

**BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**

**PUBLIC SERVICE  
AWARDS CEREMONY**

Honoring Public Service at Brooklyn Law School  
and the Accomplishments of the Class of 2025

Tuesday, April 8, 2025  
5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Forchelli Conference Center  
Reception to follow

# Public Service Awards Ceremony

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5:30

## **Welcome**

Dean David Meyer, President, Joseph Crea Dean, and  
Professor of Law

## **Presentation of Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award to Camille J. Mackler**

Faiza Syed, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the  
Safe Harbor Project

## **Keynote Speaker**

Camille J. Mackler

## **Presentation of Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service to Adjunct Professor of Clinical Law Deborah Berkman**

Karen Porter, Associate Dean for Academic and Student  
Success and Associate Professor of Clinical Law

## **Presentation of Public Service Awards to the Class of 2025**

Susan Hazeldean, Associate Dean of Experiential Education,  
Professor of Law, and Director of the LGBT Advocacy Clinic

## **Presentation of Pro Bono Leadership & Access to Justice Awards**

Amy Hsieh, Executive Director, Public Service Law Center

## **Presentation of Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service to Michael H. Williams, '93**

Elizabeth Schneider, Rose L. Hoffer Professor of Law

## **Closing Remarks**

Amy Hsieh, Executive Director, Public Service Law Center

7:00

## **Reception**

## Our Honorees

Members of the Class of 2025, who will pursue a wide array of careers, have performed exceptional public service at organizations ranging from the Law School's own clinics and pro bono projects to Access Justice Brooklyn, Sanctuary for Families, the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York, and the United Nations. During their time in law school, they have devoted over 64,000 hours to assisting immigrants, small business owners, survivors of gender-based violence, people threatened with eviction from their homes, and others and helping government agencies provide critical services to the public. Our pro bono project leaders have dedicated their time and passion to running the Law School's 22 current projects. The Pro Bono Scholars are devoting thousands of hours to working full-time at nonprofit organizations.

## STUDENTS WHO PERFORMED OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

### GOLD - 1,000+ hours

Akshatha Achar  
Eva Ackerman  
Gabrielle Avellaneda  
Matthew Capece  
Jennifer Evans  
Virginia Fatt  
Veronica Galek  
Katherine Gomez  
Avery Gott  
Jennifer Greer  
Carly Hecht  
Joseph Hennessy  
Maria Kilcullen  
Sydney Korman  
Kathryn Korolishin

Mengfei Leng  
Christopher Maiolie  
Jenna Marino  
Amanda Mintz  
Erica Mora  
Sydney Oliver  
Alexis Raskin  
Emily Rieger  
Taylor Seymour  
Sarah Wintner  
Hunter Wise  
Morgan Woodbridge  
Noah Yuro  
Yaseen Soliman

## SILVER - 500-999 hours

Camile Alvarez  
Saul Amezcua  
Mikko Biana  
Danielle Bradford  
Laine Cohen  
Julien Darses  
Ava Delargy  
Elena Gaffney  
Evan Glatt  
John Godoshian  
Liam Higgins  
Madeline Hone  
Ashley Ketchum  
Lauren Kreinces

Matthew Lai  
Talia Land  
Erica Levy  
Christopher Markos  
Jeffery Miles  
Isabella Neihardt  
Alanna O'Hagan  
Deleenn Robin  
Sarah Ryan  
Catherine Sautter  
Johanna Silva  
Logan Strausman  
Sinbay Tan  
Eva Van Ophem

## PUBLIC SERVICE - 100-499 hours

Stephanie Argueta  
Bridget Bantner  
John Battaglini  
Joshua Dana  
Mingyue Deng  
Neha Dhiman  
Krista Doherty  
Lauren Farfan  
Sarah Genchanok  
Sarah Gouda  
Selma Jay  
Hyun Ji Jung  
Larkan Kelly  
Jungshuh Kim  
Sehee Kim

Yeonjeong Lee  
Allison Lewis-Towbes  
Natalie Linero  
Kevyn McConlogue  
Christopher Orjuela  
Evan Peller  
Olivia Perkins  
Christina Philippides  
Marisa Rodriguez  
Sukhjot Saroya  
Bowen Song  
Caroline Strauss  
Sukhleen Thind  
Nicole Waldman

## PRO BONO LEADERSHIP

Student-led projects are at the heart of the BLS experience. They offer unique leadership and practical opportunities while helping marginalized populations. This celebration, in part, is to honor those graduating students who displayed outstanding student leadership in the school's pro bono projects. These students founded projects, revived and revitalized dormant projects, and took over other projects requiring sophisticated oversight. For all your hard work, we thank you, graduating pro bono project leaders:

