Pro Bono Opportunities | 2014–15

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

—Winston Churchill
Open Letter from Dean Nick Allard

Dear Students,

Brooklyn Law School has a tradition of innovation, and this innovative spirit is clearly evident in the breadth of pro bono projects flourishing here.

I am enthusiastic about the work students are doing in all these projects, and believe in their importance not only because of the positive impact they have on members of the community but also the practical experience students gain through the help they provide.

Finally, I am proud that BLS students have been working to fill the justice gap created by the economy and drastic cuts to legal services organizations since long before the 50-hour pro bono requirement for admission to the New York bar was mandated by New York’s Chief Judge.

I commend the students, law school faculty and staff, and partner organizations that make these projects possible. I look forward to following your accomplishments!

Nick Allard
Joseph Crea Dean and Professor of Law
Support and Training from the Public Service Office

The Public Service Office (PSO) offers guidance, funding, and support to pro bono projects. The PSO promotes awareness of available opportunities, helps students brainstorm new projects and makes sure they are ready before being launched, 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 Pro Bono Fair. The Fair is held once per semester, in September and January. At the Fair, each pro bono project staffs 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 PSO to see which projects are best for you.

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

Pro Bono Resource Center: The PSO is thrilled to introduce the new Pro Bono Resource Center, located on the first floor of 1 Boerum Place, where pro bono students can 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 individuals it serves. In addition, the PSO 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.

Intake and Interview Workshop
Fall Semester—Learn how to effectively communicate and interact with clients to conduct successful interviews when working with pro bono projects.

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

Public Service Boot Camp
Summer 2015—NEW! This year we are introducing a one-week intensive course covering 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 50-hour Pro Bono Requirement

The New York State Court of Appeals recently instituted a pro bono requirement for admission to the New York State Bar. The rule (22 NYCRR 520.16) requires persons seeking admission to the New York State Bar after January 1, 2015 to complete at least 50 hours of legal pro bono work prior to filing an application.

A few of the major features of the rule are as follows:

• The rule affects all applicants who will be admitted to the bar on or after January 1, 2015.

• The requirement is a condition of admission, not of graduating, and is imposed on individual applicants to the bar, not on law schools. Accordingly, you will need to complete the required affidavit (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 to 25 of the FAQ document below.


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

For more information, students can contact the Public Service Office at 718-780-0689 or email publicservice@brooklaw.edu. Additional information is also available on BLS Connect.
Brooklyn Law Alternative Spring Break Trip (BLAST)

BLAST is a great opportunity for BLS students to spend their spring break working at legal services and other nonprofit organizations across the United States. Students work intensively with one another, new colleagues, and new communities to provide much-needed legal assistance for one week. Students interested in participating in BLAST should send application materials to the Public Service Office during the application period. Check In Your Interest for application dates and requirements.

Participating students will be responsible for assisting with the fundraising for and planning of the alternative spring break trips. In 2014, students worked at the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office, Community Justice Project in Miami, Catholic Charities of Atlanta, and Gideon’s Promise in Atlanta.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: TBD for 2015.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Approximately two to three trips will take place over spring break of 2015. Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to engage in direct service client work with a non-profit organization. Fundraising and planning meetings will take place before spring break. In addition, students involved in the project will be expected to contribute to planning and fundraising leading up to the spring break trip.

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

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Audrey Sheetz, audrey.sheetz@brooklaw.edu; Michi Vella, michiye.vella@brooklaw.edu; or Sarah Kahn, sarah.kahn634@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Any full- or part-time student who is looking to gain hands-on legal experience somewhere outside of New York City.
Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO)

Assist volunteer attorneys advising consumers, including victims of identity theft, predatory lenders, and debt collectors. Help consumers through the daunting process of self-representation, learn New York civil procedure, gain experience working with clients, learn consumer law, and gain an understanding of financial justice issues affecting low-income Brooklyn residents.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: CLARO Student Action Group (CLARO/SAG).

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 pm and 6:00–8:00 pm at the Kings County Civil Court at 141 Livingston Street. Students may assist at as many or as few clinics as they like, but will benefit most (as will the clients) after attending four or more clinic sessions and developing familiarity with the issues and civil procedures involved. New participants, including part-time students, are welcome to begin participating year-round.

TRAINING: Because hands-on training has proven to be the best method to learn at CLARO, students are welcomed and encouraged to begin attending sessions as soon as they desire. They will be paired with attorneys who informally guide the law student through the process. In addition, a short, non-mandatory training is held at BLS in the early fall, which is conducted by CLARO attorneys and current law school participants. On-site mentoring and training manuals are available at each clinic for any students who are unable to attend the training or choose to join CLARO throughout the year.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Tamanna Rubya, tamanna.rubya@brooklaw.edu, or Sean Cassidy, sean.cassidy@brooklaw.edu.

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 interests in debtor-creditor law, consumer protection, economic justice, direct services, or civil procedure. Student volunteers also get exposure to legal issues regarding banking and commercial paper.
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 orders of protection and maintain contact with clients 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: Attorneys from Sanctuary for Families and New York Legal Assistance Group supervise volunteer advocates.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: One full day in family court on Mondays through Fridays, as well as an obligation to return to court with the petitioner on his or her return date.

