

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Brooklyn Law School



# IN YOUR INTEREST NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- Career Closet
- Upcoming Programming
- Logging Pro Bono Hours on Paladin + Submission Deadline
- Spring Internships and Postgrad Jobs
- Writing Competitions  
and more!

**TONIGHT** the PSLC is hosting an event relevant for all public interest students. More info on the next page!

## Happy February!

Kudos to everyone who participated in the PILC Fair last week! The PSLC is here to help you navigate summer opportunities through PILC and beyond.

The PSLC is hosting a drop-in session for questions about following up after the PILC Fair and other sources of summer employment. **Stop by the PSLC on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:45-1:45pm!** More info on page 4.

# SHOWING UP, TAKING CARE: NAVIGATING SECONDARY TRAUMA TOGETHER

**FEBRUARY 9, 2026 5:00-7:00 PM**  
**STUDENT LOUNGE**



Staff attorneys and social workers from The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice will share their research on recognizing the secondary trauma stress arising from public interest and/or direct representation of vulnerable client populations and discuss strategies for addressing vicarious trauma and professional burnout.

**Food will be served!**

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**Lina Del Plato**  
*Attorney, BLS '00*

**Jean-Marie Catlett**  
*Social Worker*

**Lena McMahon**  
*Attorney*

**Eileen Lopez**  
*Supervisory Social Worker*

*Questions? Email [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu)!*

# Meet the PSLC's Spring *Student Assistants!*



DARIO ARROYO  
2L

Dario Arroyo is a second-year law student and Edward V. Sparer Public Interest fellow. While at Brooklyn Law, he has had opportunities to work with the Housing Justice Clinic, with Appellate Advocates, and with the New York City Council. Dario is also involved with several student groups, with the Moot Court Honor Society, and now with the PSLC as a student assistant! He is excited to help make the center's opportunities as accessible and fulfilling as possible for our student body.

Jaimie Arocho-Kelly is a second-year student at BLS and a newly appointed Student Assistant at the Public Service Law Center. Originally from Queens, NY, she earned her B.A. in International Relations with a minor in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Delaware. She's passionate about public interest and social justice and is involved in several student organizations including If/When/How and BLSPI. Last summer, she interned with Catholic Charities' Immigration Department working with Unaccompanied Minors. Jaimie is excited to help the PSLC connect students with resources and opportunities in public service law!



JAIMIE AROCHO-KELLY  
2L

*The PSLC & CDC are happy to announce the opening of our*

# **CAREER CLOSET!**



The career closet allows students to grab appropriate clothes for interviews and/or work. We have blazers, dresses, pants, ties, button-ups, and more! All clothes are free and for students to keep. Come to the PSLC office and check it out!

**DROP-IN HOURS:**

<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>
<b>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b>
<b>THURSDAYS</b>
<b>12:45-1:45 PM</b>

**For all other times, please make an appointment by emailing [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu).**





# After the PILC Fair: CONTINUING THE SUMMER INTERNSHIP SEARCH

February 19  
12:45-1:45 PM

Public Service Law Center

The PILC Fair is over... now what?

What do you do if you don't get any internship offers?

When will you hear from employers you interviewed with?

What if you didn't attend the PILC Fair and haven't started applying for internships yet?

What should you be thinking about when deciding whether or not to accept an internship offer?



Drop in anytime during the hour to chat with us about the next steps in your internship search!

Can't make it? Email [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu) to make an appointment.

**upcoming**  
**PRO BONO PROJECT**  
**& PUBLIC INTEREST**  
**meetings**

**FEB**  
**11**

**National Lawyers Guild General  
Body Meeting**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Room 605

**FEB**  
**11**

**Petey Greene Pro Bono Project  
General Body Meeting**  
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM  
Room 602

**FEB**  
**12**

**Small Claims with Sanctuary (SCS)  
Pro Bono Project Info Session**  
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM  
Room 602

**FEB**  
**18**


**Taxi Worker Defense Collective  
General Body Meeting**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Room 505

**FEB**  
**27**

**Courtroom Advocates Project -  
Spring Advocate Training with SFF**  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Room 504

Have a flyer for your pro bono event?

