RIGHT WRONGS

YOU HAVE THE PASSION
WE HAVE THE TOOLS

The City University of New York
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW
Law in the Service of Human Needs

NEW
GAIN THE TOOLS ON A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE
FULL-TIME & PART-TIME, EVENING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
WHY CHOOSE THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY) SCHOOL OF LAW?

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU.
Students come to CUNY Law because they want to change the world. Our curriculum provides experiential learning, beginning day one, to ensure students graduate with the skills and tools they need to make that change. As the national leader in progressive legal education, we help our graduates find the in-demand public interest and public service jobs to impact their communities.

AN EXCEPTIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION SHOULD ALSO BE AFFORDABLE.
CUNY Law’s annual in-state tuition of about $15,000 for full-time study means you can pursue your passion without incurring crushing debt.*

BEING A SUCCESSFUL LAWYER FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD IS A LIFELONG PURSUIT.
At CUNY Law we know that, throughout a legal career, public interest attorneys grow to serve their communities in numerous ways. We support you throughout that pursuit before and during law school through our Pipeline to Justice program, the Irene Diamond Professional Skills Center, and the Writing Center. And, we support you long after graduation. Our graduates enjoy robust professional development programs and lifetime access to our Community Legal Resource Network and our career planning office’s services.

CUNY Law graduates have gone on to change the legal landscape in their own communities, across the country and around the world:
• They champion reform of the criminal justice system.
• They defend the rights of undocumented immigrants.
• They work to ensure access to justice for survivors of gender violence.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Our mission is to graduate outstanding public interest and public service attorneys and to diversify the legal profession.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

CUNY Law will give you the tools to succeed.


Experiential learning is woven throughout the CUNY Law curriculum. Our lawyering program spans your entire law school experience and focuses on teaching you the real-life skills used by the best practicing attorneys.

A Strong Foundation
Foundational courses and lawyering seminars introduce you to the practice of law. These courses help you integrate areas of legal doctrine with skills, such as legal reasoning, analysis, writing, interviewing, counseling and more. You will be strategizing, negotiating, and advocating from the start. In simulated cases, inspired by real-life events, you and your classmates will play out the roles of lawyers, clients and judges faced with legal issues, while gaining a critical perspective on the impact of a lawyer’s actions. Our small classes allow you to try out various lawyering techniques and styles so you gain confidence in your legal skills.

Substantive Law, Lawyering, and Electives
Subject-specific courses and lawyering build on this foundation. They help you develop an in-depth understanding of particular areas of law, such as labor, criminal defense, domestic violence, children’s rights, international human rights and immigration. You will focus on active listening (to clients, adversaries, and others), decision-making, self-evaluation, and ethical reasoning. Our centers offer opportunities for you to work with faculty on research and creating public dialog about the issues affecting our world.

Clinical Practice Representing Real Clients
Our clinical program has been ranked in the top 10 nationally since 1994 by U.S. News and World Report. While most law schools offer limited access to clinical experiences, we require all students to participate in our clinical program; each student is offered a minimum of 12 credit hours. This guarantees that every CUNY Law student gains real-world, legal experience. Our experiential learning curriculums—clinics and concentrations—let you put your knowledge and legal skills to work representing real clients, while under supportive faculty supervision. You might appear in court, draft legal documents, or collaborate with community organizations. In the classroom, using a case rounds approach, you will present cases, learn reflective practices and build on each other’s experiences.

TO LEARN MORE OR APPLY VISIT LAW.CUNY.EDU/PROSPECTIVE
Our unique curriculum focuses on experiential learning. Whether you enroll full-time or part-time, in the evening, you can create a schedule that works for you. Visit www.law.cuny.edu/admissions/part-time.html to learn more about the part-time, evening program.

CUNY Law is the only publicly funded law school in New York City, and we are the most affordable law school in the state. And with our part-time, evening program, more students have the opportunity to attain the legal tools to advocate for their communities, while balancing families and careers.

