Pro Bono Opportunities
2019–2020

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
—Winston Churchill

Brooklyn Law School
Established 1901
Dear Students,

The pro bono program is a cornerstone of Brooklyn Law School, as it is foundational to the public service component of our mission. By taking on unpaid legal projects that embrace every area of practice and every facet of society, our students change their clients’ lives, our community, and our world. Moreover, they change themselves, acquiring not only valuable skills, but also the unique feeling of satisfaction and pride that comes from helping those in need.

The need is great, and the opportunities are many. Brooklyn Law’s proximity to large numbers of people who need but cannot afford legal services is matched only by our proximity to the institutions and resources with the power and potential to aid those people.

I invite you to read more about the wide range of pro bono opportunities available to students this year. Many thanks to the Public Service Law Center and the students, faculty members, staff, and partner organizations whose hard work and dedication make these projects possible.

I look forward to following your many accomplishments in the upcoming year and beyond.

Michael T. Cahill
President, Joseph Crea Dean, and Professor of Law
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and Training from the Public Service Law Center</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State Bar 50-hour Pro Bono Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum Relief Project (ARP)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLS Lawyers Without Borders (BLS LWOB)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx Defenders’ Records Accuracy Project (BxD RAP)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Community Bail Fund (BCBF)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Law Alternative Spring Break Trip (BLAST)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Legal Services’ Pro Se Landlord Harassment and Repairs Clinic (HP Clinic)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project (BTIPP)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUBE Consultation Center (CCC)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Law and Policy Society (Ed Law)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Law and Guardianship Pro Bono Project (ELG)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreclosure Legal Assistance Group (FLAG)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If/When/How — Abortion Clinic Legal Observing Immigrant</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Assistance Project (IVAP)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivating Youth Through Legal Education (MYLE) National</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers Guild (NLG): Legal Observation at Protests Parole</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation Project (Parole Prep)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline to Diversity Mentorship Project (PDMP)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico Legal Brigade (PR Brigade)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAP Sheet Assistance Project (RAP SAP)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience Advocacy Project (RAP): Youth LEAP &amp; GO Girls</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Chance Project (SCP)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension Representation Project (SRP)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontested Divorce Project for Battered Women and Indigent Clients (UDP)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Action Center (UAC)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support and Training from the Public Service Law Center

Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Law Center (PSLC) offers guidance, funding, and support to pro bono projects. The PSLC promotes awareness of available opportunities, helps students brainstorm new project ideas, provides essential training, and helps iron out issues as they arise.

Finding a Project: If you are interested in participating in a pro bono project, the best place to start is the Student Organization and Pro Bono Fair held every August or the Spring Pro Bono Fair held every January. At the Fairs, pro bono project leaders from each project staff a table, answering questions and providing information on how to get involved. If you don’t want to wait until the next Fair to get involved, look through this brochure and contact the projects directly or the PSLC to see which projects are best for you.

Developing a Project: The Public Service Law Center will provide you with step-by-step information on developing, launching, and funding a new project.

Public Service Workroom: Located on the 20th floor at 111 Livingston Street, this space is available for pro bono students to have trainings, meetings, client interaction, and social events.

Training: Each pro bono project provides its own training, tailored to the type of work and the populations they serve. In addition, the PSLC schedules workshops throughout the academic year. These workshops focus on building the skills required for participating in nearly any project—skills that will also serve you well in your public service internship or job.

Client Intake and Interview Workshops
Learn how to conduct effective client interviews when working with pro bono projects.

Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care Workshop
Learn to recognize and manage the internalized emotional stress of working with clients in traumatic situations.

Introduction to Public Interest Law
This (one-week) intensive course covers many aspects of public service law and career readiness.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and many others throughout the year!
New York State Bar 50-hour Pro Bono Requirement

Anyone seeking admission to the New York State bar must have completed at least 50 hours of pro bono legal work.

- The requirement is a condition of bar admission, not of graduating law school. Accordingly, you will need to complete the required affidavit (link below) as part of your application materials for the New York bar.
- The rule requires each applicant to perform “at least 50 hours of law related pro bono work.” Work performed for credit or for stipend may count. Further details about qualifying work are provided in the answers to questions 11 through 25 of the FAQ document linked below.

