

NOVEMBER 25, 2024

In Your Interest



Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Newsletter

In This Issue

Public Interest
Legal Career Fair

Spring/summer
internships

Excelsior Fellowship
Info Sessions

More external
events!

Check out all of the
Public Service Law
Center's resources on
[BLS Connect!](#)

GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS AND ENJOY YOUR BREAK!

Congratulations on getting to the end of the semester! Good luck on finals and enjoy your well-deserved break!

Please plan ahead:

The law school will be closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 1. We'll be back in the office and happy to help with all your public service needs after the break!

1Ls: If you haven't yet, be sure to have your resume and cover letters reviewed by PSLC or your career counselor!

2Ls & 3Ls: PILC Fair [registration](#) and applications are open!

SUMMER INTERNSHIP AND POSTGRAD JOB SEARCH:

GET READY FOR THE PILC FAIR

At the **Public Interest Legal Career Fair**, students formally interview and informally connect with public service employers for summer internships and postgrad jobs. This year's fair is remote and on **Feb. 6-7**, and ***interview applications will be accepted until January 16th.***

TO-DO LIST

1. REGISTER & START BROWSING OPPORTUNITIES

Full-time 1Ls were registered by the Public Service Law Center (you should have received multiple emails about that), so you can just log in! All other students can register here. Don't forget to **use your brooklaw email address** or you will not be approved.

2. PREPARE YOUR RESUME AND COVER LETTERS

Read over our resume and cover letter handouts and format your documents accordingly. Missed our workshop? Watch an old one on Canvas.

3. MEET WITH PSLC OR YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Get 1-2 of your cover letters and resume reviewed.

4. ATTEND OUR OTHER PILC PREP EVENTS

Look out for our programs early next semester, including a Mock Interview program for 1Ls and a panel on Table Talk.

Brooklyn Law School will be closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 1. Please plan accordingly if you'd like us to review your documents!



New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship Program

Excelsior Service Fellows work full time at host executive-branch agencies and authorities, advancing the operational and legal aspects of important policy initiatives. Fellows will also participate in a Professional Development program focusing on leadership development and the fundamentals of New York State government. After completing the Excelsior Service Fellowship 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.



Fellowship Placements

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

Program Requirements

- Candidates must have earned their graduate degree or an advanced degree (i.e., JD) in the 2024-25 academic year. Generally, this means August 2024–May/June 2025.
- Candidates must be eligible to work for New York State without employer sponsorship.

Application Process

Applications and nominations for the 2025 New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship Program will be administered by participating partner schools. **Interested applicants should submit the following materials to the Public Service Law Center (publicservice@brooklaw.edu):** resumé, transcript, personal statement, and two references/letters of recommendation.

(See Symplicity #75494 for additional details)



There will be **virtual information sessions** this fall, the links can be found below. **Please save one of the following dates!**

*** NOTE: NEW LINKS HERE ***

Option 2: Tuesday, November 19, 12:00-1:00pm

Meeting number (access code): 1619 64 5517

Meeting password: TVmMFgMH222

Option 3: Tuesday, December 3, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Meeting number (access code): 1618 06 5986

Meeting password: Sc3fapFsW57



ny.gov/ExcelsiorFellowship

NYC Bar Association Presents: How to Become a State or Federal Defender

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 | 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

This panel will discuss the qualifications and application process for becoming a public criminal State or Federal Defender in New York. Panelists will consist of State and Federal defenders from the regions encompassing the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Speakers:

Uchenna Emeagwali, Supervising Attorney
Legal Aid Society Queens

Marisa Cabrera, Assistant Federal Defender, SDNY

Moderator:

Tamara Giwa, Executive Director and Attorney-in-Chief,
Federal Defenders, SDNY

Sponsoring Committee:

Minorities in the Courts, ***Hon. Inga O'Neale***, Chair

[More Information and registration link here!](#)

Program Fee:

Free for Members | \$15 Non-Members

(Law students can get a one-time free membership)



Office of the New York State Attorney

2025 Summer Program

The Office of the New York State Attorney (OAG) is pleased to announce the postings for the 2025 Summer Program are available on this [public website](#).

