

PRIZES AND AWARDS MAY 2025

FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE	Brooklyn Law School offers a prize to the member of the graduating class who has attained the highest average in examinations and general excellence of scholarship. Elizabeth Gemdjian
SECOND SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE	Brooklyn Law School offers a prize to the member of the graduating class who has attained the second highest average in examinations and general excellence of scholarship. Anika Austin
FACULTY PRIZE	The faculty awards a special prize, from time to time, to recognize a student whose exceptional academic record while in law school evidences great potential for future-scholarly and professional achievement. Elizabeth Gemdjian
DONALD W. MATHESON MEMORIAL PRIZE	The late George W. Matheson, Class of 1917, established an annual prize in memory of his brother, Donald W. Matheson, Class of 1914. This prize is conferred upon the member of the graduating class who in character, scholarship, and attainment, evinces the highest degree of legal capacity. Anika Austin
ARTHUR GLUCKMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE	A prize has been established by the classmates of Arthur Gluckman, Class of 1982, whose untimely and tragic death cut short his promising legal career. The award is given to the graduating senior who, in the judgment of the faculty, most exemplifies Arthur's qualities of honor, brilliance, integrity, and concern for people. Sinbay Tan
STANLEY W. NATHANSON PRIZE	Offered in memory of Stanley W. Nathanson, Class of 1962, to the member of the graduating class selected on the basis of special proficiency in the study of law, personality, and traits of character which warrant the belief that he or she will bring honor and credit to the legal profession. Nicholas Biblis
WILLIAM PAYSON RICHARDSON MEMORIAL PRIZE	This award is given, under the terms of the will of the late Mrs. William Payson Richardson, to an outstanding student chosen by the faculty of the Law School. Keara Schmeiser
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL PRIZE	This prize honors the memory of Edward Byrne, a member of the New York City Police Department slain in the performance of his duties. Edward Byrne was the son of Matthew Byrne, Class of 1969. It is awarded to the graduating student who has demonstrated academic excellence in the area of criminal procedure and who, in the judgment of the faculty, exemplifies high moral character and personal integrity. Michael Sherman
EDWARD THOMAS CHRISTENSON, JR. MEMORIAL PRIZE	A prize has been established by classmates and colleagues of Edward Christenson, Class of 1987, whose promising and bright legal career was tragically ended by his untimely death. The prize is awarded to the graduating student who exemplifies Eddie's dedication and commitment to legal scholarship and public service by accepting, as did he, a judicial clerkship. Angela Chang
JUDGE I. LEO GLASSER PRIZE	A prize in honor of Federal District Judge I. Leo Glasser, Class of 1948, former professor and Dean of the Law School, is awarded to the members of the graduating class who have evinced a strong commitment to public interest law. Saul Amezcua, Stephanie Argueta, Sydney Oliver
EVELYN REID MEMORIAL PRIZE	A prize in memory of Evelyn Reid by Barbara Gluck Reid, Class of 1989, and Ira A. Reid, Class of 1987. Evelyn Reid lived in peace and faced death with a grace and courage that inspired all who knew her. The prize is awarded to the graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty and administration, has demonstrated courage and fortitude in overcoming unusual adversity and hardship in the pursuit of a law school degree. Veronica Galek

SAMUEL P. AND ELLEN SPORN AWARD	<p>Established on the occasion of his 50th Law School Class Reunion by Samuel Sporn, Class of 1953, and his wife Ellen Sporn, to be awarded to a graduate, who has helped Brooklyn Law School during his or her tenure as a student, to assist the student with the repayment of loans.</p> <p>Shinelle Simms</p>
ACADEMIC PROGRESS PRIZE	<p>The faculty offers a prize to the member of the graduating class who has made the most substantial academic progress during his or her law studies.</p> <p>Warren Sochner</p>
