CREATING LAWYERS WHO TRANSFORM DEFEND REPRESENT IMPACT CHANGE CREATE STAND UP



Every aspect of our curriculum is mission focused. As the only publicly funded law school in New York City, we expand access to excellent legal training and increase representation of people and communities the law would otherwise seek to marginalize or oppress.









I stood with residents, activists, and lawyers in front of the police department in Ferguson – moments after the grand jury decision to not indict a police officer for killing an unarmed black child. There was despair, frustration, and anger in the air.

There was tear gas in the air.

The next night, I stood with lawyers attempting to gain access to residents jailed the previous night. "Only essential personnel," they said. We reminded the jailers that the people in their custody had this right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

After two hours, we got inside and interviewed nearly 40 people, hearing stories of aggressive, violent policing, each story with its own pain. We pursued justice for each client on a path to equality.

A world with equality is a world where my daughter's life matters. Equality is the time and place where she will experience the world unencumbered by how she looks or whom she loves. Where her classmates, teachers, and police will approach their encounters with genuine hearts and open minds. My equality will be when my daughter has the peace to be heard and the space to be herself.

I chose to be a public defender to help my clients shatter the silence of institutions that seek to snatch from them the most precious aspects of their lives.

CUNY Law has prepared each of us to amplify the voices of those who are often ignored. We travel the path to equality with our clients. We trumpet each client's cause. Our work, our struggle for equality, is about the dignity of people.

THE DAY-ONE DIFFERENCE

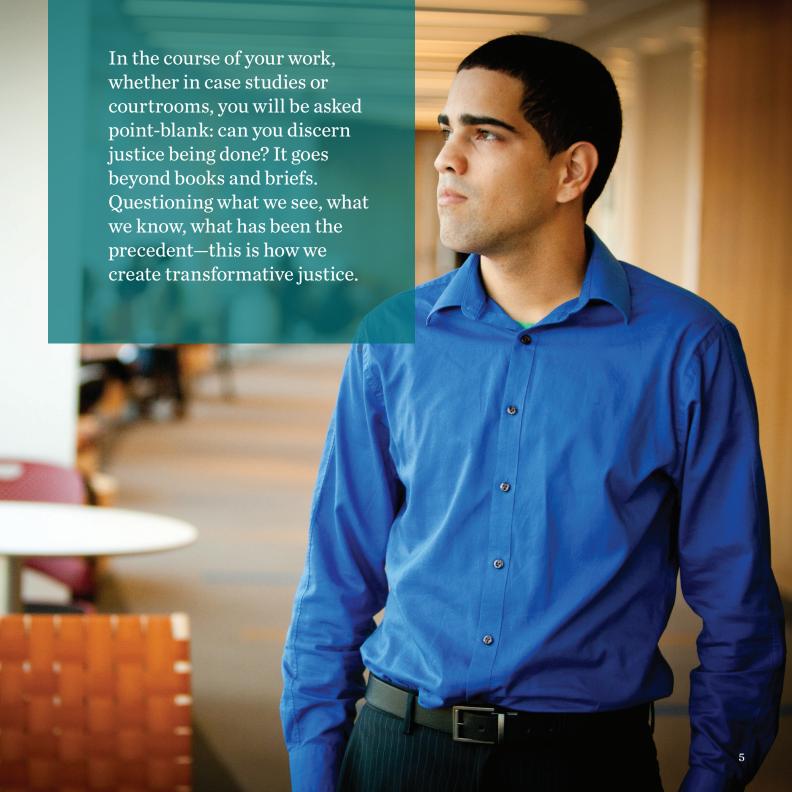
Before classes even begin, you will be asked: What does justice look like? Who is making it?

Do you see justice being done?

The entirety of CUNY Law's curriculum is designed to engender examination of the disparate impact of law based on race, gender, nation of origin and the multitude of intersectional impacts often inextricable from racial justice.

We begin by admitting extraordinary mission-driven

students with a passion for bringing equity and opportunity to their communities and connecting them with a faculty that has deep social justice roots and experience. The result is an academic program and connected community that jumpstart social justice lawyering before Orientation even begins.



AN EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

CUNY Law will invest in you. We will invest in your success. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to ensuring that you become the lawyer you are meant to be. We provide a meaningful, high-quality education that has consistently received national recognition, while being qualitatively different from any other place. We're rigorous, but also uniquely supportive. There's no mandatory curve and no peer ranking.

We give you the flexibility you need with full-time, part-time, and dual degree programs. We personalize our academic program to meet your interests, and offer an academic support program for those who need it.

