

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

PERSPECTIVE

Social Justice Legal Foundation names executive director

By Kamila Knaudt

Daily Journal Staff Writer

The Social Justice Legal Foundation has named Shubhra Shivpuri, the former deputy attorney general for the Civil Rights Enforcement Section of the California Department of Justice, as its first executive director.

In an interview Tuesday, the president of the foundation's board of directors, John C. Hueston, said Shivpuri was chosen because of her exceptional career dedicated to civil rights cases and the pursuit of social justice and equity.

"We also felt that Shubhra is someone who's been a creative thinker in the law, who has worked successfully with teams of lawyers to bring interesting and challenging cases across the state and beyond," Hueston said. "We really think she is the perfect person to serve as executive director with our incoming fellows as we start our first cases."

At the DOJ, Shivpuri was involved in defending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and led a task force that evaluated the conditions of confinement at California's federal immigration detention facilities. She is also a former trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and an assistant U.S. attorney in Louisiana.

"To be able to continue to do civil rights work and also shape the agenda and to train and build up in the next generation of attorneys is such a treat. I'm absolutely thrilled," Shivpuri said, calling the appointment a "dream opportunity."



SHIVPURI

The foundation, which launched in January 2021 with a \$10 million pledge from Hueston Hennigan LLP, is a national collaboration between Columbia Law School, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Stanford Law School, UCLA School of Law and Yale Law School and private sector trial lawyers, judges, activists and scholars.

Although, which cases the foundation will handle is up to Shivpuri, staff attorneys and the fellows, the foundation was

created to focus on issues such as economic justice, housing and homeless discrimination, LGBTQ+ rights, voting rights and changes to criminal justice law, among others.

The foundation plans to soon announce its staff attorneys.

Members of the foundation's board of advisers include U.S. District Judge David O. Carter, former California Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno and Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Alexander C.D. Giza.

Its board of directors include Hueston and Brian J. Hennigan of Hueston Hennigan, as well as several of the firm's partners.

Along with Shivpuri's appointment, the foundation announced its inaugural class of fellows: Emily Barber, Alyssa Martinez, Emily Olivencia-Audet, Amelia Piazza and Hannah Schoen. All the fellows are recent graduates of the foundation's five collaborating schools. ■

kamila_knaudt@dailyjournal.com