TRAINING: One four-hour intensive training session is accompanied by a training manual. The training is generally offered once during the fall semester at BLS, and additional trainings are offered in the fall and spring semesters at several other New York-area law schools. The training is a prerequisite for participation in the program.

GETTING INVOLVED: Look for notices of the Legal Association for Women or attend a meeting. Alternatively, contact Janeen Hall, janeen.hall@brooklaw.edu, for more information.

OF interest TO: Any full-time or part-time students interested in domestic violence law, wanting client contact and/or court experience, and exposure to NY civil procedure.
CUBE Consultation Center (CCC)

The CUBE Consultation Center (CCC) is a pro bono extension of BLS’s innovative CUBE Clinic. Pro bono students will travel to different neighborhoods to help both new and existing small businesses in need of pro bono assistance. The project will set up consultation centers, staffed by students and attorneys, to provide much-needed pro bono legal resources for small business owners and entrepreneurs. Students will be able to assess the needs of the small business owners and entrepreneurs, provide them with valuable information, and, as needed, refer them to legal representation.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Law Entrepreneurs.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: BLS CUBE Clinic.

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

TRAINING: Students must attend a training at BLS before participating in the project.

GETTING INVOLVED: Email Garynn Noel at garynn.noel@brooklaw.edu; Serenna McCloud, serenna.mccloud@brooklaw.edu; or Vladmir Popik, vladmir.popik@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Full-time or part-time students with interest in business law, entrepreneurship, and community development.
Economic Justice Coalition (EJC)

EJC provides meaningful assistance to low-income New Yorkers in crucial public assistance matters. Students gain experience in representation at administrative hearings while working with clients regarding denial, delay, reduction, or termination of public assistance benefits. They also research and interview, draft written communications, negotiate with city and state agencies, and appear on behalf of clients at hearings before administrative judges.

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:** EJC is administered with The Legal Aid Society and Sanctuary for Families.

**WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN:** Participation slots are periodically available at 14 Boerum Place, the Office of Administrative Hearings at the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. As scheduling permits, student advocates will meet with a supervising attorney and receive direction in assisting and representing a client. The minimum time commitment is one half-day assisting clients. However, further participation allows for direct student advocacy at hearings and taking on a greater level of responsibility in individual client matters.

**TRAINING:** On-site, mandatory benefits advocacy trainings at BLS will be scheduled early in both fall and spring semesters; voluntary advanced and/or topical trainings may be scheduled throughout the term.

**GETTING INVOLVED:** Look for flyers and emails with training dates, or contact Caitlin Russell, caitlin.russell@brooklaw.edu; Marta Mychak, marta.mychak@brooklaw.edu; or Michael Hopkins, michael.hopkins@brooklaw.edu for more information at any time.

**OF INTEREST TO:** Anyone seeking experience in direct services to low-income populations and underserved families. It will be particularly compelling to those interested in public interest advocacy, oral advocacy, administrative law, public benefits law, homeless rights, and housing law. Meet face to face with clients to discuss the city’s adverse action on their public benefits to advise them of how best to make their case to city workers and administrative law judges, how to gather the best evidence to make their case at the fair hearing, and how to advocate for their case at the fair hearing.
Education Law and Policy Society (Ed Law)

Ed Law works to strengthen education opportunities for all students, with particular emphasis on U.S. public education reform. Its aim is 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 will offer members opportunities to assist in litigation, policy research, and service projects, and gain access to education law leaders. Ed Law members have worked with Advocates for Children on the School Monitoring Project, which seeks to gather information regarding school placement issues for special education students in the NYC public schools. Ed Law members can also participate in A Law Student for a Day, a shadowing program where members serve as mentors in sharing the law school experience with high school students interested in pursuing a career in law and education.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Education Law and Policy Society, a stand-alone group.


WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Periodic events throughout the year.

TRAINING: Provided for each pro bono activity sponsored by Ed Law.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Anita Yee, anita.yee@brooklaw.edu or Alexandria Todd, alexandria.todd@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in education law, children’s rights, and policy work.
Elder Law and Guardianship Pro Bono Project (E-L-G)

Elder law is a quickly expanding field concerned with all legal issues related to older adults. People are living longer lives than ever before. As a result, seniors and their families face many long-term planning considerations and decisions on a variety of personal matters. Elder law practice addresses these issues through the use of wills, estate planning, and health care directives; housing, public benefits, mental health, and disability law; and prevention of elder abuse and fraud. ELG provides education, support, and aid to seniors and guardianship petitioners who face these issues from their unique perspectives. Working alongside attorneys as part of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, students will be trained to give presentations about types of guardianships, the guardianship process, and the responsibilities of guardians. Students will assist clients in drafting guardianship petitions. Students will also work with each other and the supervising faculty member in creating a resource book for older adults who have disabilities, which will include publicly available legal documents that outline rights in health care and financial and end-of-life decisions. The resource book will be shared with community centers throughout New York City, including senior centers and healthcare clinics.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: 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 providing assistance with advance medical directives will visit area senior centers with practicing attorneys and will be asked to take part in scheduling senior center presentations. Students working with guardianship petitioners will meet with their clients at the Brooklyn Bar Association at 123 Remsen Street, just a few blocks from BLS.