In our part-time, evening program, over the course of eight semesters, and one summer in your first year, you will take 86 credits—including participation in a clinic or concentration—to earn your J.D. After your first year, you may also take classes during the day to create a flexible schedule that works for you. Evening classes are typically scheduled between 6 and 9:30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday.

Our clinics and concentrations help you deepen your knowledge and skills by representing real clients while receiving guidance from faculty as needed. We ensure a place for all students—full-time and part-time—in our top 10 nationally ranked clinical program.

GAIN THE SKILLS TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY WITH THE FLEXIBILITY TO HELP YOU

GAIN THE TOOLS YOU NEED ON A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

PART-TIME EVENING PROGRAM

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BE THE LAWYER YOU WANT TO BE

At CUNY Law you learn by doing. And your training culminates in the capstone experiential learning opportunity you choose to best prepare you for life as a public interest lawyer. This capstone experience comes in two forms at CUNY Law: our seven clinics and three concentrations. These two special learning opportunities will give you the tools to address real-world, legal issues.

OUR CLINICS

CUNY Law is ranked #1 in New York and #3 in the U.S. for clinical programs by U.S. News and World Report. Main Street Legal Services comprises CUNY Law’s legal clinical program. Students work in this public interest law firm environment on a broad range of issues.

Community & Economic Development Clinic

Address economic inequality in marginalized communities in New York City through litigation, transactional representation, grassroots community advocacy, and policy reform. In this clinic, you will develop lawyering skills that focus on group representation. And you will get to apply these skills to counsel and represent clients who are striving for social and economic justice in their communities. You may focus on one of the following areas: worker cooperative law, nonprofit legal support, workers’ rights, or tenant law and organizing.

Recent student work includes assisting low-income tenants in gentrifying neighborhoods in Long Island City and Brooklyn and working with Mondragon, the world’s largest worker-owned cooperative.

Criminal Defense Clinic

This clinic puts you face-to-face with the criminal justice system. You will provide direct, individual representation in a variety of contexts. This includes: representing indigent clients charged with misdemeanors, advocating for prisoners in disciplinary proceedings (including challenges to solitary confinement) and representing incarcerated individuals who are potentially eligible for clemency under the 2014 Clemency Project. The seminar helps you sharpen lawyering skills, understand professional responsibility issues, master New York State and federal criminal law and procedure and explore the multifaceted impact of the criminal justice system on people of color. Placements are available with one of our clinical partners (e.g., Bronx Defenders, The Legal Aid Society, Vera Institute of Justice, etc.).

Economic Justice Project (EJP)

The Economic Justice Project (EJP) was formed in response to regressive welfare reform legislation that forced CUNY students to quit school to fulfill workfare requirements, prohibiting them from gaining the credentials necessary to move out of poverty. In 2014, the clinic celebrated the passage of a state law that—for the first time—allows welfare recipients to meet a substantial part of their “workfare” obligations by attending a four-year college and offers the possibility of transformative change. EJP students drafted the initial version of the legislation and, along with partner organizations, worked to secure its passage. As part of this clinic, you will develop expertise in social welfare and administrative law and explore the historical, ideological, and constitutional roots of social welfare policies. You will work with the Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College to represent CUNY undergraduate students at welfare hearings.
International Women's Human Rights Clinic (IWHR)

Engage in domestic and international cutting-edge human rights work. Develop a deep understanding of international human rights and become more effective at advocating for reforming unfair laws. Clinic work focuses on gender-based violence, reproductive rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, economic and social rights, children’s rights and anti-trafficking work. Through your clinical experience you will represent individual clients and work with teams of lawyers and activists to conduct legal research and promote policy change. Students have taken fact-finding trips to Turkey to work with Syrian and Iraqi human rights activists, visited Colombia to help organizations assisting former child soldiers, and aided the Center for Reproductive Rights to promote women’s access to healthcare in Texas. IWHR also has focused on ending the criminalization of individuals rights activists, visited Colombia to help organizations assisting former child soldiers, and aided the Center for Reproductive legal research and promote policy change. Students have taken fact-finding trips to Turkey to work with Syrian and Iraqi human rights activists, visited Colombia to help organizations assisting former child soldiers, and aided the Center for Reproductive Rights to promote women’s access to healthcare in Texas. IWHR also has focused on ending the criminalization of individuals.