New York State Bar Admission: Pro Bono Requirement FAQs: nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/FAQsBarAdmission.pdf

Affidavit as to Applicant's Compliance with the Pro Bono Requirements, Including Certification by Supervisor: nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml

For more information, contact the Public Service Law Center at 718-780-0689 or email publicservice@brooklaw.edu. Information is also available on BLS Connect.
Asylum Relief Project (ARP) — Winter Break Trip

Every year participating Brooklyn Law students partner with a nonprofit organization during the last week of winter break to provide legal support to recently arrived immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. In January 2019, four BLS students joined Clinic Professor Carmen Maria Rey and partnered with The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project (FIRRP) and the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) in Nogales, Mexico. Volunteers assisted with a variety of projects including preparing individuals for their Credible Fear Interviews, drafting affidavits, and advocating to protect due process rights. The Asylum Relief Project offers students an opportunity to provide meaningful humanitarian assistance to clients, interview clients, and learn about immigration practice.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: The Asylum Relief Project will work in collaboration with a nonprofit immigrants’ rights organization.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students will apply to participate in this project in November and will be selected shortly thereafter. In the weeks leading up to the trip, participants will be responsible for completing training materials. The actual trip will be one week. The exact location of the trip will be disclosed in the application materials. Final dates will be determined closer to the trip.

TRAINING: The partnering organizing will send training materials that every participant will be responsible for completing. There will also be a “get to know you” and training session before leaving for the trip.

CONTACT: Look for notices around school or contact Catherine Perez at catherine.perez@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in getting a glimpse into immigration law and the issues within the immigration system, as well as those interested in gaining experience with direct client services and general advocacy work.
BLS Lawyers Without Borders (BLS LWOB)

Lawyers Without Borders is an international organization that works with law firms and their pro bono departments throughout the world. Entering our third year as a pro bono project at BLS, we are a part of an established international network of volunteer lawyers and law students from all over the world who work on rule of law projects, access to justice initiatives, research, and fundraising for projects.

BLS LWOB is made up of students who are interested in human rights. The pro bono project will embark on a wide range of human-rights related pro bono projects: fundraising, researching, and community education. We aim to raise awareness of poorly understood justice mechanisms and organize workshops and lectures on the rule of law.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Lawyers Without Borders www.lwob.org

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Periodic activities throughout the year (schedule TBD).

CONTACT: Email Mateo Rendon at mateo.rendon@brooklaw.edu, or Carley Cooke at carley.cooke@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Any full-time or part-time students who are committed to international human rights.
Bronx Defenders’ Records Accuracy Project (BxD RAP)

BxD RAP is committed to serving individuals and communities in the Bronx to address the consequences of criminal justice involvement, particularly in the areas of employment and public benefits. Students interact with clients, review RAP sheets, correct errors, and apply for certificates of relief from civil disabilities (CRDs) and/or certificates of good conduct (CGCs) under the direct supervision and mentorship of civil practice attorneys and the reentry & community outreach coordinator at The Bronx Defenders. Students travel to NYC county courts to access documents demonstrating identified errors, draft cover letters describing errors and requesting corrective actions by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and follow up on DCJS submissions.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: The Bronx Defenders (BxD)

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students work in the offices of BxD in the Bronx and in the Public Service Law Center offices of Brooklyn Law School. Clients consist of individuals from Bronx communities and BxD clients who have RAP sheet issues or wish to apply for a CRD or CGC. Volunteers will be required to commit to at least 10-12 hours per week, which may be distributed over 2-5 days. This commitment ensures sufficient time to learn about RAP sheets and the New York criminal justice system and provides enough time over two semesters to complete corrections students have started.

TRAINING: Students are required to attend a training conducted by a BxD civil practice attorney and reentry & community outreach coordinator. Volunteers will be trained to request, read and identify RAP sheets, electronically fingerprint clients, and apply for CRDs and CGCs. The project is a continuing learning process.

CONTACT: Email robert.price@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Any full-time or part-time students interested in criminal practice and/or criminal justice reform.
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund (BCBF) — Pretrial Justice Fellowship

The BCBF pro bono project works with the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, an innovative nonprofit that seeks to end the unnecessary incarceration of indigent misdemeanor defendants due to the inability to pay small amounts of bail. Throughout the fall semester, participating students will be encouraged and guided to attend trainings and participate in Bail Fund projects covering a variety of topics related to criminal justice policy, bail reform, and the impact of money bail on incarcerated individuals and their loved ones. In the spring, students can commit to being Pretrial Justice Fellows, devoting a certain number of hours in commencing or continuing their work with the Bail Fund projects being offered. Projects change from year to year but have previously included investigating the practices of bail bond agencies and court-watching in Manhattan and Brooklyn arraignment courts. The Pretrial Justice Fellowship is affiliated with the Brooklyn Law School’s Criminal Justice Center; Fellows will have the opportunity to be a part of the Center’s activities, if they wish.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, www.brooklynbailfund.org; Brooklyn Law School’s Criminal Justice Center.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: There will be at least two general body meetings and project trainings during the fall semester. In the spring, students who sign up to be Pretrial Justice Fellows are expected to commit a minimum number of hours (to be determined) working on various Bail Fund projects.