TRAINING: A two-hour training for each branch of the project will be held in early fall.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Joyce Ma, joyce.ma@brooklaw.edu or Tess Bonoli, tess.bonoli@brooklaw.edu to get involved.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in elder law, disability law, healthcare law, and developing public speaking skills. Students will also gain experience drafting legal documents.
Foreclosure Legal Assistance Group (FLAG)

FLAG is a partnership between BLS students, the BLS Public Service Office, 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, and sharpen essential interpersonal skills through hands-on experience.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Foreclosure Legal Assistance Group.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons (2:00–4:30 pm) at the Kings County Supreme Court Building on the 9th floor. While regular participation is encouraged, we are flexible to accommodate students’ schedules.

TRAINING: Students attend a one-hour training at BLS in the fall.

GETTING INVOLVED: Email FLAG.BLS@gmail.com or visit FLAG’s booth at the 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, and helping members of our community.
Immigrant Visa Assistance Project (IVAP)

Students participating in IVAP assist immigrant victims of crimes with their 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 Safe Horizon and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG).

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Immigrant Visa Assistance Project.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Safe Horizon and NYLAG.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: 15 hours total over the course of the semester, for interviews and writing the affidavit.

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

GETTING INVOLVED: Alyssa Wolfe, alyssa.wolfe@brooklaw.edu; Ginna Barrios Aguero, ginna.barriosaguero@brooklaw.edu; Heather Bristol, heather.bristol@brooklaw.edu; or Lillian Smith, Lillian.smith@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in immigration law and/or serving survivors of domestic violence.

“As a 1L who came to law school right after undergrad, I was eager to gain some real world experience and the IVAP Pro Bono project gave me that opportunity. I was able to work one-on-one with a non-legal victim of domestic violence who was seeking a U-Visa. Throughout my first year I was fortunate enough to take on two cases. In taking my clients through the application process and writing their affidavits, I was able to effect actual change and improvements in their lives. This rewarding and informative experience has reaffirmed my desire to work in the public interest field and has increased my interest in immigration law. I look forward to continued participation in this project!”

—SHELB EY TAMAYO ’16
Immigration Court Observation Project (ICOP)

Participants observe and document proceedings at the 26 Federal Plaza and Varick Street Immigration Courts, gaining insight into immigration procedures while safeguarding due process for respondents. They complete courtroom observation forms, enter data into a web form for analysis, and write reports. Formed in response to the post-9/11 mass immigration roundups, ICOP has since expanded to ensure the fairness of immigration hearings for all respondents. The reports help keep judges and court officers accountable for any abuses or unfairness in the system.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: BLS-ICOP works in collaboration with law students at several NYC schools and under the mantle of the National Lawyers Guild.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Very flexible, at the student’s convenience, any weekday in either the morning or afternoon sessions at either the 26 Federal Plaza or Varick Street courts.

TRAINING: A one-hour training session is required; there are also opportunities for advanced trainings.

GETTING INVOLVED: Watch for notices around school or contact Alexander Hu, alexander.hu@brooklaw.edu or Herberth Melendez, herberth.melendez@brooklaw.edu. General trainings are usually held in September and January.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in gaining a glimpse into immigration law and issues with the immigration system, as well as those dedicated to immigrants’ rights and wanting writing experience.
Kings County Supreme Court Assistance Center for the Unrepresented (ACU)

ACU is an advice-only program through which students can assist litigants in Kings County Supreme Court. Litigants will be referred to ACU by court personnel and library staff. Students will perform intakes, inform the litigants of the scope of the program, and have litigants complete the limited scope agreement. Intakes will be reviewed by the Supervising Attorney. Depending on the nature and complexity of each individual’s questions or issues, some litigants will be referred to law students who will assist the litigant in filling out court forms, finding appropriate resources on Law Help, and/or referring the litigants to other programs where applicable. Litigants with more or less complex issues will be referred to a Law Help self-help terminal or a volunteer attorney. ACU is a great way for students to get hands-on experience conducting intakes and interacting with clients. Students will also learn about the myriad legal questions and issues raised by litigants in Kings County Supreme Court and assist litigants with their court papers and legal research.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Kings County Supreme Court.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: ACU will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Individual students can participate as their schedules permits.

TRAINING: Trainings will be provided before the start of student involvement.

GETTING INVOLVED: Email probono@blspi.org for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Students who wish to get more hands-on direct client experience, help low-income individuals navigate the court system, and learn about the many areas of civil law that affect members of the Brooklyn community.
Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ) – RAP Surveys

LSRJ is a student-led, student-driven national non-profit network of law students and lawyers committed to fostering the next wave of legal experts for the reproductive justice movement. Reproductive justice connotes collective efforts to address and overcome the roots of reproductive oppression, while constructing legally tenable, realistically accessible avenues for informed, consensual, unobstructed decision making about education, sex, contraception, sterilization, abortion, procreation, birth, and parenting.

