



Brooklyn
Law School

CLINICS

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WHERE LAW COMES TO LIFE

Safe Harbor Clinic Issues Important Human Rights Report

In the fall of 2023, the Safe Harbor Clinic published a human rights report, ["A Fiefdom on Long Island: An Investigation into the Culture and Practices of the New York Asylum Office,"](#) authored by Lubaba Ahmed '24, Torrey Crim '24, and Nazanin Rafsanjani '24, and edited by Professor Faiza W. Sayed. The report was a culmination of a years-long investigation by the clinic to understand why the New York Asylum Office consistently grants asylum at the lowest rate in the country. The report's central finding is that many New York Asylum Officers grant asylum at shockingly low rates because granting an asylum seeker's case takes more time than rejecting it and Asylum Officers are evaluated primarily on the speed at which they complete adjudications.

On October 19, 2023, the Clinic held a panel discussion to discuss the report's findings attended by advocates, professors, and students. Panelists included David Wilkins, Director of Immigration and LGBTQ/HIV+ Advocacy, Staten Island Legal Services, Victoria Neilson, Supervising Attorney, National Immigration Project, Torrey Crim '24, and Professor Sayed. Recently, the Clinic was thrilled to learn that two of the report's recommendations (new leadership at the NY Asylum Office and more oversight of individual offices by the asylum program's headquarters) were implemented by the government.



On right: Lubaba Ahmed '24 summarizing the report's findings.

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LGBTQ Advocacy Clinic Client Wins His Asylum Case

Bobby Hyland '26, Aisha Iftikhar '26 and Mackenzie Kramer '25 represented M.A., a transgender man from Nigeria who feared returning to his home country because of widespread violence against LGBTQ people in the country. M.A. came to the U.S. on a temporary student visa to pursue a bachelor's in art, and received recognition for his work as a photographer documenting the lives of transgender people. He was terrified that Nigerian government officials, as well as members of his family and community would attack him because of his identity, and that he would be jailed, beaten, or even killed if he had to return to Nigeria. M.A. applied for asylum, and Aisha, Bobby, and Mackenzie gathered evidence to support his claim, wrote a brief and other supporting documents for his case, prepared him for his asylum interview, and represented him before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. M.A. was granted asylum in March 2024 and can now live safely and permanently in the U.S.

LGBTQ Advocacy Clinic Students Negotiate Settlement for Client Who Faced Employment Discrimination

LGBTQ Advocacy Clinic students Gabrielle Avellaneda '25, Molly Davis '24, and Megan Henley '24 appeared at a settlement conference before Magistrate Judge James R. Cho in the Eastern District of New York federal court on behalf of a client who faced horrific anti-gay and racist harassment from a supervisor at a local company. After extensive negotiations with the defendants in the case, the students reached a confidential settlement providing the client with closure and compensation for her ordeal. Previous clinic students Rachel Conte '23 and Miri Reinhold '23 drafted the federal complaint on the client's behalf. New York Legal Assistance Group LGBTQ Project's Senior Staff Attorney Adena Wayne was co-counsel on the case.



Gabriella Avellaneda '26, Megan Henley '25, clinic client Ms. G., Molly Davis, '25, and Prof. Susan Hazeldean

Sports Law Externship Course Welcomes Guest Speakers from Major League Baseball

The Sports Law Externship Course is enjoying a banner year with its largest enrollment ever in the Spring 2024 semester. Fifteen students have been placed in sports law offices throughout the city and beyond, including at Major League Baseball Labor Counsel, MLB Department of Investigations, Proskauer Rose's Sports Law Practice Group, BSE Global (Brooklyn Nets), NYC Football Club, New York Red Bulls, Salzano Ettinger/Alliance Sports (representing Olympic and professional athletes), SportStars (NFL player agency), and LawInSport (international sports newsletter).

The companion seminar, taught by Professor Jodi Balsam, often welcomes guest speakers from the local sports law community. On February 28, 2024, the seminar was visited by Justin Wiley, Senior Counsel Labor Relations at MLB's Office of the Commissioner, and Luke Mansour, Counsel at the New

York Yankees. The topic of the day was league versus team representation, and the speakers explored their roles and responsibilities specific to their jobs and how they collaborated "across the aisle" and resolved inevitable conflicts.