While the published summer application deadline is **February 28, 2025**, our bureaus **hire on a rolling basis**. Therefore, we encourage students to apply as soon as possible to ensure consideration by their top bureau preferences. Please be advised they no longer require students to submit their transcripts as part of their application materials, so first year (1L) law students do not need to wait until they have their first semester grades to apply.

These placements provide students with a hands-on legal experience where they work with and learn from experienced attorneys while helping to advance OAG's mission. The 2025 Summer Program will run for eight weeks, starting on **Monday, May 19** and **ending on Friday, July 11**.

When students visit the [public website](#) to apply, they will see two options for the summer: a public service fellowship posting and a paid posting. We encourage law students to apply via the posting that best aligns with their access to summer funding.

Summer Public Service Fellowship: Summer fellowships are available for students who are eligible to receive public service/interest or work study funding from their schools or an approved third-party source. This is a full-time placement for eight or ten weeks, as required by the student's funding source.

Paid Summer Placements: OAG funds a limited number of full-time, paid placements for the eight weeks of the summer program. To be eligible for a paid summer placement, students must be in full-time status for the 2025 spring semester.

The current hourly pay rate for law students is \$19.96. We anticipate New York state will approve a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) before the summer program starts. The COLA will raise the hourly pay rate for law students above \$20. We are sharing this information for the sake of transparency and parity to ensure public service/interest placements remain an accessible and financially viable option for your students.

Please direct your questions to recruitment@ag.ny.gov





Pathways to Join

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER FAMILY

LAW STUDENT VOLUNTEER:

- Law student volunteers can participate during spring, summer, or fall semesters.
- Typically a 6-12 week assignment (minimum 4 weeks and 12 hours per week).
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited law school (or be a graduate of an accredited law school) and not yet licensed as an Illinois attorney.
- Students may be eligible to earn academic credit or federal work study funding for their internships.

PRE-LICENSED ATTORNEY:

- Pathway for law students and law school graduates to be promoted to an Assistant Public Defender I (APD I) by working as a Pre-Licensed Assistant Public Defender.
- Must be enrolled in an accredited law school with 54 credit hours completed or have graduated with a JD from an accredited law school preparing to take the Illinois bar or awaiting Illinois bar results, but not yet licensed as an Illinois attorney.
- Must obtain Illinois law license within 1 year of start date to be promoted to APD I.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER I (APD I):

- Recent law graduates who have been admitted to practice law in Illinois can join our office as an APD I.
- Must have graduated from an accredited law school and be licensed to practice law in Illinois or able to obtain law license by the time of the interview.
- Projected Salaries: Year 1: **\$70,496**, Year 2: **\$87,755**; Year 3: **\$92,118**

BENEFIT SUMMARY

- Medical, Dental & Vision
- Basic Term Life Insurance
- Pension Plan
- Deferred Compensation Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Paid Holidays/Vacation/Sick Time
- Commuter Benefits
- Eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- AFSCME 3315

VARIED PRACTICE

- Arrest Response
- Criminal Defense
- Family Defense (Civil)
- Forensic Science Litigation
- "Crimmigration" Defense
- Juvenile Defense
- Select Appellate & Post Conviction
- Traffic
- Multiple Locations in Cook County

Check for Openings!





THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA INVITES YOU TO

Pathways to a Federal Clerkship

An event for law students and recent law
graduates on overcoming barriers & increasing
diversity among federal law clerks

Friday, January 10, 2025

U.S. COURTHOUSE
601 MARKET ST
PHILADELPHIA, PA

- 12:45 Welcome
- 1:00 The Clerkship
Experience
- 2:00 Clerking & Your Career
- 3:10 Trial Judges on Clerking
- 4:10 Appellate Judges on Clerking
- 5:00 Reception



**MORE INFO & REGISTRATION FOR
THE EVENT AND/OR RECEPTION AT
[BIT.LY/PATHWAYS-TO-CLERKSHIP](https://bit.ly/pathways-to-clerkship)**

Spring & 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.