CONTACT: Email bailfundprobono@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Any full-time or part-time students interested in an innovative approach to criminal justice reform. This project may also be of interest to students interested in criminal defense and/or working in a public defender office.
Brooklyn Law Alternative Spring Break Trip (BLAST)

BLAST is an excellent opportunity for Brooklyn Law School students to spend their spring break working with legal services and other public interest organizations across the United States. Students will work in teams and with seasoned attorneys to provide much-needed legal assistance during the one-week period. Students will assist in fundraising and planning for the alternative spring break trips as well. In previous years, students worked at the Miami-Dade County Public Defender’s Office, Louisiana Civil Justice Center in New Orleans, Miami Community Justice Project, Catholic Charities of Atlanta, and Gideon’s Promise in Atlanta.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: TBD

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Monday, March 16 — Friday, March 20, 2020 (approximate). Fundraising and planning meetings will take place before the break. Students involved in the project are expected to contribute to planning and fundraising for the trips.

TRAINING: Specific training on the legal area of the project will occur once trip destinations are selected.

CONTACT: Email robert.price@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Any 1L, 2L, 3L, or 4P student who is interested in public service and/or looking to earn pro bono hours by serving a public interest organization outside of New York City.
Brooklyn Legal Services’ Pro Se Landlord Harassment and Repairs Clinic (HP Clinic)

As gentrification and displacement continue and the city’s affordable housing crisis worsens, an unprecedented number of tenants face harassment and negligence by landlords. Help low-income New Yorkers commence proceedings in housing court to compel landlords to perform repairs and obtain orders against harassment. Student volunteers conduct intake with individual tenants, assist them in preparing the paperwork necessary to commence a case, help them tell their story in the most compelling and persuasive light, discuss establishing proof of harassment and substandard conditions, and work with housing advocates to develop a strategy for successfully litigating pro se HP actions. Gain experience with direct legal services and exposure to housing law and help attendees represent themselves in housing court.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Brooklyn Legal Services

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: The clinic is held the first Monday of each month, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Legal Services at 105 Court Street, 4th Floor. Individual students can participate as their schedules permit, but will benefit most (as will the clients) after attending four or more clinic sessions and developing familiarity with the issues and civil procedure involved. New participants, including part-time students, are welcome to begin participating year-round.

TRAINING: Hands-on training is the best method to learn at the clinic. All filings prepared by student volunteers are reviewed by attorneys and housing advocates. On-site mentoring and training manuals are available at each clinic for students.

CONTACT: Email Jim McCormick at jxmccormick@lsny.org for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Any full-time or part-time students with a desire to address the critical legal needs of low-income Brooklyn residents, as well as those with specific interest in housing law and public service law, direct services, and civil procedure.
Brooklyn Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project (BTIPP)

Trained Brooklyn Law School JD and LLM students conduct immigration intakes for foreign-born individuals who have outstanding cases in the Brooklyn Human Trafficking Intervention Court. Students will receive training and supervision from Sanctuary for Families attorneys.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Sanctuary for Families

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Kings County Criminal Court at 120 Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn. Students who complete the training may assist at as many or as few clinics as they like, but will benefit most (as will the clients) after attending more sessions and developing familiarity with the issues. New participants, including part-time students, are welcome to begin participating at the beginning of each semester.

TRAINING: Prior to participating in BTIPP, students must attend a three-hour training held in the beginning of the fall or spring semesters in a Brooklyn Law School classroom or at the Sanctuary for Families’ office. The training will cover topics such as client interviewing and trauma-informed lawyering. Dates, times, and locations will be announced prior to the training, and lunch will be provided.

CONTACT: Email Amy Hsieh at ahsieh@sffny.org, or Lauren Chung at lchung@sffny.org, for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Any JD or LLM students who are interested in public interest law or immigration law, serving low-income clients, and/or working specifically with victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking. Students gain experience with client interviewing and learn how to spot issues relating to trafficking victims and immigration needs.
Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO)

Assist with the representation of low-income New Yorkers hounded by predatory debt collectors. Help consumers through the daunting process of self-representation, learn New York civil procedure, gain experience working with clients, and learn about financial justice issues affecting low-income Brooklyn residents.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP), Kings County Civil Court

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Thursdays 2:30-4:30 p.m. or 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Kings County Civil Court 141 Livingston Street (just a few blocks away).

TRAINING: Students are welcome and encouraged to begin attending sessions as soon as they desire. Students will be paired with attorneys who guide them through the process. In addition, a short, non-mandatory training is held at Brooklyn Law School in the early fall and spring. On-site mentoring and training manuals are also available at each session.

CONTACT: Email any of the following student leaders for more information: joseph.giacona@brooklaw.edu or franka.cepele@brooklaw.edu

OF INTEREST TO: Any students with a desire to address the critical legal needs of low-income Brooklyn residents. If you are interested in working directly with clients, gaining pro-bono hours or have a specific interest in debtor-creditor law, consumer protection, economic justice, or civil procedure, this is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and experience outside of the classroom!
Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP)

Assist and advocate for survivors of domestic violence seeking orders of protection in New York City family courts. Students help domestic violence survivors file petitions and maintain contact as necessary to ensure that the petitioner returns for his or her next court date. Students may also advocate for the petitioner before the judge on the return date.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Legal Association for Women

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Sanctuary for Families and the New York Legal Assistance Group

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: One full day (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) per semester on Mondays through Fridays, in Kings, Queens, Bronx, or New York family court, as well as an opportunity to return to court with the petitioner on his or her return date. New participants are welcome to begin participating at the beginning of each semester.

