



Brooklyn
Law School

CLINICS

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WHERE LAW COMES TO LIFE

Beyond Survival Premiere Highlights Criminal Defense & Advocacy Clinic Work

Over 450 people gathered at SVA Theatre in Manhattan in November to mark the fifth anniversary of the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA), a groundbreaking sentencing reform passed in New York in 2019.

The event featured the premiere of the documentary *Beyond Survival*, which explores the dynamic DVSJA community and the currently and formerly incarcerated survivors who led the 10-year campaign to get the DVSJA passed. The film, which will be screened again at BLS later in March, also profiles the work of the Survivors Justice Project collective, which began at BLS in 2020 and continues to push forward efforts to implement and expand the law, and the Criminal Defense & Advocacy Clinic (CDAC), which worked with the four survivors featured in *Beyond Survival*.

The auditorium was filled with current CDAC students and many alums, several of whom helped run the event. The evening was a celebration of the survivors freed under the DVSJA to date, a recognition of those left behind, and a strong call to action.



Back row (L-R): Jami Nicholson '24, Rahmel Lee Robinson '24, Hayley Broich '26, Hannah Abuaita '25, Nick Biblis '25. Front row (L-R): Emily Rieger '25, Madison Miraglia '26, Shahirah Abdella '26, Professor Kate Mogulescu, Caroline Golub '24, Bianca Li '24, Sofia Coronado '25.

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Safe Harbor Clinic Conducts Important Know Your Rights Presentations For Immigrant Clients

In the Spring of 2025, as a response to the increase in ICE raids and deportations under the new administration, Safe Harbor students Diana Horobets '26, Cristina Lynch '26, and Saja Hussein '25, have been conducting Know Your Rights Presentations explaining rights during interactions with ICE at home, school, during traffic stops, in public, and in sensitive locations (hospitals, workplaces, places of worship). As part of these presentations, the students have prepared and distributed Know Your Rights brochures, wallet-sized cards explaining constitutional rights, and emergency planning documents.

Safe Harbor Students Win Asylum For Human Rights Activist And A Family Fleeing Religious Persecution

In November 2024, Safe Harbor students Adam Adora '25, Sybil Eklof '26, and Elise Letanosky '26 represented a Chadian lawyer and human rights activist at his asylum interview with the Newark Asylum Office. Philippine Mariaud '26 provided French interpretation. Mere days after the interview, the Asylum Office granted the client asylum. The asylum grant not only protects the client from removal to Chad where he would face persecution and torture, but also allowed him to apply for financial aid so that he could pursue his studies. The client is now attending an LLM program at a law school in the United States.

Also, In December 2024, the New York Asylum Office granted asylum to a Burmese mother and her two minor

children who fled religious persecution. Numerous Safe Harbor students have represented the family since 2020: Elizabeth Grefath '21, Emily Ingraham '22, Evan Eldridge '22, Matt Mezeul '23, Rebecca Balmer '23, Rigel Morin '23, Flora Ho '23, Brianna Lenehen '22, Benjamin Smith '23, Imad Raf '24, Nickada Joseph '24, and John Overbeck '25.

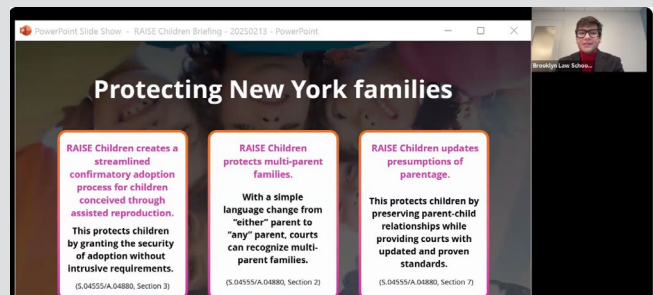


(L-R): Sybil Eklof '26, Professor Faiza Sayed, the client, and Elise Letanosky '26.