Email [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu) to get it published in our next IYI!



Sanctuary for  
Families + Legal  
Association for  
Women (LAW)

Present:

# **Small Claims with Sanctuary (SCS) Pro Bono Project**

Join us for an information session  
about the SCS pilot program,  
designed to support survivors of  
intimate partner violence.

Thursday  
**February 12th**  
12:45 - 1:45 pm  
ROOM 602

**Lunch will be served!**



# TAXI WORKER DEFENSE COLLECTIVE



## GENERAL BODY MEETING

We represent rideshare and taxi drivers who are fined by the Taxi & Limousine Commission. Join us to find out more!

February 18 | Room 505 from 12-1pm | Pizza Lunch

email [hector.giuria@brooklaw.edu](mailto:hector.giuria@brooklaw.edu) or  
[twdc@brooklaw.edu](mailto:twdc@brooklaw.edu) with any questions.



# COURTROOM ADVOCATES TRAINING



Join us for an in-person training with Sanctuary for Families for the Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP). Attendance is required for interested CAP advocates, and current CAP advocates are encouraged to attend!

Learn how to support survivors of domestic violence and draft a family offense petition!

**FEBRUARY 27**

**9:30-1:30**

**ROOM 504  
FOOD WILL BE SERVED!**

Reach out to [cap@brooklaw.edu](mailto:cap@brooklaw.edu) with any questions!



# Pro Bono Project Spotlight:

## *Unemployment Action Center*

“With Unemployment Action Center, I have learned the joy of advocating for unemployed workers seeking benefits. In one case, the petitioner was denied unemployment insurance because his employer claimed he was terminated for misconduct, but we successfully argued to the Administrative Law Judge that leaving work early by an hour one time in his ten years with the company does not meet the standard of misconduct under the law. Because of the training that UAC provided, I was not only able to [support the petitioner] obtain the assistance he needed while searching for a new job, but I was also able to obtain the skills I needed to feel confident pursuing litigation as a career.”

– Neil Begelman ‘26  
Pro Bono Project Student Leader



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**Email [uac@brooklaw.edu](mailto:uac@brooklaw.edu) to connect  
and discuss getting involved!**



Brooklyn Law Students for the  
Public Interest

# BLSPI FELLOWSHIP

## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



Every year, Brooklyn Law School first- and second-year students are selected as BLSPI Fellows. Fellows work in a diverse array of public interest, public service, and human rights organizations in New York City, nationally, and, increasingly, internationally as well. The fellowship funds up to \$6,500 per fellow for students working in public interest internships over the summer. You do not have to have an internship secured to apply.

**APPLY BY:**  
**FEB 15,**  
**2026**



 [BLSPI\\_Brooklyn](https://www.instagram.com/BLSPI_Brooklyn)

[Fellowship@blspi.org](mailto:Fellowship@blspi.org)



# LAW and ORGANIZING ACADEMY

the  
action  
lab

INITIATIVE FOR  
COMMUNITY  
POWER

We invite current law students from New York-area law schools or with New York-area summer internships to apply to our fourth annual Law & Organizing Academy (LOA), to be held on May 20- 21, June 5, July 10, and July 24, 2026 in various locations in New York City and one day in upstate New York. LOA 2026 is jointly organized by The Action Lab (TAL) and NYU Law's Initiative for Community Power. The Law and Organizing Academy (LOA) brings law students for a short course of study to build community and learn key frameworks and skills at the intersection of organizing, law, and political economy.

To apply to LOA, please fill out the online application no later than **February 27, 2026**.

