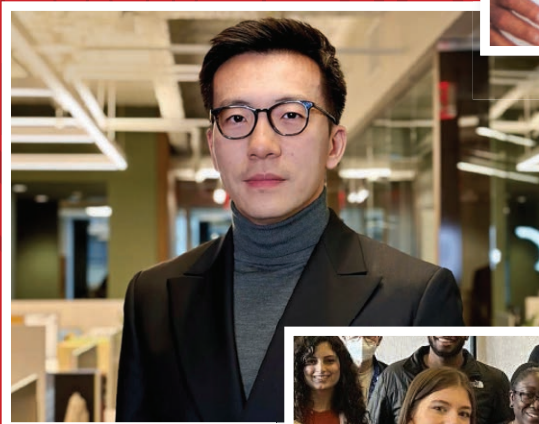
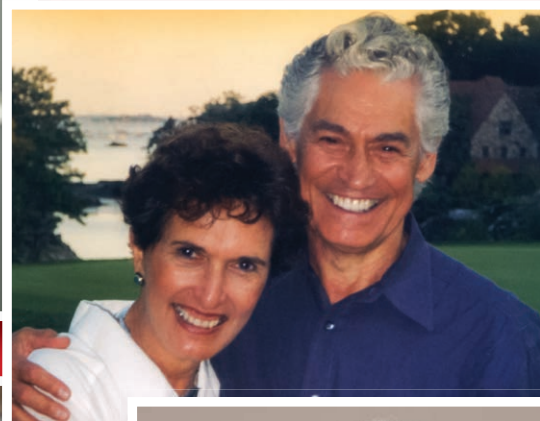




Brooklyn Law School
ESTABLISHED 1901

IMPACT REPORT

2023





Brooklyn Law School
ESTABLISHED 1901

POINTS
OF PRIDE

A+

in both **PRACTICAL
TRAINING** and
CRIMINAL LAW
by *preLaw Magazine*
in 2022

37%

OF 2023 INCOMING CLASS
WERE STUDENTS OF COLOR

92%

of students received
Scholarships and
Grants in 2022-23

CLASS OF 2023 **DEVOTED 75,000 HOURS**

to Pro Bono and Public Service Work

#2

ALMA MATER FOR *BILLBOARD'S* 2023 TOP MUSIC LAWYERS

\$100,000

in 2023 Giving Day
challenges unlocked

26

Diversity Scholarships Offered

#11

IN PART-TIME PROGRAMS

U.S. News & World Report, 2022

#34

GO-TO LAW SCHOOL

Based on Percentage of Graduates Hired by Largest
U.S. Law Firms

National Law Journal, 2023

TOP 10

IN LAW SCHOOL INNOVATION

for Brooklyn Law Incubator & Policy (BLIP) Clinic

Bloomberg Law, 2022

FACULTY RANKS **33RD** IN THE NATION

for Scholarly Impact *Brian Leiter's Law School Reports*, 2021*

*most recent report

IMPACT REPORT 2023



Since 1901, Brooklyn Law School has upheld a tradition of excellence, while driving forward in the evolving world of law

Our faculty members are recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in their scholarly fields. We are the only independent law school to make the *National Law Journal's* latest list of "Go-To Law Schools," a ranking based on having the largest percentage of graduates hired at the largest U.S. law firms as first-year associates. We are among the top U.S. law schools in practical training, thanks in no small part to our nationally renowned clinical program, one of the first of its kind.

We could not have achieved this or many of the accolades listed at left without the generosity of a community that has also kept Brooklyn Law School's mission of excellence front and center. Ensuring that those who want to pursue a legal education may do so here, irrespective of their background, is a critical part of that mission. For your role in helping our students fulfill their dreams, we extend our sincere gratitude.

Enjoy the stories of impact in the pages that follow.

Jason Jia '11 shares the story of why he is honoring his former writing professor and helping make the dreams of immigrant students come true.

Morgan Kashinsky '24 explains why it was worth it to forgo a few precious hours of sleep to join with fellow students to raise money on Giving Day.

