

MARCH 18, 2024

In Your Interest

Brooklyn Law School's Public Service Newsletter

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OTHER EVENTS

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There are lots of opportunities in public service! See pg. 3 for more info, and don't hesitate to reach out to us for help with cover letters, resumes, interview prep, or anything else you need!

Have an unpaid internship in government or nonprofit and looking for funding? See pg. 4!

Graduating and working in public service? See pg. 6 for info on financial assistance!



2024 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY

The Public Service Award Ceremony recognizes graduating students, alumni, faculty, and community members who have made significant public service contributions.

The ceremony will include a speech by our keynote speaker and recipient of our Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award,

STEVEN BANKS,

former attorney-in-chief of New York City's Legal Aid Society and commissioner of the New York City Department of Social Services and now Special Counsel in the Pro Bono Practice at Paul, Weiss.

**Tuesday, April 2nd
5:00pm in Forchelli**



RSVP here by Thursday, March 28th

Summer Internships

Below are just a few of the summer public service internships recently posted on Symplicity. Check out our [Online Job Search Resources Guide](#) to find more.

Direct Services

- Legal Services of New Jersey - 2024 Deborah T. Poritz Summer Public Interest Fellowship (**Paid!** #71288)
- Center for Family Representation - Family Defense (#72593)
- Catholic Migration Services - Immigration (#72518)
- NYLAG - Consumer Protection (#72407), Foreclosure (#72406)
- Bronx Legal Services (#72322)
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A (#72320)
- AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania (#72323)
- Disability Rights New Jersey - NJ State Bar Foundation Internship (**Paid!** #72332), Sarah W. Mitchell Internship (**Paid!** #72333)

Impact Litigation

- Environmental Defense Fund - Jim Tripp Emerging Issues Legal Intern (#72328)

Policy Advocacy

- Riverkeeper - Environmental Law (#72385)

Government

- NYC Department of Transportation (**Paid!** #72567)
- NYC Office of Information Privacy (#72387)
- NYC Housing Development Corporation (**Paid!** #72275)
- NYC Department of Investigation (# 72456)
- NYC Department of Social Services (#72321)
- NYS Division of Human Rights (#72423)
- NYS Insurance Fund- Several departments (**Paid!** #72405)
- NYS Adirondack Park Agency - Environmental Law & Land Use (#72428)
- NYS Office of the Inspector General (#72319)
- Office of the Nassau County Attorney - Several bureaus (#72330)

SUMMER FUNDING

Check out our [summer funding guide](#) for an overview of funding for summer internships in public service!



BLS Public Service Grant

Many BLS students get funding for unpaid summer internships in public service through the Public Service Grant (PSG).

*Please note that the **PSG is run by the Finance Office**, NOT the Public Service Law Center.*

You can find information on the PSG [here](#), and you'll need to have both your 2023-24 and 2024-25 FAFSAs ready to apply!

Contact Florence.Attino@brooklaw.edu,

Director of the Public Service Grant Program, with questions.

BLS Summer Fellowships

BLS also offers some subject-matter specific summer funding for internships in public service. You can apply for these now on Symplicity (more may be added once funding is confirmed):

Kate Welling Fellowship in Disability Rights (#72095)

Arthur Pinto Public Service Fellowship in LGBTQ Rights (#72094)

Minna Kotkin Fellowship in Workers' Rights (#72096)

Roland Thau Public Defender Fellowship (#72097)

Application deadline: March 22, 2024

External Funding

There are also external sources! Our [summer funding guide](#) lists many. On Symplicity right now: Equal Justice America (#71884), due March 25th

GRADUATING STUDENTS

Looking for a postgrad job? Note that it is common for students interested in public service to get their jobs after graduation, after taking the Uniform Bar Exam, or even after finding out that they've passed the UBE. Government and nonprofit employers typically don't have the ability to hire months in advance and prefer to hire candidates who are close to being admitted. However, here are some things you can do now:

1. Check out our [Online Job Search Resources Guide](#) for a list of places you can be checking for job opportunities (#1: Symplicity!). Be sure to consider "fellowships", which are often basically the same thing as jobs in public interest.
2. **Come in and see us** for a cover letter and resume review! Email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

A few postgrad jobs recently posted on Symplicity:

- Institute for Innovation in Prosecution - Legal Fellow (#71975)
- Student Advocacy - Education Staff Attorney (#70803)
- Westchester County Government - Assistant County Attorney (#71184)
- Center for Family Representation - Family Defense Law Graduate (#71728)
- Staff Attorney, Parole Revocation Defense Unit, The Legal Aid Society (#72334)
- Fellowship Intern/Attorney Program - State of Connecticut Public Defender Services (#72349)
- Lots of clerkships in NY, VT, CT, and NJ!



