

JANUARY 27, 2025

In Your Interest

Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

**PILC FAIR
PREP EVENTS**

**CLASS OF '25:
APPLY FOR THE
NYS EXCELSIOR
SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP**

**UPCOMING
PRO BONO
PROJECT TRAINING**

Ready for next week's PILC Fair?

Didn't register yet? You can still do so until Feb. 3 and apply to participate in Table Talk (you must use your brooklaw email).

Read on for upcoming programs and resources, including info on signing up for Table Talk and Free Sign-up, both starting on Feb. 3!

PILC FAIR EVENTS

The Public Service Law Center has you covered!

Panel: Mastering the PILC Fair

Get ready to make the most of the PILC Fair from Table Talk to interviews! Hear from a panel of public service employers on what to expect and how to put your best foot forward. Lunch will be served.

Wednesday, January 29, 12:45-1:45pm, Student Lounge

Virtual MOCK Interviews (priority for 1ls)

Come practice interviewing with alumni working in public service. You must sign up in advance. To do so, check your email for a message from the Public Service Law Center, which all 1Ls will receive in the coming weeks.

Friday, January 31, 2:00-5:00pm, Flo Recruit

Drop-In Session

Drop in to get last-minute tips from the Public Service Law Center on how to ace your PILC Fair interviews and make the most of your Table Talk conversations!

Tuesday, February 4, 12:45-1:45pm, Public Service Law Center

PILC Fair: Standby Support

The Public Service Law Center will be on standby to answer your last-minute or post-fair questions! On Thursday, you can find us in person in the Public Service Law Center. On Friday, you can find us on Zoom. (Link on BLS Connect)

Thursday, February 6, 9am-5pm, Public Service Law Center

Friday, February 7, 9am-5pm, Zoom

After the PILC Fair: Continuing the Summer Internship Search

The PILC Fair is over -- now what? When will you hear from employers you interviewed with? What do you do if you don't get any internship offers? What if you didn't attend the PILC Fair and haven't started applying for internships yet? What should you be thinking about when deciding whether or not to accept an internship offer? Drop in anytime during the hour to chat with us about the next steps in your internship search.

Tuesday, February 11, 12:45-1:45pm, Public Service Law Center

**SPONSORED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW CENTER
QUESTIONS? EMAIL PUBLICSERVICE@BROOKLAW.EDU**

↓ PILC Fair Final Steps, Dates & Deadlines ↓

~~January 16, 5:00PM~~ - Deadline for part-time 1Ls, upperclass students, & LLMS to register (all full-time 1Ls are already registered).

January 16 - February 3, 8:00AM - Students can still register but will only be able to participate in Table Talk (not formal interviews).

January 31 - Initial interview schedules are expected to be published.

February 3, 9:00AM - February 5, 3:00PM - Free Sign-up & Table Talk Sign-up.

- Free Sign-up allows students to schedule interviews with employers with last-minute openings. More about that later! Note: Only students who register by Jan. 16 can participate in Free Sign-up.
- Table Talk Sign-up allows students to sign up for slots to speak with employers in small groups.

February 5, 3:00PM- Deadline to cancel all interviews and finalize Table Talk sessions through the PILC Fair website. **If students must cancel a Table Talk session with an employer after 3:00PM on February 5, they must notify the employer directly.**

February 6 and 7 - The 2025 PILC Fair will be conducted virtually using Flo Recruit.

Sponsored by the
Public Service Law Center

Panel: Mastering the PILC Fair

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Wednesday, January 29, 2025

12:45-1:45pm

Student Lounge

Questions? Email publicservice@brooklaw.edu

VIRTUAL MOCK INTERVIEWS



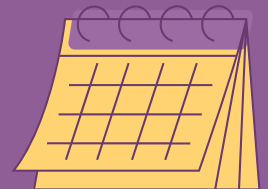
Priority for 1Ls

Get ready for your PILC interviews by practicing interviewing with alumni working in public service.

You must sign up in advance by
this Wednesday, January 29th 11:59pm.

To do so, check your email for a link to a Sign Up Genius from the Public Service Law Center. Space is limited.

Friday, January 31, 2025
2:00-5:00pm



Questions? Email
publicservice@brooklaw.edu

Attention Graduating Students!

Paid Two-Year Post-Grad Opportunity

New York State Excelsior Service Fellows work full time for two years post-graduation at host NYS executive-branch agencies and authorities. Fellows also participate in a Professional Development program focusing on leadership development and the fundamentals of New York State government.

After completing the program, exceptional fellows may continue to serve New York State. More than 60% of prior classes of Excelsior Fellows were offered permanent positions with the State post-fellowship.



BLS applications and nominations for the 2025 New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship Program are administered by the Public Service Law Center.

Interested applicants must submit the following materials to publicservice@brooklaw.edu by FEBRUARY 7th, 2025:

- Resumé
- Transcript
- Personal Statement
- Two references/letters of recommendation

(See Symplicity #75494 for additional details)

Candidates are encouraged to note their areas of interest and any preferred placement agencies; however final placements will be dictated by budget and the needs of state government. Law school graduates will be placed in legal assignments unless they expressly request otherwise. While some opportunities exist in New York City and elsewhere in the state, most agency placements are located in Albany.

