

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

In Your Interest

Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Newsletter

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WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS, STAFF & FACULTY!

It was nice to meet so many of you and start the semester off right at the Public Service Law Center's annual Service Day! Take a look at more photos on the next page.

Want to stay involved in the PSLC community during the school year? Check out our Fall 2025 programs (more info on [page 4](#)) and the ~20 Pro Bono Projects ([brochure here](#)).

**You can find us in person
Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm
all year in the PSLC
(ground floor, near library elevators).
Email us to schedule a meeting:
publicservice@brooklaw.edu**

SERVICE DAY 2025!

On our most successful Service Day ever, over 225 members of Brooklyn Law School community signed up to volunteer across 10 Brooklyn and NYC locations. Partnering with local nonprofits, students helped care for green spaces, address food insecurity, and support organizations to strengthen their community. Shoutout to everyone involved for an amazing Service Day!



Find more pictures from Service Day [here](#)!

Meet the Public Service Law Center Team!

Amy Hsieh is the Executive Director of the Public Service Law Center. As a BLS alumna ('11), attorney, advocate, and non-profit professional, she has devoted her career to several public service law and policy issues, including anti-trafficking, immigration legal remedies for survivors of gender-based violence, health and human rights. Amy was formerly the Deputy Director of the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Sanctuary for Families, where her work focused on the legal needs of survivors of human trafficking. Amy has also worked as an independent consultant focused on advocating for the rights of women and men living with HIV, and building organizational capacity to advance intersectional social, gender and racial justice.



Amy was a Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow who worked with the International Community of Women Living with HIV and the American Bar Association's AIDS Coordination Project. Amy holds a M.P.A. from NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service (with a focus on international health policy and management) and a B.A. in East Asian Studies from the Barnard College, Columbia University.



Marisa Gold is the Associate Director of Community Engagement at the Public Service Law Center. She joined the PSLC from Sanctuary for Families, where she was a Senior Staff Attorney at the Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP). At Sanctuary, Marisa represented survivors of domestic violence in family law, matrimonial and order of protection matters. Marisa previously worked as a Senior Staff Attorney at Casa Myrna in Boston, MA, where she coordinated a medical-legal partnership with two Boston-area hospitals that provided comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence.

Marisa began her legal career as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at Lawyers for Children, where her project focused on the representation of children and youth who were survivors of sexual abuse and sex trafficking. Marisa has a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, an M.S.Ed. from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and an A.B. in Government from Harvard University.

Madison Seda is the Program Coordinator at the Public Service Law Center. She previously worked at NYU Silver School of Social Work for NYC Communities for Health, a program dedicated to addressing historical health injustices in the Bronx community. She assisted in program outreach, working across the Bronx, providing overdose prevention trainings, harm reduction materials, and referrals to social services. Madison graduated this past May from New York University with a B.A. in Political Science.





Fall 2025 Public Service Law Center Programs

More programs may be added! Dates and locations are subject to change!

Becoming a Public Defender Alumni Panel (for 2Ls/3Ls) | Wednesday, September 3,
12:30-1:30 pm, Student Lounge

Preparing for Public Defender Interviews Workshop (for 2Ls/3Ls) | Thursday,
September 4, 12:45-1:45 pm, Room 602

Career Development Center and Public Service Law Center 2L Welcome Back Breakfast |
Tuesday, September 9, 8:30-10:30am, Career Development Center and Public Service Law
Center Suite

Public Service 1L Welcome & Timeline | Tuesday, September 9, 12:45-1:45 pm,
Student Lounge

Public Service 2L/3L Career Planning & Timeline | Tuesday, September 16, 12:45-1:45 pm,
Student Lounge

CDC/PSLC Career Fair (for 2Ls/3Ls) | Thursday, September 18, 5-7 pm, Dining Hall

Client Intake & Interviewing Workshop (with Professor Saskia Valencia) | Friday,
September 19, 10 am-12 pm, Room 401

Public Interest Networking 101 (Drop-In Session) | Tuesday, September 30, 4:00-5:00 pm,
Student Lounge

Public Interest Networking Reception | Tuesday, September 30, 5:30-7:00 pm,
RSVP Required (see [page 10](#)), Cardozo Law School (55 5th Avenue, New York, NY)

Sparer Fellowship Information Sessions | Monday, October 6, 12-1:30 pm and 5-6 pm,
Student Lounge

New York State Defender Association Panel: Justice in Action | Tuesday, October 7,
5:30-7:30 pm, Subotnick

Public Service Summer Internship Application Workshop | October TBA

Drop-In New York Pro Bono Requirement Q&A | October TBA

Intro to Careers in Criminal Justice (for 1Ls) | October TBA

Tenants' Rights in NYC and NYS | Wednesday, November 12, Time and Location TBA

PUBLIC SERVICE PLANNING TIMELINE EVENTS

PUBLIC SERVICE 1L WELCOME & TIMELINE

Calling all 1Ls: The Public Service Law Center welcomes you to BLS! Come for lunch and a timeline of what to expect this year and beyond.