GWEN J. GREENBERG PRIZE	<p>The Alumni Association established this prize in honor of Gwen Joy Greenberg, the Director of Alumni Relations from 2000 until her untimely death in a tragic accident in 2003. It honors the student who exemplifies Gwen's qualities of commitment to the Law School and loyalty to its alumni.</p> <p>Erica Levy</p>
LEONARD TAUBENBLATT AWARD FOR ETHICS	<p>An award established by Ellen Taubenblatt Harmon and Mark A. Harmon, Classes of 1979 and 1978, daughter and son-in-law of Leonard Taubenblatt, Class of 1950, to honor a member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the faculty, has demonstrated exemplary standards of ethics and integrity.</p> <p>Isabella Neihardt</p>
PROFESSOR JOHN A. RONAYNE MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize established by colleagues and friends in memory of Professor John A. Ronayne, a kind, loyal, and dedicated member of the Brooklyn Law School community. It is awarded to students who, while in law school, demonstrated a strong commitment to public service and who have expressed a desire to continue that commitment upon graduation.</p> <p>Caroline Cohen, Emily Rieger, Eva Ackerman</p>
BOGARD FAMILY AWARD	<p>For a graduating student from the 4-year part-time JD program, who has achieved academic excellence while also fulfilling significant and substantial work and/or life commitments.</p> <p>Catherine Fraser</p>
ROBERT STENGEL AWARD	<p>This award will be used to provide financial support to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence and an interest in and understanding of Civil Procedure. It is awarded to a student who exhibits qualities of curiosity, humility, and steadfastness, which are essential for success in the legal profession, in addition to having prior work experience before entering law school.</p> <p>Elizabeth Gemdjian</p>
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRIZE	<p>A prize is offered to the students who, by extracurricular activities, have contributed most to the betterment of student relations.</p> <p>Alexis Raskin</p>
CAROLE MEHLMAN GOULD PRIZE	<p>A prize has been established by an alumna of the Law School to honor a graduating student who, in the judgment of the faculty, has made the greatest contributions to women's rights while in law school.</p> <p>Gittel Fekete</p>
PROFESSOR NANCY H. FINK FAMILY LAW AWARD	<p>This award, created by the faculty on the occasion of the retirement of Professor Nancy H. Fink, Class of 1970, is awarded to the student who has demonstrated commitment to legal issues related to the family, academic excellence, a high degree of personal integrity, and dedication to the best values of the legal profession.</p> <p>Laine Cohen, Mengfei Leng</p>

REGINA CREA MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize has been established by the Law School faculty and administration, in memory of the beloved wife of Professor Joseph Crea, to be awarded to members of the graduating class who, in the judgment of the faculty, have rendered the most devoted and selfless service to the Law School during their school career.</p> <p>Gabrielle Avellaneda</p>
SYLVIA ZUCKER BERNSTEIN PRIZE	<p>Established by Professor Anita Bernstein in honor of her mother, Class of 1949, this prize recognizes a graduating student who has enhanced the education of her or his peers while enrolled in Brooklyn Law School.</p> <p>Mikko Biana</p>
ALEXANDER AND EMILY MEHR MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>This is a prize established in memory of a student, Alexander Mehr, Class of 1970, to be given to the members of the graduating class who have been chosen as the outstanding student advocates in law school Moot Court competitions.</p> <p>Jade Polanco, Krista Doherty, Maxwell Russ, Taylor Faulds</p>
AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN BANKRUPTCY STUDIES	<p>This medal is awarded to a graduating student selected for having demonstrated excellence in the study of bankruptcy.</p> <p>Angela Chang</p>
AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY LAW JOURNAL STUDENT PRIZE	<p>This prize is awarded by the American Bankruptcy Law Journal to the graduating students who have earned the highest grade in a bankruptcy course.</p> <p>Sophie Abrams</p>
MEYER BERNSTEIN MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize in memory of Professor Meyer Bernstein is awarded by his family to the members of the graduating class who achieve the highest grade in the course in Federal Taxation.</p> <p>Anika Austin, Carolyn Wang, Joelle Vilinsky, Zachary Keirn</p>
EDITH C. BLUM FOUNDATION PRIZE	<p>A prize has been established by this foundation to honor the graduating student who has shown exceptional achievement in the area of taxation.</p> <p>Riya Dhali</p>
RICHARD ELLIOTT BLYN MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>Kathy, Hilda and Arthur Blyn have established a prize in memory of Richard Elliott Blyn, to be awarded to a member of the graduating class who has achieved the highest grade in the course in Civil Liberties.</p> <p>Elizabeth Gemdjian, Olivia Hayes, Talia Land</p>
GREENFIELD, EISENBERG, STEIN AND SENIOR LAW FIRM PRIZE	<p>This prize was established by a distinguished trusts and estates firm, many of whose members are alumni of the Law School. It is awarded to the students who achieve the highest grade in the course in Trusts and Estates.</p> <p>Denna Fraley, Keara Schmeiser, Zachary Keirn</p>
DONALD D. GREENSTEIN PRIZE	<p>A prize has been established in memory of Donald D. Greenstein, Class of 1957, by his wife, Ruth M. Greenstein, and his children, Marci E. Greenstein, Esq., Janet Riger, and Brian Greenstein, to be awarded to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated excellence in the field of employee pension or labor law.</p> <p>Michaella Rudsky, Rachel Blumenstrauch</p>
PHILIP HOFFER PRIZE	<p>A prize established by Philip Hoffer, Class of 1933, is given to the members of the graduating class who achieve excellence in Torts.</p> <p>Mark Anderson, Joshua Dana, Julien Darses</p>
ROSE L. HOFFER PRIZE	<p>A prize established by Rose L. Hoffer, Class of 1954, is given to the members of the graduating class who achieve excellence in Torts.</p> <p>Gittel Fekete, Catherine Fraser, Michael Sherman</p>

PROFESSOR SAMUEL HOFFMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>This prize, established in memory of Professor Samuel Hoffman, Class of 1948, by his family, friends, and colleagues, is awarded to the students who have achieved excellence in the study of corporate law. Professor Hoffman was a distinguished scholar and dedicated teacher who educated generations of Brooklyn Law School students. During his career, he played a central role in drafting both New York's Estates Powers and Trusts Law and the Business Corporation Law.</p> <p>Emily Dulberg, Jason Arnold, Johanna Silva</p>
PROFESSOR ROBERTA S. KARMEL PRIZE	<p>A prize established in honor of Professor Roberta S. Karmel by her husband, David Harrison, to be awarded to the students achieving the highest grade in the course in Securities Regulation.</p> <p>Gregory Wagner</p>
JUDGE BARRY HUROWITZ MEMORIAL AWARD	<p>This award was established as a memorial to Judge Barry Hurowitz by his family, friends, and the legal community. During his eighteen years on the bench, thirteen of which were served as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, many Brooklyn Law School students interned in his chambers in conjunction with their clinical law studies. Judge Hurowitz stressed to his interns the importance of professionalism, morality, personal commitment and integrity in the practice of law and in life. He took a personal interest in their progress and proudly followed their professional achievements over the years. This award recognizes the outstanding overall performance by a judicial intern in the Supreme Court of the State of New York.</p> <p>Carly Hecht</p>
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW PRIZE	<p>A prize established to be awarded to the student who has achieved overall excellence in the study of international economic law.</p> <p>Nicholas Biblis</p>
