamel Williams Fordham University	

Seniors reflect on the LO Pledge

"My favorite line from the LO pledge is 'I will sacrifice to achieve my goals because I understand that short-term gain leads to long-term pain and short-term pain leads to long-term gain.' Over the course of my high school career, these words have influenced the choices I have made. I realized it was all worth it when I learned that I had made it to the Legal Outreach Debater of the Year Competition as one of the top 6 debaters in 2020. I know that my success in college and life will be dependent upon my ability to always remember these lines."

-Jamel Williams,
Fordham University, '24

"My favorite line from the LO pledge states that 'If I fall seven times, I will stand up eight because perseverance is the touchstone of great character.' I believe that this is a great life rule. Not everything will be perfect, but having the motivation to continue moving forward and working hard is extremely important especially during the times in which we are living."

-Asia Harford,
University of Virginia, '24

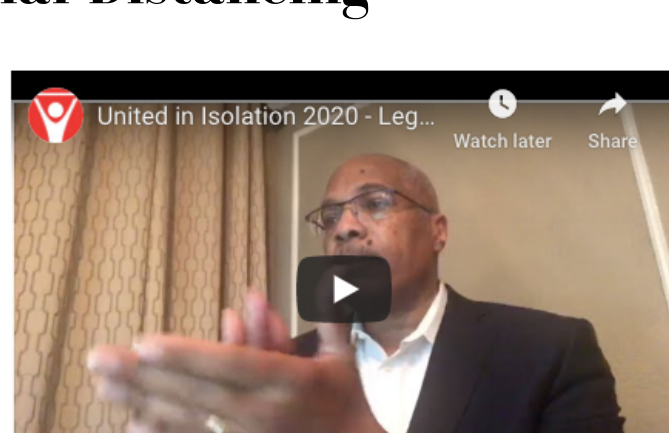
"As I reflect on my time at LO, the one line from the pledge that will remain with me forever states the following, 'I will remain focused on my vision of greatness because no life grows great without dedication and discipline.' This line speaks to the determined and ambitious person that I have become. Throughout my high school career, everything I have done has moved me a step closer to achieving my goals and dreams of becoming a successful woman with a great career. Dedication and discipline have been the keys to my success"

-Jeimy Nunez,
University of Rochester, '24

United in Isolation, Student Celebration & Emergency Relief Fundraiser Unites the LO Community During Social Distancing

On May 28th, Legal Outreach held a virtual Senior Celebration event to show our support for our students and give thanks to all our donors who contributed to the Emergency Relief Fund. This fund was set up by the board to provide temporary support to our seniors and alumni currently attending college whose families have been affected by the global pandemic. These funds will help with expenses such as travel, tuition, books, and

school supplies to ensure that our alumni are able to continue attending their chosen college and pursue their career goals.



Click on the Video above to watch the recorded Event

Highlights of the evening include both moving and joyful moments. Cassandra Brewster, Harvard class of '24 and one of two chosen senior speakers, urged her peers to use the values they have learned throughout their time at LO to strive for more,

"The effects of the 2019 global pandemic have revealed many of the shortcomings in not only America, but in nations around the world. After the way our world has been changed, we cannot afford to forget about those who have been disproportionately affected due to underlying inequalities...The world around us is changing, but if we gain strength from the values we have learned throughout our experiences as Legal Outreach students, we shall definitely overcome this challenge. Not only will we overcome, but we will go on to do great things."

The second half of the evening, hosted by current LO sophomore Jada Kerr, consisted of laughs and celebratory moments as staff announced the recipients of scholar awards, a look-back slideshow showed just how much the students have grown over the past four years, and a special tribute from past and current staff performances added a comical note to the event.

At the culmination of the fundraiser, the Legal Outreach community succeeded in surpassing our \$300,000 goal! We are so grateful to all who have donated so far to ensure that the futures of these incredible seniors are not derailed by the current global situation.

To watch the entire recorded event and to donate to the Emergency Relief Fund, visit our event page:

UNITED in ISOLATION

Legal Outreach
Graduation & Emergency
Relief Fundraiser

LO2020 Champions

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
David & Peggy Levin
Howard & Jill Sharfstein
Jeff & Karin Miller-Lewis

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler
Peter Dopsch & Alison Lowy
Sintelle and Ronald Taylor, Sr.

LO2020 Heroes

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Anne Bingaman &
The Bingaman Foundation
BMW of Bridgewater
Doug Tabish

Duane Hughes & Sabina Dankwa
Edwin Gould Foundation

Kevin Tagami
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel
Melvin Rosa

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

The Group & 1844
William and Holly Russell, Jr.

LO2020 First Responders

Christine Okike
Frink-Hamlett Legal Solutions
James O'Neal
John MacMurray

Michael and Nancy Cardozo
Shapiro Aronow Family Fund
Steven Cooper

LEGAL OUTREACH

RAISING THE BAR

36-14 35th Street
Long Island City, NY 11106
www.legaloutreach.org

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June, 2020