Mediation Clinic

The clinic provides a forum where historically disadvantaged or marginalized parties can have their grievances heard and settled to their satisfaction. As a mediator, you will help parties resolve disputes relating to business transactions, torts, employment, and landlord-tenant, family and neighbor relations. Your two-person teams will mediate cases under faculty supervision. You will study the contracts, disability and anti-discrimination law and court protocols for dispute resolution and develop professional neutral intervention skills. Past student work has included co-mediating in civil and small claims courts and assisting faculty in mediations involving employment discrimination allegations and police misconduct in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic (INRC)

This clinic focuses on providing legal services for immigrants seeking to live in the U.S. without fear of exploitation or subordination, or for those seeking to be free from U.S. custody. Build your interviewing, counseling and advocacy skills as you prepare to represent detainees at detention facilities in Guantanamo Bay and Bagram. You will also advocate for asylum seekers and victims of gender-based violence and represent legal residents in criminal proceedings. In the clinic’s substantive project, Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR), students represent and help organize N.Y.’s Muslim, Arab and South Asian communities on a broad range of issues connected to national security and counterterrorism policies and practices. You also may work with one of our partners, such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the New York Civil Liberties Union or Queens Legal Services.

Elder Law Clinic

Advocate for older adults and people with disabilities to promote autonomy, empowerment, and dignity. Develop knowledge of the theory, doctrine and practice related to decision-making for people who may have diminished capacity. Gain a critical perspective on the role of adult guardianship systems. Along with your classmates, you will serve as a court evaluator and represent clients under Article 81 of the N.Y. Mental Hygiene Law. You will attend court hearings on adult-capacity issues, represent elders in “poverty estate planning” and perform drafting work that involves intensive planning and counseling about eligibility for government benefits. CUNY Law students have helped develop technological tools to assist individuals representing themselves in court petitions to become guardians for adults.

Human Rights Clinic

Work with civil rights lawyers in New York City to advocate on behalf of clients to eradicate discrimination based on racial, gender, national origin, disability, or LGBTQ characteristics. Learn how to litigate in civil rights cases via hands-on work in field placements and lawyering simulations in class. Student work has included investigating potential violations of immigrant workers’ constitutional rights, challenging racial discrimination in FDNY hiring, confronting unconstitutional “stop and frisk” racial profiling by the NYPD, and working with the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union on educational opportunities for incarcerated young people.

Equality Concentration

Work with civil rights lawyers in New York City to advocate on behalf of clients to eradicate discrimination based on racial, gender, national origin, disability, or LGBTQ characteristics. Learn how to litigate in civil rights cases via hands-on work in field placements and lawyering simulations in class. Student work has included investigating potential violations of immigrant workers’ constitutional rights, challenging racial discrimination in FDNY hiring, confronting unconstitutional “stop and frisk” racial profiling by the NYPD, and working with the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union on educational opportunities for incarcerated young people.

Health Law Concentration

Health law is a growing and diverse legal area. Graduates with training in health law have the opportunity to do a wide range of legal work, such as trial and appellate litigation, regulatory compliance, legislative advocacy and more. In the seminar, you will examine how the U.S. Constitution, statutes, and the common law determine access to health care, regulate the quality of patient care, and are used to resolve disputes among doctors, hospitals and patients. You will study myriad laws and regulations related to health issues in the U.S. Field placements have included: organizations that protect the health care rights of vulnerable populations (e.g., the poor, minorities, elderly, non-citizens, disabled, mentally ill, people with HIV/AIDS); government agencies; law firms specializing in health-related issues; general counsel offices, and others.

CUNY Law taught me how to stand on my feet and help others. It taught me how to practice law with compassion.”