TUESDAY, ✨
SEPTEMBER 9,
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM
STUDENT LOUNGE

✨ TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16,
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM
STUDENT LOUNGE

PUBLIC SERVICE 2L/3L CAREER PLANNING & TIMELINE

Get advice about your 2L and 3L years, particularly critical for students who intend to work in the government or nonprofit sectors after graduation!

Learn tips and strategies for the job search process, including sending the best resume, cover letter, and fellowship project proposal. Learn about postgrad career opportunities, deadlines, and application processes.

INTERVIEWING WITH A PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE?

BECOMING A PUBLIC DEFENDER ALUMNI PANEL

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, STUDENT LOUNGE**

Hear from recent alums who are practicing public defenders in NYC about their paths to their current careers and get tips for the interview process.

PREPARING FOR A PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERVIEW WORKSHOP

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM, ROOM 602**

Participate in a practical, hands on workshop led by a former Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice attorney to go over how to prepare for the hypothetical and mock argument portions of public defender interviews.



Sponsored by the Public Service Law Center

Client Intake & Interviewing Workshop



With Professor Saskia Valencia

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, ROOM 401

Pro Bono Project participants and interested students will learn about client intake and interviewing procedures, etiquette, and ethics. This session is open to all interested students and is **required for first-time pro bono project participants.**

RSVP by September 15, 2025 to
publicservice@brooklaw.edu

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

TAXI WORKER DEFENSE COLLECTIVE

**JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT
ADVOCATING FOR AND
REPRESENTING
RIDE-SHARE DRIVERS**



**PRO
BONO
PROJECT**

September 10 | Room 602 | 12:00 PM

GENERAL BODY MEETING

email hector.giuria@brooklaw.edu with any questions
pizza lunch

PAROLE ADVOCACY

Parole Advocacy partners student volunteers with people incarcerated across New York State as they prepare to go before the parole board. Volunteers support applicants in preparing for parole interviews, preparing a packet to provide to the parole board, and in getting access to resources while they are incarcerated and if they are granted release.

Applications Due

September 17, 2025

Interview to follow starting

September 18, 2025



**Scan for
Application**

Contact Us!

ParoleAdvocacy@brooklaw.edu

SEPTEMBER 30

5:30 - 7:00 PM



PUBLIC INTEREST NETWORKING RECEPTION

Meet lawyers from non-profit organizations, government agencies, and private public interest law firms in a conversational setting! All students are invited, especially 1Ls!

Learn about public sector employers & opportunities and receive advice & information!

~business casual attire recommended~

~no resumes needed or allowed~

55 5th Avenue at the NE corner of 5th Ave. & 12th St.

hosted by Cardozo Law School in collaboration with NYC Metro Area law schools

Registration by 9/25 required here: bit.ly/pinr2025 or scan:





Legal Hand is a community-based volunteer organization.

At Legal Hand, our highly trained community volunteers, who are not lawyers, provide free legal information, assistance, and referrals to help people in need resolve issues that affect their lives in areas like housing, family, immigration, domestic violence, public benefits, and more.

Legal Hand works toward resolving issues
before they turn into legal actions.

In its first five years, Legal Hand helped over 25,000 people.



Why Become a Legal Hand Call-In Center Volunteer?

Neighbors helping Neighbors

- Become knowledgeable about local resources that are available across a range of issues.
- Flexible commitment/volunteer from home.
- Earn eligible pro bono hours.
- Experience the reward of helping others.

For more information, contact Kate Caudill, Center Manager at KCaudill@Legalhand.org or visit LEGALHAND.ORG/BROWNSVILLE.

Email the **Health Law & Policy Association**, a BLS student organization, at HLP@brooklaw.edu to volunteer collectively at Legal Hand.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

NEW YORK COUNTY (MANHATTAN) DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Apply [directly online for postgrad jobs here](#) (deadline October 1, 2025) and [summer internships here](#) (for 2Ls) by November 1, 2025.



THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF NYC

Applications for postgrad jobs in the Civil, Juvenile and Criminal Practices are OPEN and will close on December 1, 2025 at 3:00 pm. Summer 2026 internship applications for 2Ls open September 5, 2025 and close on February 6, 2026. Offers are made on a rolling basis, so early application submissions are encouraged.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CORPS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

Each year IJC awards Justice Fellowships to recent law graduates from around the country – individuals with tremendous talent, promise, and a demonstrated commitment to providing legal services for low-income people and immigrants.

IJC trains Justice Fellows to become experts in immigration law and pairs them with leading non-profit legal services providers and community-based organizations. IJC matches selected Fellows with partnering host organizations based on the applicant's experience and interest, gaps in services within the community, location interests, and partnering host organizations' needs.

IJC webinars about the Justice Fellowship:

- Justice Fellowship Information Session: September 24, 2025 4 PM EST: [Link to Register.](#)
- Justice Fellowship Application Process Webinar: Oct 1, 2025 4 PM EST: [Link to Register.](#)

The Public Service Law Center is available to help you with your application!. If you are thinking of applying please contact the PSLC at publicservice@brooklaw.edu to set up a meeting.