JUDGE KENNETH B. KEATING MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>This prize was established by two of his former law clerks in memory of Judge Kenneth B. Keating, whose life was devoted to public service. During his tenure as an Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, he made a major contribution to the development of conflict of laws jurisprudence, and this prize is awarded to the member of the graduating class whose exceptional achievements in that field warrants recognition.</p> <p>Samuel Axelrod</p>
SAMUEL KIRSCHENBAUM PRIZE	<p>A prize is given in honor of Samuel Kirschenbaum, Class of 1942, by his son, Kenneth, Class of 1974, to members of the graduating class who achieve the highest grade in the course in Real Estate Practice.</p> <p>Gregory Wagner, Ryan Martin, Charles Seruya, Isaac Burke, Alessanda Antuzzi</p>
ROBERT LEWIS PRIZE	<p>This prize has been established by a devoted alumnus, Robert Lewis, Class of 1950, a distinguished labor law practitioner, to be awarded to the members of the graduating class who have achieved excellence in a course in Labor Law.</p> <p>Joseph Anid</p>
MAX M. LOME MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize has been established in memory of Max M. Lome, Class of 1923, to the student who has obtained the highest grade in the course in Urban Law.</p> <p>Henry Scott Hale</p>
ROBERT A. MORSE MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>This prize was established in memory of Robert A. Morse, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York from 1971 to 1973, a devoted public servant and friend of Brooklyn Law School. It is awarded to the graduating students with the highest grade in the course in Criminal Procedure I.</p> <p>Evan Glatt, Harrison Busalacchi, Joshua Dana, Keara Schmeiser, Rachel Roberts</p>
CHARLES AND JANE ORTNER PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ENTERTAINMENT LAW	<p>This prize, established in honor of Charles B. Ortner, Class of 1971, and his wife Jane, by friends and colleagues as a tribute to Mr. Ortner's accomplishments and distinguished career in entertainment law, is awarded to graduating students for exceptional achievements and contributions in the field of entertainment law.</p> <p>Alexandra Koutelos, Madison Huberman</p>

STEPHEN JAY PENZICK MEMORIAL AWARD	<p>An award established by the family of Stephen Jay Penzick, Class of 1971, is offered to the graduating students who achieve the highest grade in the course in Administrative Law.</p> <p>John Godoshian, Joshua Hill, Heather Herndon, Taylor Faulds</p>
MARTIN R. PRESS PRIZE	<p>A prize established in honor of Martin R. Press, Class of 1973, by Kenneth Kirschenbaum, Class of 1974, in recognition of Mr. Press' outstanding work in the field of taxation, and both of their dedication to the practice of law and Brooklyn Law School, to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in the field of taxation.</p> <p>Evan Sponder</p>
DEAN JEROME PRINCE PRIZE	<p>A prize, established by the late Dean Emeritus Jerome Prince, to be given to the members of the graduating class who achieve the highest grade in the course in Evidence.</p> <p>Natalie Grasso, Dianna Pena, Leo Doctorman, James Ng, Jenna Marino, Johanna Silva, Joshua Dana</p>
JEFFREY E. ROCKWELL MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize, established by the faculty and staff of Brooklyn Law School, in memory of Professor Jeffrey E. Rockwell, whose promising career as a teacher was tragically ended by his untimely death. It is given to the student who has achieved the highest grade in the course in International Law.</p> <p>Harrison V. Busalachi, Morgan Woodbridge</p>
SAMUEL W. ROVER AND LEWIS ROVER AWARD	<p>A prize is awarded to the graduating student who in scholarship and proficiency achieves the greatest scholastic distinction in a course relating to Medicine and the Law.</p> <p>Noah Martz</p>
PHYLLIS MEHLER SEAVEY AND ROBERT W. SEAVEY SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE	<p>A prize established by Phyllis Mehler Seavey and Robert W. Seavey, both of the Class of 1952, to be awarded to a graduating student who has attained the highest grade average in the Land Finance course, if offered, during the previous year, and if the Land Finance course has not been offered during the previous year, then to a graduating student who has the highest average in the Urban Law courses provided that they have taken two or more such courses.</p> <p>Eberechukwu Osu</p>
