MSU'S MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT SEMESTER PROGRAM ~ SPRING 2024 COHORT

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT	STUDENT PICS	STUDENT BIOS
INGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE		Souad Bazzi is a rising junior at Michigan State University, studying Prelaw and Political Science with a minor in law, justice, and public policy. Growing up as a first-generation Lebanese American from her hometown, Dearborn, Michigan, Souad is deeply committed to inciting change in areas such as immigration rights, reproductive freedom, and bottom-up political advocacy. With a background in a grassroots political campaign, she gained experience in networking with a diverse range of people, directing community engagement, and navigating the complexities of local-level policy processes. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a career as a public defender and, someday, the House of Representatives to be an unwavering advocate for marginalized groups and the voice for the underrepresented. Outside of her academic endeavors, she enjoys yoga, reading, and playing with her two goldendoodles. Souad was a recipient of the Michigan Government Semester Program Scholarship for 2024.
KELLEY CAWTHORNE		DANYA CHAMDIN is a senior studying Political Science at Michigan State University with minors in Business and Law, Justice, and Public policy. She is from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Danya is a frequent volunteer and servant in her community, doing frequent refugee outreach and assistance. She has previously interned with UC Berkeley's Center for Public Policy and OneFairWage in Cleveland, Ohio. She is currently interning with Kelley Cawthorne. Danya is interested in the intersections of business and law as related to global issues and hopes to practice as an attorney one day. She enjoys reading and cooking new things.
REP. RANJEEV PURI		Josie Danielkiewicz is from the city of Marquette in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She is a Political Science (Pre-Law) Major, and her research interests include judicial politics and the impact that U.S. politics has had in Latin America. Jose is a member of the Social Science Scholars and Honors College. Josie previously interned in Senator Debbie Stabenow's Washington, DC office. After graduation, Josie hopes to either attend law school to become a human rights attorney or pursue a master's degree in public policy.
HANEY LAW GROUP		DRAKE DANOU is a Junior studying Political Science Pre-Law at Michigan State University. He is from Orchard Lake, Michigan. Drake is currently interning at Haney Law Group under attorney Steve Haney. Drake is interested in criminal defense and plans to attend law school in the future.
DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC		LEAH DOEMER is a Junior studying Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Leadership of Organizations. She is from Dearborn Heights, Michigan, where she volunteered for her community in various ways. She participates in Club Diving and the Dean's Student Advisory Council for the College of Social Sciences. Leah is also a Delta Gamma member, serving as Vice President: Membership. She enjoys keeping up with college sports (Go Green!).

MSU's MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT SEMESTER PROGRAM ~ SPRING 2024 COHORT

MI STATE REP. TULLIO LIBERATI	AARIAN DRISKELL is a senior majoring in Political Science - Pre-law at Michigan State University. She is a first-generation college student from metro Detroit. Aarian has worked with children for over five years as a teaching aide. She was also a Girl Scout for 11 years. Aarian volunteers when she can with troops as well as the elementary school, Academy of Detroit.
MI GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER	MARIA FERRANTE is a Senior at MSU from Cleveland, Ohio. She has previously interned with a Campaign Fundraising Consulting Firm and worked on State Senator Sam Singh's Election Campaign. She is passionate about women's rights, climate policy, and public policy. Maria is also a Political Science Scholar, Spartan Agora, and the Women's Leadership Institute Student Cohort. Maria plans on pursuing law school after her graduation in the spring.
MI GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER	JEROME HAMILTON, JR. is a Junior at Michigan State University from Baltimore, Maryland, studying Political Science Pre-law with a minor in Environmental Social Science. Currently, he is a student in the Social Science Scholars Program and is involved on-campus with Honors College recruiting and the Senior Ambassadors Program. He is a member of an award-winning research project on the misrepresentation of the crack/cocaine and opioid epidemics and is conducting an original research study on constraints to hunting and fishing in Michigan. He has pursued internships with a focus on environmental policy at the Natural Resources Defense Council and the USDA Forest Service. He aspires to have a career in public policy. In his free time, he enjoys running, playing basketball, and watching sports with his friends.
WOMEN'S CENTER OF GREATER LANSING	ISABELLA IAFRATE is a Junior at Michigan State University majoring in Political Science Pre-Law, and double minoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Law, Justice, and Public Policy. Isabella is from Port Huron, Michigan, in the mitten. Isabella is a current intern at the Women's Center of Greater Lansing. She is a passionate advocate for human rights and environmental justice globally. One day, she hopes to become an environmental lawyer for a non-profit organization advocating for conservation and sustainability. In her free time, Isabella enjoys reading, artwork, and spending time with her sisters.
JUDGE ROSEMARIE AQUILINA (MI 30 th CIRCUIT COURT)	KENDALL JONES is a senior studying Political Science - Prelaw with a minor in Law, Justice, and Public Policy. She plans to attend law school in Fall 2024. Kendall is from Muskegon, Michigan. She transferred to MSU from Muskegon Community College, where she spent two years playing college soccer. Kendall enjoys giving back to her communities by volunteering at Kids' Food Basket in Muskegon and the Greater Lansing Food Bank. She enjoys working out and spending time with friends and family in her free time. She is beyond excited to be a part of the MGSP this semester and to intern with Judge Rosemarie Aquilina. Kendall was a recipient of the Michigan Government Semester Program Scholarship for 2024.