Application Materials:

1. Google Form scan QR code at the bottom of the page or go to [https://forms.gle/puR845737ziYT\\_YEh8](https://forms.gle/puR845737ziYT_YEh8)
2. Cover letter/personal statement: This statement, which should not exceed one page double-spaced, should detail your interest in and experience with 1) power-building work and/or 2) social change.
3. Resume

Are you interested in the role of law and organizing in transformative social change?

Are you currently attending a law school in NYC or will you be interning in NYC this summer?

If so, apply to the 2026 Law and Organizing Academy!



SCAN QR  
CODE

If you have any questions, please reach out to Daniela Tagtachian at [daniela@actionlabny.org](mailto:daniela@actionlabny.org)



# Summer Internships and Post Grad Opportunities for Upperclass Students

As always, this is just a sampling of what's out there. You'll see lots more summer internships and postgrad opportunities on Symplicity in the coming months. You can always look at our [Online Job Search Resources Guide](#) to find more.

## Summer Internships for 1Ls/2Ls

- 2026 Cornell Law School First Amendment Clinic Summer Fellow (Ithaca, NY), #80031 (**paid!**)
  - Center for Family Representation (New York, NY), #78551
  - Disability Rights New York (New York, NY), #79247
  - Dutchess County Public Defender's Office (Poughkeepsie, NY), #79673 (**paid!**)
  - LatinoJustice PRLDEF (New York, NY), #79262
  - Queens District Attorney's Office (Kew Gardens, NY), #79268 (**paid!**)
  - Vermont Legal Aid (Burlington, VT), #80011
  - Virginia Office of the Attorney General (Richmond, VA), #78674
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## Postgrad Opportunities

- Communities Resist, Law Graduate/Staff Attorney (Brooklyn, NY), #79995
- Essex County Public Defender's Office, Assistant Public Defender (Elizabethtown, NY), #79863
- Legal Services NYC, Right to Counsel Housing Law Graduate/Staff Attorney (New York, NY), #78548
- Mobilization for Justice, 2026 Law Graduate (New York, NY), #79313
- New York City Law Department, Entry Level Attorney (New York, NY), #80040
- Suffolk County Legal Aid Society, Children's Law Bureau Staff Attorney (Central Islip, NY), #79762
- Queens District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney (Kew Gardens, NY), #79266

## Interviews & Follow-Up

The public service job search differs from a private-sector job search in some key ways. Visit [our page on public service application tips and resources](#) for help drafting public service cover letters and preparing for interviews. If you are hoping to work in public service postgrad, make an appointment with the PSLC to plan a strategy!

# Endangered Lawyers? Attorney Independence in the Department of Justice



“Over the past year, we have seen an unprecedented purge of career DOJ lawyers whose only offense seems to have been doing their jobs – impartially and with integrity. Those who have stayed face the difficult task of reconciling their professional obligations with adherence to legally questionable directives from Department Leadership. Dozens of judges have called out DOJ attorneys for misstating facts and defying judicial orders.

This program examines the developments over the past year at DOJ, focusing on professional conduct issues confronting DOJ lawyers under the current Administration. The program is presented in recognition of the 2026 International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, which since 2010 has sought to concentrate attention on the specific challenges faced by lawyers in particular countries in which they have found themselves under siege. For the Day of the Endangered Lawyer in 2026, the chosen country of focus is the United States.”

Watch the recording [here!](#)

Speakers:

**Mary L. Dohrmann**, Senior Counsel, Washington Litigation Group and former federal prosecutor

**Bruce Green**, Louis Stein Chair of Law; Director, Stein Center, Fordham Law School

Troy (LT) Edwards, Former Deputy Chief of National Security, United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia

**Sonia Mittal**, Former Senior Counsel to the Capitol Siege Section, United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, and Clinical Lecturer in Law, Yale Law School

**Joseph Tirrell**, Former Director of the Department of Justice Departmental Ethics Office and Senior Ethics Counsel for Federal Employee Ethics at the Department of Justice