Luke Mansour of the New York Yankees and Justin Wiley of Major League Baseball and the students in the Sports Law Externship Course

Corporate and Real Estate Clinic Assists Low-Income Cooperatives

In Spring 2023, two teams of Corporate and Real Estate Clinic students represented Brooklyn low-income cooperatives in the spring semester to expedite much-needed rehabilitation through the City's Green Housing Loan program. Jake Starr '24 and Hayden Turk '24 negotiated a regulatory agreement with the lender, raising several points that would insert extremely important protections for shareholders. They also participated in bi-weekly conference calls and, along with Professor Bechtel, strategized and sought approval for a real estate tax exemption from the City Council. Steve Esses '24 and Ezra Mann '24 represented a client facing construction delays following a December 2020 closing whose residents also need a conversion from not-for-profit ownership to co-op ownership. Steve, Ezra and Professor Debra Bechtel attended a meeting at the building with the board and residents to explain the conversion process. They also coordinated weekly progress update calls with the lender and contractor, which were crucial to reactivating the project.

The remaining two teams addressed wealth transfer issues in Bronx and Harlem co-ops. Elisabeth Rosa Di Sant '24 and Ava Williams-Brookins '24 prepared closing documents for a share transfer between a mother and a daughter and conducted the closing on the last day of classes.

Doug Waltzer '24 and Claire DiCiuccio '24 prepared closing documents for a mother-to-son share transfer as well as two name changes on shares which were important because one very active board member wasn't actually a shareholder in her mother's apartment. Once she was added to the share certificate, Claire and Doug prepared a board resolution officially naming her to the board of directors and making her the President. The clinic has found that these ownership updates can be essential to avoiding estate delays for low-income heirs and to filling boards of directors with active members.



Elisabeth (Lizzie) Rosa Di Sant '24 during a unit sale closing



Ava Williams-Brookins '24 and Elisabeth (Lizzie) Rosa Di Sant '24 —standing left—with 113th Street clients



Claire DiCiuccio and Doug Waltzer with Anderson Avenue clients

BLIP Relaunches Podcast and Newsletter:

BLIP relunched its newsletter on Substack and rebooted its podcast.

BLIP revamped its podcast, now titled *BLIP on the Radar* to allow students an opportunity to wade into informative conversations about the ways recent technological innovations gel with—and diverge from—existing law. The podcast includes discussions from students and faculty about legal developments in a variety of dynamic practice areas, and look at trends on the horizon. Among the topics explored this semester, students discussed recent

controversy surrounding the explicit deepfake images of Taylor Swift that flooded the internet and prompted a push in Washington for stronger AI regulations. Students have also discussed some of the legal issues surrounding the leaked audio that was surreptitiously recorded by Arizona GOP Senate candidate Kari Lake in which the state's now-former GOP chairman seemingly offered to bribe Lake to sit out this election cycle.

BLIP students Explore the NYC Startup Ecosystem



BLIP students ran multiple *Legal Issues for Startups, Entrepreneurs, and Innovators* workshops at various incubator, accelerators, schools, libraries, and community centers in Spring 2024.

On February 1, Professor Jonathan Askin and BLIP students joined forces with NYU students in their class “Design Skills for Responsible Media.”

Instructed by Professors and AI experts, the course explores the ways that digital media design impacts the real world.



Professor Askin and BLIPician Jowel Uddin speak with students in the NYU Design Program

Groups of NYU and BLIP students utilized their knowledge of design, technology, and the law to brainstorm potential improvements to existing democratic systems. BLIP students also met with Robinhood Foundation’s Blue Ridge Labs for civic tech startups. The BLIP crew spoke about a wide range of legal and business issues from corporate formation to IP protection to compliance and regulatory issues affecting ventures interacting with governments, schools, and civic organizations. BLIP also helped run Legal Issues for Startups events and entrepreneur consultations with the NY Public Library and Venable LLP at the central library later this semester.



BLIP Students and Professors Travel to Blue Ridge Labs

Clemency & Pardon Clinic Client Receives Full Pardon from NYS Governor

In December 2023, a client of the Clemency and Pardon Clinic was one of 14 individuals granted a full, unconditional pardon by New York Governor Kathy Hochul.

The client was convicted in 2010 of a robbery when he was a teenager, spent several years in prison and then immigration detention. Since his release, he earned two degrees, married and became a father, works full time and helps to take care of his aging mother. The three students who prepared the application in 2020, Christina Yellamaty, Nicholas Hernandez and Michell Chen, have graduated but were thrilled to see the success of their efforts.



