**Getting to Know: Shanty Figueroa**

Shanty Figueroa, legal assistant at Hoguet Newman Regal & Kenney, LLP, joined the firm in August 2024 after graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a B.A. in criminal justice. During her time at SUNY Fredonia, she was the president of the Black Student Union, leading and organizing initiatives to promote cultural awareness, inclusivity, and community engagement. Shanty was also a member of the University’s mock trial team. Get to know Shanty below:

**As a women-owned boutique based exclusively in New York, HNRK is a unique place to work. What drew you to the firm?**

I was drawn to HNRK because of its reputation for excellence in litigation and its commitment to fostering an inclusive and dynamic work environment. As a women-owned firm, HNRK offers a unique perspective in the legal field, and I was eager to be part of a team that values diversity, strong advocacy, and mentorship. The firm’s boutique nature also allows for a more hands-on experience, which is important to me as I continue to develop my legal career.

**How did you become interested in the legal industry?**

My interest in the legal industry began during my internship at the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, as I was able to see firsthand how the legal system impacts individuals and communities. That experience, combined with my dedication to advocacy and problem-solving, solidified my desire to pursue a career in law.

My passion for law was reinforced during my undergraduate studies at SUNY Fredonia, where I majored in criminal justice and was an active member of the mock trial team; through mock trial, I developed a passion for legal strategy, argumentation, and research.

**What is the most interesting part of your job?**

The most interesting part of my job is the exposure to complex legal matters and the opportunity to engage in substantive legal research and case preparation. I enjoy seeing how legal arguments take shape and how different strategies are developed to support clients. Working closely with attorneys and being involved in different stages of litigation has given me valuable insight into the legal process.

**What is something most people don’t know about you?**

Most people don’t know that I have a strong creative side. While I’m passionate about law and advocacy, I also enjoy organizing events that bring people together. Recently, I started IYKYK Collective, a company focused on creating unique social experiences, including speed dating events for both romantic and platonic connections. It’s a fun and fulfilling way to build community outside of my legal work.

**What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?**

I love exploring new restaurants and hidden gems in New York City. Whether it’s a cozy café or an exciting pop-up event, I enjoy immersing myself in the city’s diverse food and social scenes. I also find joy in organizing community events and spending quality time with friends and family.

**What is one thing you cannot live without and why?**

One thing I cannot live without is my dog, Milo. No matter how busy or stressful my day gets, coming home to my dog instantly lifts my mood. The unconditional love, companionship, and joy he brings into my life makes every day better.