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Contact: Whitney Peterson  
E-mail: [wpeterson@abfn.org](mailto:wpeterson@abfn.org)  
Phone: 312.988.6515  
Fax: 312.988.6579  
Online: [americanbarfoundation.org](http://americanbarfoundation.org)  
Facebook: [American Bar Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanBarFoundation)  
Twitter: [@ABFResearch](https://twitter.com/ABFResearch)

### The American Bar Foundation Welcomes the 2019 Undergraduate Research Diversity Fellows

**Chicago, June 17, 2019** — The [American Bar Foundation](http://americanbarfoundation.org) (ABF) has selected four exemplary undergraduate students as the 2019 recipients of the [Undergraduate Research Diversity Fellowships in Law and Social Science](#) (URDF). The 2019 fellows were selected from a highly competitive group of over 200 applicants and have demonstrated excellence throughout their undergraduate careers. This year's fellows are **Mariah Dozé, Lisette Gonzalez-Flores, Nya Hardaway, and Evan Zhao.**

The ABF offers a rich environment to students from diverse backgrounds who are considering careers in legal research or the practice of law. Each fellow works closely with a specially designated [ABF Research Professor](#) on the design and implementation of a research project, affording them the rare opportunity to do socio-legal [research](#) with experienced scholars. While the students work primarily as research assistants, they also attend a series of [seminars](#) conducted by ABF faculty, program alumni, and practitioners in the legal system in Chicago, who acquaint the students with their research and work.

For the first time, the URDF Fellows will take part in two distinct fellowship opportunities that will introduce them to the demands of a research-oriented career in the field of law and/or social science. Dozé, Gonzalez-Flores, and Hardaway will take part in the Summer Research Diversity Fellowship for eight weeks during the summer. The Summer Fellowship opportunities are supported by the Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Foundation and Walmart.

“The Montgomery Foundation is a long-standing supporter of the Undergraduate Diversity Fellowship,” said Bryant Garth, President of the Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Foundation. “This program’s proactive approach in preparing diverse undergraduates for careers in law practice or the academy has meant that the ABF has had a direct and quantifiable effect on the diversity of the legal profession.”

“Walmart is proud to continue our support of ABF diversity programs and excited to be supporting the URDF for the first time this year,” said Charys Williams, Director and Counsel, Global Governance Professional Education & Development, at Walmart. “Through support of the research and scholarship of talented students from

underrepresented groups, the URDF program is a catalyst for broader inclusion in the legal profession.”

Zhao will be the inaugural Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Research Diversity Fellow. The LSAC, which has generously supported the Research Diversity Fellowship in the past, is now sponsoring a year-long fellowship opportunity which will last from June 2019 to May 2020.

““The Law School Admission Council is honored to support this program because of the critical need for researchers from diverse backgrounds and the ABF’s commitment to scholarly research,” said Kent Lollis, LSAC Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer.

Many URDF alumni go on to pursue academic careers in the social sciences and law, careers as legal practitioners, or work in government, social policy or business. The fellowship has produced many notable alumni, including [Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar](#), a [1992 URDF alumnus](#) who is now a Justice of the California Supreme Court. Cuéllar was also named a potential nominee for an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2016. Another notable alumnus, Danielle Holley-Walker, currently serves as the dean of Howard University School of Law. Holley-Walker was given the inaugural Research Diversity Fellowship Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2018.

“We are delighted to welcome a new cohort of Undergraduate Research Fellows to the ABF and Chicago this summer,” said Ajay K. Mehrotra, ABF Executive Director. “This fellowship speaks to the ABF’s core values in building the pipeline of diverse legal professionals and aspiring scholars.”

### ***About the American Bar Foundation***

*The [American Bar Foundation](#) (ABF) is among the world’s leading research institutes for the empirical and interdisciplinary study of law. The ABF seeks to expand knowledge and advance justice through innovative, interdisciplinary, and rigorous empirical research on law, legal processes, and legal institutions. To further this mission the ABF will produce timely, cutting-edge research of the highest quality to inform and guide the legal profession, the academy, and society in the United States and internationally. The ABF’s primary funding is provided by the [American Bar Endowment](#) and the [Fellows of The American Bar Foundation](#).*