Moderator:

**Emily Bazelon**, Senior Research Scholar in Law, Yale Law School; Staff Writer at The New York Times Magazine



# **HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE U.S. HANDBOOK FOR PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEYS**

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**[Click here](#) to access the  
handbook!**

**2026 EDITION**

# Dorothy E. Roberts Public Interest Essay Competition

Topic: "Submissions must focus on a specific legal issue within the realm of public interest law, including any issue relating to social justice or advancing the general welfare and good of the public. In addition, the author must include a brief grant proposal for \$5,000 to support public interest work related to the essay topic. Topics can be local, state, national, or international in breadth or impact."

## TOPIC

Student-authored articles on the topic of social justice and public interest law. Submissions must focus on a specific legal issue within the realm of public interest law, including any issue relating to social justice or advancing the general welfare and good of the public. In addition, the author must include a brief grant proposal for \$5,000 to support public interest work related to the essay topic. Topics can be local, state, national, or international in breadth or impact.

**Deadline for submission is February 28, 2026.**

Find more information about the essay and grant proposal requirements [here](#), along with the online submission portal.





# The Havens Wright Center for Social Justice

## Erik Olin Wright Prize

The Erik Olin Wright Prize (\$1,000) is awarded annually by the Havens Wright Center for Social Justice for a paper by a graduate or professional student that best exemplifies the concerns that animated Wright's work. You can find a brief description of his work and more information about the prize on this [website](#).

Eligible submissions can come from any of the social sciences, history, or philosophy, and any professional discipline. Submissions are welcome from universities outside the U.S., but they should be submitted in English. One submission is allowed per applicant. Two documents are required.

1. The student work to be considered. This can be no more than 15,000 words (excluding references but including footnotes). Published works may be considered so long as they were completed within the previous calendar year (i.e., between April 16, 2025 - April 15, 2026).
2. A nominating letter from a faculty member familiar with the student's work.

**Submissions, in whole or in part, may be sent between March 1 and April 15 each year and should be sent to [wrightprize@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:wrightprize@ssc.wisc.edu).**

Submissions received after April 15 will not be considered.



# ATTENTION STUDENTS!

(especially graduating students)

The deadline to log pro bono hours for Public Service Awards is **March 15** of your graduating year. **On February 15, all BLS pro bono opportunities will open on Paladin for students to log their hours (instructions below).**

3Ls should look out for an email from the PSLC with more instructions.

**NOTE: All hours logged before December 15, 2025, were added to your Paladin account. If there is any information missing, you can add it yourself or let us know.**