TRAINING: One four-hour mandatory intensive training session where students will receive a thorough CAP manual to prepare them for their day in court. The training is offered during the fall semester at Brooklyn Law School. The same training is also offered during the fall and spring semesters at other New York-area law schools.

CONTACT: Look for flyers and emails with training dates and general body meetings or email bls.law.cap@gmail.com and/or one of the BLS CAP Coordinators — Layla Noriega at layla.noriega@brooklaw.edu or Amanda Ackaway at amanda.ackaway@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in court experience and exposure to NY civil procedure who want client contact and/or experience in domestic violence law. Students who want to step out of their comfort zone and are interested in improving communication skills.
The CCC is a pro bono project sponsored by Brooklyn Law School’s Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE). The CCC offers students a unique platform for gaining valuable practice experience as well as the opportunity to interact with local entrepreneurs in Brooklyn’s dynamic business community. Participating students work under the supervision of corporate law alumni (from Nixon Peabody, White and Case, Davis Polk, Cleary Gottlieb, and Goodwin Procter) and faculty, and alongside community partners and incubators including NYC Business-Solutions, the Brooklyn Innovators Center and the Carroll Gardens Association. Consultations tend to focus on providing Minority and Women Owned Businesses (MWOB) and start-ups with essential legal services and resources. During the consultations, students hear directly from the client as they issue spot and assess their legal needs, and provide them with valuable information and advice related to contracts, entity formation, leases, intellectual property, tax and other issues.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: CUBE

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: BLS CUBE-affiliated clinics — Community Development Clinic, Corporate and Real Estate Clinic, Brooklyn Law Incubator and Policy Clinic. CUBE Student Organization — CSA.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: CUBE Consultation Centers will be held approximately once per month (or 3x per semester) in different locations around Brooklyn. Students can volunteer their time at any or all of these consultations.

TRAINING: Students must attend a training session at Brooklyn Law School (or other offered location) prior to pro bono involvement.

CONTACT: Please feel free to contact one of the following by email: CUBE Co-Presidents Jamie Maffeo at jamie.maffeo@brooklaw.edu and Karra Puccia at karra.puccia@brooklaw.edu Professor Debra Bechtel at debra.bechtel@brooklaw.edu

OF INTEREST TO: Students with interest in business law, entrepreneurship, real estate, and community development. Students who are interested in gaining experience performing consultations and improving communication skills with clients.
Education Law and Policy Society (ED LAW)

ED LAW seeks to strengthen educational opportunities for all students, with emphasis on public education reform in the United States. The Project seeks to advance dialogue, prepare leaders, raise awareness in the legal community, and create opportunities for students to effect positive change by coordinating pro bono activities with other student groups, advocacy organizations, legal advocates, and other schools. ED LAW offers students the opportunity to assist in litigation and policy research. Students will also be able to participate in service projects and plan panel discussions on emerging legal issues in public education. ED LAW also plans to continue its Law Student for a Day program where members serve as mentors to local high school students interested in pursuing careers in law and education.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: There will be activities throughout the year, and members will be asked to plan and execute one project during the academic year.

TRAINING: Training will be provided for each activity.

CONTACT: Email publicservice@brooklaw.edu

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in education law and policy.
Elder Law and Guardianship (ELG) Pro Bono Project

As people live longer than ever before, individuals face many long-term planning considerations and decisions concerning a variety of personal and financial matters for elderly or incapacitated individuals. ELG’s student volunteers work to provide education, support, and aid to guardianship petitioners. Working alongside attorneys with the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, students will be trained to give presentations about types of guardianships, the guardianship process, and the responsibilities of guardians. Students will meet with and assist clients in drafting guardianship petitions. Specifically, students often work with parents who are seeking Article 17A guardianships over their children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and are nearing age 18. Initial trainings and projects will begin in Fall 2019, but interested students may contact ELG’s student leaders to begin volunteering at any time during the school year.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students can volunteer as much or as little time as they wish throughout the school year. Students working with guardianship petitioners will meet with their clients with Sidney Cherubin at 44 Court Street, just a block/few minutes walk from BLS. Students may participate with or without partners.

TRAINING: ELG will hold a one-hour training in the beginning of the semester (video training is also available for students who cannot appear in-person). ELG will also provide a step-by-step guide describing how to draft the applicable legal documents.