LGBTQ+ Clinic Students Brief New York State Legislators On Proposed RAISE Children Law

Spencer Barich '26, Chelsea Jones '26 and Justin Murphy '26 conducted a virtual legislative briefing for members of the New York State Assembly and Senate regarding the proposed Rights Act Initiating Security and Equality for Children, known as the RAISE Children law. Previous clinic students helped draft the bill, which would modernize New York's parentage laws to better protect children with LGBTQ parents and other nontraditional families. They spoke about why legislative change is needed to protect New York children who have more than two parents, or were conceived using assisted reproduction, or are being raised by parents who are not legally recognized. Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, who sponsor the bill in the New York State Senate and Assembly also

spoke, as did Meg York of Family Equality, a national nonprofit advocating for LGBTQ families, who is collaborating with the clinic and other LGBTQ advocates in an effort to pass the bill this year.



Justin Murphy '26 speaks at the RAISE Children virtual legislative briefing.

LGBTQ+ Clinic Students Fight For Asylum for Venezuelan Client

As the Trump administration eliminated protections for Venezuelans fleeing their home country, LGBTQ+ Clinic students worked to ensure “Angel” who escaped years of homophobic abuse in Venezuela would find permanent safety in the U.S. Kolette Bodenmiller ’26, Rosie Fatt ’25 and Peter Miller ’25 accompanied Angel to an interview at the New York Asylum Office where at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer questioned Angel regarding their asylum application. The team spent hours preparing Angel for the interview, practicing possible questions and helping him feel more comfortable talking about the violence and abuse he had experienced in Venezuela as a gay, gender nonconforming, HIV positive person. Prior clinic students Jimena Pinzon de la Mora ’26, Caroline Cohen, ’25 and Zoe Schacht ’26 prepared extensive documentation of Angel’s experiences and the persecution LGBTQ+ people face in Venezuela. Angel now awaits a decision from USCIS on his asylum application.



(L-R): Rosie Fatt '25, Kolette Bodenmiller '26 and Peter Miller '25 at the New York Asylum Office].

Mediation Clinic Students Mediate Small Claims Cases at Kings County Small Claims Court

Daniel Chambers '25 reflects on his experience in the Mediation Clinic: “Working in the Brooklyn Law School Mediation Clinic as a student mediator has been a unique experience marked by its delivery of an entirely new skillset and the deep connections it evokes with fellow clinic students. Here, student mediators learn how to facilitate a conversation between parties in conflict about what’s important to them and what each of them wants. We achieve this through working with clients in New York City Small Claims Court and through role-playing exercises guided by prestigious professionals in the field of appropriate conflict resolution. Student mediators learn how to guide parties to build a bridge of understanding between themselves so they might come to resolve what has placed them at odds. Facilitating this process creates a rare opportunity to obtain legal experience from an impartial perspective from which a greater level of legal clarity can be gleaned. But beneath gaining the ability to mediate and developing a unique perspective in the legal field, is something potentially more significant. In learning to help others understand each other, we must look inwards to better understand ourselves. From this, I have learned more about the attorney I hope to be in the future than I had before learning to mediate.”



(L-R): Joshua Hill, Samantha Gold, Michelle Exline Minovi, Esq., Adjunct Professor Mediation Clinic, Justice Norma Jennings, Kiyon Cho, Daniel Chambers, Mohannad Alabdulqadar, Theron Pickett



(L-R): Olivia Lennon, Lea Rudow, Daniel Chambers, Joshua Hill, Justice Javier Ortiz, Hana Bakhshnia, Noa Scheinfeld, Montserrat Aguilar-Navarro. Not pictured: Sophia Hartman

Supporting Community and Movement Groups in Challenging Times

In its inaugural year, the Community Development and Movement Infrastructure Clinic ("CD-MIC") worked on projects in these four priority areas:

1. NON-PROFIT DEFENSE. In response to a series of Executive Orders that threaten non-profits, especially those engaged in work related to racial justice or other equity issues, and the looming threat of H.R. 9495 (the so-called "Non-Profit Killer" bill), grassroots groups around the country have been puzzling over how to respond: Should strict legal compliance take precedence over missions? What is our risk if we do not scrub our websites of information related to diversity, equity, and inclusion? What happens if we lose our funding or if we have our 501(c)(3) tax exemption stripped? The CD-MIC supported dozens of small and mid-sized non-profit organizations through these difficult conversations. As part of this work, Professor Haber has led trainings for large numbers of community-based organizations through networks including the Building Coordinated Crisis Response network, the Muslims for Just Futures (MJF) Legal Network, and the Peer Defense Project. Clinic students will be sharing our research on these issues with transactional law clinic students and non-profit lawyers from around the city at Fordham Law School this Spring.

2. LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR MUTUAL AID GROUPS, ESPECIALLY GROUPS HELPING IN THE LOS

ANGELES RECOVERY EFFORT. Students in the clinic have helped mutual aid groups understand how donations they receive may be taxed, and what they should do if they receive a 1099-K form from GoFundMe, Venmo, or similar platforms. Clinic students are also collaborating with an attorney at Brooklyn Legal Services on developing Know Your Rights materials for mutual aid groups on these issues.

3. LEGAL SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENT GROUPS IN NEW YORK AND BEYOND. Students have represented local movement groups like Mayday Space, Ridgewood Tenants Union, and the Stop Cop City coalition on everything from corporate by-laws, commercial leases, and employment law to questions around law-and-organizing strategies. Students are also working with a few national movement groups, including the Dual Power Network and a non-profit being formed by the family of the noted Black feminist scholar bell hooks to preserve her legacy and promote her scholarship.

4. LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF NON-PROFITS SUPPORTING TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS START-UPS. Students have represented non-profit groups helping small businesses and entrepreneurs in low-income communities of color, including the Edgemere Alliance and the New York City Minority Small Business Chamber of Commerce. They are also representing some local small business start-ups, worker-owned cooperatives, and social enterprises.



Graphical Notes courtesy of Sara Yukimoto Saltman.

Blip Clinic Works On Copyright Reform, Legal Tech To Advance Access To Justice, Data Privacy, And The Curbing Of Online Exploitation



Adding to BLIP's authorization to represent bootstrapped innovators before the USPTO on patent and trademark matters, BLIP was admitted to represent petitioners and respondents before the Copyright Claims Board, where BLIP hopes to help shape the laws, policies, and practices governing creation in the emerging AI-empowered world. On a related note, in January, the U.S. Copyright Office's report, "[Copyright and Artificial Intelligence, Part 2: Copyrightability](#)," cited the BLIP Clinic comments on how to apply copyright principles in an AI-enabled world.

Among the broader projects that extend beyond the needs of particular clients, BLIP has been working on the following:

- Working to protect rideshare drivers from data abuse by the ridesharing platforms, mostly by creating automated responses on behalf of rideshare drivers against the rideshare platform companies.
- Preparing a response to new White House Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence.
- Working on an effort to rewrite Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to better balance the needs of Internet platforms with the social goals of curbing disinformation and algorithmic abuse.
- Working to create and automate new corporate structures for small, unfunded ventures and social enterprises.
- BLIP also has multiple petitions pending before government agencies, most notably the FCC and FTC, which petitions might have been damaged by the SCOTUS decision in *Loper-Bright*, arguably diminishing the power of the independent agencies. BLIP is figuring how to advance

the needs of small startups and society in a world with less regulator oversight.

- Working on self-tokenization projects for athletes, artists, and musicians.
- Continuing work to create data coops
- Continuing work on its Citizen Reentry set of guides, tools, and apps.