LSRJ is partnering with the Resilience Advocacy Project (RAP) to work with young women impacted by sex trafficking. Students involved in the LSRJ-RAP Surveys project will travel to shelters and health clinics to distribute surveys, administer surveys, and conduct legal and policy research regarding the health rights of trafficked girls. Students may also administer surveys out of RAP’s office in midtown Manhattan. After compiling the surveys and legal research for the project, participating students will have an opportunity to make policy recommendations to better serve the health needs of sexually trafficked girls.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS chapter of Law Students for Reproductive Justice.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Resilience Advocacy Project, Law Students for Reproductive Justice.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Throughout the semester, student commitment can vary depending on availability. Participation will generally be as follows: distributing surveys at homeless shelters and health clinics (2–3 hours), administering surveys to impacted girls (2–3 hours), conducting legal and policy research around the health rights of trafficked girls (4–8 hours).

TRAINING: Trainings will be held once per semester at BLS, dates TBA—please follow our emails!

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Amanda Shapiro, amanda.shapiro@brooklaw.edu or Claire Gavin, claire.gavin@brooklaw.edu, and watch the LSRJ list-serve.

OF INTEREST TO: Students who are passionate about reproductive rights, reproductive justice, women’s rights, LGBT rights (the project involves anyone who self-identifies as a girl), healthcare accessibility, and working with young people affected by sex trafficking.
Law Students for Veterans’ Rights (LSVR) Veterans Advocacy Project (VAP)

LSVR is devoted to representing and supporting veterans throughout the New York City area. We create awareness and, through our advocacy and pro bono work, we seek to provide American veterans with the basic necessities they have earned, including VA benefits, housing, health care, and income. We also hold fun social events throughout the year! We work in coalition with the Urban Justice Center, Legal Services NYC, and the New York City Bar Association. Opportunities include representing veterans at public benefits fair hearings through the Urban Justice Center in front of administrative law judges, research projects with pro bono attorneys, and assisting attorneys from large law firms at clinics for the New York City Bar Justice Center’s Veterans Assistance Project.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Law Students for Veterans’ Rights.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: New York City Bar Justice Center’s Veterans Assistance Project, Urban Justice Center’s Veterans Advocacy Project, and Legal Services NYC.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students are free to volunteer as much or as little time as they wish! We welcome both full-time and part-time students.

TRAINING: For the Urban Justice Center program, a BLS alum will provide a one- to two-hour training in the fall on representing veterans at fair hearings. For the New York City Bar Justice Center, a short, informal training will be provided at the beginning of any trip to their clinic.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Caitrin Coccoma, caitrin.coccoma@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone who is passionate and enthusiastic about supporting those who have supported us, and wants to be able to provide services to veterans directly. Also, students interested in working with individuals with mental illness and handling public benefits issues will likely find this opportunity invaluable. Students will gain hands-on experience advocating for clients by representing them in administrative hearings.
LGBTQ Brooklyn Legal Assistance Project

The BLS OUTLaws, in partnership with the LeGaL Foundation and the Brooklyn Community Pride Center, provide a pro-bono legal clinic devoted to serving the LGBTQ community of Brooklyn every other Wednesday from 6:00–8:00 pm. The students work alongside practicing volunteer attorneys in order to provide general guidance and legal referrals. Depending on the circumstances of the individual, and in addition to face-to-face consultations, students may also assist the attorneys with long-term planning documents such as wills, living wills, and health care proxies.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: OUTLaws.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: LeGaL Foundation, Brooklyn Community Pride Center.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: The legal clinic is held every other Wednesday from 6:00–8:00 pm. The clinic is located at the new Brooklyn Community Pride Center, located at 4 MetroTech, on Willoughby Street near the intersection at Gold Street (between Metro Drugs and Subway sandwich shop).

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Loren Pani at loren.pani@brooklaw.edu or info@le-gal.org for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in assisting low-income LGBTQ individuals.
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.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS MYLE.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Legal Outreach, a non-profit providing support to low-income junior high and high school students, supervises the debate program.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN:
There are three debates throughout the school year, each requiring six hours of preparation with your student, and three hours to judge each debate. Scheduling meetings with the high school students is flexible. Both full- and part-time students are welcome.

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

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Taylor Dougherty, taylor.dougherty@brooklaw.edu or Steven Michelen, steven.michelen@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in youth, teaching, constitutional law, debate or mentoring.

“Participating in MYLE this year was one of the most positive experiences of my 1L year. Seeing the growth in my student and his determination to improve his skills each debate only pushed me harder to reorganize my schedule for extra meetings or find a more concise way to explain strict scrutiny (something I previously thought impossible). Working with my student only strengthened my own confidence in my knowledge of constitutional law, and having spent a great deal of time coaching someone else on appellate style arguments, I found myself much more confident going into my own Appellate Advocacy Oral Argument tryout this spring. Additionally, the opportunity to work alongside my student’s longtime attorney mentor was a great opportunity to expand my own network and gain advice from someone who has had time to look back on their own law school experience.”

—TAYLOR DOUGHERTY ’16
National Lawyers Guild (NLG) – Legal Observation at Protests

The Legal Observer program is part of the comprehensive legal support coordinated by the NLG to ensure 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 separate from participants at demonstrations and protests. They are trained to witness and document police actions including arrests, any abuses, or civil rights violations, and to provide factual information for evaluation by attorneys. The presence of Legal Observers helps discourage police abuses, 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 rights violations occur.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS National Lawyers Guild.

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 prior to and during elections and protests or street actions.

