

APRIL 1, 2025

In Your Interest

Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Newsletter

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RSVP today for...

The 2025 Public Service Awards Ceremony

The Public Service Awards Ceremony will recognize graduating students, alumni, faculty, and community members who have made significant public service contributions. The ceremony will include remarks by our keynote speaker and recipient of our Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award, Camille J. Mackler,

RSVP by TODAY [here](#)!

**The award ceremony will take place
next Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at
5:30pm in Forcehlli**

A CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE

2025 Public Service Awards Ceremony

The Public Service Awards Ceremony will recognize graduating students, alumni, faculty, and community members who have made significant public service contributions.

The ceremony will include remarks by our keynote speaker and recipient of our Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award, Camille J. Mackler, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Immigrant ARC and formerly the Director of Immigration Legal Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition.

Date & Time

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:30 p.m. (ET)

Location

Brooklyn Law School Feil Hall, Forchelli Conference Center
205 State St. Brooklyn, NY 11201

Please RSVP [here](#) to attend this event.

Rising 2L Information Session

You may have a lot of questions about how to chart your course through the rest of law school and beyond such as:

- What courses are required and how many credits must I take to graduate?
- What clinics and experiential learning opportunities are offered and how do I register for them?
- What are the MPRE and NYLE and when do I take them?

Please join members of the Academic Success Department, Clinical Program, Career Development Center, Public Service Law Center, Registrar's Office, and Student Affairs for a **Rising 2L Information Session**.

There will be a presentation and Q&A session where we will answer any and all questions you may have about 2L and beyond.

Monday, April 7th, 2025
12:45pm
Moot Courtroom

Questions? Please email
robert.fisher@brooklaw.edu



Summer Funding

Check out our [summer funding guide](#) for an overview of funding for summer internships in public service!



Public Service Grant

Many BLS students get funding for unpaid summer internships in public service through the Public Service Grant (PSG). Please note that the **PSG is run by the Financial Aid Department**, NOT the Public Service Law Center.

You can find information on the PSG [here](#), and you'll need to have both your **2024-25 and 2025-26 FAFSAs** ready to apply!

Contact Florence Attino (florence.attino@brooklaw.edu), Director of the Public Service Grant Program, with questions.

Summer Fellowships

BLS also offers some subject-matter specific summer funding for internships in public service. **You can apply for these NOW on Symplicity:**

Apply by April 7, 2025

Catalyst Public Service Fellowship (#77013)

Apply by April 21, 2025

Kate Welling Fellowship in Disability Rights (#77015)

Arthur Pinto Public Service Fellowship in LGBTQ Rights (#77014)

Minna Kotkin Fellowship in Workers' Rights (#77016)

Roland Thau Public Defender Fellowship (#77017)

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

Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation (#77086)
Catholic Charities (#77045)
CAMBA Legal Services - Housing (#77181)
Center for Equal Opportunity (#77059)
Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (#75421)
New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (#76937)
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (Paid!) (#77023)
New York City Office of Labor Relations (#77024)
NYLAG Foreclosure Prevention Project (#77085)
The Center for New York City Neighborhoods (Paid!) (#77110)
The Door (#77025)
The Fortune Society (#76945)
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (#77094)

Post Grad Opportunities

Legal Services of Long Island - Housing (#77119)
New York City Administration for Children's Services (#74508)
Schuyler County Public Defender's Office (#77133)

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!

GRADUATING STUDENTS

Looking for a postgrad job? Note that it is common for students interested in public service to get their jobs after graduation, after taking the Uniform Bar Exam, or even after finding out that they've passed the UBE. Government and nonprofit employers typically don't have the ability to hire months in advance and prefer to hire candidates who are close to being admitted. However, here are some things you can do now:

1. Make sure you are squared away with the **MPRE** and (if you plan to practice in NY) the **NY Law Exam** before you graduate--having already passed these exams will make you more desirable to employers because they'll know you're closer to getting licensed. Once you've passed each one, add it to your resume!
2. **Check out our Online Job Search Resources Guide** for a list of places you can be checking for job opportunities (#1: Symplicity!). Be sure to consider "fellowships", which are often basically the same thing as jobs in public interest.
3. **Come in and see us** for a cover letter and resume review! Email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.



Law School Survey of Student Engagement

The LSSSE is a national survey designed specifically for law students to assess their experiences, including their engagement with learning, academic workload, participation in extracurricular activities, and quality of interactions with peers and faculty. It provides valuable insights not only into student satisfaction but also into their academic and personal development during law school.

It is crucial to maximize student participation so that the LSSSE data accurately reflects the perspectives of our entire student body.

LSSSE relies on this data to identify issues that merit attention and highlight areas where law schools are succeeding.