Samuel Sporn '53 shares how he forged a successful legal career in a country where he was once an undocumented immigrant and is paying that forward.


Jeffrey D. Forchelli '69 reminisces about his favorite professors and explains why it was so important to endow two faculty chairs with the Forchelli name.

Peter Klausner '66, a former night-school student, shares why he credits his successful (and star-studded) legal career to this institution.

Warmly,

Annie Nienaber

Chief Advancement Officer

A portrait of Jason Jia '11, a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a grey turtleneck. He is standing in what appears to be a modern office or library with bookshelves in the background.

GRATITUDE FOR A CARING PROFESSOR JASON JIA '11

“One of the things I always remember from BLS is [now retired legal writing] Professor Barbara Gartner, who worked with students for whom English is not their first language, to improve their legal writing. I’m very grateful for the time she worked with me.”

— Jason Jia '11

Jason Jia '11, managing partner of Jia Law Group in New York City, created the Jason Jia and Professor Barbara Gartner Scholarship to honor his Brooklyn Law School writing professor and to help immigrant law students.

Ask Jason Jia '11 about his life and you'll quickly recognize the arc of a classic American Dream story—one in which Brooklyn Law School played a pivotal role.

Jia is managing partner of his own midsize law firm, Jia Law Group, which he launched in 2018 and which employs nearly 45 full-time staff members, including 8 attorneys who are Brooklyn Law alumni. Two of his law firm partners are friends he met at Brooklyn Law, fellow alumni Thomas Kung '09 and Joseph Hamel '11. The firm specializes in employment and immigration law.

“I saw a lot of international companies coming to New York City and setting up shop here, and bringing their teams here, and realized it was a big niche market that could use legal services,” Jia said.

Spotting opportunities is very much part of Jia's upbringing, as is making sacrifices in the name of education. He was born in Beijing, and primarily raised by his grandmother in China after his parents emigrated to the United States to attend college when he was four years old. He didn't see his mother or father again until nine years later, when he was able to join them at age 13. After arriving in the States, without knowing a word of English, he attended school in

California, living with his mom after his parents divorced.

Jia saw the struggles that immigrants go through firsthand. Money was tight. He recalls his mother working multiple jobs to support the family and going through the lengthy and time-consuming process of getting her green card. Through it all, the family continued to focus on education as the route to success, as is illustrated by Jia, who graduated from the University of California San Diego before enrolling in Brooklyn Law School. Now, 12 years later, he still calls Brooklyn Heights home, and remains actively involved with the Law School through such activities as participating in the annual Business Boot Camp.

He created the Jason Jia and Professor Barbara Gartner Scholarship to honor a professor who helped him improve his writing, and to give back to students like himself who grew up in immigrant families and are navigating the challenges of law school.

“One of the things I always remember from BLS, is (now retired legal writing) Professor Barbara Gartner, who worked with students for whom English is not their first language, to improve their legal writing,” Jia said. “I’m very grateful for the time she worked with me.”

A World of Opportunity

Two law school students who migrated to the United States explain how joining the Brooklyn Law School community changed their life's journey.

“The scholarship meant the world to me. During COVID-19, my family’s finances plummeted and, as an international student, I was not eligible to obtain any federal or corporate loan to continue my studies.”

— Harrie Eun Byul Im '23



“I chose Brooklyn Law School because of the people. The students and professors are caring supportive, and, most notably, all have a great passion for the profession.”

— Kaicheng (Newton) Yu '23

Jia's loyalty and generosity has benefited two students who have won the scholarships that Jia provided. One is Harrie Eun Byul Im '23, who is from Seoul, South Korea. Like Jia, she was the first person in her family to go to law school.

Im says her goal is to work as a cross-border transactional lawyer by using her linguistic skills (she speaks Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and English) while helping domestic violence victims and advocating for animal welfare. She is currently working as a student ambassador at the Admissions Office and as the Inter-Journal Committee Representative for *Brooklyn Journal of the International Law*, advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the BLS community.

“The scholarship meant the world to me,” Im said. “During COVID-19, my family’s finances plummeted and, as an international student, I was not eligible to obtain any federal or corporate loan to continue my studies. The scholarship

helped me and my family tremendously in continuing Law School.”

