

Miller Fellow: Zehra Betul Ayranci

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Saira Mohamed

Project: The Injury of Illegal Orders



Zehra Betul Ayranci is a J.S.D. student, advanced to doctoral candidacy, focusing on transnational law, contracts and copyright policy in content industries in the digital streaming era. During her time at Berkeley Law, she has contributed to remote instruction as a Graduate Remote Instruction Innovation Fellow, volunteered at the Reproductive Justice project, and served as a co-chair to Sports and Entertainment Law Society. Native of Turkey, Betul is an accomplished practitioner having represented Fortune 500 clients, as litigator and transactional lawyer, and worked in leading media companies as corporate counsel across Europe, Africa, North America and Latin America. Betul has authored a number of articles and book chapters ranging from media law to IP and Social Justice. She serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Copyright Society of the US and regularly participates, by invitation, as a judge and evaluator to the Philip C. Jessup, Willem Vis, International Criminal Court, Native American Law Students Association, and Oxford IP Law moot court competitions. She holds a law degree cum laude from Bilkent University in Turkey (LL.B. '11) and a master's degree from Berkeley Law (LL.M. '15, thesis-track) with Fulbright Scholarship.

For the Miller Fellowship, Betul will be assisting Prof. Mohamed on a project that investigates the relationship between superior and subordinate in the military. A superior's responsibility to not give an illegal order is conventionally understood as an obligation aimed toward prevention of the ultimate crime, rather than one that is owed to the person who receives the order. Through an examination of the history of the laws of war and evolving legal and cultural understandings of the obligation to disobey and not to give illegal orders, the project seeks to articulate a duty owed by leaders toward those subject to their command.