CONTACT: Email Co-Chairs Danielle Blackburn at danielle.blackburn@brooklaw.edu, Kaitlyn Baietto at kaitlyn.baietto@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in trusts and estates, guardianships, elder law, disability law, and health law. Students will gain experience meeting with clients and drafting legal documents. Students looking for a simple pro bono opportunity with flexible time commitment options are welcome.
Foreclosure Legal Assistance Group (FLAG)

FLAG is a partnership between Brooklyn Law School students, the BLS Public Service Law Center, the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, and Kings County Supreme Court. FLAG’s mission is to assist homeowners in Kings County facing foreclosure. FLAG provides homeowners entangled in foreclosure litigation with information about New York’s unique foreclosure process. FLAG offers students an opportunity to provide meaningful assistance to members of our community, learn about foreclosure law, attend foreclosure settlement conferences, and gain direct exposure to the mandatory foreclosure litigation process, sharpening essential interpersonal skills through hands-on experience.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Foreclosure Legal Assistance Group

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Monday, Tuesday, and/or Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.–4 p.m., at the Kings County Supreme Court building on the 3rd floor. On average, FLAG is conducted approximately once a week. While regular participation is encouraged, we are flexible to accommodate students’ schedules.

TRAINING: Students attend a one-hour training at Brooklyn Law School in the fall.

CONTACT: Email sfilcher@brooklynvlp.org, or visit FLAG’s booth at the BLS Pro Bono Fair. FLAG welcomes all full- and part-time students. Part-time students should note, however, that FLAG only meets in the afternoon.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in foreclosure law, housing law, economic justice, helping fellow members of our community, and refining interviewing and counseling skills.
If/When/How — Abortion Clinic Legal Observing

If/When/How is a student-led, student-driven national nonprofit network of law students and lawyers committed to fostering the next wave of legal experts for the reproductive justice movement. If/When/How works to transform the law and policy landscape through advocacy, support, and organizing so all people have the power to determine if, when, and how to define, create, and sustain families with dignity and to actualize sexual and reproductive well-being on their own terms. Through our legal observing project, students have the chance to observe and document interactions among police, protestors, and patients seeking reproductive healthcare.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS Chapter of If/When/How

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Local abortion clinics, primarily Choices in Queens, with support and training from the National Lawyers Guild

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Throughout the semester, approximately monthly. Legal observing occurs on Saturday mornings from around 7–11:00 a.m.

TRAINING: Trainings will be held once per semester at BLS, dates TBD. Volunteers need to be trained as Legal Observers through the National Lawyers Guild and also come in for a clinic-specific training.

CONTACT: Email If/When/How Co-Chairs Lauren Miller at lauren.miller@brooklaw.edu and Bianca D’Agostaro at bianca.dagostaro@brooklaw.edu to join the If/When/How listserv. Email Pro Bono chair Beth Potter at elizabeth.potter891@brooklaw.edu and Briana Delaney at briana.delaney@brooklaw.edu for more information about participating.

OF INTEREST TO: Students who are passionate about reproductive rights, reproductive justice, women’s rights, health-care accessibility, and on-the-ground participation in access.
Immigrant Visa Assistance Project (IVAP)

Students participating in IVAP assist immigrant victims of crimes with U-visa applications. U-visas are a form of immigration relief available to victims of enumerated crimes who have cooperated with law enforcement. IVAP provides students with the opportunity to interview clients, draft affidavits, and learn practical lawyering skills related to immigration practice. Students will be supervised by upper-class students and attorneys through Sanctuary For Families and Justice for Our Neighbors.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Sanctuary For Families and Justice for Our Neighbors

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: About 10-15 hours total over the course of the semester, for training, interviews, and writing the affidavit, with flexible scheduling.

TRAINING: Attendance at one training session, offered at BLS, is required.

CONTACT: Email Alexandra Dudas at alexandra.dudas@brooklaw.edu, Oscar Matlala at oscar.matlala@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in immigration law and/or serving survivors of domestic violence and asylum seekers.
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

LIFT seeks to enhance access to justice for children and families by providing legal information, advice, community education, and compassionate guidance to empower individuals, while promoting system-wide reform of the courts and public agencies. Students help pro se litigants understand their options by providing legal and procedural information in matters of child support, custody, visitation, paternity, orders of protection, and more. Currently, LIFT has the following volunteer opportunities available:

- Helpline Support
- Education & Information Site Support
- Legal Resource Guide Research
- Document Translation

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN:

Court-Based Programs: Volunteers are asked to commit one morning per week from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at a Family Court-based site in one of the five NYC boroughs.

Live Chat Hotline: Volunteers are asked to commit at least one hour per week between 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Legal Research: Volunteers are asked to commit at least 12 hours per semester. Document Translation: Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 5 hours total.

TRAINING: New volunteers will be required to attend LIFT’s volunteer orientation prior to their placement offered at LIFT’s Central Office in Brooklyn Heights. Generally, there is one four-hour mandatory intensive training session. Court-based students will have additional observational training to be completed at their assignment location. Students on Live Chat and students conducting legal research will have ongoing communication and training opportunities with their respective program supervisors.

