



### LINETTE DULUC FIX WHAT MAKES YOU ANGRY

Linette Duluc's Rappaport Fellowship included legal research at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. It also included the weekly Speaker Series that was always inspiring, she said — particularly an appearance by Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu, once a Rappaport Fellow herself.

"Her message," the 27-year-old second-year Suffolk Law student said, "was to find what makes you angry, and work to fix it."

It resonated. She flashed back to a \$60,000 medical bill she saw as a teen recently diagnosed with lupus. She remembered learning about the disparity between the treatment of Black and White mothers in maternity wards across the country. She considered, in general, the systemic racism that causes inequities in the health care system.

Angry, to be sure. "It makes my blood boil," Linette said.

What she heard from Suffolk County D.A. Rachael Rollins in another Rappaport Speaker Series episode — "if you're learning about racism by reading about it, that's a privilege" — reinforced that her anger is well-directed: improving health outcomes and access to health care for the underserved.

"I want to uplift Black and Brown communities," Linette said. "I want to make lives easier."



### ROBERT GIPSON II FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES

Robert Gipson II moved from Las Vegas to Boston to follow Dr. King and President Obama. The Rappaport Fellowship and opportunity to intern in the office of City Councilor Michelle Wu, he said, felt like a fateful confluence of his wide-ranging life experiences and ambition.

His first assignment with Councilor Wu was to write a statement on George Floyd and systemic racism, and he said it came easily after considering his own life as a biracial man.

"Really, when I'm writing about George Floyd, I'm just thinking about the things that happen to me every day," said the second-year student at Boston University School of Law. "I'm drawing on the experiences that I've had as a child, as a student, and as a full-grown man."

It was a thought-provoking start to a valuable summer.

"This is where I'm supposed to be, following in the footsteps of my heroes, helping people," he said. "The Rappaport Center gave me the chance to work in local government, where a lot of the levers of power are when it comes to systemic racism."

The Rappaport Fellowship, he said, "is something I'll cherish forever."



### VANESSA LAWRENCE OUT FROM THE CORNER

The Rappaport Fellowship, with its financial support, mentors and wide range of weekly speakers, has also provided Vanessa Lawrence something she would have shied away from in the past: a platform.

"I never thought I would be in this position, but now that I'm here I intend to use it," said Vanessa, a second-year student at Boston College Law School. "The Fellowship allows me a chance to share my story. I've had to come out of my corner."

Vanessa's internship was her ideal placement, the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's office.

She sat in on intake meetings with those bringing discrimination claims. She worked alongside civil rights lawyers with a range of styles and areas of expertise. She monitored the different housing court dockets in relation to the state's eviction moratorium. She wrote a memo for the Police Misconduct Working Group.

For a young woman still undecided where she will end up within civil rights, the breadth of experience packed into a single summer was exactly what she needed. "I'm incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity," she said. "It was a great chance to help me figure out what's out there."



### CATE MCANULTY LOCAL IMPACT

With two doctors as parents, Cate McNulty has grown up watching people have a positive effect on others' lives. The Rappaport Fellowship's intense local focus, and cadre of community-minded students, staff and mentors, was the ideal fit.

"A lot of my classmates want to go work in big national organizations, which is great," said the second-year student at Harvard Law School, "but it's nice to be around other Rappaport cohorts who want to stay local as well."

Cate's placement was in the Health Care Division at the Attorney General's office, where much of the work related to the changes in the health care system as related to the coronavirus.

"Working on health policy issues in the middle of a global pandemic, learning how to make real changes to the racial inequities that we have right now, it's a really intense and educational time to be doing this kind of work," she said.

The Rappaport Fellowship, she said, affirmed her passion for policy work and further refined how she will measure success. "I know exactly what I want it to feel like," she said, "which is that I know who I am working for, why the work matters and what impact it's having."



### CHRIS McDONOUGH NATURAL FIT

For a North Shore native interested in pursuing a career in state or local government, the Rappaport Fellowship was an ideal opportunity for Chris McDonough.

"It exposed me to a whole community passionate about public policy and government in Massachusetts," said Chris, now in his third and final year at Northeastern University School of Law. "I was thrilled to be involved with the program. It was a natural fit."

His placement with the City of Boston Law Department gave him an insider's look at the range of legal issues encountered by city governments, everything from constitutional challenges to insurance claims for damaged city property.

His two previous internships had been at the state level — the State House and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection — so the Rappaport internship gave him a chance to experience government at the more local level.

Another highlight for Chris was the Rappaport weekly Speaker Series, "to get a chance to listen and ask questions of people like Rachael Rollins and Michelle Wu — people on the front lines of the fight for justice in the state — was inspiring."