Because she was able to continue her education, Im says, she is joining Big Law, with a position at Linklaters LLP. She received the firm’s Making Links 2L Diversity Fellowship of \$25,000, under the condition that she join Linklaters as a first-year associate.

Kaicheng (Newton) Yu '23, who grew up in Shanghai, is another scholarship recipient, one who is known for mentoring students in the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

“This scholarship opened many doors for me,” Yu said. “I chose Brooklyn Law School because of the people. The students and professors are caring, supportive, and, most notably, all have a great passion for the profession.”



STUDENTS GO ALL IN FOR GIVING DAY MORGAN KASHINSKY '24

Morgan Kashinsky '24 has wanted to be a lawyer since age 16, and she wasted no time in building a résumé, with legal jobs in high school and college, followed by a post-graduate job as an executive assistant at Sullivan & Cromwell, just before starting at Brooklyn Law.

So, when Board of Trustees Chairman **Frank Aquila '83** offered a \$50,000 matching gift if 200 donors pledged to **Giving Day** last fall, it caught Kashinsky's attention. Aquila, a partner and M&A attorney at Sullivan & Cromwell, had kindly agreed to share advice about Brooklyn Law School over coffee before she started school.

Among the many helpful suggestions she took from him was attending Business Boot Camp, where students take a four-day crash course in business and finance, featuring instruction and advice from alumni, faculty, and Board of Trustees members, including Aquila.

"When I saw Frank Aquila's Giving Day challenge, I knew he was someone who really cares about the success of the students and our school, and I appreciate the time and dedication he provides," Kashinsky said. "I was inspired to give, knowing that unlocking that challenge would help students and the community overall."

Taking up the charge from Aquila in the fall, **Debra Humphreys '84** and an anonymous donor provided spring Giving Day challenges to encourage donor participation. As an additional incentive and in response to the students' record-breaking participation, Professor **Michael Gerber**

Morgan Kashinsky '24 (front row, third from left) shown here with Professor of Clinical Law Jonathan Askin (front, fourth from left) helped lead efforts of the Brooklyn Law School chapter of Legal Hackers to raise money for Giving Day.

“ I was inspired to give because I knew unlocking the Giving Day donor challenge would be helpful to students and the community overall.

— Morgan Kashinsky '24

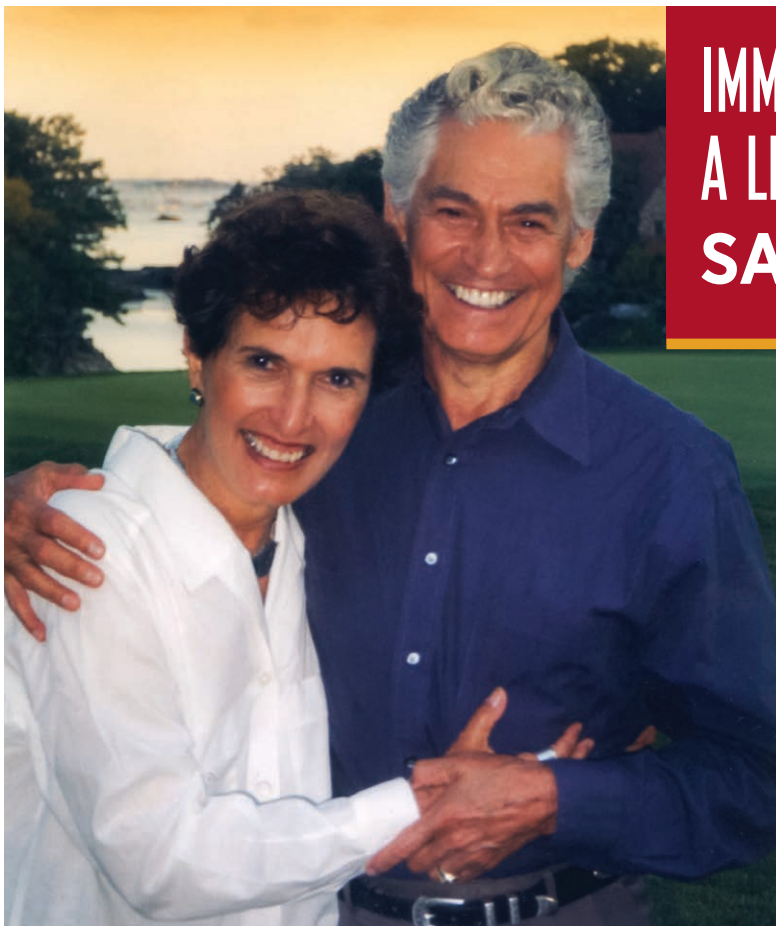
spontaneously offered to throw a reception for students who donated \$20 or more.

