

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

**PUBLIC SERVICE
AWARDS CEREMONY**

Honoring Public Service at Brooklyn Law School
and the Accomplishments of the Class of 2024

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Forchelli Conference Center

Reception to follow

Public Service Awards Ceremony

5:00

Welcome

Dean David Meyer, President, Joseph Crea Dean, and
Professor of Law

Presentation of Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award to Steven Banks

Dean David Meyer, President, Joseph Crea Dean, and
Professor of Law

Keynote Speaker

Steven Banks

Presentation of Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service to Professor of Law David Reiss

Naveen Thomas, Assistant Professor of Law

Presentation of Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service to Jane Landry-Reyes

Elizabeth Schneider, Rose L. Hoffer Professor of Law

Presentation of Public Service Awards to the Class of 2024

Stacy Caplow, Professor of Law

Presentation of Pro Bono Leadership & Access to Justice Awards

Jacqueline Cheney, Executive Director, Public Service Law
Center

Closing Remarks

Jacqueline Cheney, Executive Director, Public Service Law
Center

6:00

Reception

Our Honorees

Members of the Class of 2024, who will pursue a wide array of careers, have performed exceptional public service at organizations ranging from the Law School's own clinics and pro bono projects to The Legal Aid Society and from the Veterans Advocacy Project to the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. During their time in law school, they have devoted over 87,000 hours to assisting immigrants, small business owners, survivors of domestic violence, people threatened with eviction from their homes, and others and helping government agencies provide critical services to the public. The Pro Bono Scholars are devoting thousands of hours to working full-time at nonprofit organizations. Our pro bono project leaders have dedicated their time and passion to running the Law School's 20 current projects.

STUDENTS WHO PERFORMED OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

GOLD - 1,000+ hours

Taylor Abbruzzese
Jonathan Apsan
Alexandra Berlinger
Rosalie Calvet-Soubiran
Sarah Corsico
Torrey Crim
John Cusker
Martharay Dallman
Molly Davis
Jonathan Doolittle
Zachary Elvove
Austen Fisher
Jessica Flaherty
Shayna Goldberg
Caroline Golub
Davon Harris
Dina Khedr
Mackenzie Kramer
Shreya Krishnamurthy
Katarzyna Krzyzanowski
Bianca Li

Brooke Magalhaes
Elisabeth Mayer
Julia McHale
Madison Moore
Sophia Overall
Alison Peebles
Stephanie Person
Stephanie Pettit
Jack Ralph
Nicole Reed
Leyna Reynolds
Rahmel Lee Robinson
Olivia Ryan
Moriah Schindler
Forrest Stakelum
Miri Trauner
Ashley Vega
Ashley Velasquez
Grace Vetromile
Meredith Yates

SILVER - 500-999 hours

Adam Ackerman
Marlon Amaya
Kevin Anthony
Youngchool Bae
Olivia Cassandro
Nicole Davidson
Sloane Forbush
Michael Futral
Jordan Gladstone
Ilya Halecky
Matthew Hans
Zoe Harrelson-Louie
Alexandria Henke
Megan Henley
Mackenzie Jacobs
Pengyu Jiang

Nicholas Kenworthy
Zoya Khan
Julia Leebove
Ian Mauro
Claire Miolene
Jeremy Nelson
Jimmy Nguyen
Caitlin Oakley
Hery Park
Olivia Pascal
Ryan Raschella
Samantha Schmitz
Brendan Sullivan
Ameena Tahir
Petro Zinchenko

PUBLIC SERVICE - 100-499 hours

Noah Abdelaziz
Juliette Adams
Michelle Agiviav
Miriam Avrutin
Jillian Banks
Emma Barranca
Marina Barron
Sabrina Bernstein
Joseph Bizub
Yehuda Blumenfrucht
Naomi Boico
Zaynah Chaudhury
Joanne Choi
Aniqa Chowdhury
Robert Cortes
Anthony Damon
Maria Fischer
Jose Gerez
Stephanie Goebel
Maya Golan

Alejandro Rosa Guzman
Deeba Haeri
Kathryn Hennessey
Yizheng Huang
Julianne Hynes
Samantha Imber
Deeba Izadpanah
Paulina Jedrzejowski
Alyson Jensen
Marko Jukić
Callie Kramsky
Presley Klinger
Joanna Lamberta
Melissa Levine
Elizabeth Loizides
Ezra Mann
David Noh
Giselle Omar
Steven Piniella
Engin Polar

Jessica Ramsawak
Amina Rana
Davis Rosser
Beatrice Rubin
Alexa Scunziano

Allie Shaffer
Jake Starr
Marian Strauss
Caroline Tsai
Jowel Uddin

PRO BONO LEADERSHIP

Student-led projects are at the heart of the BLS experience. They offer unique leadership and practical opportunities while helping marginalized populations. This celebration, in part, is to honor those graduating students who displayed outstanding student leadership in the school's pro bono projects. These students founded projects, revived and revitalized dormant projects, and took over other projects requiring sophisticated oversight. For all your hard work, we thank you, graduating pro bono project leaders:

Noah Abdelaziz
Marlon Amaya
Olivia Baccellieri
Jillian Banks
Sarah Corsico
John Cusker
Nicole Davidson
Austen Fisher
Jessica Flaherty
Stephanie Goebel
Shayna Goldberg

Alexandria Henke
Shannon Herman
Mackenzie Kramer
Alma Lawson-Garcia
Nicholas Mead
Claire Miolene
Jeremy Nelson
Jami Nicholson
Stephanie Pettit
Samantha Schmitz
Grace Vetromile

ACCESS TO JUSTICE Pro Bono Scholars

BLS's Pro Bono Scholars are spending their final semester providing direct legal services to low-income individuals:

Aurora Hermida
Jacqueline Martin
Alison Peebles

Laura Reynolds
Rahmel Lee Robinson
Meredith Yates

Steven Banks

Special Counsel, Paul, Weiss

Public Service Awards Ceremony 2024 Keynote Speaker

Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award

From 2014-2022, Steven Banks served as commissioner of the New York City Department of Social Services, the largest social services agency in the United States, managing approximately 16,000 staff serving over three million New Yorkers per year with an annual budget of \$12 billion.

In that role, he established and led reforms for many robust and high-impact DSS programs, including the first-in-the-nation Right to Counsel program for low-income tenants, and expanded legal assistance for immigrants, Cash and Rental Assistance, Food Assistance, Medicaid and other programs that address income inequality, modernize and streamline access to public benefits, and prevent and ameliorate homelessness.

In 2016, following a comprehensive review of the city's homelessness policies, former Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Mr. Banks to lead the Department of Homeless Services, in addition to the Human Resources Administration, as head of a joint management structure under the DSS. During his tenure, the DSS decreased evictions, reduced the number of families experiencing homelessness and residing in shelters, and dramatically enhanced and expanded assistance for low-income families and individuals.

Earlier, Mr. Banks spent over three decades at New York City's Legal Aid Society, the country's oldest and largest not-for-profit legal aid organization. From 2004-2014, he was the attorney-in-chief at LAS, where he managed the legal practice and operations of the criminal, juvenile rights and civil programs run by the organization, which handles 300,000 legal matters each year in all five boroughs. At LAS, he had an extensive track record of working productively with a diverse and unionized workforce and helping the city's most vulnerable residents—including children and families, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, immigrants and people with HIV/AIDS—navigate DSS programs and services.

In 2008, Mr. Banks helped reach a landmark settlement in *McCain v. Koch*, resulting in the establishment of a permanent enforceable right to shelter for families experiencing homelessness in New York City. For many years, he also served as counsel to the Coalition for the Homeless, enforcing the right to shelter for single adults.

David Reiss

Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service

Professor Reiss is the founding director of Brooklyn Law School's Community Development Clinic, which represents community-based organizations that serve neighborhoods throughout the City, including community development corporations, cultural institutions, affordable housing providers, and small businesses that serve underrepresented communities. He is also the Research Director of the Law School's Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship. He writes about housing finance, particularly as it relates to low- and moderate-income households, and is the author of the forthcoming book *Paying for the American Dream: How to Reform the Market for Mortgages* (Oxford University Press).

Professor Reiss is currently Chair of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board. He is a member of the American Law Institute and an Observer on the Uniform Law Commission Mortgage Modifications Drafting Committee. As a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and the American College of Mortgage Attorneys, he advocates for the interests of homeowners.

Before attending law school, Professor Reiss worked for Community Access, a not-for-profit housing provider that assists people who have psychiatric disabilities as they make the transition from shelters and hospitals to independent living.

Jane Landry-Reyes '93

Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service

Jane Landry-Reyes has been an Assistant Attorney General in the Housing Protection Unit of the New York State Office of Attorney General since December 2019. For 15 years before that, she was a senior staff attorney and supervisor at Brooklyn Legal Services. She primarily represented tenants in eviction defense cases but was also involved in affirmative work, later representing groups of tenants as a Deputy Director in the Tenant Rights Coalition in Brownsville. Ms. Landry-Reyes also taught a Landlord-Tenant law class and co-taught an elder law externship as an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School (BLS). Earlier, she was an in-house clinical instructor from 1996-2004 in a legal services law office for senior citizens sited at BLS. After graduating from BLS in 1993, Ms. Landry-Reyes was an IOLA fellow at Neighborhood Legal Services in Buffalo working on securing public benefits for women transitioning back to employment. She earned her undergraduate degree in 1987 from Mount Holyoke College.



Brooklyn Law School

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