JUDGE NATHAN R. SOBEL PRIZE	<p>This prize, given in the name of Judge Nathan R. Sobel, Class of 1927, was established in memory of Joe Weinstein. It is given to the students who achieve the highest grade in the course in Criminal Law.</p> <p>Anika Austin, Benjamin Sheridan, Charles Mitchell, Elana Konichowsky, Elizabeth Gemdjan, Elizabeth Roberts, Kimberly Ira, Robert Hyland, Talia Land</p>
BRUCE DAVID SWERDLOFF MEMORIAL AWARD	<p>An award established in memory of Bruce David Swerdloff, Class of 1980, to be offered to the member of the graduating class with the highest grade in the course in Corporate Taxation.</p> <p>Zachary Keirn</p>
JUDGE DORIS A. THOMPSON AND JUDGE EDWARD THOMPSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SKILLS	<p>This award honors no more than three students who, while participating in a law school clinical program, have demonstrated an understanding of the lawyering process, made significant progress in the development of professional skills, and, in representing a client, contributed to the achievement of justice while evincing the highest degree of professional and personal integrity and responsibility.</p> <p>Liam Higgins, Matthew Capece, Sydney Korman</p>
JUDGE DORIS A. THOMPSON AND JUDGE EDWARD THOMPSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TRIAL ADVOCACY	<p>This award is given to students selected by the faculty who have demonstrated a commitment to the development of their personal skills as trial advocates as evidenced by participation in various trial advocacy activities at the Law School, including but not limited to the National Trial Team, the American Trial Lawyers Association Competition Team, and/or participation in other administrative activities in support of the Law School's trial advocacy programs.</p> <p>Allison Lewis-Towbes, Maxwell Russ, Rachel Roberts</p>

SMILEY & SMILEY LLP AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TRIAL SKILLS	<p>A prize is awarded each year to graduating students who have performed at a high level as a member of the Brooklyn Law School Moot Court Trial Team. Each awardee will be chosen by the faculty for their excellent performance in competitions and demonstrated commitment to advance the Team through their leadership.</p> <p>Jennifer Evans, Rachel Roberts</p>
NEW YORK CITY TRIAL LAWYERS ALLIANCE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TRIAL SKILL	<p>This award recognizes exceptional achievements by students who have demonstrated a commitment through their activities during law school to excellence in trial advocacy and who show great promise as future trial lawyers.</p> <p>Matthew Glogower, Taylor Seymour</p>
JACK WEPRIN REAL ESTATE PRIZE	<p>A prize established in memory of distinguished real estate lawyer Jack Weprin, Class of 1955, by the Jack Weprin Foundation, awarded annually to a student who has excelled in the area of real estate law.</p> <p>Leo Doctorman</p>
CORNELIUS T. WICKERSHAM, JR. PRIZE	<p>This award is presented by the Federal Bar Council, in memory of a distinguished lawyer and former United States Attorney, to the graduating seniors who achieve the highest grade in the course in Constitutional Law.</p> <p>Anika Austin, Jenna Marino, Mikko Biana</p>
SAMUEL WITTE PRIZE IN LITERATURE AND THE LAW	<p>This prize has been established by the family of Samuel Witte, Class of 1920, who during his long career in the practice of law, stretching over six decades, pursued an active interest in literature and its relationship to the law. This prize is offered to the graduating student who has best applied literature to their legal studies.</p> <p>Alison McNamara, Giulia Pines</p>
PROFESSOR PHILIP K. YONGE MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize has been established by the members of the faculty, administration, staff, students, and friends of Philip K. Yonge to be awarded to the students who, in the judgment of the faculty, have shown exceptional achievement in Commercial Law or Bankruptcy.</p> <p>Gittel Fekkete, Michaela Rudsky, Michaela Johnson, Pallavi Kunthara, Charles Mitchell, Franco Pallante, Sophie Abrams</p>