MSU's MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT SEMESTER PROGRAM ~ SPRING 2024 COHORT

THE LAW OFFICE OF REID FELSING, PLC		MEERA KANADE is a Junior at Michigan State University studying Political Science—Pre Law. She is interning at the Law Office of Reid Felsing as a Legal Intern and plans to pursue a J.D. In her free time, she dances and is a big fan of spin classes. Meera is interested in zoning laws and wants to further her education on the impact of zoning laws within states.
MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY		JACOB KAPLAN is a senior studying Political Science Pre-Law with a minor in Peace and Justice Studies at Michigan State University. Jacob is from Stoughton, Massachusetts, where he previously interned with MA State Representative Ted Phillips and MI State Representative Tullio Liberati. Jacob is interested in economic development policy and the social determinants of health. Jacob is an avid sports fan and loves to cook for his friends and family.
MI STATE REP. TULLIO LIBERATI	LICE MAIN	HARNEET KAUR is a senior majoring in Political Science with a minor in Law, Justice, and Public Policy at Michigan State University. Harneet is a proud Sikh who was born in New York and grew up in Michigan. Her parents immigrated from Punjab in the 1980s. Harneet is passionate about policies regarding healthcare, education, child abuse, women's reproductive rights, and gun reform. Growing up, Harneet volunteered at the Sikh place of worship every Sunday. Harneet discovered her passion for creating change when she joined Youth In Government during high school. Harneet aspires to become a legislative aide or work closely with legislators and eventually become a legislator herself. Harneet enjoys designing clothes, traveling, and exploring real estate in her free time.
MI STATE REP. HELENA SCOTT		Bella Koki is a sophomore studying Political Science at Michigan State University. She is currently interning with Representative Helena Scott in the Michigan House of Representatives. Proud of her Chaldean heritage, Bella brings a unique perspective to her academic studies and work. Driven by a passion for justice and public policy, Bella aims to become an attorney to make a positive impact in the legal field.
OKEMOS LEGAL GROUP		JORDYN Kostecke is a junior studying Political Science Pre-Law with a Law, Justice, and Public Policy minor. She is from Royal Oak, Michigan. She has previously interned with End Violent Encounters (E.V.E) and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Jordyn is interested in working as a District Attorney and working to make the justice system fair for all. She enjoys crocheting and hiking.

MSU's MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT SEMESTER PROGRAM ~ SPRING 2024 COHORT