Kashinsky, president of the school's chapter of Legal Hackers, was one of two dozen student ambassadors for spring Giving Day, and Legal Hackers raised, \$3,500, thanks to alumni participation and unlocking more than \$1,000 in bonus money. The group's programming can now expand to include an alumni luncheon and a "hackathon" next school year.

"When most law school students have an hour, they want to sleep," Kashinsky said, adding that she quickly realized the return on investment of fundraising. "This allows us to bring back alumni events and build that network between new students and 2Ls, 3Ls graduating into the field, and alumni, who we invite to come back and be involved with the Law School."

Spring 2023 Student Organization Fundraising by the Numbers

- \$15,600 Raised (up from \$4,665 in 2022)
- 147 Student Donors (up from 43 in 2022)
- 9 Participating Student Organizations (up from 4 in 2022)
- 23 Student Ambassadors
- 7 Student Organizations Surpassed Fundraising Goals



IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE INSPIRES A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY SAMUEL SPORN '53

“I’m forever grateful and beholden to Brooklyn Law School for accepting me. I’m proud of what I accomplished there and went on to accomplish in my life’s work as a lawyer.”

— Samuel Sporn '53

Samuel Sporn '53 and Ellen Sporn, have been major financial supporters of Brooklyn Law School for more than 40 years.

Samuel P. Sporn '53 moved to the United States from Montreal with his parents in 1932 as a boy. As a teenager, Sporn learned they had been living in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, as undocumented immigrants.

Sporn became a U.S. citizen, graduated high school at age 16, and began work in the mailroom of a textile company. Hoping to unlock a better career, he enrolled at Brooklyn College and was accepted two years later to Brooklyn Law School, where he became editor-in-chief of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, received the Dean William Payson Richardson scholarship award, and graduated as class valedictorian.

His long and successful career has spanned the public and private sectors, from serving in the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG) to founding the law firm Schoengold & Sporn, P.C., which specializes in securities law. Yet Sporn never forgot about his immigrant roots or Brooklyn Law School. He and his wife, Ellen, have been major financial supporters for 40-plus years.

“I’m forever grateful and beholden to Brooklyn Law School for accepting me,” said Sporn. “I’m proud of what I accomplished there and went on to accomplish in my life’s work as a lawyer.”

In 2016, through a charitable remainder trust, the Sporns established their second endowed scholarship, the Samuel P. and Ellen Sporn Scholarship for First-Generation Lawyers, for immigrant students.

The latest recipients include Alisher Alimov '23, who worked with undocumented people through a Legal Aid Society internship. “It was a fulfilling experience to help them obtain their freedom and avoid deportation,” said Alimov.

Another recipient, Claire Miolene '24, joined Brooklyn Law after working as a Manhattan District Attorney’s Office paralegal and recently landed an associate position at Paul, Weiss for the summer of 2023. She is inspired by Sporn’s life story.

“I hope to have the opportunity to chase a similarly successful and impactful career as he has had with my Brooklyn Law degree,” Miolene said.



“I hope to have the opportunity to chase a similarly successful and impactful career as [Samuel Sporn '53] has with my Brooklyn Law degree.”

— Claire Miolene '24

Claire Miolene '24 is a recipient of the Samuel P. and Ellen Sporn Scholarship for First-Generation Lawyers.