More info for graduating students!



Apply for BLSPI's Michael Madow Bar Grant Program

The Michael Madow Bar Grant Program furthers BLSPI's mission of encouraging and enabling student participation in public interest legal work by easing the financial hurdle of graduating public interest law students preparing for the bar examination. For over a decade, BLSPI, with critical support from the Leo Rosner Foundation, has offered **\$1,000 bar grants to a number of graduating students who are dedicated to entering the public interest law sector.**

Application Eligibility, Criteria, & Instructions

[Click here](#) for a full description of the eligibility requirements and criteria and instructions for submitting your application. Applications are due by Friday March 29th at 11:59 pm and are reviewed by an independent committee. Reach out to cochairs@blspi.org with any questions!

Loan Payment and Forgiveness Workshops

For students who took out Federal Direct Student Loans while attending BLS: As you get closer to the date you celebrate all your hard work, you need to start thinking about your student loans, repayment strategies, loan forgiveness and, if needed, financing your bar study. Student loan repayment can feel overwhelming, but you can chart a path to a debt-free future based on your specific income and career trajectory.

During this event, an Accredited Financial Counselor® from AccessLex Institute will cover common repayment strategies for different legal careers and essential details regarding repayment plan options, consolidation, and loan forgiveness programs.

Workshops will be held:

Wednesday, March 20 from 12:45 – 1:45 in Room 601 and Tuesday, April 16 from 12:45 – 1:45 in the Student Lounge.

Refreshments will be served. RSVP: Florence.Attino@Brooklaw.edu

More events!

Interested in practicing in Nassau County?

Attend a free virtual CLE program on **Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 12:45-1:45pm**. This panel discussion will provide insight on the importance of **public interest legal service generally and in Nassau County**, focusing on criminal, family and guardianship law. Featuring judges Joseph A. Zayas, Edwina G. Richardson, and Andrea Phoenix and Vito M. DeStefano.

Registration is not required. Contact Danielle N. Murray (dnmurray@nycourts.gov) with any questions.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Passcode: d95JbU

Save the date! The NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and Fordham University School of Law invite you to the 2024 annual conference:

Let's Talk AI and A2J: How Law Schools, Civil Legal Services, and the Courts Together Can Harness Technology to Address the Justice Gap

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 pm, Zoom

This free conference will bring together law schools, civil legal services organizations, the courts, community organizations and other partners to discuss **how generative AI can be used to expand access to justice**.

Law students are encouraged to attend.
Registration details to follow shortly.



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD PRO BONO LOG

**100-499
HOURS**



**PUBLIC SERVICE
AWARD**

**500-999
HOURS**



**SILVER
AWARD**

**1000+
HOURS**



GOLD AWARD

Log your pro bono hours [here](#)!
**Graduating students must log
by March 15!**

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, and 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, [click here](#)!**

