

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

In Your Interest

Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Newsletter

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LAW WEEK
EVENT
SCHEDULE**

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**GOOD LUCK to our
2025 Pro Bono Scholars
taking the Bar Exam
this week!**

The NY State Pro Bono Scholars Program (PBSP) is a statewide program that allows students in their final year of law school to sit for the February Uniform Bar Exam and provide pro bono legal services full time in their final semester.

Interested in learning more? Join us for the Pro Bono Scholars Program Info Session on Tuesday, March 18 (zoom link on BLSConnect), read more on BLS Connect [here](#), or reach out to publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

BLSPI IN COLLABORATION WITH BLS AFFINITY GROUPS AND PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTS:

RACE & THE LAW WEEK

**FEB
24**

OUTLaws & BESLS Present

Drag Queens in Crisis

12:45 - 1:45 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
24**

JLSA Presents

Jewish Identity & the Law

5:30 - 6:30 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
25**

If/When/How Presents

Reproductive Justice and Racial Equity: Navigating the Legal Barriers to Healthcare Access

12:45 - 1:45 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
25**

MLSA, BLSA, SJP, & E.P.I.C. Present

Criminalization, Resistance, and Abolition: Black & Muslim Perspectives

6:30 - 8:30 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
26**

BLPEC Presents

BLPEC Coffee Chat: How Property Law Perpetuates Racial Disparities

9:30 - 10:30 AM Student Lounge

**FEB
26**

KALSA Presents

Changes from the Trump Administration for the H-1B Visa Program and Immigration Issues that Impact BLS International Students

12:45 - 1:45 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
26**

DALSA & SRP Present

Navigating Change: The Impact of the Current Administration on Special Education Law and Black and Brown Students

6 - 8 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
27**

LALSA, SALSA, & NLG Present

Racism Ends with Empathy

12:45 - 1:45 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
27**

APALSA Presents

Building the Bench: Diversity & Mentorship in the Judiciary

6 - 8 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
28**

CAP & Family Law Present

Film Screening - *And So I Stayed: How the Legal System Gets Domestic Violence Wrong*

12:45 - 2:15 PM Student Lounge

**FEB
28**

LAW & WOCA Present

The Cost of Inaction: How Local Politics Shape Justice

6 - 7 PM Student Lounge

Public Service Funding and Other Summer Opportunities: Program Recap

Below is a brief overview of the topics covered during last week's presentation on summer funding options. A recording of this presentation can be found on the Public Service Law Center's Panopto page [here](#). You can also access the presentation slides on BLS Connect [here](#).

Funding for Unpaid Public Service Internships

- Public Service Grant (PSG) / Federal Work Study (FWS) – Available for unpaid, *qualifying* internships
- Choosing between externship credit or funding – Decide if you want to receive academic credit or financial support. You may transition to PSG/FWS after credit completion in some cases
- Other Funding Sources – Internal BLS grants, external fellowships, and private loans

Externship Credit versus PSG/FWS funding

- You may be able to earn academic credit for your summer internship
- PSG/FWS funding is available after credit hours are completed (if you applied in advance)
- Contact clinics@brooklaw.edu for more details

How to Apply for PSG/FWS

- Submit FAFSA for 2024-25 & 2025-26
- Submit a Public Service Request Form (even if you don't have an internship yet)
- Secure a *qualifying* internship and submit your offer letter
- Complete and submit the Student Placement Form with your supervisor
- Find details on BLS Connect and send questions to florence.attino@brooklaw.edu

Getting Paid Through PSG/FWS

- Receive an award email once your file is complete
- Complete Payroll Onboarding before your internship starts (HR will reach out to you.)
- Direct deposit required via ADP; Biweekly payments (ensure your employer agrees to signing your timesheets)

Federal Loans – Available if enrolled in 6+ credits (Apply by 6/15/25)

Private Loans – Available for <6 credits. Compare lenders before borrowing

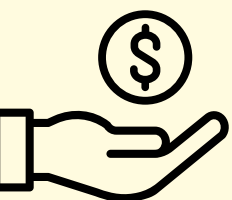
BLS Grants & Fellowships

Sparer and BLSPI Fellowships (deadline has passed but keep in mind for next year!) Several other internal fellowships funding \$5,000 per fellow for the summer will be opening applications soon! Keep an eye out for information in the IYI and on Symplicity.