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION	SAM KOTAS is a junior studying Public Policy at Michigan State University. He is from Troy, Michigan. He works part-time at the Riv and is interning at the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan. Sam is interested in helping people with mental health issues and providing funding to companies that assist those in need. He also plans to attend law school after graduation.
LANSING CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	ELLI LEONARD is a junior studying Political Science Pre-Law along with two minors, Law, Justice, and Public Policy and Leadership of Organizations. She was born and raised in White Lake, Michigan. Elli is a Sorority Delta Gamma member, currently serving as VP of Member Education. She enjoys holding leadership positions and volunteering to improve her chapter and the community. In her free time, she enjoys snowboarding and wake surfing.
KELLEY CAWTHORNE	KATELYN NAERT is a junior studying Political Science Pre-Law at Michigan State University's Honors College. She is a proud first-generation student from Macomb, Michigan. Katelyn is an active member of her community through volunteering and leading group exercise classes. She has previously interned with Ken Magee, Democratic candidate for Washtenaw County Sheriff. Katelyn is interested in making education and housing more equitable and aspires to become a lawyer or lobbyist. She also enjoys working on the campus fashion magazine in her free time.
JUDGE ROSEMARIE AQUILINA (MI 30 th CIRCUIT COURT)	DYLAN PATEL is a senior studying Political Science Pre-Law and Public Policy at Michigan State University. He is from Shelby Township, Michigan. In his free time, Dylan spends ample time outdoors playing golf, with his dog, and boxing. He is interning for Hon. Judge Rosemarie Aquilina of the 30th circuit court. This will be his first internship. Upon graduation, he hopes to attend law school and practice law as a criminal defense attorney.
U.S. CONGRESSMAN DAN KILDEE	JACOB PICKETT is a Junior at Michigan State University with a major in Political Science and a minor in Law, Justice, and Public Policy. He is a proud Flint, Michigan native, hoping to give back to the community he grew up in. With an internship in the past at the Genesee County Clerk/Register office, the upcoming internship opportunity in Congressman Dan Kildee's office will be a great addition. Jacob is interested in public policy and law, as well as local and state government legislation. He enjoys playing music on the bass and electric guitar and learning about law.

MSU'S MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT SEMESTER PROGRAM ~ SPRING 2024 COHORT

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN ELISSA SLOTKIN	ALEXIS RAMIREZ is a first-generation college senior studying Political Science at Michigan State University with a minor in Business and Law, Justice, and Public Policy. He is from southwest Detroit and is a proud Latino. Alexis is passionate about giving back to the community, having volunteered at Cadillac Urban Gardens and Gleaners Food Bank in the past. He has previously interned with State Representative Tsernoglou and is now interning with US Congresswoman Slotkin. Alexis plans to have a public service career in government. He enjoys reading about current affairs, gaming, watching films, and sports. Alexis was a recipient of the Michigan Government Semester Program Scholarship for 2024.
MI STATE REP. JIM HAADSMA	KYLE SIMS is a senior studying Political Science-Prelaw with a minor in Cities: Environment, Design, and Society from Battle Creek, Michigan. This semester, he is interning with Michigan House Representative Jim Haadsma. He previously interned with the Ingham County Office of the Public Defender and had the opportunity to study abroad at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. After graduating from MSU, he plans to attend law school and become a practicing attorney in a large metro area. Kyle is also the Co-President of the MSU Pre-Law Society and a member of the Spartan Marching Band in the trumpet section.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSOCIATES	NOAH SOCHA is a junior studying Political Science at Michigan State University, with minors in Law, Justice, and Public Policy and Social Science Quantitative Data Analytics. He is also in the Honors College. Noah is from Saline, Michigan. He serves as the Vice President of the Spartan Marching Band and is in the Trumpet Section. He has previously interned in the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office and has served as a poll worker in multiple elections; Noah hopes to someday work at the intersection of law and politics, hopefully serving the public in some capacity. Outside of work and school, Noah has a lifelong passion for music, having played piano and trumpet for over 15 years. He also enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and going Up North.
MI STATE REP. REGINA WEISS	MIKAYLA WARD is a junior from Atlanta, Georgia, majoring in Community Governance and Advocacy, with a minor in Law, Justice, and Public Policy at Michigan State University. She is passionate about education, housing, and social policy reform and plans to obtain her master's in Public Policy upon graduating from Michigan State. In her free time, Mikayla enjoys participating in community service activities in and around the Lansing community, including the Boys and Girls Club of Lansing and the Provision Living assisted living center in East Lansing. Mikayla is eager to begin her internship in the office of Michigan State Representative Regina Weiss and to be a part of the Michigan Government Semester Program 2024 cohort.
U.S. SENATOR GARY PETERS	DEVIN WOODRUFF is a senior studying Public Policy at Michigan State University. Devin is from Southfield, MI. In the past, Devin interned for Rep. Brenda Carter and worked in the local government in his hometown, Southfield. It is Devin's interest to work more in public policy so that everyday people can access government resources and receive the assistance that so many people need and deserve. A dream of Devin's is to run for office one day. Devin was a recipient of the Michigan Government Semester Program Scholarship for 2024.