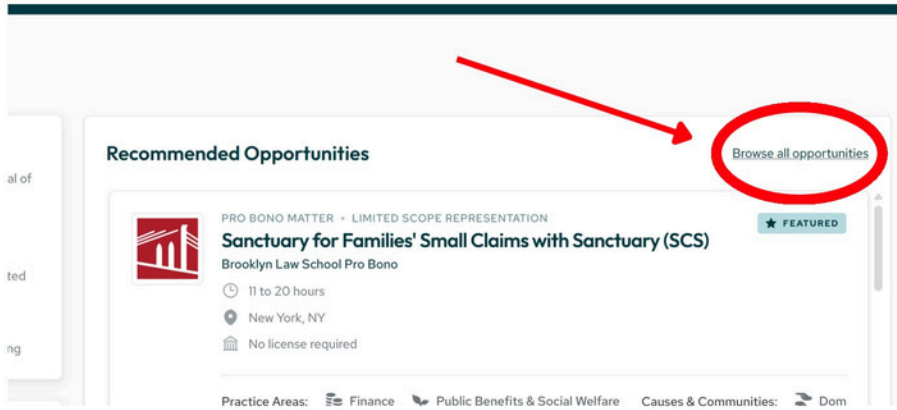


**Website**

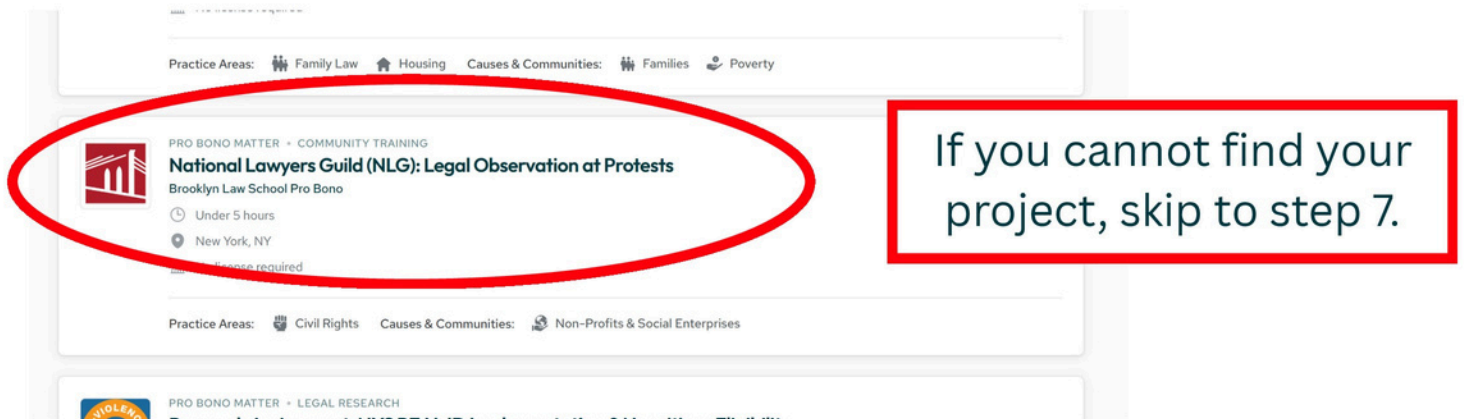
**[www.joinpaladin.com](http://www.joinpaladin.com)**

If you have trouble accessing Paladin, or have any questions, please email [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu)

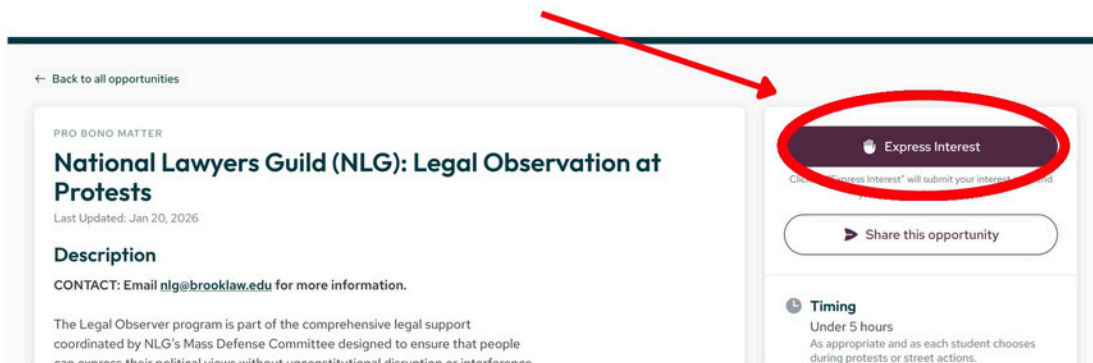
### 1. Look for your project.



