

Fulco-Cabot Fund Highlights 2024-2025

Director's Note

Dear PBPL Alumni and Friends,

In April 2024, we had the wonderful opportunity to gather with many of you to recognize the retirement of our director emerita, Professor Renny Fulco, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Public Policy & Law program that she and the late Professor Ned Cabot co-founded. We're reaching out now to share program highlights from this past academic year, with particular gratitude for the student experiences that the Fulco-Cabot Fund has supported.

Public Policy & Law (PBPL) continues to attract excellent students, with 140 majors in Spring 2025. This year we welcomed two new faculty members, who have quickly become integral contributors. Professor Shane Gleason contributes courses to our Law & Society concentration, building on his expertise in gender and judicial politics. Professor Leslie Ribovich joins us and Religious Studies as the Director of the Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life. She teaches courses that build on her expertise in the history of religion in U.S. law and policy.

Through the generous support of alumni and friends of PBPL, the Fulco-Cabot Fund now disburses roughly \$10,000 annually, which supports student research and engagement experiences that advance our majors' learning. On the page that follows, you can learn more about the research presentations, internships, field trips, and community-engaged learning that these funds enabled in 2024-2025. As we look toward the new academic year, we are considering ways to use these funds to support in-demand advising for law school and legal careers, perhaps through alumni mentors or a speaker series. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please reach out to me at Abigail.Williamson@trincoll.edu. PBPL faculty are always excited to hear from alumni and friends of PBPL, so we hope you will keep in touch.

We thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a beautiful summer!

Warm wishes,

Abigail Fisher Williamson, Associate Professor and PBPL Program Director

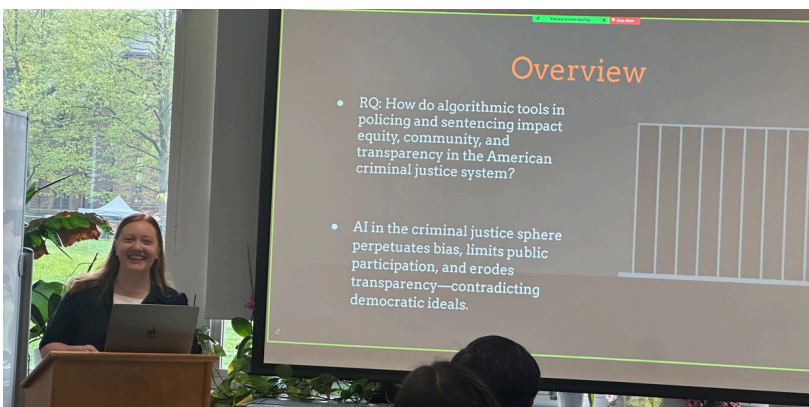


Students in PBPL 377: Gender and Law with
Judge Susan Peck

Ernesto Solana '26 speaking at United Way
event about VITA Tax Clinics

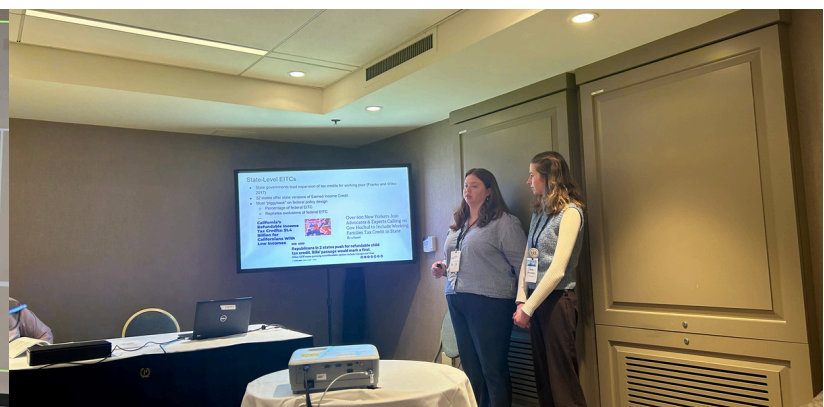
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- **Student Presentation at Professional Conference.** Two students traveled with Professor Serena Laws to the Midwest Political Science Association's annual meeting in Chicago, IL. There, they presented collaborative research on the administrative burden of accessing state-level Earned Income Tax Credits.
- **Access to Internships.** Rising juniors received stipends to cover living expenses while completing unpaid internships with the Delaware Innocence Project and Senator Rick Scott.
- **On-Campus Research Poster Fair.** Students in Professor Shane Gleason's PBPL 220 Research and Evaluation course presented their final data analysis assignment through a poster fair. The Fund supported this public event and enabled students to print and keep their posters.
- **Senior Seminar Field Trip.** Students in Professor Glenn Falk's senior seminar, PBPL 409: Law, History, and Public Policy visited the "Native Prospects: Indigeneity and Landscape" exhibit at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT, in conjunction with class discussions on the history of US law regarding Native American Indian populations.
- **Experiential Learning in Hartford.** Students in Professor Serena Law's PBPL 310 Tax Policy and Inequality course became IRS certified tax preparers and staffed a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic at Trinity. They completed 660 tax returns, generating \$1.4 million in total refunds for low-income residents. The Fund supported students with transport costs, as they completed supplemental hours at other VITA clinics throughout Hartford.
- **Senior Thesis Expert Advising.** The Fund compensated an expert advisor to provide feedback on a senior thesis on technological innovations in policing and sentencing.
- **Guest Speakers.** Professor Shane Gleason hosted a series of events for PBPL majors interested in the legal profession with Legal Services NYC attorney Madison Griffin and retired Hartford District Superior Court Judge Susan Peck.



Ava Caudle '25 presenting her thesis:

Red Tape on a Black Box: The State of Criminal Procedure, Policing, and Sentencing in Technology's New Age



Anna Grant Bolton '25 and Caitlin Doherty '26 presenting at Midwest Political Science Association.