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DEVELOPING THE NEXT  
GENERATION OF DIVERSE LEADERS

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## 2012 SUMMER ASSOCIATES



### **Lida Aljabar, Community Reinvestment**

Lida Aljabar is from Richmond, Virginia. Lida recently graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) with a Bachelor's degree in Public and Urban Affairs and a minor in Landscape Architecture. Lida has interned for the Floyd County Department of Community and Economic Development and recently interned with U.S. Senator Mark Warner's state office providing policy research, casework support, and coordinated community engagement events. In 2012, Lida was named the Outstanding Senior in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and received the Al Steiss Book Award for Outstanding Senior in Undergraduate Programs by the Urban Affairs and Planning Department. Lida is committed to supporting positive change and action on the local level and mitigating community issues where social inequalities and environmental injustices intersect.



### **Isabel Cortes, Community Reinvestment**

Isabel is from Humboldt County, California and recently graduated from Mills College with a Bachelor's degree in Political, Legal, and Economic Analysis and Ethnic Studies. She has recently been a UCLA Law Fellow as well as a Fellow at the California Education Committee. As she is committed to her home town, Isabel co-founded the Futuro Youth Institute -a youth leadership program for Latino students in Humboldt County. Isabel was awarded the Coleen Gragen Award for her dedication to the advocacy of women. Isabel is interested in the intersection of community development, law, and politics and is dedicated to increasing resources and support for underrepresented communities. As a Summer Associate, Isabel hopes to enhance her leadership skills and build a network of new leaders.



### **Mario Lopez, Research**

Mario is from Boyle Heights, California, He recently graduated from UC Berkeley with a Political Science Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Minor in Public Policy. Mario previously served as policy intern for the California Immigrant Policy Center and as a Field Associate on Voto Latino's 2010 United We Win voter education, registration and mobilization campaign. Mario's extensive leadership development participation includes the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy Scholars Program, the Center for Progressive Leadership New Leaders Program, the Young People for the American Way (YP4) Fellows Program, and the Front Line Leaders Academy. His experiences in legislative advocacy, research, and student organizing have equipped him with a set of skills and tools to be an effective agent of change.



**Nancy Ly, Health**

Nancy is entering her second year at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law where her focus is social justice lawyering. Nancy holds a Bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Sacramento. Nancy is a board member of Hmong American Legal Scholars Society. Prior to law school, Nancy was the director of communications and a community organizer for PICO California, where she developed local and statewide grassroots organizing strategies and managed issue campaigns including health care and civic engagement. Before joining PICO California, Nancy worked for the California Budget Project. Nancy is committed to bringing the voices of communities of color to policy debates and ensuring that these communities have a voice in shaping policies that affect them.



**Kelly Osajima, Claiming Our Democracy**

Kelly is from Yorba Linda, CA. Kelly recently graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles where she received her Bachelor's in Sociology. For the past year, she has been an advocate for college affordability and accessibility as the State/University Affairs Director for the External Vice President's Office at UCLA. As Budget Committee Chair for the UC Student Association Board of Directors, she developed a state-wide campaign to fight for alternate revenue for the UC and budget solutions. Kelly also gained exposure to national issues and worked to prevent foreclosures in low income communities while interning with Congress member Karen Bass. As she is committed to working towards fixing California's broken system of government, Kelly looks forward to working with Greenlining on ballot initiative reform and voting rights.



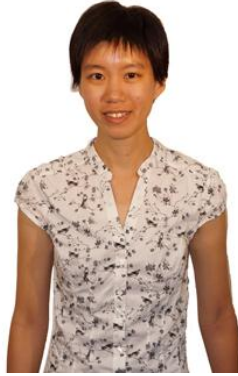
### **Heriberto Rojas, Claiming Our Democracy**

Heriberto Rojas was born in Jalisco, Mexico and has grown up in South Central Los Angeles. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 2009. Since receiving his undergraduate degree, Heriberto has worked as a Policy Researcher at Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) and is currently interning at the Latino Business Chamber of the Greater Los Angeles (LBCGLA). He intends to pursue a joint Masters degree in Public Policy and Business. Heriberto hopes to become engaged in the issues impacting all disadvantage communities in California and help the Latino community gain a stronger voice in the world of politics and business.



### **Sneha Shah, Consumer Protection**

Sneha Shah is from the bay area and will be entering her second year at Duke University. She received her Bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in Political Science. While at Berkeley she was involved with the Berkeley Group, which provides pro bono consulting services to nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area. Sneha is currently a Research Assistant for a former Contracts Professor and is also a part of the Volunteer Income Tax Association. As a Legal Associate, Sneha is looking forward to working at the intersection of law, economics, and social justice. She hopes to develop the right tools to fight against the financial barriers that low-income, minority consumers face in their everyday lives.



### **PinPin Song, Health**

PinPin is from Taipei, Taiwan. Pinpin received a Bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in Anthropology. She recently earned a Masters of Public Health in Health Behavior & Health Education from University of Michigan School of Public Health, where she also worked on various grant proposal writing projects at the Center for Managing Chronic Disease. PinPin is committed to reducing chronic disease disparities in underserved communities through development and implementation of culturally appropriate chronic disease prevention and management interventions. She hopes to pursue a career in public health program planning and development.



### **Saron Tesfai, Green Assets**

Saron was born in Eritrea but has grown up in Santa Rosa, California. Saron is currently attending the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Saron received his Bachelor's degrees in English and African American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. While at UC Berkeley, he won the English department's "Chauncey Whetmore Wells Critical Essay Prize". Saron joined the United States Navy in 2004 and served during the Iraq War, where he received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and a Navy Good Conduct Medal. Saron is dedicated to fighting for economic and political empowerment in exploited communities and ultimately envisions more locally owned and operated businesses in low-income communities. As a Legal Associate, he looks forward to learning how to develop effective policies that will help empower communities of color.



### **Casey Tran, Communications**

Casey is from Hayward, CA. She recently graduated from UC Berkeley where she received a Bachelor's degree in Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies with an Education minor. Her family's struggle and experience has shaped her consciousness and motivated her to become a leader in the Asian Pacific American community on and off campus. Casey has organized UC Berkeley's annual Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference and served as managing editor of *hardboiled* newsmagazine. Last summer, she interned at the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center in Washington, DC where she learned how to connect grassroots organizing to policy advocacy. At The Greenlining Institute, Casey hopes to continue to make visible issues that most impact marginalized communities. She is committed to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities to the mainstream through social media and ethnic media.



### **Araceli Vazquez, Research**

Araceli Vazquez is from the Coachella Valley and earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish from the University of California, Berkeley. While at UCB, she was an active leader in TRENZA and worked as an intern for the RAZA Recruitment & Retention Center, the Chicano Latino Student Development office, Institute of Government Studies, and the Center for Latin American Studies. In addition, she participated in UC Berkeley's Alternative Spring Break program, "The Border Crossed Them: Deconstructing the US-Mexico Relationship", where she worked with grassroots organizations in addressing the issues of immigration, border militarization, drug cartels, oppression of women, and human trafficking across borders. Araceli is currently an intern in the district office of Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez. She recently completed a field research program in Mexico where she studied the effects of globalization and transnational companies on local communities and workers. Araceli plans to pursue a career in public policy and hopes to pursue her PhD from Georgetown University.