CONTACT: Samantha Ingram, Director of Pro Bono Programs at SIngram@LIFTonline.org

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in access-to-justice issues, family law, and/or gaining direct services experience. Positions are open to current law students.
Motivating Youth Through Legal Education (MYLE)

BLS students coach high school students to prepare for three constitutional law debates throughout the year. Coaches help the students read and understand Supreme Court decisions and craft an argument to be delivered to a panel of law students and attorneys who act as judges at the debate competition. All law student coaches meet for a lunch meeting to work through the constitutional law questions together and later meet for group preparation sessions with the high school students before each debate. Completion of constitutional law is not a prerequisite!

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS MYLE

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Legal Outreach, a nonprofit organization providing support to low-income junior high and high school students, sponsors and supervises the debate program. The debate program is just one element of the larger Legal Outreach program in which the high school students participate.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: There are three debates throughout the school year (one in the fall and two in the spring), each requiring a minimum of six hours of preparation with your student and three hours to judge each debate. Scheduling meetings with the high school students is flexible and done based on the law student coach’s schedule. Both full- and part-time students are welcome!

TRAINING: Brief mandatory coach training at the beginning of the year, at BLS.

CONTACT: Email Fiona McFarland at fionamcfarland@brooklaw.edu, or Victoria Holzinger at victoria.holzinger@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in youth, teaching, constitutional law, debate or mentoring.
National Lawyers Guild (NLG): Legal Observation at Protests

The Legal Observer program is part of the comprehensive legal support coordinated by NLG’s Mass Defense Committee designed to ensure that people can express their political views without unconstitutional disruption or interference by the government. Legal Observers work with NLG attorneys who represent individual activists and political organizations and play a distinct role from that of participants at demonstrations and protests. They are trained to promote police accountability by witnessing and documenting arrests, abuse, or civil rights violations. The presence of Legal Observers helps discourage police abuse, and the information collected by Legal Observers is used in all stages of defending arrestees and in lawsuits against the police or other government agencies when a person’s rights are violated.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: New York City Chapter and the National Office of the NLG

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: As appropriate and as each student chooses before and during elections and protests or street actions.

TRAINING: Held at BLS each semester, date TBD.

CONTACT: Email the BLS National Lawyers Guild at BrooklynLawNLG@gmail.com.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in progressive politics and First Amendment issues.
Parole Preparation Project

The Parole Preparation Project, a project of the National Lawyers Guild, collaborates with and advocates for parole-eligible people serving life sentences in New York State prisons. We train volunteers to work alongside parole applicants, many of whom have spent decades in prison and have been repeatedly denied parole, despite their eligibility for release.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: New York City Chapter and the National Office of the NLG

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: TBD

TRAINING: Location and date TBD but usually held at a New York City area law school.

CONTACT: Email the BLS National Lawyers Guild at brooklynlawnlg@gmail.com for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in progressive politics and criminal justice.
Pipeline to Diversity Mentorship Project (PDMP)

PDMP seeks to empower and assist students from underrepresented communities through mentorship to understand the demands of law school and to prepare for the law school application and admissions process. The objective of PDMP is to inspire students to excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. PDMP matches undergraduate students with law students for informal mentoring and guidance. This provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to have fun and learn the inside scoop about law school from Brooklyn Law students. Mentors may provide guidance on personal statements, LSAT prep, negotiating scholarship packages, and more. This program is designed to allow students to share advice and experience with incoming law students. First-year law students who have recently finished the law school entrance process are also encouraged to join as mentors. Part-time students are also welcome.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
1. Who are the mentors?
Mentors are current law students who have been matched to undergraduate students to help guide them through the application process.

2. Who are the mentees?
The Mentees are undergraduate students interested in applying to law school within the next year.

3. What is the mentor’s role?
Mentors provide guidance on entrance essay writing, LSAT prep, scholarship negotiations and more.

4. How long does this last?
The essence of PDMP is meaningful one-on-one mentoring. The mentoring process would last from September through May (the length of the school year). Mentors/Mentees are expected to interact regularly either in person, over the phone, or internet.

CONTACT: sarah.francois@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Full-time or part-time students with a desire to invest in producing a more diverse legal community.
Puerto Rico Post-Hurricane María Legal Brigade (PR Legal Brigade)

Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico (CAPR) is the bar association of Puerto Rico. It is the oldest professional association in Puerto Rico, and among the oldest bar associations in the world. Last year, a student-led BLS brigade went to Puerto Rico and provided assistance in the preparation of the forms that FEMA and SBA requires in order to prove that the survivor was an unregistered legal title owner of the damage property. Lawyers and participants worked together in the preparation of appeals to FEMA, SBA, and Tu Hogar Renace’s administrative procedures. Students were based out of San Juan, but also traveled to Fajardo, Rio Grande and Canovanas. In addition, the brigade carried out supplemental legal research for CAPR to coordinate and spread other free legal information and aid efforts for persons affected by Hurricane María.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico (CAPR)

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Spring Semester 2020
(Last year, students traveled for 10 days and worked approximately 30-40 hours).