– Judge Pam Jackman-Brown ('86)
“I can think of no tribute to Ted Sorensen more fitting than an institution which will both challenge young minds and equip them with the tools of leadership.”

former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the opening of CUNY Law’s Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice

OUR CENTERS

From urban environmental issues and Latino/a rights to diversity in the legal field and international human rights, our centers provide the CUNY Law community with an opportunity to engage with issues specific to their interests.

The Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice trains social justice lawyers to work from local to global levels, protecting rights of those affected by instability, conflict, and repression. The goal is advance scholarship, intellectual exchange, and advocacy for international peace and justice. Through seminars led by Scholars-in-Residence, an annual meeting on Communications for Peace, and global summer internship placements, the Sorensen Center equips students with international experience and expertise to become leaders in the field.

The Center for Urban Environmental Reform (CUER) is a clearinghouse and focal point for the data, experts, and training needed to ensure a level playing field. The Center operates on the belief that environmental justice is a critical aspect of social justice and that communities are entitled to participate fully and meaningfully in environmental decisions that affect them. CUER produces scholarly research to influence an ongoing theoretical discourse about urban environmental justice and participatory democracy. That research is turned into useful policy tools for planners, policymakers and advocates, including grassroots community groups.

The Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality (CLORE) educates lawyers, law students, scholars and the public on the status of Latinos and Latinas. CLORE advocates for expanded civil rights and bring together scholars and advocates to explore issues in the areas that impact the growing Latino population. The Center’s extensive archives on Latino rights are available to the legal community, activists, elected officials and others in a strong position to help Latinos and Latinas improve their position in the U.S. and the world.

The Center for Diversity in the Legal Profession is among the first centers on a law school campus devoted to studying diversity within the legal profession. The Center conducts original research and collects and distributes data on the participation of people of color in the law.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Our hands-on, experiential learning will prepare you to tackle the multifaceted problems that confront attorneys and their clients. You’ll put all your skills and knowledge into practice during your summer internships. You can count on CUNY Law’s strong connections to the public sector, and the support provided by the career planning office, in your search for a robust professional experience that aligns with your individual passions. Our students intern throughout the country and the world, providing direct legal services, shaping public policy, and contributing to broad movements for social justice.

An increasing number of students receive stipends for summer fellowships and placements to ensure that they can engage in the public interest, government and judicial legal internships that interest them.

Some of the many summer placements include:

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Brooklyn Family Defense Project
California Rural Legal Assistance
Center for Constitutional Rights
Centre for Civil and Political Rights (Geneva, Switzerland)
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute
San Francisco Public Defender’s Office
Sanctuary for Families
Southern Poverty Law Center
The Door
Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Western Cape High Court (Cape Town, South Africa)
Outten & Golden LLP

For a more complete list of possible summer placements visit: www.law.cuny.edu/career/summer-fellowships.html

Advocating for Youth and Families

It’s not every day that you have the opportunity to work on a bill for the New York State Legislature, but that’s exactly what Lucas Cuellar (’14) did during his internship in the summer of 2013 at the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn. Working under the supervising attorney on a number of projects, Cuellar helped draft a bill proposal to the State Legislature to increase and standardize spousal support.

“The court system is not a very humane place, even though family law is all about people and families and humans,” noted Cuellar. “It was amazing to see how my supervisor navigated that difference and how vital a zealous advocate is for clients. It really sharpened my passion for family law.”

Dalourny Nemorin (’14) interned as a student clerk in Bronx Family Court. Under the supervision of her family court referee, Nemorin learned about custody, visitation, and order of protection cases; she also observed other judges and referees in family court. Nemorin had the opportunity to write two pieces for a court referee and to shadow defense attorneys from Legal Aid and the Administration for Children and Families.

During the rest of the summer, Nemorin interned at the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County, working with underage defendants accused of misdemeanors in criminal court.