Spring Internships on Symplicity

American Civil Liberties Union (several postings)
Bronx Legal Services, Medical Legal Partnership (#75675)
Church World Service (Immigration Legal Team #75417; Unaccompanied Children Program #75393)
Housing Works (#75584)
Emerald Isle Immigration Center (#75381)
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (#75345)
Legal Aid Society, Health Law Unit (#75412)
NYC Anti-Violence Project (LGBTQ+ advocacy nonprofit) (#75586)
NYC Civilian Complain Review Board (#75608)
NYC Department of Buildings (Professional and Zoning Compliance #75344; Internal Affairs & Discipline #75343; Loft Board #75334)
NYC Department of Design and Construction - Reforming Clean Water Act (#75326)
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (#75472)
NYC Office of Information Privacy (#75592)
NYS Home and Community Renewal (#75368)
NYS Insurance Fund, Information Security Office (Paid! #75711)
NYS Office of the Attorney General (Paid! #75535; Externship #75481)
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, Inc. (#75511)
TakeRoot (Housing and Immigration Community Lawyering) (#75683)
Urban Pathways (Homelessness) (#75584)

Summer Internships on Symplicity

NOTE: 2Ls can also apply for summer internships and 3Ls for postgrad jobs at the PILC Fair in February.

Advocates for Children (#74750)
American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (Newark, NJ) (#75505)
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (#75490; #75271)
Fiar and Justice Prosecution (San Francisco) - Summer Fellow (#75038)
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression - Arthur D. Hellman Fellowship (#75424)
Juvenile Law Center (Philadelphia, PA) (#75278)
Legal Aid Society (Civil #74751; Criminal #74752; Juvenile Rights Practice #74745)
Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (Paid! #75691)
Metropolitan Museum of Art (#75576)
Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (Miami) (#75421)
National Association of Consumer Advocates - Summer Fellowship (#74800)
New York Civil Liberties Union (Paid! #75646)
New York Lawyers of the Public Interest (#74515)
NYS Office of the Attorney General - Several bureaus (Paid! #75661; Fellowship #75663)
Pacific Legal Foundation (Arlington, VA) (Paid! #75657)
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (Central Islip, NY) (#75299)
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (#75510)
Weinberg Center for Elder Justice (#75556)

Post Grad Opportunities



As always, this is just a sampling of what's out there. You'll see lots more post grad opportunities on Symplicity in the coming months. Take a look at our [Online Job Search Resources Guide](#) to find more and be sure to check out our [guide to postgraduate fellowships](#).

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!

- NYS Excelsior Service Fellowship Program (#75494)**
- Berkeley Law Foundation - 2025-2026 Fellowship (75646=5)**
- Bronx District Attorney's Office (#75548)**
- BronxWorks (Tenant Defense Staff Attorney #75474)**
- Cook County Public Defender's Office (Chicago, IL) (#75651)**
- DC Justice Lab, Open Horizon DC Justice Fellowship (criminal law reform, #75515)**
- Disability Rights New York (Brooklyn #75291; Albany #75290; Rochester #75292)**
- Dutchess County Public Defender's Office (#75441)**
- Justice Catalyst - Jonathan W. Cuneo COSAL (Anti-Trust) Fellowship (#74327), Justice Catalyst Fellowship (#74120)**
- Legal Aid Society - Housing Justice Tenant Defense Fall 2025 Law Graduate (#74111), Juvenile Rights (74110), Criminal Appeals Bureau (#75574)**
- Legal Services NYC - Fall 2025 Housing Staff Attorney (#75073)**
- National Association of Consumer Advocates - 2-year Consumer Law Fellowship (#75199)**
- National Center on Philanthropy and the Law - John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship (#75311); 2025-2026 Fellowship in Nonprofit Law (#74457)**
- New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) (#75463)**
- NYC Administration for Children's Services - Fall 2025 Child Welfare Attorney (#74508)**
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Public Health Legal Fellowship (#75109)**
- NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, Law Clerk (#75524)**
- NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) (General Litigation #75418)**
- Safe Horizon, Staff Attorney Immigration Law Project (#75506)**
- State of New Jersey, Office of the Public Defender (#75399)**

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. Also take a look at [this great guide to researching employers](#), prepared by Prof. Kathleen Darvil of the BLS Library!

THE 48TH ANNUAL

PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL CAREER FAIR

FEBRUARY 6-7
2025

9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

MORE THAN
300
PUBLIC INTEREST
EMPLOYERS

INTERVIEWS FOR
SUMMER
+ ENTRY-LEVEL
POSITIONS

VIRTUAL TABLE
TALK

Look out
for PILC
programs
coming up
in the
next few
months!