TRAINING: Advocates must be fluent in Spanish. In addition, student advocates will have to watch a training video prior to traveling to Puerto Rico and will also have to attend a seminar once there to be certified.

CONTACT: Email William Granados at william.granados@brooklaw.edu, Kassandra Irizarry at kassandra.irizarry@brooklaw.edu, Catherine Perez at catherine.perez@brooklaw.edu, or publicservice@brooklaw.edu for more information.

In addition, visit CAPR’s website https://capr.org or Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Colegiosiempre/

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in public interest work, helping low-income populations, community organizing, economic justice, or refining interviewing, counseling and/or research skills.
RAP Sheet Assistance Program

The RAP Sheet Assistance Program seeks to help individuals avoid or ameliorate the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement, particularly in the areas of employment and public benefits. Working directly with criminal defense attorneys and the re-entry coordinator at Brooklyn Defender Services, student volunteers review RAP sheets and clear up errors where appropriate.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS)

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students work in the offices of BDS in Downtown Brooklyn. Clients are identified by BDS staff who have clients with RAP sheet issues. Initially, students work with attorneys, re-entry services providers, and clients to ensure that all RAP sheet errors are effectively removed; meeting times/locations vary greatly depending on the particular RAP sheet. Throughout the term of participation, BDS attorneys and re-entry staff will provide training and support on RAP sheet errors.

TRAINING: Students must attend a training conducted by a criminal defense attorney and the re-entry coordinator at BDS.

CONTACT: Email Robert Price at robert.price@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Any full-time or part-time students interested in criminal practice and/or criminal justice reform.
Resilience Advocacy Project (RAP): Youth LEAP

The Resilience Advocacy Project (RAP) is a NYC-based organization that trains youth to become leaders in the fight against poverty while advocating for the policies necessary to support their success. Through partnerships with schools, community-based organizations and city agencies, RAP helps young New Yorkers understand and address the systemic problems facing their communities. RAP’s Youth Leadership Empowerment and Advocacy Project (Youth LEAP) Project is a semester-long program serving low-income students from under-resourced communities throughout all five boroughs of NYC. The program trains these young people to become “peer advocates” for other youth in their communities, to identify social justice issues that they are passionate about, and to design and launch original Community Impact Initiatives that create concrete positive change in their communities.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Resilience Advocacy Project

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: As a RAP volunteer, you commit to volunteering for 10 weeks for approximately four hours each week to facilitate groups with young people at community organizations around New York City. Students may commit to working with RAP for one or two semesters. Time will be spent preparing for and facilitating weekly groups, along with attending at least two professional development meetings.

TRAINING: Law students are prepared by a thorough training at the beginning of the year and are given ongoing support through professional development meetings throughout the semester.

CONTACT: Sign up for training in the fall. Email Kim Aquino at kim.aquino@brooklaw.edu or visit www.resiliencelaw.org for more information about the organization.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in any of the following: youth, education, family law, benefits and housing, community/empowerment lawyering, social justice, racial justice, and general public interest.
Second Chance Project

Child neglect cases are often filed for issues related to poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, or addiction. During family court proceedings, families engage in supportive and rehabilitative services to help them address the challenges they face. In many cases, parents consent to a finding of neglect because they become exhausted by the court process.

The Second Chance Project partners with Brooklyn Defender Services Family Defense Practice (FDP) to help parents who have received a finding of child neglect amend their records. Participants will request records, advocate for clients during hearings at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services’ Statewide Central Register (SCR), and file motions to vacate findings. The SCR contains all findings of neglect and is searchable by employers in fields such as childcare, teaching, and nursing. Findings of neglect often preclude clients from employment opportunities even when the reports are unrelated to the job.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: If/When/How

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Defender Services, Family Defense Practice

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: two hours of training, 12-15 hours per semester for letter writing, meeting with clients, and advocating during the hearing.

CONTACT: Email Danielle Blackburn at danielle.blackburn@brooklaw.edu or Sheilagh Lichtenfels at sheilagh.lichtenfels@brooklaw.edu for more information about participating.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in family law, criminal defense, or poverty law; those looking to work directly with clients and gain advocacy experience.
Suspension Representation Project (SRP)

New York City public school students who receive long-term suspensions in elementary, middle, and high school are hurled into the “school-to-prison pipeline.” SRP’s goal is to advocate for students to keep them in school and on a path to graduation. SRP is a consortium of student organizations from 10 NYC law schools — each composed of law student advocates who are dedicated to protecting the educational rights of young people in the five boroughs. SRP provides advocates with comprehensive training on interviewing and counseling, hearing procedures, direct and cross examination techniques, rules of evidence, burden of proof, and developing a “theory of the case” so that they can effectively represent students and their families in front of hearing officers at NYC Department of Education Superintendent Suspension Hearings. New advocates are always paired with experienced advocates and can turn to the BLS SRP Executive Board for support and guidance at any time.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Suspension Representation Project (of NYU Law)

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Each case requires 5-10 hours of time (including preparation and the hearing itself). All Suspension Hearings are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on weekdays. Advocates must be available between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on days they sign up to take a case. Hearings are usually finished by 1:00 p.m. but can go longer. Part-time students with flexible daytime commitments are able to participate in SRP.