"It made me want to get out there and join their ranks."



### KRIS PHIPPS ABLE TO RELATE

Kris Phipps has had to work for everything he's got, so it's no wonder that when he arrived at Boston College Law School a year ago, he decided, "I'm going to go for anything and everything I can get."

Primary on that list was the Rappaport Fellowship, with its intersection of law and public policy — "exactly why I wanted to go to law school," he said.

His summer placement was with the Massachusetts Inspector General's office and its mission of detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse of public money. Kris helped monitor COVID spending, participated in a whistleblower investigation, and worked on a briefing memo regarding office procedures and investigations.

His proposal to write about comparing federal and state Inspectors General earned Kris one of three Rappaport research grants.

As to a career path, Kris wants to develop his legal skills in a private firm, but ultimately knows he will return to helping those to whom he can relate.

"I've never really wavered from the idea of using my opportunities, my skills and the things that have been afforded to me in my life to come back and help people in need," he said.



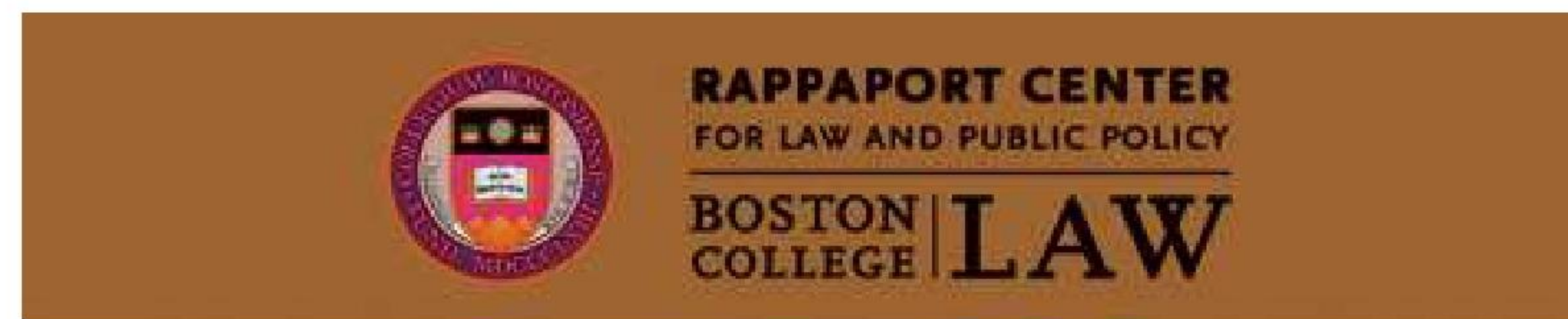
Lee Pellegrini photo / Boston College archives

From left, Rappaport Foundation founder Jerome Lyle Rappaport, Rappaport Foundation chairperson Phyllis Rappaport and Dean of Boston College Law School Vincent Rougeau.

## THE 2020 RAPPAPORT CENTER FELLOWS

# 'Uniquely positioned'

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is uniquely positioned to take that on."

For the last 20 summers, the Rappaport Fellows Program has aided such swells of activism by providing more than 230 gifted law students opportunities to experience the complexities and rewards of public policy and public service within the highest levels of state and municipal governments. The program includes stipends and coveted summer internships, during which students work with top policy makers and are mentored by members of the Rappaport Center Advisory Board and prior Rappaport Fellows.

Over the years, Fellows have met with a wide variety of government officials, including Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, and the late Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ralph Gants, among others.

Available to law students from eight Massachusetts law schools, the Rappaport Fellowships offer an intense, first-hand look at the life of public policy lawyers and the influence these legal professionals have on the quality of life in our local communities, state and nation.

"The brand of leadership that this program represents is the deepest belief that government was set up to do the collective big actions that we can't do as individuals or in the private sector," Councilor Wu said. "They're the actions we most need if we're to invest in our collective common good, in our common wealth."

*The Rappaport Center at Boston College Law School is run under the leadership of Daniel Kanstroom, Professor of Law; Thomas F. Carney Distinguished Scholar, Faculty Director; and Elisabeth J. Medvedow, Executive Director. For more information: bc.edu/rappaport.*

*Additionally, the Rappaport Foundation has supported over 500 alumnae in the fields of public policy, medicine and the arts. For more information: rappaportfoundation.org.*

For more extensive profiles on each of the 12 Rappaport Center Fellows, visit [bit.ly/rappaportfellows](https://bit.ly/rappaportfellows).



### ADAM ZWETCHKENBAUM GAINING TRACTION

Adam Zwetchkenbaum was feeling compelled to pivot.