HELPING ESTEEMED FACULTY FLOURISH

JEFFREY D. FORCHELLI '69

“What I wanted to do with the faculty chairs is make the Forchelli family name part of the history of the Law School.”

— Jeffrey D. Forchelli '69

Jeffrey D. Forchelli '69 is a member of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees and managing partner of Forchelli Deegan Terrana.

The Forchelli family has long-standing ties to Brooklyn Law School as alumni and generous supporters. The most visible example is the Jeffrey D. Forchelli Conference Center at Feil Hall, with panoramic views of New York Harbor. But two endowed faculty chairs also bear the Forchelli name.

One, endowed in 2003, is named for **Jeffrey D. Forchelli '69**, a member of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees and managing partner of Forchelli Deegan Terrana, while the other, endowed in 2004, bears the name of his father, **Don Forchelli '31**, who died when Jeffrey was 14.

“He was very proud of being a lawyer,” Jeffrey Forchelli said. “My grandparents came from Italy in 1902, and my father was first-generation American. They were really very proud that he became a lawyer. He was the star of the family, their oldest son.”

Brooklyn Law’s history is intertwined with three generations of Forchellis. Jeffrey’s uncle Vincent graduated Brooklyn Law in 1940, his cousin Charlie is a 1971 alumnus, and Jeffrey’s daughter Nicole graduated in 2007. “What I wanted to do with the faculty chairs is make the family name part of the history of the Law School,” Forchelli said.

While a Brooklyn Law School student, Forchelli fondly remembers classes with “many brilliant professors,” including Joseph Crea, a torts professor and legendary dean. “He encouraged us to be creative. He was dynamic and a little unconventional,” Forchelli recalled. Other notable

professors were former deans Jerome Prince, who taught Evidence, I. Leo Glasser, who became a federal judge, as well as Professor Clark Miller, who taught contracts.

The Jeffrey D. Forchelli Professor of Law chair will be assumed by incoming Professor Amy Gajda, a journalist turned lawyer recognized internationally for privacy and media law expertise. She and her husband, David D. Meyer, the Law School’s incoming dean, join from Tulane Law School. Her scholarship explores the tensions between social regulation and First Amendment values, particularly the shifting boundaries of press freedoms and rising anxiety about the erosion of privacy.

The title of Don Forchelli Professor of Law was assumed this academic year by **Professor Catherine Y. Kim**, who teaches Immigration Law, Administrative Law, Anti-discrimination Law, and Civil Procedure. Her research focuses on courts and agencies as engines for social justice reform, particularly as it relates to immigrants and communities of color.