TRAINING: Held at BLS each semester, date TBA. Contact brooklynnlg@gmail.com with questions.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact the BLS National Lawyers Guild at brooklynnlg@gmail.com.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in progressive politics and First Amendment issues.
In 2012, New Yorkers were stopped by the police 532,911 times. 473,644 were totally innocent (89 percent). 284,229 were black (55 percent). 165,140 were Latino (32 percent). 50,366 were white (10 percent).

The NLG-NYC Street Law Team is a group of law students from various New York City law schools who travel to schools, workplaces, and other locations to present workshops titled, “Know Your Rights: What to Do if You’re Stopped by the Police.” The workshop gives attendees a chance to talk about the police and people’s rights when the police stop or search them. During workshops, law students give practical advice for getting through a police encounter safely and calmly, explain constitutional rights and why they are important, learn to answer tough questions, and lead role-playing exercises of typical encounters with the police.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS National Lawyers Guild.


WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Whenever is convenient for you! To give a Know Your Rights Presentation takes two or more hours, depending on the size of the group. The initial training takes approximately two hours.

TRAINING: Times and locations of trainings at BLS and around NYC TBA.

GETTING INVOLVED: If you are interested in learning more about your rights and joining the Street Law Team, attend a training! Check BLS Connect or attend an NLG meeting to sign up for upcoming trainings. Questions? Contact the BLS National Lawyers Guild at brooklynnlg@gmail.com.

OF INTEREST TO: Students concerned about civil liberties, civil rights, and police practices.
Poll Monitoring Pro Bono Project

Students may participate in poll monitoring and voter protection efforts sponsored by the BLS Democrats or the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. In either project, students will volunteer on Election Day to inspect polling sites for compliance with federal law, specifically related to anti-discrimination, including a polling site’s required language assistance. Students will inspect the sites, speak with voters, maintain a presence, report any voting issues to a central authority, and document any instances of non-compliance and/or discrimination. Placement at a polling site is available throughout New York City and the surrounding area. Participants must attend a training on voter rights and voting regulations conducted prior to Election Day.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS: APALSA, BLS Democrats.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

WHEN, HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Election Day shifts or all day placements.

TRAINING: Trainings will be held prior to Election Day; exact date TBA.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Anita Yee, anita.yee@brooklaw.edu or Jared Lacertosa, jared.lacertosa@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in voter protection, civil rights, political issues.
Resilience Advocacy Project (RAP): Youth LEAP & GO Girls

RAP runs youth leadership programs in partnership with schools and community-based organizations. RAP uses what is learned from this on-the-ground work to advocate for improvements in youth and poverty-related laws, policies, and government systems.

RAP’s Youth Leadership Empowerment and Advocacy Project (Youth LEAP) and GO Girls Project are free, semester- and year-long programs serving low-income high school students from under-resourced schools throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan. The program trains these young people to become “peer advocates” for other teens in their communities, providing legal rights training and basic referrals for critical anti-poverty social services like healthcare and tutors.

Law students teach RAP participants about NYC government, constitutional and poverty law, health and family rights, and advocacy skills in weekly two-hour workshops. Youth LEAPers design and launch a social justice project aimed at solving a real-world problem in their communities. Projects have included community resource centers, meeting with city policy leaders, and conducting youth-rights workshops for other teens. GO Girls projects analyze a health justice problem impacting their peers and work with local policymakers to make the city’s health policies better for vulnerable girls. In addition to leading this work, law students meet with dynamic and engaging lawyers from around the city in the process of showcasing their groups’ work.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Resilience Advocacy Project Youth LEAP & GO Girls.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students may commit to working with RAP for one or two semesters. Time will be spent training teen advocates while building and sustaining a youth-led network of advocacy resource desks in the city’s poorest communities. RAP project sessions are delivered two hours per week.

TRAINING: Law students are prepared by a thorough training at the beginning of the year, and are given ongoing support throughout the year. The trainings culminate in the design and implementation of community-based youth-led advocacy projects—managed by the law students—for the other teens in their partner schools and communities.

GETTING INVOLVED: Sign up for training in the fall. Contact Jill Rudge, jillian.rudge@brooklaw.edu or Alexandria Todd, alexandria.todd@brooklaw.edu or visit www.resiliencelaw.org.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in any of the following: youth, education, family law, benefits and housing, community/empowerment lawyering, social justice, and general public interest.
Street Vendor Pro Bono Project (SVP)

SVP is a partnership between BLS and the Street Vendor Project of the Urban Justice Center, a non-profit organization that advocates for a more equitable environment for vending in New York City. Policy objectives range from lifting the cap on vending permits and licenses to reducing the excessive fines on vending violations. Participants analyze violations against vendors issued by the Department of Health, the Parks Department and the Police Department, and defend the vendors before the Environmental Control Board (ECB). Preparation involves direct interaction with street vendors, site visits, evidence gathering, and analysis of Administrative Code provisions and the Rules of the City of New York. Students will refine their legal research and oral argument skills as they present their defenses before administrative law judges at the ECB.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Environmental Law Society.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Urban Justice Center.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: The Street Vendor Pro Bono Project has general meetings two to three times a semester. Students can volunteer for a minimum of one case per semester; each case takes 5–6 hours to complete. The cases are argued in front of the Administrative Law Judges at the Environmental Control Board located at 66 John Street, New York, New York. Most cases are in the morning, between 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

