

Kel O'Hara

equalrights.org/about-era/staff/kel-ohara/

Equal Justice Works Fellow

Kel O'Hara is a 2019 Equal Justice Works fellow sponsored by Intel Corporation and Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP. As a member of ERA's legal team, their fellowship work will focus on supporting LGBTQ student survivors of gender-based violence and harassment through the Advice and Counseling program, direct representation, community outreach, and education.



Kel joins ERA with six years of experience advocating for trauma-informed, survivor-centric, and culturally competent institutional response to sexual violence. They graduated from UC Berkeley School of Law (2019) with pro bono honors with highest distinction and the Jim Fahey Safe at Home Fellowship in recognition of their work on behalf of domestic violence survivors. During their time at Berkeley Kel founded the Survivor Advocacy Project, a legal services group dedicated to supporting student survivors involved in on-campus sexual misconduct investigations. They served on the Student Advisory Board of PATH to Care (Berkeley's sexual violence support center), the board of Berkeley Law Queer Caucus (Trans and Gender Non-Conforming subcommittee chair), and the editorial board of the Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice (Marketing Editor). Kel's legal work experience includes clerkships at Victim Rights Law Center, Family Violence Law Center, GLBTQ Advocates and Defenders, and Family Violence Appellate Project.

Kel's approach to legal advocacy is influenced by their background in campus organizing and trauma counseling. As an undergraduate at Tufts University (2014; BA in American Studies and Drama, *magna cum laude*) they built on their campus activism work to create an award-winning senior capstone project about sexual violence in higher education. Kel is a certified rape crisis counselor and volunteered in the emergency room of Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan before attending law school.