

E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship

Alumni Newsletter 2026



Abbe Smith

Scott K. Ginsburg Professor of Law and Co-Director of Prettyman Fellowship



Vida Johnson

Professor of Law and Co-Director of Prettyman Fellowship

Greetings from the Prettyman Fellowship

Welcome to the inaugural E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship newsletter! This program has been so important to all of us, and we hope it remains important to all of you. We hope this annual newsletter helps us stay more connected.

As always, we have an amazing group of Fellows. All our second-year Fellows have had trials, and every one of them has heard the words “not guilty” in their trials.

With the federal surge in law enforcement, which happened right around the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year, our students and Fellows took on more cases than ever. C-10 routinely went late into the night, and at least twice went into the early morning of the next day. Almost all the criminal cases

that were not indicted in federal court came to Superior Court and the Federal Public Defender knew the best misdemeanor lawyers in DC are Prettyman Fellows. Less than a year in, our three first-year Fellows have already represented more than 60 clients. Meanwhile, the government has failed to be ready for a single case that our first-year Fellows have set for trial.

Honoring John Copacino



Last May, we gathered to celebrate Professor Copacino’s impact on the Georgetown Law and Washington, DC, community after his 39 years with our program. John’s influence will continue to have ripple

effects on the indigent defense community through all of you!

Thank you to everyone who attended and shared warm messages for John. We are forever grateful for his decades of service to this city and his investment in generations of young lawyers.

Celebrating Our Wins



This year, Kevin Steward secured the first ever “NOT GUILTY” verdict before Judge Rigsby in Prettyman history! He kept his winning streak alive with a felony jury trial win before Judge Arthur. Ellie Olsen and

Alijah Futterman went to trial for a complicated DV case and got the case dismissed mid-trial!

Left to Right: Prettyman Fellows 2024-2026, Alijah Futterman, Kevin Steward, Ellie Olsen

Spotlight: New Team Members

Recently, we welcomed two powerhouse additions to the Prettyman Fellowship teaching team:



Amanda K. Rogers, Prettyman Fellow 2014-2016

Amanda returns to the Prettyman Fellowship Program as a Visiting Professor of Law. After the Fellowship, Amanda joined the Public Defender Service as a trial attorney representing both adults and children charged with

serious felonies in D.C. Superior Court. She founded and directed the Caritas Clemency Clinic at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, where she and her students represented incarcerated individuals seeking discharge from prison through compassionate release. Amanda is a graduate of Berkeley Law.



Pierce Suen

Pierce joins us as a Visiting Professor (with a recent promotion to Professor from Practice) at Georgetown Law, teaching and supervising in the Criminal Justice Clinic and the Criminal Defense & Prisoner Advocacy Clinic. Before joining Georgetown, Pierce

spent a decade at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia where he was a supervising attorney. During his time at PDS, Pierce tried cases ranging from fare evasion to first-degree murder and represented indigent clients at every level of proceedings—in juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony court, and in direct appeals, parole revocation, and post-conviction relief. Pierce is a graduate of NYU Law, where he was a Root-Tilden-Kern scholar, and the University of Chicago.

This year, we also have three amazing first-year Fellows, all hailing from North Carolina.



Savannah Baker, Criminal Defense & Prisoner Advocacy Clinic

Savannah received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina in 2020 and her J.D. from NYU as a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar. Prior to law school, she worked as an investigative

fellow at the Civil Rights Corps, challenging pretrial detention and ensuring prosecutorial/police accountability. During

her time in law school, Savannah was a student attorney with the Criminal Defense and Reentry Clinic and the Criminal and Juvenile Defender Clinic. She was also the Co-Editor-in-Chief of NYU's Review of Law and Social Change, the Political Action Chair for BLSA, and the Training Coordinator for the Parole Advocacy Project. Savannah spent her law school summers at the Federal Defenders for the Western District of North Carolina and the Bronx Defenders.



Jacob Friedman, Criminal Justice Clinic

Jacob grew up in Pittsboro, North Carolina and received his law degree from the University of Georgia. While at UGA, he interned for the local public defender's office in Athens. During his law school summers, Jacob interned for

the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Northern District of Alabama as well as the Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office in Charlotte, North Carolina. After law school, Jacob clerked for Chief Judge Leigh Martin May of the Northern District of Georgia. He received his B.S.B.A from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Devon Johnson, Juvenile Justice Clinic

Devon is from Asheville, North Carolina. He graduated from Harvard Law School in May 2025, where he was a student attorney in Harvard's Child Advocacy Clinic and the Institute to End Mass Incarceration Clinic. He also served at

the Harvard Criminal Justice Institute, where he represented indigent clients in all stages of their criminal cases in Boston Municipal Courts. Devon spent his summers during law school with Legal Aid Chicago's juvenile criminal records expungement division and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia as a juvenile trial law clerk.

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The Prettyman Fellows are continuing a long legacy of over 65 years of defending our city's most vulnerable communities. Your gifts mean the world to our Fellows and show them the power of our alumni. Will you make a gift to the Prettyman Fellowship Program today?

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