TRAINING: Mandatory training sessions sometime in early fall.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Jordan Zimolka, jordan.zimolka@brooklaw.edu; Justin Druke, justin.druke@brooklaw.edu; or Nicholas DeLisa, nicholas.delisa@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in community organizing, direct services, and administrative law. Students will learn how to prepare for and conduct a hearing.
Second Chance Project
The Second Chance Project helps parents with a finding of neglect on their records to move forward in their lives. Students will help clients request administrative reviews, request and conduct fair hearings to amend their records with the State Central Registry, and file motions to vacate neglect findings or request suspended judgments so their records do not limit their employment opportunities.

Brooklyn Family Defense Project (BFDP) clients usually have neglect cases filed against them for issues related to poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, or addiction. During the court proceeding, families engage in supportive and rehabilitative services to help them address the challenges they face. These services may include parenting classes, individual or family therapy, or drug treatment. In many cases, parents consent to a finding of neglect because the court process is so long and difficult and they want their cases to be resolved quickly. Especially for clients who work or for young clients who hope to get a GED or go to college, findings of neglect and reports on the State Central Registry can interfere with their work opportunities—even where the reports are unrelated to their employment. Reports of child neglect are entered in New York’s State Central Registry, which is searchable by employers in fields such as child-care, teaching, social work, and nursing.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Family Defense Project.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: 10–12 hours total for letter writing and attending the hearing, plus 2 hours of training.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Patrick Santos, patrick.santos@brooklaw.edu for more information.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in family law, criminal defense, or poverty law, or those wanting to work directly with clients and get experience in court.
Social Enterprise Alliance (SEA)

The Social Enterprise Alliance Pro Bono Project (SEA) is a great opportunity for students interested in innovative ways for businesses to function while supporting a social justice cause. The BLS chapter of SEA will help to expand the greater NYC chapter of SEA. Students involved in the project will have the opportunity to help budding social entrepreneurs start new socially-minded businesses and to research novel legal questions regarding social entrepreneurship. Students may also have the opportunity to prepare and present research at SEA panels and events to educate lawyers, entrepreneurs, and other professionals interested in social-minded business models.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Social Enterprise Alliance, New York Chapter.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Projects will largely be done on students’ own time, and for as much or as little time as they choose.

TRAINING: Trainings will be held at BLS or as needed for individual participants.

GETTING INVOLVED: Email Alyssa Baldassini at alyssa.baldassini@brooklaw.edu or Serenna McCloud at serenna.mccloud@brooklaw.edu, and/or visit www.se-alliance.org.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in social enterprise, social justice, entrepreneurship, and business law.
Student Loan Borrowers Assistance Project

The Student Loan Borrowers Assistance Project partners Brooklyn and Fordham Law students with attorneys from Legal Services NYC to assist low-income individuals with student loan debt. Prospective clients include seniors or individuals with disabilities who incurred student loan debt years ago, those duped by predatory trade schools or online schools who never gained employment in their fields of study, as well as low wage workers and unemployed workers. Those collecting these student loan debts on behalf of the U. S. government often use alarming tactics that violate consumer protection laws. Such tactics often lead to onerous settlements that push borrowers into default.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Legal Services NYC (South Brooklyn Legal Services, Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services, and Legal Services NYC – Brooklyn Branch).

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: A group of 10 students will be trained to work as volunteers. They will work on four to five cases during the fall semester under the supervision of the student coordinators and Legal Services attorneys. It is anticipated that each case will take 3–5 hours, which will likely occur over ten weeks.

TRAINING: Students will receive a two-hour training regarding typical problems their clients may have encountered. These include how to stop a wage garnishment or tax refund intercept, how to have an entire loan forgiven when a person had a disability, and how to bring those with long-neglected loans into “good standing” even when the borrower is destitute.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact Edward Mostoller, edward.mostoller@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Students interested in consumer advocacy and protection, debtor-creditor law, economic justice, and working with low-income clients.
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 ten New York City 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 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.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: BLS Suspension Representation Project.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION: Suspension Representation Project (of NYU Law).

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Each case requires roughly 8–10 hours of time (including preparation and the hearing itself). All suspension hearings are scheduled for 8:30 am on weekdays. Advocates must be available between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm on days they sign up to take a case. Hearings are usually finished by 1:00 pm, but it is possible for them to 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 and spring at BLS as well as other law schools in the consortium.

GETTING INVOLVED: Contact BLS Co-Chairs Justin Druke or Lucas Franken at srpbrooklyn@gmail.com. You can also visit www.suspensionrepresentation.org, or the BLS SRP Facebook page, www.facebook.com/blssrp for more information.

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. A separate training, conducted by an attorney with the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, will enable students to regularly assist clients in self-represented uncontested divorces. 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 ORGANIZATIONS: Sanctuary for Families (SFF) and the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP).

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. Students may choose between working with SFF or the VLP. The SFF pro bono project works exclusively with domestic violence survivors, while the VLP project serves low-income clients. To complete either pro bono project, students need an average of about 10 hours for their 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. Both projects are 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 trainings for both projects take place in the fall at BLS, usually during October (domestic violence awareness month).