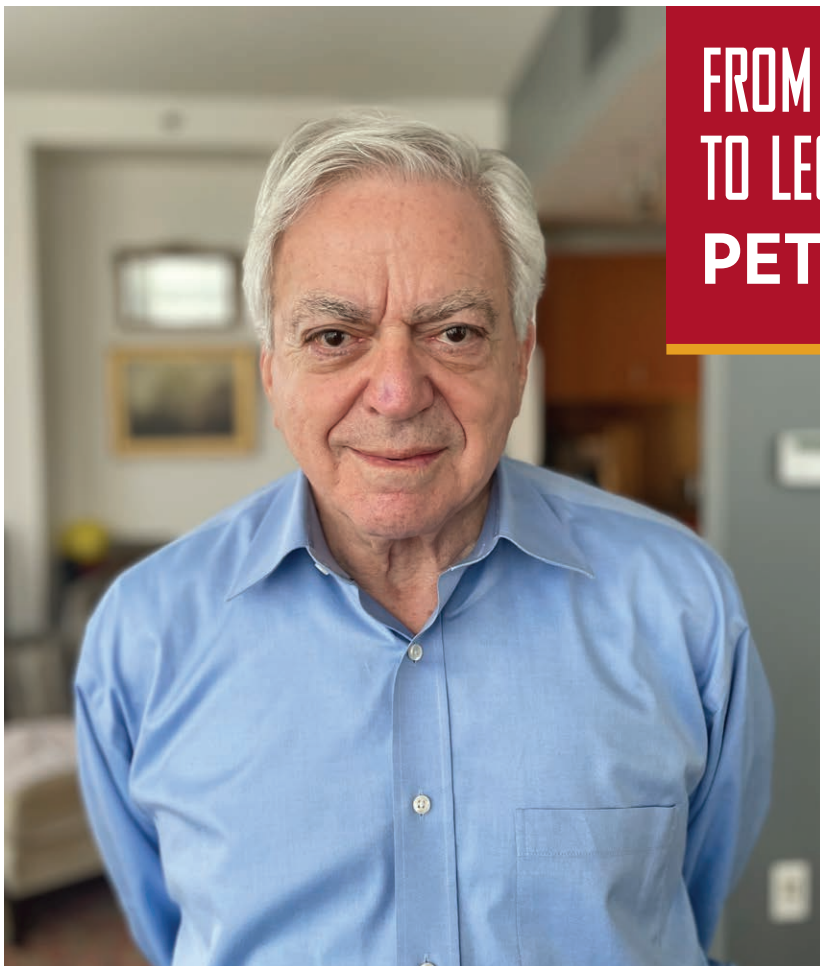
Stand-Out Scholars

Faculty ranks #40 in the Nation for Scholarly Distinction

(Brian Leiter’s Law School Reports)

Faculty ranks #33 in the Nation for Scholarly Impact

(Brian Leiter’s Law School Reports)



FROM NIGHT SCHOOL TO LEGACY SOCIETY PETER KLAUSNER '66

“I must say, I have always been very thankful for Brooklyn Law School. I feel I never would have been able to practice law without Brooklyn Law School, and that’s why I have contributed every year since I graduated.”

— Peter Klausner '66

Peter Klausner '66 attended Brooklyn Law School's night program, and specialized in trusts and estates. His clients included cast members from *Law & Order*.

Final law school exams are always high intensity, but for Peter Klausner '66, who worked as an accountant by day and attended Brooklyn Law School by night, one test still stands out, 60 years later.

“My wife was at the doctor’s office and he sent her to the hospital because she was about to give birth,” Klausner recalled. “So, I went in and distractedly took the exam. When I got out, I found out I had a son.”

Such nerve-jangling experiences were routine for Klausner, who nonetheless treasured the education he received while working in downtown Manhattan as a CPA, raising a family, and fulfilling a dream of becoming an attorney. The “C” or “D” on that criminal law exam was a rare academic blemish.

“I remember getting all As in my first year, while studying for and passing the CPA exam. The next year, 1963, my daughter was born,” Klausner said. “I didn’t know whether I was coming or going.”

But Klausner relishes the career his law degree provided. He spent 35 years at Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz, specializing in trusts, estates, and tax, ultimately heading the estate department, followed by 15 years at the international law firm Pavia & Harcourt. A friend’s referrals expanded his client roster to entertainment and theater professionals,

including *Law & Order* cast members such as Jerry Orbach, who played detective Leonard “Lennie” Briscoe.

“He and his wife were walking down the hall and every head turns,” Klausner recalled with a chuckle. “Then, he’s sitting in my office, and we’re talking, and I said, ‘So, Lennie,’ and he reminded me, ‘No that’s my TV name, I’m Jerry.’”

Klausner nearly missed out on his Law School dream because his parents had to send three sons to college and couldn’t afford it, so he generously decided to include Brooklyn Law in his will to ease the financial struggles of students with the same dreams and challenges. “I must say, I have always been very thankful for Brooklyn Law School. I feel I never would have been able to practice law without Brooklyn Law School, and that’s why I have contributed every year since I graduated,” Klausner said.

The Legacy Society

The Brooklyn Law School Legacy Society, established in 2003, honors an extraordinary group of alumni and friends who have made the Law School a beneficiary of a bequest, trust, or other planned gift.

Brooklyn Law School ranks #11 in Part-Time Programs
(2022 U.S. News & World Report)

MAKING AN IMPACT WITH YOUR PHILANTHROPY



The fundamental mission of Brooklyn Law School is to provide its students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical values needed for a career in law. Realizing this vision would be impossible without the generosity of friends and supporters like you, who make a positive difference in the lives of our students and ensure the success of Brooklyn Law School. Your gifts help to fund scholarships, academic programs, and life-changing clinics, and they enable the Law School to recruit and retain top-tier faculty. Below are some examples of the ways donors choose to make an impact on some of the Law School's highest funding priorities. Thank you for considering how you can make a difference with your philanthropic investment in Brooklyn Law School.