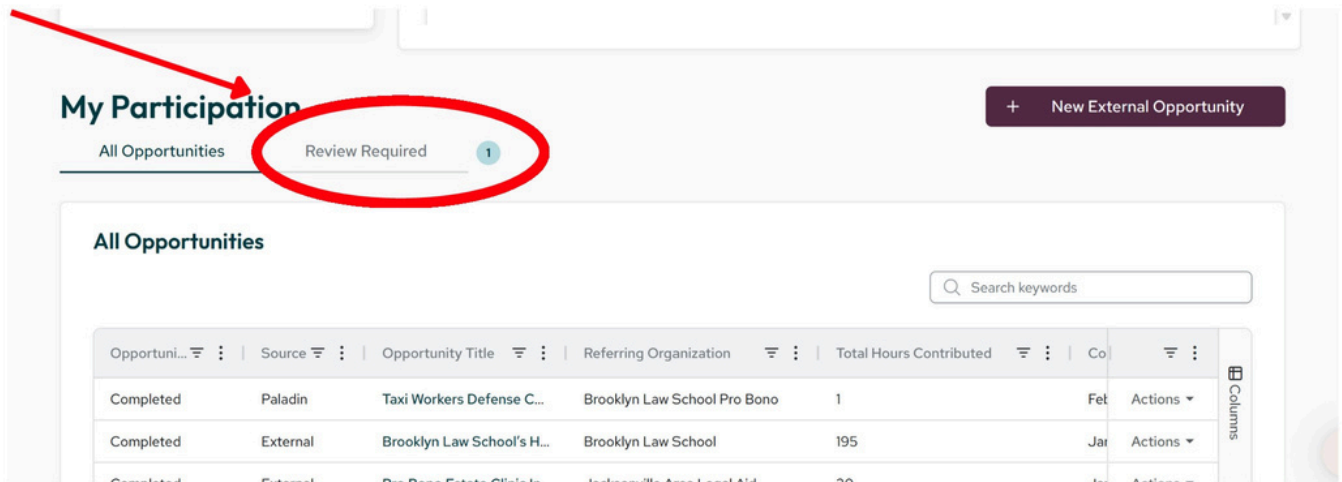
### 2. Select your project (click the name).



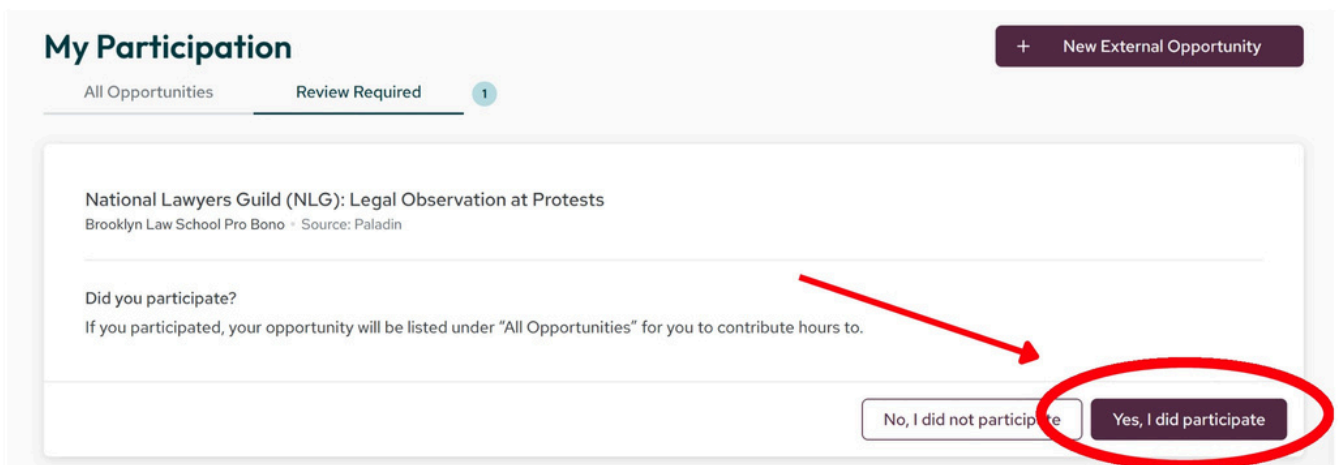
### 3. Express Interest to add the project to your Homepage.