TO LEARN MORE OR APPLY VISIT LAW.CUNY.EDU/PROSPECTIVE
**STUDENT LIFE**

Nearly all CUNY Law students participate in one or more of our 40 student organizations at some point during their time here.

Some of the many student organizations include:
- Black Law Students Association
- City University of New York Law Review
- Courtroom Advocacy Project
- CUNY Labor Coalition for Workers’ Rights and Economic Justice
- The Mississippi Project

Find the full list online at [www.law.cuny.edu/students/orgs.html](http://www.law.cuny.edu/students/orgs.html)

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Every student who applies to CUNY Law is evaluated for possible scholarships. We offer three main types of scholarships, the graduate fellowships, the public interest merit scholarships and admissions scholarships.

**Graduate Fellowships:** We award about 12 graduate fellowships to incoming students each academic year. Candidates are selected based on a combination of factors that include excellent entering academic indicators, demonstrated capacity for leadership, individual accomplishments and an established history of serious commitment to public interest.

**Public Interest Merit Scholarships and Admissions Scholarships:** Depending on the availability of funds, CUNY Law may award scholarships to entering 1L students. The Public Interest Merit Scholarship is available throughout your full-time or part-time program at CUNY Law; Admissions Scholarships are awarded for the 1L year. Candidates for these scholarships are identified from our pool of admitted students and selected based on numerous factors, such as commitment to the public interest; economic, social, or other obstacles overcome prior to applying; academic indicators; and more.

Additional information can be found at [www.law.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html](http://www.law.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html)

**THE CUNY LAW DIFFERENCE**

- We are the only public law school in New York City and the most affordable in New York State
- CUNY Law is one of the highest ranking law schools in N.Y. and the nation
  - One of the nation’s Top 10 law schools for public interest law (National Jurist)
  - Ranked third in the U.S. for “Best Clinical Programs” (U.S. News and World Report)
- We pride ourselves on being a diverse institution among students, faculty and staff
  - #2 in the nation for student and faculty diversity (National Jurist)
  - Three-time recipient of the annual Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award
  - More than 60% of our student body and faculty are women and over 40% are people of color.
- We are a community that believes in supporting one another as much as we believe in supporting and fighting for our causes. Our strong and remarkable community is what makes CUNY Law special and unlike any other law school in the nation.

**VOICES FROM CUNY LAW**

“At CUNY Law, you can be your authentic self. We change what you are capable of here, but we don’t change who you are.”

— Professor Nina Chernoff

“I chose CUNY Law because access to justice should not depend on one’s access to funds.”

— Everett Hopkins ('14)

“I teach at CUNY Law because both students and faculty bring a diversity of rich experiences and a singular commitment to advancing social justice.”

— Professor Babe Howell

“Unfortunately, we still live in a world fueled by fear. We still live in a world where racism and discrimination are alive and well. We still live in a world where people are oppressed and poverty festers in communities until they implode. Until we no longer live in a world like this, the need for great social justice lawyers will always exist, and CUNY Law graduates will meet the need. We understand that the law must be understood in its human terms and human consequences. The work we do will be our legacy and will hopefully define a generation. There’s no other place that I would have wanted to go to law school than here, with people who refuse to stand around and watch injustices occur.”

— Somalia Samuel ('14)

In her commencement speech

**OUR HOME AT 2 COURT SQUARE**

CUNY Law is located in Long Island City, a vibrant community in Queens, the most ethnically diverse urban area in the world with residents from more than 100 countries speaking more than 130 languages. In our neighborhood, you’ll find one of the highest concentrations of art galleries, art institutions and studio spaces in New York City.

We are easily accessible by public transportation, just minutes from midtown Manhattan and within a few blocks from the Long Island City Courthouse. We are one of the greenest law schools in the nation, with a LEED Gold certified building that recycles rainwater, runs on wind power, and was built with 90% post-consumer, recycled steel. Our building was named one of the “50 most Impressive Law School Buildings” by Best Choice Schools.
FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

GAIN THE TOOLS FROM THE PREMIER PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY.

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