

# I'yanna Barker

Gilman International Scholarship  
Alumni Ambassador  
Costa Rica, 2016



*“While studying abroad allowed me to see the world from a new perspective, it also gave me a spirit of exploration that I will carry with me throughout life.”*

I'yanna studied and lived in the small town of Santa Ana, Costa Rica, located just outside of San Jose. Although she had taken Spanish courses since middle school, her intensive studies at the Conversa Linguistics School accelerated her knowledge and understanding of the language. Her program included overnight stays in various cities and excursions to mountain ranges, rainforests and an active volcano in Arenal. This gave her a deeper appreciation for nature and biodiversity. She credits her host mom, Liliana, for her ability to speak Spanish. Since her time in Costa Rica, I'yanna has advocated for first-generation college students to engage in global experiences through workshops and application assistance.

I'yanna is currently working at Alston & Bird, LLP, a law firm in Atlanta, Georgia, where she assists small businesses in search of financial relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. With a goal to attend law school in the near future, she hopes to advocate on behalf of communities who have been historically marginalized by the legal system.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish, from Florida State University
- Honed Spanish-speaking and writing skills to become a conversational speaker
- Worked with a team of 10 students to produce a short film about global experiences
- Assisted 50+ students in the application process for study abroad programs through writing and editing

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