4. Return to your Homepage, scroll down, and click Review Required.

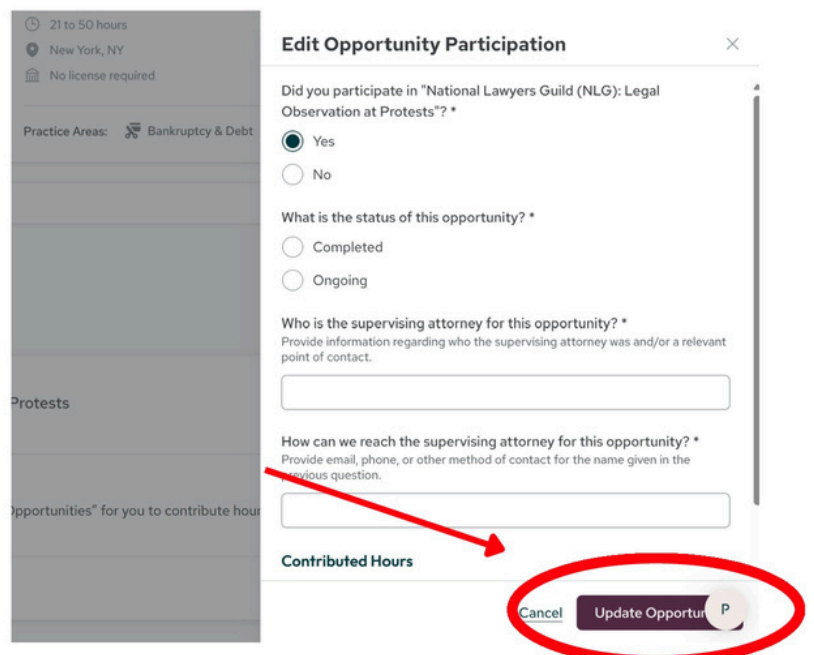


5. Yes, I did participate.



5. Enter your work, including your hours, to the best of your ability.

6. Click Update Opportunity to finish.





7. If you did not find your project, return to the Homepage and click **New External Opportunity**.

The screenshot shows the Paladin homepage. On the left, there are three summary cards: 'Pro Bono Goal' with a progress ring at 1,572% (786 hours completed, 0 remaining), '25-'26 School Year Hours' showing 786 completed hours, and 'Participation' with tabs for 'All Opportunities' and 'Review Required' (1). The main area is titled 'Recommended Opportunities' and lists two options: 'Unemployment Action Center (UAC)' and 'TexasLawHelp.org Law Student Research Volunteer, Spring 2026'. A red arrow points from the second opportunity to a red circle around a '+ New External Opportunity' button at the bottom right.

8. Enter your work information, including your hours, to the best of your ability.

9. Continue and click **Save Opportunity** to finish.

The screenshot shows the 'Add an external pro bono opportunity' form. It has two steps: '01 Basic information & details' and '02 Categorization details'. The 'Basic Information' section includes: 'Opportunity Title \*' (text input), 'Opportunity Description \*' (text area), and 'What type of opportunity is this? \*' (dropdown menu with options: Internship, Externship, Clinic, Pro Bono Matter, etc.).

10. If you are unsure of whether your project is on Paladin already, or about what information should be entered, contact [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu)

# QUESTIONS?

Need help or advice on jobs, internships, fellowships, resumes/cover letters, interviewing, or pro bono? Email us to make an appointment!

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**Public Service Law Center**  
**Monday-Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00PM**  
**[publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu)**

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



Public Service

#### Quick Links

[Public Service Career Paths](#)

[Finding Jobs / Employment Internships](#)

[Application Tips and Resources](#)

[Funding a Summer Internship](#)

[Postgraduate Fellowships](#)

[Pro Bono Projects](#)

[Pro Bono Scholars Program](#)

[Public Service Award Pro Bono Log](#)



Welcome to Public Service