Alessandra Antuzzi  
Stephanie Argueta  
Anika Austin  
Ava Delargy  
Elena Gaffney  
Veronica Galek  
Taylor Henegar

Mengfei Leng  
Nick Lindsey  
Kevyn McConlogue  
Amanda Mintz  
Sydney Oliver  
Caroline Strauss

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE Pro Bono Scholars

BLS's Pro Bono Scholars are spending their final semester providing direct legal services to low-income individuals:

Caroline Cohen  
Samantha Frazzetto  
Marisa Rodriguez

Phillip Rudy  
Michael Sherman  
Gabrielle Troya

## **Camille J. Mackler**

*Public Service Awards Ceremony 2025 Keynote Speaker*

*Distinguished Commitment to Public Service Award*

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Camille J. Mackler is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Immigrant ARC (I-ARC), a collaborative of over 80 legal service providers in New York. She works with community leaders, legal service providers, state and local governments, law enforcement agencies, and federal agencies and policy makers to ensure immigrants have access to a fair and efficient immigration system. She is also the Senior Visiting Fellow at the Truman Center for National Policy, where she is researching intersections between immigration policy, national security, and foreign relations.

Prior to launching I-ARC, Ms. Mackler was the Director of Immigration Legal Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. There, she led advocacy campaigns to improve laws and policies for the benefit of immigrants across New York State. Ms. Mackler has led a number of important campaigns and efforts, including advocating for – and ultimately helping coordinate – the evacuation of thousands of Afghans after the Taliban takeover in 2021, coordinating legal efforts to respond to busing of migrants to New York City and New York State since 2022, for detained asylum seekers during family separation at the border in 2018, and at JFK airport during the Muslim travel ban in 2017. She has successfully advocated for protections for immigrants at the state and federal level, including increasing state and city funding for legal services from \$10 million in 2013 to over \$100 million today, drafting legislation creating the first right to universal representation of immigrants in the country, and engaging in administrative advocacy to push for a wide range of policy changes and new protections for immigrants in the United States. Ms. Mackler is on the Steering Committees for the Evacuate Our Allies coalition and the AfghanEvac coalition.

Ms. Mackler frequently lectures on immigration law and policy and has authored numerous reports, OpEds, and articles on federal immigration policy. She has testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the New York State legislature, and the New York City Council on issues affecting immigrants, and has argued cases before US Federal Courts of Appeals and US Immigration Courts. She is a graduate of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and New York Law School.

## **Deborah Berkman**

### *Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service*

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Since 2017, Deborah Berkman has been an Adjunct Clinical Law Professor with Brooklyn Law School teaching numerous classes relating to poverty, public interest and civil rights law, including the Economic Justice Clinic, the Disability Rights and Civil Rights Clinic, Introduction to Public Interest Lawyering, and the Pro Bono Scholars seminar.

Professor Berkman is also the Director of the Shelter and Economic Stability Project at New York Legal Assistance Group's (NYLAG's) Public Benefits Unit. Professor Berkman and her team advocate for single adults and families in need to be provided with habitable emergency shelter and housing subsidies so that they may transition to permanent housing. Professor Berkman also represents these and other low-income clients in accessing public benefits, including cash public assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (food stamps) and Medicaid. Professor Berkman formerly worked in NYLAG's Special Litigation Unit bringing class action and other impact litigation based on systemic denials of rights or benefits.

Prior to these positions, Professor Berkman spent her career fighting on behalf of the disenfranchised at the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Sylvia Rivera Law Project and in private practice. Professor Berkman received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and her J.D. from Fordham School of Law.

## **Michael H. Williams '93**

### *Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service*

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Michael H. Williams has worked as a lawyer in the government and nonprofit sectors for his entire career. He started his career as a litigator at the New York City Law Department but transitioned to in-house counsel at nonprofits beginning in 1999. Since 2007, Mr. Williams has worked as General Counsel of Safe Horizon, the nation's leading victim services organization, where he provides legal, strategic and operational leadership to the organization. Mr. Williams has also served on the Board of New York Peace Institute, a New York City-based nonprofit that assists people in navigating conflict in a variety of ways. He helped establish the organization in 2011 and has served as Board Chair since 2014. In recent years, Mr. Williams has expanded his activities to include creative pursuits in screenwriting and artist management.



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