[Governor Hochul Grants Clemency to Sixteen Individuals](#)

Governor Hochul granted clemency to 16 individuals, including 12 pardons and four commutations.

www.governor.ny.gov



BLS Externship Program Hosts CLE Program for NY-Area Supervising Attorneys



Brooklyn Law School
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Cybersecurity, Emerging Technologies, and Legal Supervision

February 6, 2024
Brooklyn Law School
Subotnick Center, 10th Floor
250 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY

4-6 p.m. Program
6-7 p.m. Reception In-Person

SPEAKER/MODERATOR:
Jake Karr, Esq.
Deputy Director
Technology Law & Policy Clinic
NYU School of Law

PANEL:
Lyzette Bullock, Esq.
FOLX Health General Counsel

Jerome D. Greco, Esq.
Legal Aid Society Digital Forensics Unit

Professor Marissa J. Moran
CUNY - New York City College of Technology

Katherine Reilly, Esq.
U.S. Attorney's Office, S.D.N.Y.
Co-Chief, Complex Frauds and Cybercrime Unit

2 CLE Credits Approved -
Professional Practice (1 credit) and
Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data
Protection (1 credit).

Please scan to view the CLE Written
Materials Booklet.

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On February 6, 2024, Brooklyn Law School along with twelve other NY-area law schools co-sponsored the Ninth Annual Training and Reception for Supervising Attorneys of Legal Externs. This year's event addressed "Cybersecurity, Emerging Technologies, and Legal Supervision." Attendees earned two CLE credits toward the New York State requirement of training in Professional Practice and in Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data Protection. The session opened with a presentation by Professor Marissa Moran of CUNY's NYC College of Technology on the impact of generative artificial intelligence on the practice of law, and related ethical duties and risks.

Next up was a session on privacy and data protection led by Jake Karr, Deputy Directory of the Technology Law & Policy Clinic at NYU School of Law. He was joined by Katherine Reilly, Co-Chief of the Complex Frauds and Cybercrime Unit at the S.D.N.Y. U.S. Attorney's Office, Jerome D. Greco, Director of the Legal Aid Society Digital Forensics Unit, and Lyzzette Bullock, General Counsel of FOLX Health. They guided the lawyers in the room through a "technology threat assessment" and an exercise to identify strategies to address data security risks associated with hosting student externs.

100 supervising attorneys from the metropolitan area who work in government agencies, courts, non-profit advocacy and pro bono service organizations, law firms, and in-house legal departments attended the program.

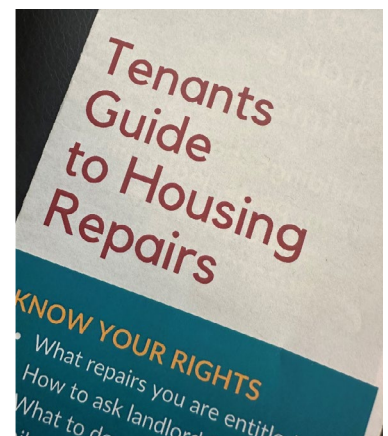
New Housing Justice Clinic Serves NYC Tenants and Homeowners

During the Spring 2024 semester of the Housing Justice Clinic, student attorneys representing tenants in Brooklyn Housing Court successfully negotiated a favorable agreement in which a tenant's arrears were waived and uncovered a rent overcharge for a tenant living in rent-stabilized housing. Students also connected with tenants from all over New York City by fielding calls on the 311 helpline and providing efficient solutions for tenants in need, using their experience to develop know your rights materials around repairs requests. Understanding that some issues facing low-income tenants are systemic, the clinic is filing a source of income discrimination lawsuit on behalf of a tenant who was refused broker services because the tenant received a Section 8 voucher.

Clinic students collaborated with and learned from different experts in the field including tenant organizers, legal service providers, and courthouse officials. Students connected with individuals at organizations like Neighbors

Helping Neighbors, the Legal Aid Society of New York, GrowBrooklyn, the Fair Housing Justice Center and the Red Hook Community Court.

Student Attorneys also worked with homeowners preparing their estates and drafted wills for Brooklynites hoping to protect their generational wealth. They dug deeper into the issues affecting Brooklyn homeowners and are working towards bringing greater protections, like transfer on death deeds, to New York State homeowners.



One of the know your rights resources Housing Justice Clinic students are working on for tenants