Passion for Justice



Svetlana Lunskaya Awarded '02, '04, '05

I am a 28 year old attorney living in D.C. I received my B.S. and J. D. from U.C., Berkeley. I emigrated to the U.S. with my family from the Soviet Union when I was nine years old.

I have always wanted to be an attorney. Having grown up around institutionalized anti-Semitism and bigotry, I chose the law to make a difference.

In college, my struggle was how much could I get out of my time there. Concretely, it was largely a factor of *how many part time jobs I could hold* while carrying a full academic load, participate in "student life" and *continue giving back*.

I learned Spanish and worked with the Own Recognizance Project at the S.F. Jail and with the Renters' Legal Assistance Program.

Being unemployed during this terrible economy has reinforced for me the importance of connections and supporters. *Hard work is often not enough; most people starting out need guidance, mentoring and often, financial assistance.*

I am proud to have handled a number of asylum cases both in law school and as an associate at two large DC law firms. I am proud to have paid off my private loans.

I have transitioned from the private to the public sector. It is a great time to an attorney in Washington, D.C. I will be working in the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice.

