

UNION SETTLEMENT

2020-2021 Union Settlement Associate Board

Ulyana Urzua Bravo is originally from Sweden and currently resides in New York. She moved to New York to earn a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Economics from Baruch College. She later on earned Master's degrees in International Affairs and Investor Relations from Fordham University. She currently works in the Private Equity group at Neuberger Berman. Her main interests are languages, traveling, forensic psychology, volunteering and hopes to one day dedicate all of her time in philanthropy.

Cecil K. Brooks, Jr. Cecil brings his lived experience as a local of Honduran heritage to the Union Settlement family. His parents lived and worked in East Harlem before settling in the South Bronx – just a ten-minute walk across the Willis Avenue Bridge! As a Program Manager at the Department of Small Business Services, he provides input on commercial legislation and economic policies for the benefit of New York's entrepreneurs. His previous roles include sales at the inaugural Africa Investment Forum (Johannesburg), reports on commodity markets at a U.S. Embassy (Lima), team-building during a pilot eco-tourism retreat (Koh Tao), and pitches for this nation's first integrated mobile wallet to hundreds of New England venture capitalists (Maine). Cecil draws upon his deep familiarity with public finance, financial literacy, and startup capital to inform how we build wealth throughout underserved areas. When he is not giving tours Uptown, he remains busy as a Bronx Community Board 1 member and friend of Manhattan's Community Board 11 in East Harlem. Cecil is a proud alum and ambassador of Colby College with a dual degree in Latino Studies and Philosophy.

Emilia Brunello is a litigation associate at Debevoise & Plimpton. Before attending law school, Emilia held a variety of responsibilities at the Phoenix House Foundation, ranging from training to strategic initiatives and infrastructure development. Although she's lived in New York for nearly ten years, Emilia is a Florida native and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida. She is also a proud Fordham University School of Law graduate, where she developed one of her favorite hobbies—listening to Supreme Court arguments. In her free time, Emilia loves yoga and finding reasons to show others the many (many) pictures she has of her dogs.

Kaari Casey is the manager for virtual programs at the New York Academy of Sciences, where she works with a global network of students and STEM professionals as they develop solutions which address the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to that, she served as the partnership manager and lead educator at the City Parks Foundation, developing STEM programs for at-risk youth. Her background is in environmental education and she has worked with a variety of organizations including the Wildlife Conservation Society, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, and the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation. Kaari received her BS in Secondary Education and Biology from Penn State University and her MA in Biology from Miami University.

Jenna Cooper is a licensed clinical social worker, working as a child therapist in the Child, Adolescents, and Family Services Program of SBH Health System Behavioral Health in the Bronx. Jenna works with people between the ages of 5 and 21, and with their families, at the outpatient clinic and the school-based satellite clinic at P.S. 85. She provides individual, family, and group therapy, as well as crisis intervention and advocacy. She also supervises graduate school interns working towards their MSWs. Previously she worked at STEPS to End Family Violence, providing therapy to survivors of domestic violence. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University and a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. Originally from Philadelphia, she has lived in New York for 14 years.

Sharisse Devot is an Assistant at Finsbury, a global strategic communications firm, which specializes in crisis and strategic communications and consulting. The firm advises clients in a wide array of matters, including executive leadership, litigation-related issues, and corporate reputational positioning. Ms. Devot primarily works with four of the firm's partners to manage their client interactions and those of their teams. Prior to joining Finsbury, Sharisse was a Project Coordinator for Google, where she developed operational mechanisms that increased efficiency and effectiveness. As part of her role, she also helped to manage the operations of the company's locations around New York and in the North East. Sharisse was previously a legal assistant at an immigration law firm, where she focused on case management and prepared legal and regulatory filings for the court and governmental agencies. Sharisse graduated from the Florida International University with a Bachelor's of Science in Early Childhood Education.

Devon Fuller is an Associate at Finsbury, where he supports team in across different industries including, mortgage and finance, healthcare and technology. Prior to joining Finsbury, Devon held a variety of internships within the communications field at places such as Time and Fortune Magazine and Time Warner, working with their corporate communications team. He also spent a year working closely with PKPR, a small public relations firm, where he supported in press outreach and client event coordinating. Devon earned his Bachelor's degree Public Relations from Mansfield University.