And we're affordable. CUNY Law is one of the most affordable law schools in the country.

We know you are making a major investment in your future, and we make it our priority that you see a return on that investment.













EMPOWERING EACH OF US

Our institution and community are rooted in the call to create systemic change in the face of systematic injustice. We believe the law must be understood from the perspective of those it oppresses and that those same communities must lead the change.

At CUNY Law, recruiting a student body and faculty that can shape and change the perspective of the profession and the understanding of what is needed for true justice is how we do the work. 52% Entering Students are BIPOC41% Faculty Self-identify as BIPOC35% Self-identify as LGBTQ33 Countries represented

throughout our student body

CUNY Law is a special institution that takes pride in providing ample opportunities for law students of diverse backgrounds. As an alum of CUNY Law, it made such a difference in my law school experience to see and interact with students and professors who looked like me and came from a variety of life experiences. That's what makes CUNY Law so unique — it's the only law school that I know that is truly committed to cultivating a more diverse legal field, starting at Court Square.

– Shoshana Brown '17 Affirmative Action Administrator, Albany, New York

The City University of New York

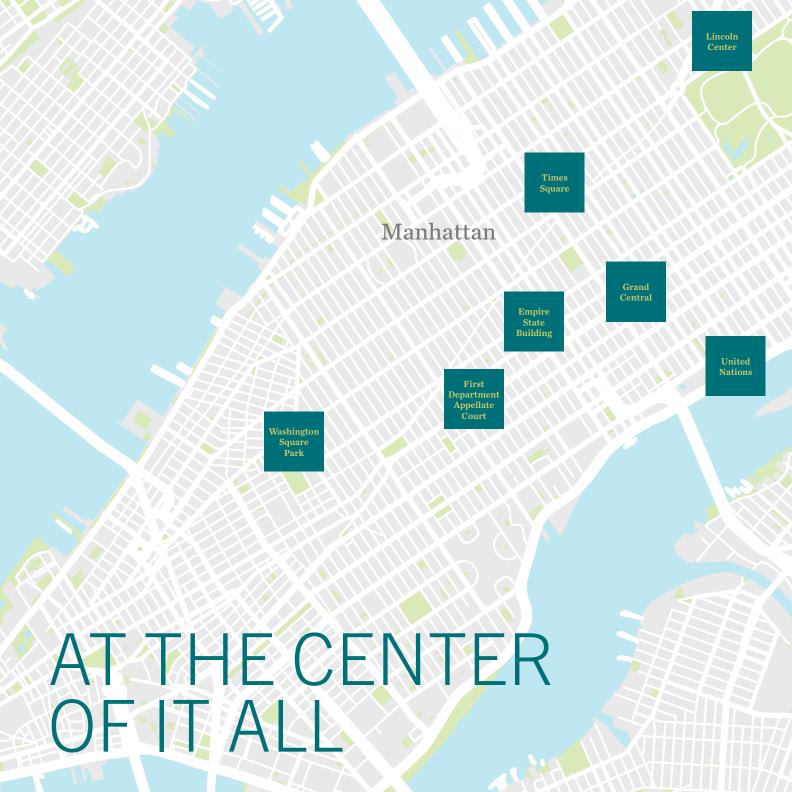
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

Law in the Service of Human Needs

#3

MOST DIVERSE LAW SCHOOL IN THE NATION.

The National Jurist, 2021







New York City is an ideal place to study law because it is home to the leading trailblazers in every area of public interest law.

Mackenzie Lew '18
 Staff Attorney, Mental Health Project
 Urban Justice Center

New York City remains the epicenter for exploration of issues central to justice.

We're surrounded by legal services providers and organizations fighting for racial, social, and economic justice.

Located in Queens, we're in the most diverse urban area in the world, with residents from more than 100 countries speaking more than 130 languages.

We're located at a transportation hub for subways, buses, and commuter trains. Midtown Manhattan is one stop away, and the neighborhood is full of food, art, waterfront parks, and more.

Our LEED Gold certified building encompasses six floors, and 260,000 square feet of state-of-the-art teaching, research, and conference facilities.

STUDENTS WHO TAKE ACTION

We challenge you to find a community of people more passionate and committed than those at CUNY Law.

Nearly every student participates in at least one of more than 40 student organizations, such as the Black Law Students Association, Courtroom Advocacy Project, International Refugee Assistance Project, and the Mississippi Project.

The leadership and collaboration within our student body are hall-marks of what sets us apart. From panels to organizing and know your rights trainings to dance parties, CUNY Law students are always living our mission in new and exciting ways while pushing for inclusivity and change.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTERS AND PROJECTS AT CUNY LAW

CUNY Law brings students and faculty together with leaders to encourage the exchange of ideas and knowledge to advance social justice.