You can read more about the survey [here](#).

You received an email on Tuesday, March 25 with a unique URL to access the survey.

Resources and Upcoming Events compiled by NYC Metro Area Public Interest Advisors Committee



Events & Webinars

- [How Things Work: The Legal Edition](#) (ABA Civil Rights & Social Justice Section)
- [NY Law School Presidential Transitions Series](#) (ongoing through April)
- [National Immigration Project Trainings](#)

Trackers

- [Changes in Higher Ed- NIH funding, Admissions, Hiring Freezes](#)
- [Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions](#)
- [Executive Orders Impacting Nonprofits](#)
- [Society of American Law Teachers Resources Tracking Executive Orders and Administrative Actions](#)
- [Brookings Institute tracking regulatory changes in the 2nd Trump administration](#)
- [Project 2025 Tracker](#)
- [Immigration Policy Tracking Project](#)

Know Your Rights

- [NLG Know Your Risks \(KYRs\)](#)
- [NLG Legal Observer Program](#)
- [NYC Commission on Human Rights resources/fact sheets](#)
- [NYC Commission on Human Rights legal enforcement guidance](#)
- [Protecting Immigrant Students Action Kit](#)
- [NLG Webinar: Know Your Risks: Immigrant Advocates vs. "Harboring" 8 USC § 1324\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)

Statements

- [ABA statements](#)
- [Bar Associations Support the Rule of Law](#)

If you are interested in connecting with other law students via the NYC Metro Area Law Student Coalition, please email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

**NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice,
together with Cornell Law School, invite you to
their 2025 annual conference:**

**The Role of Law Schools in
Addressing Legal Deserts**

**Thursday, April 17, 2025
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., via Zoom**

This free, virtual gathering will focus on the urgent challenges of legal deserts, bringing together national innovators with representatives from New York's law schools, civil legal services organizations, the courts, and community groups to explore innovative strategies for expanding access to justice in underserved areas, including rural communities. This is a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and drive change in under-resourced communities, and attendance is free and open to all interested stakeholders.

Law students are encouraged to attend.

Pre-register [here](#). CLE accreditation is pending.

Planning Partners: University at Buffalo School of Law, Fordham University School of Law, and Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.



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!



ex judicata®

Ex judicata is an employment platform built specifically to help attorneys find nonlegal positions. A JD degree can be a door opener and a foundation for myriad careers, not just the practice of law.

Ex judicata can assist with

- One-on-one interviews
- Business courses to supplement the JD skill set
- exj.job board
- Vetted CV, LinkedIn and personal branding specialists
- Tips on money management
- First-ever career diagnostic test for lawyers
- A supportive community of fellow JDs

You can read more and explore ex judicata offerings [here](#).

NALP is offering a discount code for students to purchase ex judicata services. If interested, please email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

Looking to complete your 50-hour pro bono requirement?

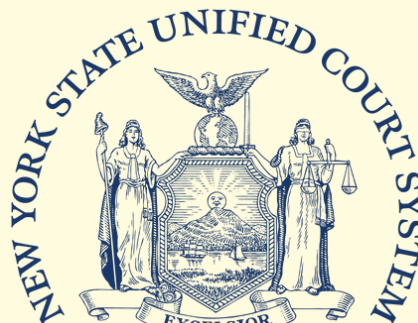
Volunteer with The New York State Courts Access to Justice Program!

The number of self-represented litigants appearing in New York State Courts has increased dramatically. In response, the court system has established court-based pro bono programs designed to ensure that these litigants have access to competent legal assistance to guide them as they represent themselves. Many low income New Yorkers find themselves summoned to court by debt collectors. While it is estimated that only 1% of consumer debtor defendants are represented by counsel, all plaintiff creditors are represented by counsel. Nearly all of these defendants have nowhere to turn for legal advice or representation because of the dearth of free legal services available in these matters.

The New York State Courts Access to Justice Program seeks law students to provide pro bono service in its **Uncontested Divorce Program** for income unrepresented litigants in New York City's Supreme Courts and in its **Volunteer Lawyer for the Day - Consumer Credit Project** for low income unrepresented litigants in New York City's Civil Courts.

Law students gain invaluable experience interviewing litigants and assisting with the preparation of uncontested divorce forms under the supervision of a coordinating attorney with experience in divorce law. The court system will provide training. Volunteers in this program do not represent litigants or file papers on their behalf.

Assisting low income litigants in this program satisfies the pro bono requirement for foreign LL.M.s.



Office for Justice Initiatives
Access to Justice

For more information please e-mail Laurie Milder, Esq. at
lmilder@nycourts.gov

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to the above e-mail address.

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>

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!](#)