GETTING INVOLVED: Email Alana Weber, alana.weber@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Anyone interested in public interest work, family law, helping low-income members of our community, or working with survivors of domestic violence. Students will develop skills in interviewing, direct client contact, and preparing all petitions for divorce actions.
Unemployment Action Center (UAC)

UAC advocates appear in hearings in front of administrative law judges at the New York State Department of Labor on behalf of claimants seeking unemployment benefits. Volunteers handle all aspects of the case: interviewing and advising the client, researching, and representing the claimant at a hearing, including direct and cross-examination and a closing.

ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: Brooklyn Law School Unemployment Action Center.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: The citywide Unemployment Action Center, which distributes available cases among participating schools through its website.

WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN: Students are free to sign up online for hearing times that fit their schedule. Each case takes 5-10 hours, spread out over a week. Many advocates take one or two cases per semester. Opportunities are available for part-time students.

TRAINING: Advocates will be ready to represent clients after a short training offered each semester. A manual that guides new advocates through the interview, preparation, and representation process is provided.

GETTING INVOLVED: Go to a meeting, take the training, get a username and password, and volunteer for clients described on the website. Contact Andrew Goodman, andrew.goodman@brooklaw.edu or Brenden Ross, brenden.ross@brooklaw.edu.

OF INTEREST TO: Those interested in labor and employment law, workers’ rights, direct legal services, due process issues, litigation, and learning to prepare for and handle hearings.
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

VITA volunteers assist low-income taxpayers in filing their income taxes to ensure that they get the tax credits to which they are entitled, avoid predatory tax preparers’ practices, and get prompt refunds and other financial services. In the past, BLS students have provided a critical boost to low-income working families in our neighborhood, putting as much as $300,000 back into the community through this program.

**ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:** BLS Tax Law Association.

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:** Internal Revenue Service & Food Bank for New York City.

**WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN:** From late January to mid-April. Students set their own schedule for volunteering at the nearby Free Tax Assistance site, which is generally open Monday to Thursday (10:00 am–7:00 pm) and Friday to Saturday (9:00 am–5:00 pm). Opportunities are available to part-time students.

**TRAINING:** In January, students are required to pass a two-part training course to become a certified income tax preparer. Part I is the IRS’ online VITA certification program in basic tax law. This is taken independently, according to the student’s schedule. Part II is a one-day classroom training at a nearby location which applies the course material to real tax returns. BLS students will have the opportunity to attend the training together as a group or individually according to their own schedule.

**GETTING INVOLVED:** Join the BLS Tax Law Association or contact Jennifer Collins, jennifer.collins@brooklaw.edu or Yosel Gindoff, yosel.gindoff@brooklaw.edu.

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

Design and develop a training program in conjunction with other Youth Court participants and school administrators from local high schools. Participants attend Youth Court sessions to work with young people in developing advocacy skills and general legal knowledge. BLS Youth Court participants develop mentoring relationships with high school Youth Court participants.

**ON-CAMPUS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:** BLS Youth Court.

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:** Local schools with preexisting school-based Youth Courts.

**WHEN, FOR HOW LONG, AND HOW OFTEN:** Co-teach a class of youth court participants in a local high school for a two-hour time block one day per week. No need to commit to teaching each week, though a continued presence in the project is preferred.

**TRAINING:** Attend a training on campus to become oriented with school-based youth courts and principles of restorative justice, and learn about the different subject areas to be taught. Practice teaching your assigned modules with peers to become comfortable with the subject matter.

**GETTING INVOLVED:** Please contact Robert Rose, robert.rose639@brooklaw.edu; Michael Zebrowski, michael.zebrowski@brooklaw.edu; or Samuel Corman, samuel.corman@brooklaw.edu.

**OF INTEREST TO:** Students interested in: restorative justice, education, working with youth, and juvenile justice.
On-Campus Non-Legal Volunteer Opportunities

Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest (BLSPI)

BLSPI is a student-run, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization at BLS that encourages and enables student participation in public interest and public service legal work. BLSPI provides both legal and non-legal opportunities for engagement at BLS.

BLSPI organizes a number of charity drives throughout the year, often working with other student groups, including: blood drives, canned food drives, clothing drives, Halloween candy drives for children living in domestic violence shelters, and voter registration drives. BLSPI will also organize a number of days of service this coming year.

CONTACT: If interested in joining BLSPI’s email list to learn about ongoing initiatives, please contact info@blspi.org.

Student Bar Association

Race Judicata
(The SBA in partnership with the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice)

Race Judicata is an annual 5K Run/Walk held by law schools and law firms across the nation to benefit causes selected by each sponsoring group. The BLS Race Judicata is held in Prospect Park in the spring as a fundraiser for the High School for Law and Justice. The Race is held in honor of Professor Barry Zaretsky, a bankruptcy and commercial law professor at BLS as well as an avid runner. Last year’s race raised over $5,000. This is a social as well as charitable event. Get your heart pumping, run (or walk) with your friends and the larger BLS community, and benefit a school working hard to bring youngsters previously relegated to very poor schools up to grade level and looking forward to college.