Sample placements include:

- NYS Executive Chamber
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Empire State Development
- Office of Children & Family Services
- Department of Health

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

2025 FELLOWSHIP

The deadline for students to apply for an Equal Justice America Summer 2025 Fellowship is approaching!

Students must submit their applications by March 24th.
[Apply here!](#)

To apply, students need to have placement lined up with an organization that provides civil legal assistance to people in need. EJA Fellowships pay up to \$5,000 for 10 weeks of full-time work. Students awarded funding from the Law School or elsewhere are eligible to receive supplemental EJA funding up to a \$15,000 maximum from all funding sources.

EJA Fellowships have been granted to 108 Brooklyn Law School students. For a complete list of the Brooklyn law students who have received EJA Fellowships and where they have worked, please click [here](#). You will also find reports written by some of the students about their experiences as EJA Fellows.

If you have any questions about Equal Justice America's Fellowship Program, please email our Executive Director Dan Ruben at dan@equaljusticeamerica.org.

For more information, please visit the EJA website at www.equaljusticeamerica.org.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

New York City Bar Event!

Public Interest Interviewing: Tips & Tricks

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Please join for a panel discussion focused on how law students and graduates interested in pursuing an internship or career in public interest can be most effective in preparing for and answering challenging interview questions. Our panel of recruiting experts will be sharing their valuable perspectives on how to succeed during a public interest interview!

Speakers:

Jenny Montana-O'Connor, New York City Law Department
Michelle L. Burrell, Project Director, Queens Legal Services
Gilbert G. Romero, Pace Law J.D. '24, DC 37 MELS, Legal Researcher

Moderator:

Therese McNulty, Associate Director, Career Planning Office, CUNY School of Law

Program Fee:

FREE for Brooklyn Law School Students or Alumni

Register and read more [here!](#)

The logo for the New York City Bar, featuring the text "NEW YORK CITY BAR" in a serif font, centered between two horizontal blue bars.

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

DID YOU MISS THE PRO BONO PROJECT INFORMATION FAIR LAST WEEK???



No worries! You can still participate in a Pro Bono Project!

You can check out the [Pro Bono Project Brochure](#) and scan this QR code to sign up for a group's listserv. Email the student leaders in the brochure if you have any specific questions about a project.



QUESTIONS?

Contact us at publicservice@brooklaw.edu

Summer Internships for Upperclass Students

As always, this is just a sampling of what's out there. You'll see lots more spring and summer internships on Symplicity in the coming months. You can always look at our [Online Job Search Resources Guide](#) to find more.

Summer Internships on Symplicity

Animal Legal Defense Fund (Paid!) (#76384 and #76385)
Asian American Legal Defense and Organization Fund (#76332)
CAMBA Legal Services (#76303)
Center for HIV Law and Policy (Paid!) (#76405)
Freedom of the Press Foundation (Paid!) (#76280)
Legal Momentum (#76293)
Local 32BJ Legal Services Fund (Paid!) (#76357)
MTA Office of the Inspector General (#76327)
NYS Office of the Attorney General Reproductive Justice (Paid!) (#76281)
NYC Administration for Children's Services (#76197)
Pine Tree Legal Services (Paid!) (#76292)
United States Postal Service (#76361)

Post Grad Opportunities

The Legal Aid Society of Westchester County (#76324)
Legal Services of Long Island (#76391)
Legal Services NYC (#75073)
New York City Administration for Children's Services (#74508)
North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services (#76272)
Richmond County District Attorney's Office (#76235)
State of New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, Third Department (#75927)

Interviews & Follow-up

Review our [Public Service Interviewing Guide](#), with tips for how to put your best foot forward in an interview and follow up afterwards.

The public service job search differs from a private-sector job search in some key ways. Visit [our page on public service application tips and resources](#) for help drafting public service cover letters and preparing for interviews. If you are hoping to work in public service postgrad, make an appointment with the PSLC to plan a strategy!

Funding a Summer Public Service Internship

Many government and nonprofit organizations pay summer interns. However, unpaid internships are also very common in public service. Some funding sources are internal (i.e., offered by Brooklyn Law School), and some are external (i.e., offered by other parties, such as foundations or bar associations). Some funding sources are non-competitive (i.e., as long as you meet the eligibility requirements, you'll get the money), and some are competitive (i.e., not every eligible candidate will be funded, and you have to make the case that you are a particularly good one.)

Take a look at [our guide to summer funding for public service work](#) for lots of helpful information about funding options.

Brooklyn Law School Grants (Non-competitive)

BLS Public Service Grants (administered by the Financial Aid Office)

- The Federal Government provides partial funding to BLS to operate the Federal Work Study (FWS)/Public Service Grant (PSG) Program in order to award eligible students in qualified unpaid externships during the summer. The program operates between 5/12/2025 – 8/15/2025. FWS/PSG funding is based on actual hours worked and paid bi-weekly by the submission of supervisor approved timesheets. The first requirement for eligibility is determined by submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If eligible, you will be paid at an hourly rate (exact amount is TBD) not to exceed 40 hours a week during the program period. If you are receiving funding from a different source for your work, you cannot accept PSG funds. Also, if you do not plan on enrolling at Brooklyn Law School for the fall 2025 semester, you are not eligible for PSG since this award, although awarded in summer, is based on fall enrollment for at least 6 credits. The rate and forms for the PSG will be posted in the next few weeks.