External Funding Sources

Check PSJD & Symplicity for updated opportunities. Read our [Guide to Funding Summer Public Service Work](#) (on BLS Connect) for more external funding options.

Questions?



Financial Aid: fa.app@brooklaw.edu

Public Service Law Center: publicservice@brooklaw.edu

Careers: careers@brooklaw.edu

Clinics: clinics@brooklaw.edu



Sparer and Public Service Law Panel Zeroes in on the Secondary Trauma of Public Interest Careers and Finding Resilience

Staff attorneys and social workers from the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice addressed the impact of "secondary trauma stress" on public interest professionals, and shared advice on how best to cope with the repercussions of working closely with clients who have experienced trauma directly. The panel discussion, titled "What Our Work Does to Us," was held at the Subotnick Center on February 10th.

The discussion, primarily attended by students who are interested in careers in public interest law, focused on identifying secondary trauma stress and vicarious trauma and developing strategies for resilience. Panelists, all from the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice (LAS JRP), included Vicki Light, an attorney who represents children in the New York City Family Courts in the Bronx; attorney Lina Del Plato '00 in the Brooklyn office; attorney Brad Martin in the Manhattan office; and social workers Eileen Lopez and E. Jean-Marie Catlett. Cosponsored by the Public Service Law Center and the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship program, the program was introduced by Public Service Law Center Executive Director [Amy Hsieh '11](#) and Professor [Vijay Raghavan](#), co-director of the Sparer Fellowship program.

Read the full article on brooklaw.edu here.

SECOND ANNUAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

CALL FOR PAPERS!



We invite scholarship that analyzes how the law shapes and upholds systems of power and envisions alternatives to the inequality created by our current political economy.

POTENTIAL TOPICS

- ✓ antitrust and economic justice
- ✓ police and prison abolition
- ✓ confronting US imperialism
- ✓ climate crises
- ✓ labor rights
- ✓ housing & public policy
- ✓ immigration issues
- ✓ and more!

IMPORTANT DATES

UPDATED!!

Paper Submission: Feb. 28

Symposium: April 11

panelists will need to be in-person

ABOUT US:

BROOKLYN LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY COLLECTIVE seeks to challenge legal pedagogical boundaries in the interest of social justice, including economic, racial, gender, and environmental justice. Our projects are guided by three pillars: **anti-racism, anti-imperialism, and anti-capitalism.**



← *SCAN TO SUBMIT*

Submission Type:

An abstract of 500 words or less on a completed working paper

*Working Paper: near publication ready

*papers should not be **accepted** for publication elsewhere (i.e. any journal or law review). This is an opportunity to **share your original scholarship** and **learn from your peers**. Papers will also be included in a printed **compendium!**

<https://tinyurl.com/symposium25submissions>

email with questions →



blpecollective@brooklaw.edu



[@blpecollective](https://www.instagram.com/blpecollective)

BLSA PRESENTS

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS AND THE BAR

Registrar's Office

Speak with the school's registrar's office about everything from character and fitness, certifying pro bono hours, to certificate program offerings!



Career Services and Academic Success

Come and have someone review your cover letter, resume, and LinkedIn profiles!
Talk to academic success about bar readiness, and make sure you're on track to graduate!



Bar Prep Course Raffle

We will draw the raffle for a Themis and a Barbri bar prep course!
Join the raffle using the QR code!



STUDENT LOUNGE | MARCH 5 | 3-5 PM

Unemployment Action Center

**Looking for legal experience?
Want to learn about client advocacy?
Passionate about unemployment benefits?**

Come check out our GBM and New Advocate Training!

March 6 - 12:45 PM - Room 504

THERE WILL BE PIZZA

Questions? Email us at:

UAC@brooklaw.edu



DON'T BE LATE
for a

VERY IMPORTANT DATE!

*Please Join Brooklyn Law Students
for the Public Interest for the*

2025 BLSPI

Auction



Thursday, March 20

7:00 PM

*Forchelli Center
205 State St., Brooklyn, NY*



EAT
ME

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

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (#76788)
Chosen Family Law Center (#76748)
Cook County Public Defender's Office (Chicago) (#76696)
Legal Action Center (Paid!) (#76749)
National Women's Law Center (Paid!) (#76781 & #76780)
New York City Department of Social Services (#76547)
Rhode Island Attorney General's Office (#75734)
Volunteers of Legal Service (#76759-76763)

Post Grad Opportunities

Cook County Public Defender's Office (#76709)
Legal Services NYC Housing Law (#74368)
Make the Road New York (#76698)
New Mexico Law Office of the Public Defender (#76766)
New York City Administration for Children's Services (#74508)
New York City Council (#76764)
New York County Defender Services Policy Attorney (#76643)

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!