Our Justice Centers foster intersectional and global approaches to issues and initiatives at the heart of human rights work, environmental advocacy, law and policy, and transforming justice and representation for Latinx communities. Their collaborative work is ever-evolving and expanding, connecting students, faculty, and community partners.

- > Center for Diversity in the Legal Profession
- > Center on Latinx Rights and Equality
- > Center for Urban Environmental Reform
- > Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR) Project
- > Economic Justice Project
- > Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice







CUNY Law has a deep, abiding mission to practice law in the service of human needs. There are not enough lawyers engaged in practice for the public good or serving the needs of those most vulnerable. From the minute you enter CUNY Law, we engage you in focused legal training that includes doctrine, practice, and experiential work. We know that you will work hard to become creative, problem-solving lawyers ready to hit the ground running as soon as you leave us. We have high expectations and require every student to have a supervised practice experience before graduation because we know you will become the kinds of advocates who are the last line of defense for people in need. Our faculty is committed to CUNY Law's mission and to your success. We 'walk the walk' — our professors are people who have real-world practice experience and a demonstrated commitment to social justice. Our faculty continues to be engaged in those issues, both within and outside the law school. It is the commitment of our faculty and students that makes CUNY Law unique.

Natalie Gomez-Velez, Professor of Law, Director of the Center on Latinx Rights and Equality, member of the New York State Unified Court System Committee on Non-Lawyers and the Justice Gap, Attorney Emeritus Advisory Committee, and Trustee of the City Parks Foundation

REFRAMING CURRICULUM

You will not learn by memorizing a textbook.

At CUNY Law, deep experiential knowledge is part of a deliberate classroom strategy integrating legal doctrine with lawyering skills. You will be the lawyer, client, and judge within small classes where you have room to develop your skills and confidence in an intensely supportive group of peers and mentors.

We teach traditional substantive law courses through a social justice lens; we ask students to think critically about legal constructs, rule application and procedures, and to synthesize that knowledge holistically. Students learn how the law privileges or oppresses different groups and the strategies needed to transform justice.

In a study by the Carnegie
Foundation for the Advancement
of Teaching, CUNY Law was
repeatedly praised for being one of
the few law schools in the country
to prepare students for practice
through its "integrative approach"
combining theory, skills, and ethics.

We know that our community consists of and responds to a variety of teaching and learning styles. Academic support programs, graduate writing fellows, the Career Planning team, and more are essential and accessible to all at CUNY Law.

We work with students from day one to explore their interests and choose the electives that will help them determine their path.















THE THIRD-YEAR DIFFERENCE

Our clinical programs confront and challenge the urgent legal and political issues of now.* Unique to CUNY Law is our sequenced curricular path consisting of three lawyering seminars and culminating in a clinical experience. Every student, whether full-time, earning a dual degree, or taking evening classes, gets to learn in our renowned clinics.

The Lawyering Program begins in your first year with analyzing legal problems and developing the professional skills of an effective public interest lawyer. In your second year, you'll focus on a public interest area of your choice. In your third year, you apply your knowledge and skills in an intensive, closely supervised field placement program or a live-client clinic housed within the law school.

As a CUNY Law graduate, you will be fully prepared to practice law in the service of human needs.

- > CLEAR
- > Community & Economic Development
- > Defenders
- > Economic Justice Project
- > Disability & Aging
- > Equality & Justice Practice
- > Family Law Practice
- > Health Law Practice
- > Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights
- > Human Rights & Gender Justice
- > Mediation Clinic

Our clinical faculty and fellows have an unparalleled depth and breadth of knowledge and experience.

KICKSTARTING CAREERS

CUNY Law students intern all over the world, from New York City to San Francisco, from Colombia to South Africa, tapping into the deep and longstanding ties of the CUNY Law community.

Skadden Fellowships, often thought of as the legal Peace Corps, are awarded to law students committed to the public interest. In 2017, CUNY Law grads Annemarie Caruso and Maggie Gribben, were awarded Skadden Fellowships, allowing them to advocate for students facing educational injustices and on behalf of low-wage workers.