Scholarship Support

By establishing a named scholarship, alumni and friends can provide meaningful support for Brooklyn Law students, either in their own name or to honor a loved one.

You may consider one of the following options to create a named scholarship:

Opportunity Scholarships

Opportunity Scholarships make an immediate impact on diversity recruiting efforts by providing critical funds, over and above what is offered in financial aid and scholarship packages. These additional recruiting funds are often what make the financial difference between a student's decision to pursue their legal education at Brooklyn Law School versus attending another school. Funds donated for Opportunity Scholarships are used entirely for student support until they are exhausted or renewed by additional gifts.

A minimum commitment of \$15,000 is required to establish an Opportunity Scholarship, which can be paid in annual installments over a period of up to three years.

Impact Scholarships

Impact Scholarships create an opportunity to target scholarship support in a variety of ways, including on the basis of financial need, academic merit, or both, or for students focusing on a particular area of law, or graduating in a particular class year. Impact scholarships can also provide support either for an increased number of students

each year or to provide a larger scholarship award to a single student, depending on the donor's preferred impact. All funds donated are used entirely for scholarship support until they are exhausted or renewed by additional gifts.

A minimum commitment of \$100,000 is required to establish an Impact Scholarship, which can be paid in annual installments over a period up to five years.

Endowed Scholarships

Endowed Scholarships are an exceptional way to provide an enduring and reliable source of scholarship support, which is invested strategically to grow over time. Because these scholarships exist in perpetuity, they are a wonderful approach to creating a meaningful legacy of support in your own name, or to honor a loved one. As with Impact Scholarships, Endowed Scholarships can be created to target your support on the basis of academic merit, financial need, or both, for a particular class year, or for a recipient with interest in a particular legal field.

A minimum commitment of \$250,000 is required to establish an Endowed Scholarship, which can be paid in annual installments over a period up to five years.

Faculty Support

By establishing a named professorship, alumni and friends can help ensure that Brooklyn Law School has the resources to continue to recruit and retain top-tier faculty, either in their own name or to honor a loved one. Named professorships can be directed either to support up-and-coming faculty, for a visiting or term chair, or to recognize and retain world-class faculty who are exceptional researchers, educators, and leaders in their field.

Physical Spaces

At Brooklyn Law School, numerous spaces are available to be named at a broad range of gift levels. Some examples of available spaces include moot court seats, study carrels, classrooms, conference rooms, libraries, and lecture halls. Naming gifts for these spaces provide an opportunity to create a legacy for yourself or for a loved one, while also providing an important source of flexible funding for the Law School.

Planned Giving – Creating a Legacy

Often, donors choose to support the mission of Brooklyn Law School by making a planned gift—which can be an excellent solution for those wishing to achieve certain philanthropic goals, as well as personal, financial, and estate-planning objectives.

There are various ways to make a planned gift that may be customized to suit different situations, including some commitments that cost nothing to make today, and others that may provide significant tax benefits during your lifetime, provide an income to you, or offer estate tax benefits. These include gifts through your will; making the Law School a beneficiary of your tax-deferred retirement account; and making transfer-on-death gifts from your savings account or brokerage account. In many cases, taking advantage of one of these gift-planning vehicles also maximizes the impact of your philanthropy at Brooklyn Law School by increasing the size of your gift.



A commitment at any level is tax deductible and can be made through an outright gift of cash, stock, a documented bequest commitment, a pledge with multi-year installments, or any combination of the above. Depending on your particular circumstances, there may also be opportunities to leverage tax strategies to maximize your intended philanthropic impact.



Brooklyn Law School
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To learn more about giving back, contact:

Annie Nienaber, Chief Advancement Officer

annie.nienaber@brooklaw.edu or 718-780-7516

WWW.LEGACY.BROOKLAW.EDU