MINNIE ROTENBERG PRIZE	<p>This is a prize established in memory of Minnie Rotenberg to be given to the student who has achieved the highest grade in the course in Antitrust Law.</p> <p>Madeline Hone</p>
BROOKLYN LAW REVIEW PRIZE	<p>A prize is awarded by the faculty to the students on the <i>Brooklyn Law Review</i> who, in the opinion of the faculty, have done the most to further the success and performance of the Review.</p> <p>Gregory Wagner, Sophie Abrams</p>
BROOKLYN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW PRIZE	<p>A prize is awarded by the faculty to the students on the Brooklyn Journal of International Law who, in the opinion of the faculty, have done the most to further the success and performance of the Journal.</p> <p>Alexandra Nicole Mallory, Christopher Orjuela</p>
JOURNAL OF LAW AND POLICY PRIZE	<p>A prize is awarded by the faculty to the students on the Journal of Law and Policy who, in the opinion of the faculty, have done the most to further the success and performance of the Journal.</p> <p>Alexa Panganiban, Riya Dhall</p>
BROOKLYN JOURNAL OF CORPORATE, FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL LAW PRIZE	<p>A prize is awarded by the faculty to the students on the Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial & Commercial Law who, in the opinion of the faculty, have done the most to further the success and performance of the Journal.</p> <p>Johanna Silva</p>

THE SCHOLARLY JOURNAL WRITING AWARD	<p>An award for excellence in writing given by the faculty to one student on each scholarly journal.</p> <p>Alexandra Mallory (BJIL), Caroline Strauss (Law and Policy), Isaac Burke (Law Review), Johanna Silva (BJFCL)</p>
MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY AWARD	<p>A prize is awarded to the members of the graduating class who contributed most to the success of the Moot Court program.</p> <p>Carly Hecht, Dylan Diamond, Emma Fuchs, Krista Doherty, Laine Cohen, Laurie Davis, Matt Glogower, Taylor Faulds, Taylor Seymore</p>
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION HONOR SOCIETY AWARD	<p>A prize is awarded to the members of the graduating class who contributed most to the success of the Alternative Dispute Resolution program.</p> <p>Anike Tella-Martins, Calla Malone, Jillian Finn, Natalie Linero, Selma Jay, Zoe Mazzu</p>
THE ORDER OF BARRISTERS	<p>The Order of Barristers is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of oral advocacy and brief writing skills through effective law school oral advocacy programs. The Order also provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service at their respective schools.</p> <p>Alena Wertalik, Angela Chang, Delenn Robin, Emma Fuchs, Jason Arnold, Joanna Garner, Laine Cohen, Matt Glogower, Maxwell Russ, Rachel Roberts, Taylor Seymour, Zachary Keirn</p>
JUDGE LEONARD P. MOORE MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>A prize in memory of Judge Leonard P. Moore, distinguished jurist and former President of the Board of Trustees of Brooklyn Law School, established by one of his former law clerks, Vivian Shevitz, Class of 1977, to be awarded to the graduating student who has received the highest grade in Criminal Procedure: Adjudication course.</p> <p>Anoosha Zaki, Maxwell Russ, Nazanin Rafsanjani, Phillip Rudy</p>
HENRIETTA AND STUART HIRSCHMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE	<p>The Law School offers a prize in the memory of Henrietta and Stuart Hirschman. This prize is awarded to the members of the graduating class who achieve the highest grade in the Real Property course.</p> <p>Elizabeth Gemdjan, Gittel Fekete, Keara Schmeiser, Kortney Coburn, Liam Higgins, Mikko Biana, Sinbay Tan</p>
KATHY PLASZNER BELSON '72 AND MICHAEL BELSON '67 PRIZE	<p>A prize to be awarded to a student who, while participating in the Prosecutor's Clinic or in a Criminal Practice Internship in a prosecutor's office, has demonstrated the highest degree of dedication and personal and professional responsibility.</p> <p>Alex Grayes</p>