Some BLIP highlights from Spring 2025:

While Professor Askin spent the fall semester as a Visiting Professor with Stanford's Center for Legal Informatics, the BLIP Clinic serviced clients under the steady supervision of adjunct faculty – John Rudikoff, Serge Krimnus, Mark Potkewitz, and Joshua English. Upon Professor Askin's return this spring, inspired by his experience and insights from Stanford, the BLIP Clinic redoubled its efforts to move the needle to ensure a viable environment and future for small entrepreneurs with big dreams in an increasingly complex, tech-enabled world. Along with servicing dozens of bootstrapped ventures, the 35 current BLIP students are devoting much of their intellectual energies this semester to such issues as artificial intelligence, blockchain and cryptocurrency, copyright reform, legal tech to advance access to justice, data privacy, and the curbing of online exploitation.

The BLIP Clinic students try to get out into the community to engage with entrepreneurs, startups, innovators and the creative community. Oftentimes this means running "Legal Issues for Startups" lectures and workshops, such as the one BLIP ran on February 26 at The New School/Parson's eLab, where the BLIP crew shared their expertise and offered personalized mentorship to startups.



BLIP Students vetting startup legal issues with students at the New School at Parsons' eLab.

The BLIP Clinic also mixes and mingles with the dynamic communities in the Brooklyn/NY ecosystem, often through meetups and panels with area incubators, accelerators, co-working spaces, and other community organizations, such as the February 19 Downtown Brooklyn Partnership's Tech For Good Meetup, this time focused on building tech solutions for social, climate, and economic impact.



BLIP Students – Zoe Mazzu, Alexia Hodorski, and Elizabeth Gemdjian – facing the camera at Downtown Brooklyn's Tech for Good.

Housing Justice Clinic Fights to Protect Low-Income Homeowners and Tenants

This year in the Housing Justice Clinic, student attorneys continued representing tenants in Brooklyn Housing Court and the Red Hook Community Court, successfully negotiating rent abatements and pushing for repairs in Housing Part cases brought on by tenants. Students also connected with tenants from all over New York City by fielding calls on the 311 helpline and providing efficient solutions for tenants in need, using their experience to develop know your rights materials around repairs requests.

Students engaged in community projects including one in collaboration with City Council Speaker Adriene Adams' office focused on providing informational videos for New York City residents planning to organize their estates. Clinic students also created and led a Deed Theft workshop for homeowners in East New York and Brownsville and a panel on Tenants' Rights and Housing Justice Reform.

This year, the Clinic also collaborated with different organizations including the Legal Aid Society of New York, GrowBrooklyn, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and the Red Hook Community Justice Center to provide students with hands on experience working with clients served by these various organizations.



Students Skylah Sanchez, Nyaila Elmore, Rachel Chanderdatt, and Sinbay Tan lead a session on Deed Theft at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn.



The handout students created for homeowners attending the Deed Theft workshop at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn.



Panelists at the Community Lawyering Panel co-hosted by the Public Service Law Center and the Housing Justice Clinic.



Students Nyaila Elmore and Rachel Chanderdatt present at a Deed Theft workshop at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn.

NYC Council Legislation & Policy Clinic Students Assist Council Members with Important Policy Issues

Students in the New York City Council Legislation and Policy Clinic worked alongside attorneys of the New York City Council digging into important policy matters impacting New York City. They examined questions such as:

- What impacts will recent Presidential executive orders have on our local government?
- Should (and can) e-bikes be registered locally to owners, similar to motor vehicles?
- How might a recent bank collapse impact New York real estate?

Students prepared memos, participated in meetings, drafted legislation, and conducted legal research on issues from education to civil and human rights to health to housing, and more.

In the clinic seminar students learned the fundamentals of bill drafting, the powers of local law, the legislative process, and the role of an attorney for a legislature. Students are also developing their own original ideas for legislation, putting their ideas into bill text and presenting them to City Council attorneys.



NYC City Council Clinic students on a tour of City Hall, learning about the rotunda



Professor Reid with some of the clinic's 2025 students, in the City Council's Chambers