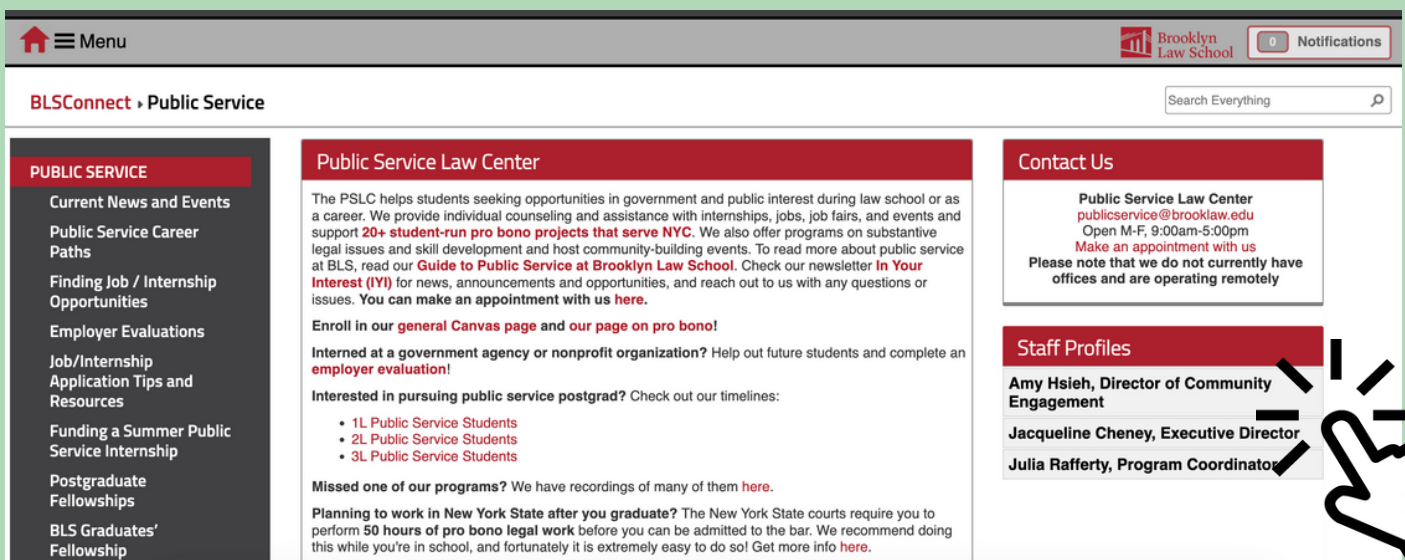
QUESTIONS?

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-Friday, 9 am-5 pm
publicservice@brooklaw.edu

Check out all our resources on
BLS Connect!



The screenshot shows the BLSConnect Public Service page. The header includes a home icon, a menu icon, the Brooklyn Law School logo, and a notifications icon. The main navigation bar shows 'BLSConnect' and 'Public Service'. A search bar is located on the right. The page is divided into three main sections: Public Service, Public Service Law Center, and Contact Us. The Public Service section lists various resources like Current News and Events, Career Paths, and Internship Opportunities. The Public Service Law Center section provides information about the center's mission, enrollment, and contact details. The Contact Us section lists the Public Service Law Center's contact information and staff profiles. A hand cursor is pointing to the Staff Profiles section, which lists Amy Hsieh, Director of Community Engagement; Jacqueline Cheney, Executive Director; and Julia Rafferty, Program Coordinator.

BLSConnect • Public Service

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Current News and Events
- Public Service Career Paths
- Finding Job / Internship Opportunities
- Employer Evaluations
- Job/Internship Application Tips and Resources
- Funding a Summer Public Service Internship
- Postgraduate Fellowships
- BLS Graduates' Fellowship

Public Service Law Center

The PSLC helps students seeking opportunities in government and public interest during law school or as a career. We provide individual counseling and assistance with internships, jobs, job fairs, and events and support **20+ student-run pro bono projects that serve NYC**. We also offer programs on substantive legal issues and skill development and host community-building events. To read more about public service at BLS, read our **Guide to Public Service at Brooklyn Law School**. Check our newsletter **In Your Interest (IYI)** for news, announcements and opportunities, and reach out to us with any questions or issues. **You can make an appointment with us [here](#).**

Enroll in our **general Canvas page** and **our page on pro bono!**

Interested at a government agency or nonprofit organization? Help out future students and complete an **employer evaluation!**

Interested in pursuing public service postgrad? Check out our timelines:

- 1L Public Service Students
- 2L Public Service Students
- 3L Public Service Students

Missed one of our programs? We have recordings of many of them **[here](#)**.

Planning to work in New York State after you graduate? The New York State courts require you to perform **50 hours of pro bono legal work** before you can be admitted to the bar. We recommend doing this while you're in school, and fortunately it is extremely easy to do so! Get more info **[here](#)**.

Contact Us

Public Service Law Center
publicservice@brooklaw.edu
Open M-F, 9:00am-5:00pm
Make an appointment with us
Please note that we do not currently have offices and are operating remotely

Staff Profiles

Amy Hsieh, Director of Community Engagement

Jacqueline Cheney, Executive Director

Julia Rafferty, Program Coordinator