CUNY LAW INTERNSHIPS

Abolitionist Law Center (Pittsburgh, PA)

ACLU Criminal Law Reform

ACLU Foundation - Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project

ACLU of Idaho

ACLU of NYC

ACLU National Headquarters

ACLU Racial Justice Program

ACLU of Southern California

Aequitas (Washington DC)

African Services Committee (NYC)

American Friends Service Committee (Philadelphia, PA)

Amistad Law Project (Philadelphia, PA)

Alaska Legal Services Corp (AK)

ArchCity Defenders (St. Louis, MO)

Artistic Freedom Initiative (NYC)

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (NYC)

Associate Judge Jenny Rivera, New York Court of Appeals (NYC)

Bernice D. Siegal, Justice, NYS Supreme Court, Queens County, Civil Term (NYC)

Bernstein Institute for Human Rights (NYC)

Bet Tzedek Legal Services (CA)

Bronx Defenders (NYC)

Brooklyn Defenders Services: Family Defense; Criminal Defense; Immigration Unit

CASA (NYC)

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

Catholic Migration Services (NYC)

Center for Appellate Litigation (NYC)

Center for Constitutional Rights (NYC)

Center for Popular Democracy (NYC)

Centro de los Derechos del Migrante. Inc.

Children's Law Center of California (Monterey Park, CA)

Christopher John Minillo, Esq. (OH)

Colorado State Public Defender (CO)

Communities Resist Inc. (NYC)

Community Health Law Project (NJ)

CONPAZCOL (Colombia)

Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CA)

Cook County Public Guardian (IL)

Corporate Accountability Lab (IL)

Council on American-Islamic Relations (NYC)

COVID-19 Rapid Response Summer Institute

Crime Victims Treatment Center (NYC)

Cyber Sexual Abuse Task Force (NYC)

Defender Association of Philadelphia

Defense for Children International (Palestine)

Detroit Justice Center (MI)

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Inc.

DNA People's Legal Services (AZ)

Domestic Violence Crisis Center (CT)

Dora L. Irizarry, U.S. District Court, EDNY (NYC)

EarthJustice (various)

Eastside Legal Assistance Program (Bellevue, WA)

Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP (New York)

Fair and Just Prosecution

Fair Housing Justice Center (NYC)

Family Court of the City of New York

Farmworker Justice (Washington, DC)

Federal Defender for the Eastern District of California (Sacramento, CA)

Federal Defenders of San Diego Inc. (CA)

Federal Public Defender for the District of New Jersey (NJ)

Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, Inc. (Florence, AZ)

Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

Gay Men's Health Crisis (NYC)

Gerstman Schwartz LLP (NY)

Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss LLP

Global Justice Center (NYC)

Goddard Riverside Law Project (NYC)

Greenberg Traurig (New York)

Harlem United (NYC)

Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program

Haynes and Boone, LLP

Her Justice

HIV Law Project, a part of Housing Works (NYC)

Hon. A. Kathleen Tomlinson, Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of New York

Hon. Diccia T. Pineda-Kirwan (NY)

Hon. Jenny Rivera, Associate Justice, New York Court of Appeals

Hon. Ona T. Wang, Southern District of New York

Hon. Steven Locke, Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of New York

Immigrant Defense Project (NYC)

International Refugee Assistance Project

Just Futures Law, Inc. (Washington, DC)

Justice Catalyst (NYC)

Justice Donna-Marie E. Golia, NY Supreme

Justice in Motion

Juvenile Law Center (PA)

Kids In Need of Defense

Kings County District Attorney's Office (NYC)

