

## 2010 LatCrit Student Scholars

**Liz Rieser-Murphy** is a second-year student at the University of Miami School of Law. She holds a B.A. from the University of Delaware. She also earned an M.A. in Education from New York University while teaching middle school in the Bronx. This past summer she worked with the human rights clinic at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellin, Colombia. Also this summer, Liz traveled to Paris, France with Tulane Law School and attended the LatCrit International and Comparative Law Colloquium. She is currently enrolled in the immigration clinic at the University of Miami and is interested in exploring issues surrounding immigration reform. Liz hopes to be a professor in the future.

**Michele Park Sonen** is a third year law student at the University of Hawai`i, William S. Richardson School of Law. She was born and raised in Hawai`i, and is the daughter of a Korean immigrant mother and a Jewish American father. As a law student, Michele has been an active participant in her law school's Scholar Advocacy project (with the Equal Justice Society), which trains students committed to justice work in contextual analysis and critical theory for frontline legal advocacy. This past summer she worked at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, advocating for people of color, the poor, and immigrants and refugees. Following graduation, in the fall of 2011 Michele will clerk for Chief Judge Susan Oki Mollway of the United States District Court for the District of Hawai`i.

**Tania Valdez** is a third-year student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Tania graduated magna cum laude from Colorado State University in 2007 with a major in Sociology and minors in Chicana/o Studies, Women's Studies, and Spanish. Tania is interested in immigration and international human rights law with a focus on gender issues, and ultimately hopes to become a professor. She is an Articles Editor for the *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice* and a Brayton Purcell Fellow at the East Bay Community Law Center. Tania is also active in governance issues, serving as the student representative to the Boalt Hall Faculty Hiring Committee, the Co-Chair of the La Raza Law Students Association, and Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Women of Color Collective.

## 2010 LatCrit Student Scholar Finalists

**Toni Holness** is completing her final year of law school at Temple University-Beasley School of Law. She is also pursuing a Master of Arts in Economics and plans to complete both degrees in May 2011. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. Her interests include corporate accountability, international economic development and developing culturally sensitive strategies for advocating human rights norms. Having been raised in Jamaica, she is particularly interested in LGBT advocacy towards the Caribbean. She is currently interning with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

**Ana Romes** is a second-year student at the University of Miami School of Law. Ana has a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in Drama and Theatre for Youth. Prior to attending law school, Ana dedicated her energy to community development, education, and HIV-prevention initiatives in Nicaragua. In 2010, Ana received a Florida Bar Foundation Public Interest Fellowship, which allowed her to provide legal assistance to domestic violence survivors with Coast to Coast Legal Aid in Broward County. With a solid background in participatory pedagogy, Ana hopes to develop innovative ways of guiding the study of law as experienced through the lenses of historically silenced and marginalized populations. Ana's diverse professional reincarnations uniquely situate her to encourage critical dialogue among new lawyers.

**Erica Zacharie** is a third-year law student at Tulane University Law School. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver and a B.A. in Criminology, Law and Society from the University of California, Irvine. At Tulane, Erica has reactivated and served as President of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Law Society. Erica currently serves as a legislative intern for the Southern Poverty Law Center and is developing a mediation clinic for the New Orleans EEOC. As a certified mediator, she has heard a variety of disputes, and has trained youth, school staff and community members in developing school-based mediation and violence prevention programs. Erica has also coordinated gender-specific programming for female juvenile offenders in Denver, Colorado detention facilities, through a partnership with Girls Incorporated and the Colorado Division of Youth Corrections.