

Ashwin Pillai

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Education

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

M.A., Philosophy | March 2022 – June 2024

Concentration in Moral and Political Philosophy; GPA: 4.0

B.A., Philosophy and Political Science with Honors and Distinction | September 2019 – June 2023

Interdisciplinary Honors in Ethics in Society; Minor in Music; Special Notation in Public Service; GPA: 4.04

Phi Beta Kappa; Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honors society); Distinction (top 15% of class)

Thesis: *Standing Against Injustice: An Expanded Vision of Standing Doctrine for Public Law Litigation*

Experience & Activities

Stanford University Department of Philosophy, Stanford, CA

Research Assistant to Professor Wendy Salkin | June 2023 – September 2023

- Wrote research memos and created annotated bibliographies for multiple new projects on the philosophy of political representation and on cognitive disability in deliberative, democratic theory.
- Organized and summarized feedback from other academics on a paper about the moral and political obligations of public facing theoretical authorities.

Stanford Center for Racial Justice, Stanford, CA

Intern | September 2022 – June 2023

- Drafted an article involving novel legal and constitutional analysis of San José's new firearm regulations.
- Performed research on innovative strategies in community safety beyond police intervention.
- Produced a detailed summary memo and presentation tracking different cities' efforts to reduce gun violence through both regulation and community initiatives.
- Tracked news related to racial justice issues and contributed to weekly racial justice newsletters.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, D.C.

Fair Housing Intern | March 2021 – May 2021; September 2021 – August 2022

- Conducted legal research on inequitable property tax assessments and considered the possibility of litigation under the Fair Housing Act.
- Performed research on racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty in multiple cities.
- Researched statutory due process requirements for serving summonses in summary ejectment proceedings in Baltimore, MD for use in a lawsuit against the city's sheriff.
- Updated facts and citations in an amicus brief for a federal case about rent relief in New Jersey.
- Drafted a new Language Access Plan to put the City of Mountain View, CA in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, New York, NY

Research Intern | June 2021 – August 2021

- Wrote a factual research memo for a potential constitutional challenge to anti-critical race theory education laws in Arizona, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas.
- Proofed, cite checked, and bluebooked multiple scholarly legal papers by noted law professors and judges for the Institute's "Data and Democracy Symposium"
- Performed research on speech in the digital age and social media platform surveillance.

Political Psychology Research Group, Stanford, CA

Research Assistant | June 2020 – March 2021

- Conducted research for a study on election fraud and perceptions of procedural justice.
- Performed factual research and literature reviews for multiple academic papers.
- Proofed research manuscripts for publication.

Awards, Honors, & Fellowships

2023	David M. Kennedy Prize for Single Best Honors Thesis in the Humanities and Arts
2023	John Mothershead Award for Outstanding Work in Moral and/or Political Philosophy
2023	Robert M. Golden Medal for Excellence in the Humanities and Creative Arts
2022 – 2023	Hume Honors Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center
2021 – 2023	Undergraduate Fellowship, Stanford Constitutional Law Center
2021	Summer Fellowship, Yale Law School Liman Center for Public Interest Law

Activities & Societies

Stanford Mixed Company A Cappella (President, Assistant Music Director, Performance Manager) | Structured Liberal Education (Tutor, Community Connection) | Political Science Dept. Peer Advisor | Stanford University Tour Guide