TRAINING: Advocates must attend one training session before they can take a case. Trainings are held in the fall at BLS as well as at other law schools in the consortium.

CONTACT: Email David Fuchs and Andrey Udalov at srp@brooklaw.edu, david.fuchs@brooklaw.edu, or andrey.udalov@brooklaw.edu for more information. You can also visit www.suspensionrepresentation.org or the BLS SRP Facebook page, www.facebook.com/blssrp.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in education law, children’s rights, juvenile justice, direct client representation, administrative law, or trial advocacy skills.
Uncontested Divorce Project for Battered Women and Indigent Clients

Following a training by a Sanctuary for Families attorney, students are assigned a client and then conduct interviews, prepare divorce petitions, file the court papers, and conduct follow-up meetings with the client. Students will aid their clients in initiating their uncontested divorce and through entry of judgment. Male and female volunteers are welcome.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Legal Association for Women

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Sanctuary for Families (SFF)

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: The trainings are offered in the fall in order to allow sufficient time for students to complete all the necessary steps during the academic year. The SFF pro bono project works exclusively with battered women. To complete the pro bono project, students need to devote an average of 10 hours to the petition. Two students will partner to meet with a client approximately twice throughout the academic year and can complete the divorce paperwork on their own time. The project is flexible and can be done at the student’s and client’s convenience. Part-time students can also participate in either project.

TRAINING: Two-hour training at SFF takes place in the fall usually at the end of September.

CONTACT: Look for flyers and emails in the fall for the training date or email Joanna Chalifoux at joanna.chalifoux@brooklaw.edu or Daniella Haviv at daniella.haviv@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in public interest work, family law, helping low-income members of our community, or working with victims of domestic violence. Students will develop skills in interviewing, direct client contact, and preparing all petitions for divorce actions. Participation also counts toward the 50-hour pro bono requirement for the New York Bar.
Unemployment Action Center (UAC)

Want to try cases? Want to help real people in real need? Every year, tens of thousands of New Yorkers lose their jobs unexpectedly and sometimes unfairly. For many, unemployment insurance is the only thing keeping their needs met and their families provided for. UAC advocates represent unemployed workers in mini-trials concerning their rights to unemployment benefits. Advocates do everything lawyers do, including interviewing and advising clients, conducting direct and cross-examination of witnesses, and delivering arguments to administrative law judges. Workers represented by UAC advocates prevail in 66% of cases, compared with only 33% for unrepresented workers. UAC’s vital service thus doubles a worker’s chances of obtaining benefits, while also giving students meaningful and worthwhile experience in the art of advocacy.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: The citywide Unemployment Action Center, which distributes available cases among participating schools.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Scheduling is flexible. Advocates may choose cases that fit their schedules and may take as many or as few cases as they wish. Opportunities are available for part-time students, including those with daytime commitments.

TRAINING: Advocates will be ready to represent clients after a short training that includes a mock client interview and mock hearing. Training sessions will be held several times throughout each semester. In addition, experienced advocates are usually available for advice or assistance on cases.

CONTACT: Email UAC — BLS Chapter President Karlos Horn at karlos.horn@brooklaw.edu, UAC — BLS representative Patrick Gallagher at patrick.gallagher@brooklaw.edu, or the Regional UAC representative at UACnyintake@gmail.com for information on upcoming trainings.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in trial and appellate advocacy, labor and employment law, workers’ rights, and direct legal services.
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

VITA is a national program developed by the Internal Revenue Service. BLS works with Food Bank for New York City, who sponsors the program and its training in NYC, to deliver income tax return filing assistance to individuals meeting income cut-off requirements, unlocking critical dollars for these taxpayers through refunds, and applicable deductions and credits.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS Tax Law Association

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Food Bank for New York City

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Scheduling is flexible. Training happens in January or earlier, and volunteers serve one shift per week through mid-April, for about three to four hours per shift. Sites are located in all five boroughs.

TRAINING: In January, students complete a two-part training course to become a certified income tax preparer.

CONTACT: For more information email Raphael.Cola@brooklaw.edu, alanna.phillips@brooklaw.edu or rebecca.friedman910@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in tax law, client contact, economic justice, financial services, and assisting underserved families.