Brooklyn Law School Grants (Competitive)

- [BLS Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship](#) (Applications will re-open fall 2025)
- BLSPI Fellowship (Applications for 2025 have closed but are an option for next year!)
- [International Human Rights Fellowship](#)
- Arthur Pinto Public Service Fellowship in LGBTQ Rights
- Kate Welling Fellowship in Disability Rights
- Minna Kotkin Fellowship in Workers' Rights
- Roland Thau Public Defender Fellowship

BLS may offer other competitive grants based on funding. Check [Symplicity](#) and [In Your Interest](#) to make sure you don't miss these opportunities.

External (non-BLS) Grants and Programs

- See page 7 of this IYI edition
- See section 4 of [our guide to summer funding](#) for a list of commonly offered external funding for unpaid summer work in public service.

What is the NYS Pro Bono Requirement?

The New York Court of Appeals (22 NYCRR 520.16) requires that people seeking admission to the New York State Bar have completed 50 hours of pro bono legal work. Students are strongly advised to complete these hours while in law school, as it can be difficult to find opportunities after you graduate--especially if you are working full-time.

The rule requires each applicant to perform "At least 50 hours of law-related pro bono work." Work performed for credit, stipend, or even a salary may count if it meets all of the other requirements for qualifying work. For more information about qualifying work, see the courts' [FAQ document](#).

HOW DO BLS STUDENTS SATISFY THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT?

BLS students can satisfy the pro bono requirement in several ways, including many (not all) of our [pro bono projects](#), BLS clinics, many internships/externships, and the [Pro Bono Scholars Program](#).

You can receive credit for the hours.

Even pro bono work for which you are paid a salary can count.

HOW DO I DOCUMENT THAT I HAVE COMPLETED THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT?

You must complete the [required affidavit](#) as part of your application materials for the New York bar. You do not need to submit this affidavit or any other documentation of pro bono work to BLS for purposes of bar admission. The requirement is a condition of bar admission, not law school graduation, and is imposed on individual applicants to the bar, not by or on law schools.

I'M NOT SURE IF I'VE SATISFIED THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT. HOW CAN I FIGURE THAT OUT?

Check the [courts' FAQ](#) to determine if you've fulfilled the requirement. However, ultimately only the NYS courts can determine for sure whether something counts, and we can only advise you based on other students' experience. There is an email on the FAQ that you can consult with questions.

READ MORE ABOUT THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT ON OUR BLS CONNECT PAGE [HERE](#). OR EMAIL PUBLICSERVICE@BROOKLAW.EDU WITH QUESTIONS!

EXAMS FOR NEW YORK STATE BAR ADMISSION (FOR 2LS/3LS)

If you plan to practice law in New York, you will need to take **three tests**: the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE), New York Law Exam (NYLE), and Uniform Bar Exam (UBE).

1. Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)

The MPRE is a multiple-choice exam typically administered three times each year. **You should take the MPRE during your 2L or 3L year.**

2. New York Law Exam (NYLE)

The NYLE is administered online (but not on demand). It is typically offered three times each year. **You should take the NYLE during your 3L year.*****

****You may not register for the NYLE until you have completed the **New York Law Course (NYLC)**. The NYLC is an online, on-demand course on New York law.*

3. Uniform Bar Examination

The UBE is what people mean when they refer to "the bar exam" in NY. It is typically administered twice a year (February and July) . **You can only take the UBE after graduation (except for Pro Bono Scholars)**. The UBE is now accepted in several states.

NYLE & UBE FAQ:
<https://www.nybarexam.org/UBE/UBE.html>

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD PRO BONO LOG

**250-499
HOURS**



**PUBLIC SERVICE
AWARD**

**500-999
HOURS**



**SILVER
AWARD**

**1000+
HOURS**



GOLD AWARD

**Log your pro bono hours
here by March 15th!**

WHAT CAN I LOG?

Hours worked during law school in internships at government agencies (NOT judges) or nonprofit organizations; all work for BLS pro bono projects, work in BLS clinics.

WHY SHOULD I LOG?

You will receive a BLS Public Service Award. Graduating students receive awards based on the hours they log.

The Public Service Awards are presented to graduating students at a ceremony each spring. An award is a great addition to your resume to show your commitment to public service!

***** The BLS Pro Bono Log has no relation to the New York State bar pro bono requirement. For info on the NYS requirement, [click here!](#)**

QUESTIONS?

Need help or advice on jobs,
internships, fellowships,
resumes/cover letters, interviewing,
or pro bono?

Make an appointment with us!

Public Service Law Center
Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm
publicservice@brooklaw.edu

**[Check out all our resources on
BLS Connect!](#)**