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



2025 ABA Public Defense Summit

April 4 & 5, 2025 in person at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, IL, or streaming online!

Join public defense leaders and experts from around the country for two days of programs on issues ranging from the management of excessive workloads to the representation of immigrant clients in an age of mass deportation. The Summit will be held at Northwestern University School of Law, and a virtual option is also available for those who can't attend in person. Both in-person and virtual attendees will receive 9.0 hours of MCLE credit, including 1.5 hours of ethics credit.

Register now to lock in your early bird rate! [Click here](#) for more information about the Summit, including the schedule, sessions, special lodging rates, and how to register.

Sponsored by:

ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense

Cosponsored by:

ABA Criminal Justice Section

ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice

Early-Bird Registration Rates:

Sponsors (CRSJ and CJS members): \$175 in person/\$125 virtual

ABA Members: \$200 in person/\$150 virtual

Non-Members: \$275 in person/\$200 virtual

ABA Law Student Members: \$50 in person or virtual

Register Now – Early Bird Rates Expire March 3!



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.

Summer Internship Highlight!

2025 DSS Summer Law Internship Program

The New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) is the largest municipal social welfare agency in the world serving more than three million New Yorkers annually. Law school interns work closely with attorneys providing support by performing legal research and drafting legal documents. Interns have the opportunity to appear at court or administrative hearings and to accompany attorneys to conferences. Interns are sought for the following units:

- Adult Protective Services Litigation and Program Counseling Unit
- Commercial Law
- The Employment Law Division
- The Legal Process and Records Access Unit
- Fair Hearing Division
- Homeless Litigation and Program Counseling Unit
- Litigation and Program Counseling Unit
- Office of Civil Justice
- Office of Data Privacy (ODP)
- Support and Lien Recovery Litigation Unit

For more information, contact olaopportunities@dss.nyc.gov

Qualifications: Candidates must be current law students in good standing committed to public service and who possess excellent research, writing, and communication skills. These internships are unpaid.

Application Instructions: Applicants should email the following in Word or PDF format to tallisa@dss.nyc.gov:

- Cover letter (Please address this to Andrew Tallis, Managing Attorney)
- Resume
- List of three (3) references with contact information including email addresses
- Transcript (Unofficial is acceptable)
- Writing Sample Applicants should indicate in their cover letter in which unit or units they are interested. They should also indicate their funding source for the internship.

Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

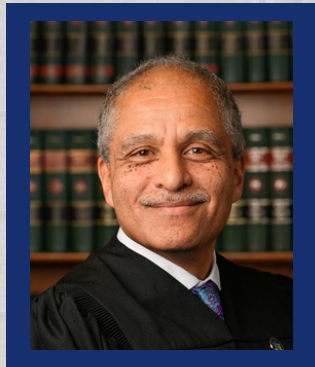
Contact Information: Andrew Tallis Managing Attorney
929-221-5344
tallisa@dss.nyc.gov





THE ROLE OF THE YOUNG LAWYER IN BEING AN AGENT FOR CHANGE

February 28, 2025
10:00 am - 11:30 am



HON. ROWAN D. WILSON
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



HON. ADAM SILVERA
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE WITHIN NYC



DAWNE MITCHELL, ESQ.
CHIEF ATTORNEY,
JUVENILE RIGHTS PRACTICE, LEGAL AID



DR. CHARLES DAVIDSON
ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT
PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT,
CUNY JOHN JAY COLLEGE

Moderated by Professor Salihah R. Denman

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

HYBRID PRESENTATION

CLE CREDIT PENDING

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!

Looking to complete your 50-hour pro bono requirement?

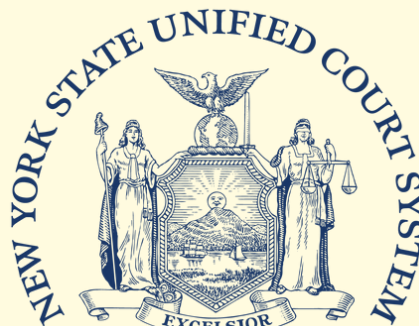
Volunteer with The New York State Courts Access to Justice Program!

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>

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!](#)**