Head to
the [PILC
website](#)
to learn
more!

STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Brooklyn Law School
Columbia Law School
Cornell Law School
CUNY School of Law
Fordham University School of Law
Hofstra University School of Law
New York Law School
New York University School of Law
Pace University School of Law
Quinnipiac University School of Law
Roger Williams University School of Law
Rutgers Law School
Seton Hall University School of Law
St. John's University School of Law
Syracuse University College of Law
Touro Law Center
University at Buffalo School of Law
University of Connecticut School of Law
Yale Law School



THE BRAVE HOUSE

is a community of support for young immigrant and refugee women and gender-expansive youth, ages 16-24, in New York City, with a focus on survivors of gender-based violence. The non-profit provides free legal aid, community events, and holistic services, including leadership training, one-on-one advocacy, mental health support, job and school assistance, support for new and expecting moms, and much more.



Help support the Brave House as they start off the season of giving with a night of performances by talented female violinists, meaningful connections, remarks from Brave House members, and fun!

This event is free and open to the public!

[RSVP Here](#)

By attending the event, you're helping to disrupt cycles of violence against women, expand educational and career opportunities for immigrant youth, defend human rights, and amplify the voices of those too often unheard.

♥ Performances by:

Coco Mi, Gaby Despres, Nikki Alipour, Katherine Kyu Hyeon Lim & more!

Learn more from The Brave House's [2024 Impact Report](#).

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?

The [courts' FAQ](#) is very straightforward, so you should be able 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

REMINDER: Log your pro bono hours here!

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, visit the Public Service Law Center's [BLSCoconnect page!](#)**

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!](#)

The screenshot shows the BLSConnect Public Service website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon, a menu icon, and the text "Menu". On the right side of the navigation bar, there is the Brooklyn Law School logo and a "Notifications" button. Below the navigation bar, the page title is "BLSConnect • Public Service" and there is a search bar labeled "Search Everything". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is a sidebar menu with the heading "PUBLIC SERVICE" and a list of links: "Current News and Events", "Public Service Career Paths", "Finding Job / Internship Opportunities", "Employer Evaluations", "Job/Internship Application Tips and Resources", "Funding a Summer Public Service Internship", "Postgraduate Fellowships", and "BLS Graduates' Fellowship". The middle column is titled "Public Service Law Center" and contains the following text: "The PSLC helps students seeking opportunities in government and public interest during law school or as a career. We provide individual counseling and assistance with internships, jobs, job fairs, and events and support **20+ student-run pro bono projects that serve NYC**. We also offer programs on substantive legal issues and skill development and host community-building events. To read more about public service at BLS, read our **Guide to Public Service at Brooklyn Law School**. Check our newsletter **In Your Interest (IYI)** for news, announcements and opportunities, and reach out to us with any questions or issues. **You can make an appointment with us here.**" Below this text are three links: "Enroll in our **general Canvas page** and **our page on pro bono!**", "Interested at a **government agency or nonprofit organization**? Help out future students and complete an **employer evaluation!**", and "Interested in pursuing **public service postgrad**? Check out our timelines:" followed by a bulleted list: "• 1L Public Service Students", "• 2L Public Service Students", and "• 3L Public Service Students". At the bottom of the middle column, it says "Missed one of our programs? We have recordings of many of them **here.**" and "Planning to work in **New York State after you graduate**? The New York State courts require you to perform **50 hours of pro bono legal work** before you can be admitted to the bar. We recommend doing this while you're in school, and fortunately it is extremely easy to do so! Get more info **here.**" The right column is titled "Contact Us" and contains the following text: "Public Service Law Center", "publicservice@brooklaw.edu", "Open M-F, 9:00am-5:00pm", "Make an appointment with us", and "Please note that we do not currently have offices and are operating remotely". Below the "Contact Us" section is a "Staff Profiles" section with a list of names: "Amy Hsieh, Director of Community Engagement", "Jacqueline Cheney, Executive Director", and "Julia Rafferty, Program Coordinator". A hand cursor icon is pointing at the "Staff Profiles" section.