He was in his early thirties, a 2008 graduate of Framingham State with a degree in psychology and a career in management. He found himself unsatisfied with a job born of a need to simply pay the bills — a practical necessity but unfulfilling work. It was taking its toll.

Now a second-year student at the University of Massachusetts Law School, he believes he's found that elusive path toward a meaningful career. His Rappaport Fellowship landed him with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, where part of the job was devoted to the Department's Equity Agenda, a strategic initiative to assist underrepresented students gain access to — and achieve positive outcomes in — higher education.

As to the initiative's progress? Adam is managing expectations while hopeful for traction. "The thing about this particular population is that there's no one really huddling up for them and making sure things are taken care of," he said.

He has great appreciation for the tools he gained through the Rappaport Fellowship. "There are a lot of people who want to do good work, but they don't have the networks to really know how to get it done," Adam said. "This program does that."



### RACHAEL WYANT SEEKING DELIVERABLES

The Rappaport Fellowship was "a perfect first internship" for Rachael Wyant, a second-year student at Northeastern University School of Law. It provided 10 weeks of experience working within government, candid conversations with such high-profile public servants as City Councilor Michelle Wu and District Attorney Rachael Rollins, an internship with State Senator Joan Lovely, and ultimately the realization that work within a local official's office likely includes too much compromise for Rachael's comfort.

"The process of whittling down what people want and need tends to dilute the impact," she said. "I understand that that's the reality of a democracy and how things work, but I just want to be on the side of pushing for things I believe in."

She is thrilled, meanwhile, that an extension of the Rappaport program includes a grant-funded research project on constitutional challenges to public health emergency policies in communities as they pertain to re-opening businesses and schools.

"I like producing a deliverable that people can use as advocacy," Rachael said. "I feel like the academic side of myself is going to be fulfilled, so I'm really, really happy about that."



### JULIA SAUVE CLOSE TO THE INJUSTICE

She's been all over the world helping kids, most recently in Tijuana shutting down an orphanage rampant with exploitation and sexual abuse. In its place, Julia opened "not an orphanage," she said, "but a home," and founded Agape Kids, Inc. in support of that mission.

What was missing from the Tijuana experience, she said, was a legal background to help navigate. So she returned and entered Boston College Law, where she is now in her second year.

The Rappaport Fellowship led her to the Youth Advocacy Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, where she researched the impact of racial biases, childhood trauma and adolescent brain development in the juvenile justice system.

She got a real sense of how easy it is for young people with still-developing brains and tough backgrounds to make life-altering decisions. "They're just children, and now they're looking at this tough road ahead," she said.

Julia expects her eventual career to take aim at that dynamic, always with an eye on the kids she's helping.

"Someone once told me to stay close to the injustice," she said. "Don't get too far from it, or it's easy to lose vision."



### JAIME WATSON THE WOMEN SHE KNOWS

The threat that has woven itself through Jaime Watson's young career is the fight for gender equity.

Now in her final year at Northeastern University School of Law, she was thrilled that the Rappaport Fellowship placed her in the office of a Rappaport alum, State Representative Natalie Higgins.

While working with Rep. Higgins on legislation to assist domestic and sexual violence survivors and on issues of police reform, Jaime was left to consider the role of race in protections from gender-based violence.

"If we're relying primarily on law enforcement to deal with domestic violence, and those communities are facing harm at the hands of law enforcement so not feeling safe in accessing services, they're essentially locked out of those services," she said.

The money otherwise earmarked for police budgets might be better served elsewhere, Jaime said. "These victims still need housing. They still need childcare. They still need access to counseling services."

She hopes to have the opportunity to figure that out someday on behalf of those for whom she's been fighting. "It always comes back to the women I've worked with," she said.



### CAITLIN WHITMAN RUFFLED FEATHERS

Caitlin Whitman is trying to find a place in the law where she can put her radical outlook and voice to good use.

After spending her summer as a Rappaport Fellow in the General Counsel's office at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the second-year student at New England Law | Boston called the Rappaport experience "a valuable one that I would recommend to anyone interested in administrative or public interest work."

She also found herself asking an honest philosophical question about state agencies in general: Are there places for those agencies to make a statement for social change, such as in the case of Black Lives Matter, or should the broader work of the agency simply speak for itself?

She's got her own opinion, but she also appreciates there's an argument to be made on the other side. Plus, she said, "I'm okay with ruffled feathers, but I would rather not light the bridge on fire."

She envisions a career in movement lawyering, possibly criminal defense work, and maybe an eventual run for public office — all things a maker of change might do.

"I tend to find myself in the position of speaking out," she said.