Alec Haber is an Analyst in Blackstone's Real Estate Debt Strategies Group in New York. At Blackstone, Alec is responsible for various investor relations activities including fund level track records, preparing capital call notices, and LP performance related inquiries. Prior to joining Blackstone, Alec spent two years at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in their Finance Management Associate Rotational Program. While at BAML, he led various service initiatives including a committee aimed at participating in a service project once per quarter. Alec graduated from the University of North Carolina's Kenan Flagler Business School with a degree in Business Administration and currently resides in New York City. He enjoys live music and skiing in his free time.

Ahmed Moussa is a Financial Analyst in Houlihan Lokey's Financial Restructuring Group in New York. During his career, Ahmed has worked on financing and M&A engagements in the energy industry. Before joining Houlihan Lokey, Ahmed worked at a large Canadian investment bank in a similar role, a middle-market private equity firm, and an engineering consulting firm in Calgary. Ahmed was born in Cairo, raised all over, but spent most of his formative years in Calgary. He now resides in East Harlem. In his spare time, Ahmed enjoys volunteering in his community, staying physically active, and trying new restaurants. Ahmed graduated from the University of Calgary with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Economics.

Romit Mukherjee is a Lead Business Technologist in the investment management firm, Neuberger Berman. A regular volunteer for the US Meals-on-wheels program, Romit has worked for various Private Equity firms and has over 16 years of professional experience in developing and managing applications in the Alternative Assets space. Romit has Masters degrees in Information Systems, Finance and Management, and BA in Economics.

Patrick D. Smith is a customer engineer with Google Cloud. He was formally the Data Science and Machine Learning Lead for Excella in Arlington, Virginia, where he co-founded the company's artificial intelligence initiatives. Patrick is a graduate of The George Washington University, Elliott School, and is currently pursuing his Masters degree in Software Engineering part time from Harvard University. He is a published author of the book "A Hands on Introduction to Artificial Intelligence" by Packt Publishing. Patrick is a member of the Board of Directors of the PostClassical Ensemble, an orchestra that encourages cross-cultural understanding. He has also helped lead Young Professional's initiatives for the Washington National Opera and DC Jazz Festival. Union Settlement served his great grandfather in the early 1900s. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut with his wife Kristin, and is an avid polo player in his spare time.

Rasheim Smith is currently the Human Resources and Office Manager at Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers (SEBNC). In his role, he is responsible for the consultation and resolution of workplace issues with a focus on strengthening the organization through strategic planning and other organizational initiatives. Rasheim was born and raised in Bronx, New York. He currently resides in East Harlem. His prior professional experiences include working extensively with disenfranchised children, adolescents, and their families from a strength based perspective to mitigate the social ills of poverty. Rasheim is very passionate about social justice issues that affect impoverished communities. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Lehman College and a Masters of Social Work from Fordham University with a concentration in Clinical and Macro Studies. Rasheim is an active volunteer with iMentor, and enjoys fitness activities in his spare time.

Evan T. Solomon is an Editorial Research Associate for City & State NY, the premier media organization dedicated to covering New York's local and state politics and policy. He recently completed the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs, where he completed work placements at NYCHA; the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union; Capalino+Company; Urban Dove; and the New York Community Trust. Prior to the fellowship, he completed his BA (Philosophy and International Political Economy) and MA (Ethics and Society) at Fordham University. A former employee of Union Settlement's Development team, Evan is proud to continue to support the organization and its mission.

Bilan Stribling is a nascent visionary. Throughout her journey, she has been a firm believer of acting local and thinking global. She dedicated most of her academic career promoting social justice and employing microfinance strategies to strengthen the economic subsistence in the communities she served. In 2016, she completed a Master of Science in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at Columbia University, while developing risk mitigation models for multi-party negotiations. Over the past few years, she has been selected to present her research at the International Association for Conflict Management Conference in Europe and the United States. She currently serves as an Equity Specialist at Bloomberg LP. Bilan also enjoys a soothing Matcha latte, classical music, and painting on the weekend.