**Applications are due on Sunday,
October 19, 2025 at 11:59 pm.**

IN-PERSON

Law Student Welcome Reception

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NEW YORK
CITY BAR



REGISTER TODAY

Whether you are in your first, second or third year of law school, or an LL.M. student, we invite you to learn about exciting opportunities and programs offered by the City's leading bar association.

At this event, you will have the opportunity to network with fellow law students and attorneys, who are active City Bar Committee members. There will be short tours of the historic building to learn more about the City Bar and drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Expand your network with the best legal minds in New York City – it's never too early to get ahead!

Come join us at the 2025 Law Student Welcome Reception! We invite you for an exciting evening to connect, converse, and mentor with aspiring law students from across the city.

What to Expect:

- Network with law students beginning their careers
- Share your experience in the field
- Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere

Come connect with the best young legal minds in New York City!

[Learn more and register here.](#)

What is the NYS Pro Bono Requirement?

The New York Court of Appeals (22 NYCRR 520.16) requires that people seeking admission to the New York State Bar have completed 50 hours of pro bono legal work. Students are strongly advised to complete these hours while in law school, as it can be difficult to find opportunities after you graduate--especially if you are working full-time.

The rule requires each applicant to perform "At least 50 hours of law-related pro bono work." Work performed for credit, stipend, or even a salary may count if it meets all of the other requirements for qualifying work. For more information about qualifying work, see the courts' [FAQ document](#).

HOW DO BLS STUDENTS SATISFY THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT?

BLS students can satisfy the pro bono requirement in several ways, including many (not all) of our [pro bono projects](#), BLS clinics, many internships/externships, and the [Pro Bono Scholars Program](#).

You can receive credit for the hours.

Even pro bono work for which you are paid a salary can count.

HOW DO I DOCUMENT THAT I HAVE COMPLETED THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT?

You must complete the [required affidavit](#) as part of your application materials for the New York bar. You do not need to submit this affidavit or any other documentation of pro bono work to BLS for purposes of bar admission.

The requirement is a condition of bar admission, not law school graduation, and is imposed on individual applicants to the bar, not by or on law schools.

I'M NOT SURE IF I'VE SATISFIED THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT. HOW CAN I FIGURE THAT OUT?

Check the [courts' FAQ](#) to determine if you've fulfilled the requirement. However, ultimately only the NYS courts can determine for sure whether something counts, and we can only advise you based on other students' experience. There is an email on the FAQ that you can consult with questions.

READ MORE ABOUT THE NYS PRO BONO REQUIREMENT ON OUR BLS CONNECT PAGE [HERE](#). OR EMAIL PUBLICSERVICE@BROOKLAW.EDU WITH QUESTIONS!

EXAMS FOR NEW YORK STATE BAR ADMISSION (FOR 2LS/3LS)

If you plan to practice law in New York, you will need to take **three tests**: the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE), New York Law Exam (NYLE), and Uniform Bar Exam (UBE).

1. Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)

The MPRE is a multiple-choice exam typically administered three times each year. **You should take the MPRE during your 2L or 3L year.**

2. New York Law Exam (NYLE)

The NYLE is administered online (but not on demand). It is typically offered three times each year. **You should take the NYLE during your 3L year.*****

****You may not register for the NYLE until you have completed the **New York Law Course (NYLC)**. The NYLC is an online, on-demand course on New York law.*

3. Uniform Bar Examination

The UBE is what people mean when they refer to "the bar exam" in NY. It is typically administered twice a year (February and July) . **You can only take the UBE after graduation (except for Pro Bono Scholars)**. The UBE is now accepted in several states.

NYLE & UBE FAQ:

<https://www.nybarexam.org/UBE/UBE.html>

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD PRO BONO LOG

**250-499
HOURS**



**PUBLIC SERVICE
AWARD**

**500-999
HOURS**



**SILVER
AWARD**

**1000+
HOURS**



GOLD AWARD

REMINDER: Log your pro bono hours here!

WHAT CAN I LOG?

Hours worked during law school in internships at government agencies (NOT judges) or nonprofit organizations, all work for BLS pro bono projects, work in BLS clinics.

WHY SHOULD I LOG?

You will receive a BLS Public Service Award. Graduating students receive awards based on the hours they log.

The Public Service Awards are presented to graduating students at a ceremony each spring. An award is a great addition to your resume to show your commitment to public service!

***** The BLS Pro Bono Log has no relation to the New York State bar pro bono requirement. For info on the NYS requirement, visit the Public Service Law Center's [BLSConnect page](#)!**

WORKED AT A NON-PROFIT OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY THIS SUMMER?

Submit an employee evaluation [here!](#)

QUESTIONS?

Need help or advice on jobs, internships,
fellowships, resumes/cover letters, interviewing,
or pro bono?

Make an appointment with us!

Public Service Law Center
Monday-Thursday, 9 am-5 pm (in person)
Friday, 9 am-5 pm (zoom)
publicservice@brooklaw.edu

**[Check out all our resources on BLS
Connect!](#)**

