



Anti-Racism Statement of the BLS Clinical Programs

The BLS Clinical Program issues this statement in recognition of the ongoing systemic, racial and social injustices embedded in this country and that these injustices arise from structural racism and implicit bias that remain dominant forces shaping our society. The clinical faculty condemns the unequal treatment of people on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, disability and socio-economic status. As Clinics that seek to serve the needs of our community, it is our responsibility to fight against racism and structural inequity both within Brooklyn Law School and broadly within our community.

Accordingly, the BLS Clinical Program reaffirms its commitment to advocating for change in basic human rights, including individual and civil rights, immigrants' rights, employment rights, affordable housing, protection from criminal injustice and mass incarceration, disability justice and support for disadvantaged entrepreneurs and community organizations.

Specifically, we pledge to take the following actions:

- To ensure that the Clinics prioritize the provision of direct legal services to marginalized individuals and communities;
- To expose BLS students to how racism, sexism, ableism and other forms of discrimination are embedded in the law and other institutions, including how government policies, public support systems, the police, and penal systems have been used as instruments of oppressions and civil rights have been undermined and under-enforced;
- To engage with students most subject to racism and discrimination when shaping curricular and institutional initiatives, incorporating into our clinical courses critical frameworks like abolitionism; critical race, feminist and queer theory; disability justice and housing justice;
- To be attentive to emerging issues affecting social justice in both the law school and the community when making curricular decisions about clinical programs; to create opportunities and encourage efforts on campus to increase awareness of structural racism and implicit bias by engaging with students, staff and alumni;
- To support initiatives and inquiry into demands for specific changes in law and policy that combat systemic racism including but not limited to:
 - Measures to eliminate state and police violence, mass incarceration and the carceral state;
 - Measures to eliminate racial disparities in access to justice, legal immigration status, housing, health care, employment and education;
- To support Black and non-Black students of color, particularly first-generation higher education students, as they confront systemic racism and discrimination when seeking employment opportunities;
- To share the responsibility borne by Black and non-Black faculty and staff of color to mentor and support Black and non-Black students of color.
- To support and celebrate the work and contributions of Black and non-Black faculty and staff of color.