CONTACT: sba@brooklaw.edu.
Off-Campus Opportunities in NYC Metropolitan Area

Supplementing the “on-campus” programs above, thousands of opportunities for involvement with pro bono activities in the New York area are available through the websites and organizations listed below. In addition, the BLS Public Service Office is available both to help with individual placements as well as to help students develop new on-campus pro bono initiatives.

LawHelp/NY

LawHelp/NY, a legal information website for low-income New Yorkers, is seeking volunteers for LiveHelp, an online information and referral service that helps people find free legal services and self-help information to address a civil legal crisis. LiveHelp volunteers take on short weekly shifts in which they chat with visitors to LawHelp/NY’s website and help them navigate New York’s courts, legal service projects, and social services. Volunteers can work from home after an in-depth training. LiveHelp provides a simple and flexible opportunity to help people facing unemployment, eviction, domestic violence, and other crises.

CONTACT: Quisquella Addison, qaddison@nylawhelp.org.

Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

LIFT enhances access to justice for children and families by providing legal information, community education, and compassionate guidance, while promoting system-wide reform of the courts and public agencies. Today, LIFT operates innovative, award-winning programs in the family courts and in the community, all of which share the goal of promoting positive outcomes for families and children.

Ways To Volunteer With LIFT:

ANSWER QUESTIONS ON LIFT’S HOTLINES
LIFT seeks volunteers to answer questions on the organization’s telephone and email hotlines. Volunteers will be trained in one particular area of family law to develop an expertise and be able to answer questions on that topic.

Where: LIFT’s Central Office, 350 Broadway, Suite 501, or answer Email Hotline questions from your home or office.

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am–5:00 pm.

Minimum Time Commitment: Two hours per week.
HELP FAMILIES NAVIGATE THE NYC FAMILY COURTS
Work side-by-side with LIFT staff at their Family Court-based sites to answer questions and address concerns regarding court procedure and family law matters, and hand out our Legal Resource Guides.

**Where:** Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, or Queens Family Courthouses.
**Hours of Operation:** 9:00 am–5:00 pm.
**Minimum Time Commitment:** 6 hours per month.

Resolution Assistance Program (RAP)

RAP trains students to assist unrepresented tenants and owners/landlords who are appearing in the Resolution Part of Housing Court as parties to nonpayment proceedings, cases in which landlords sue tenants to collect rent. The goal of RAP is to help litigants who do not have an attorney have a productive court experience through non-legal support. Participating students work in the courtroom under the supervision of a RAP Coordinator. They have the opportunity to interact with judges, lawyers, and litigants, gaining real world experience. Whatever a student’s goal is in volunteering—helping people in need, making new contacts, learning more about representing a client in court, or developing self-esteem—RAP sets the stage! Learn more at nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/housing/rap_prospective.shtml.

**CONTACT:** Yacine Barry, Esq., Special Counsel to Hon. Fern A. Fisher, Housing Court Initiatives, at 646-386-5146 or RAP@courts.state.ny.us.

Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice

Since its founding in 2004, the Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice (SLJ) has been proud to partner with BLS to fulfill its mission of engaging the city’s highest need public high school students through legal studies and debate. As part of a challenging and exciting four-year sequence, students learn about and experiment with law in their own school, law in their city, state, and country, and law around the world and throughout history.

**Ways to Volunteer at SLJ:**

**College Personal Statement Coaching** – The college office would like a weekly volunteer to assist students with writing and revising personal statements for their college applications.

**Moot Court Week** – In the spring, SLJ invites volunteers to act as Supreme Court Justices during Moot Court Week. Your role as a Supreme Court Justice, and as an
official evaluator of student work, will be to hear arguments, ask questions that challenge students to cite precedent and invoke their research, uphold or overturn the decision of the lower court, and offer students feedback on their performances.

**Student Portfolio Roundtables** – As a guest evaluator, volunteers sit with a small group of students as each narrates his or her portfolio, walking you through a year of challenges and triumphs. Your brief written feedback will help teachers award each student a final grade.

**Gay-Straight Alliance Mentoring** – Approximately twice per year, SLJ and BLS’ OUTLaws student organization organize meetings and other outings to support LGBTQ and allied high school students who struggle with a range of issues: coming out to their parents, bullying in and out of school, finding community support, as well as general high school student concerns.

**CONTACT**: For Gay-Straight Alliance Mentoring, contact OUTLaws at bklynoutlaws@gmail.com. For all other opportunities, contact publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

### Online Resources for Off-Campus Projects

- **AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S CENTER FOR PRO BONO**
  [www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/home.html)

- **THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY’S PRO BONO PROGRAM**

- **VOLUNTEERS OF LEGAL SERVICE (VOLS)**
  [www.volsprobono.org](http://www.volsprobono.org)

- **IDEALIST**
  [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)

- **PSJD (FORMERLY PSLAWNET)**
  [www.psjd.org](http://www.psjd.org)

**For more information:**

- **ABA’S RULES FOR ATTORNEYS REGARDING PRO BONO, RULE 6.1**
  [www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/rule61.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/rule61.html)

- **GUIDELINES FOR LAW SCHOOLS ON PRO BONO PROGRAMS**
  [www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/lawschools/introduction.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/lawschools/introduction.html)
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