Latino Justice PRLDEF NY Civil Liberties Union Foundation (NY) Sanctuary for Families (NYC) NY County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA). LaunchPad for Justice (NY) Sorenson Law (Portland, OR) Minority Judicial Internship Program Southern Center for Human Rights (GA) Law for Black Lives NY Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYC) Law Office of Mary Ellen OConnor (NY) Spivak Lipton NY Legal Assistance Group (NYC) Legal Aid Society (various) State Appellate Defender Office (MI) NY Sea Grant: Civil Liberties Defense Center State of Maryland, Office of the Public Defender Legal Outreach, Inc. NYC Administration for Children's Services (MD) Legal Services NYC NYC Loft Board (NYC) Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Lehman College Reentry Task Force (NYC) (NYC) NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Los Angeles County Public Defender (LA, CA) Hearings Sylvia Rivera Law Project Madre (NYC) NYLAG Clinic for Pro Se Litigants at the SDNY TakeRoot Justice Make the Road New York NYS Division of Human Rights Texas Civil Rights Project (TX) Metropolitan Transportation Authority (NYC) NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Tenant Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TX) Protection Unit (NYC) Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MI) The Communications Workers of America NYS Office of the Attorney General (NYC) Mission to End Modern Slavery (NYC) NYS Senate Environmental Committee The Door (NYC) Mississippi Center for Justice (MS) NYS United Teachers (NYC)NYS Assembly The Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Mobilization for Justice (NYC) Member Catalina Cruz (NYC) Defender (Memphis, TN) Montana Innocence Project (Missoula, MT) NYS Volunteer Clinic for Uncontested Divorce The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York Municipal Employees Legal Services Plan -Office of the Appellate Defender (NYC) The Sikh Coalition District Council 37 Office of the District Attorney, Bronx County The Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Municipality of Anchorage- Dept. of Law-Internship Program (NYC) Criminal Division Transgender Law Center (NYC) Open Hands Legal Services NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (NYC/DC) OutRight Action International (NYC) U.S. Airforce National Center for Law and Economic Justice People's Parity Project U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the (NYC) Solicitor, Region 2 (NYC) Phillips Black, Inc. (CA) National Consumer Law Center (Boston, MA) U.S. District Judge Richard Arcara, Western Physicians for Human Rights District of New York National Crime Victims Law Institute (Portland, OR) Prisoners' Legal Services of New York U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 (New York) Professor Sarah Lamdan, CUNY School of Law National Labor Relations Board - Region 2 UnLocal, Inc. (NYC) (NYC) Public Defender Agency, Alaska Dept of National Lawyers Guild (NYC) Administration (AK) Urban Justice Center (NYC): Domestic Violence Project; Mental Health Project; Safety Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem Public Defender 9th Judicial Circuit of Fla. Net Project (FL) Neighborhood Defender Service of Detroit Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil (Detroit, MI) Public Defender of Alameda County (CA) Rights and Urban Affairs New Jersey Office of the Public Defender (NJ) Public Law Center (Santa Ana, CA) White & Case New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice Reform Alliance Yale Law School, Jerome Frank Legal Services (LA) Organization Riskified New York Attorney General's Office (Statewide) Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (NYC)

Summer Internships 23

Robert M. Levy, U.S. Magistrate Judge (NYC)

New York City Law Department (NYC)

MAKING LAW SCHOOL POSSIBLE THROUGH PART-TIME STUDY

By choosing our part-time, evening program, you can better manage the balance between CUNY Law's comprehensive learning experience and your family and career obligations.

With eight semesters and one summer, you can fulfill all of the requirements to earn your JD within four years. Through a combination of essential and elective courses, lawyering seminars, and clinics, you will gain the skills necessary to secure meaningful work and make a difference for your clients and community.

Evening classes are offered Monday through Thursday, between 6:15 and 9:30 pm. Individual appointments, office hours, and exam-writing practice sessions, and exam review sessions are often offered on weekends. After your first year, you may also take classes during the day to accommodate your schedule. We provide the flexibility to switch between our part-time and full-time programs after you have completed your first year.





DUAL DEGREES

We are proud to be part of the largest urban university in the United States, with 24 colleges and graduate schools in every field of study. The world of public interest law is broad, and in some cases dependent upon knowledge of related fields. We have teamed up with CUNY graduate programs at City College of New York and John Jay College of Criminal Justice to give our students a competitive edge in the areas of international affairs, forensic psychology, and public administration.

You can earn two graduate degrees in parallel and complete them in less time than it would take to earn them separately. CUNY Law is 100% committed to making our programs work for you.

DUAL DEGREES OFFERED AT CUNY LAW

JD/MIA -International Relations Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, City College of New York

JD/MPA Public Accountability
John Jay College of
Criminal Justice

JD/MA -Forensic Psychology John Jay College of Criminal Justice

EMPLOYING PASSION

We are driven to help you translate your passions and dreams into a career where you will make a difference.

IN PUBLIC INTEREST
EMPLOYMENT
PreLaw Magazine, 2023

From the start, we help you explore career options and opportunities that align with your goals, capitalizing on our network of alumni. We are plugged into the world of public interest and it shows.

We help you prepare applications for internships, judicial clerkships and jobs; learn how to interview effectively; negotiate your offers; and select the right opportunities for you.

We pair you with mentors and provide financial support, as needed, so you can prepare successfully for the bar exam.

CUNY Law alumni are well represented in nonprofit organizations, government agencies, the judiciary, elected office, and law firms both large and small. They work around the country and the world.

Some of the organizations that our graduates go on to join include: The Bronx Defenders; District Attorney offices of Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens; Office of the Public Defender, Miami-Dade County; Latino Justice/PRLDEF; The Legal Aid Society; Mobilization for Justice (formerly MFY Legal Services); New York City Commission on Human Rights; Public Counsel, Los Angeles; and Urban Justice Center.







Steffi had always been inspired to volunteer and help others, but she didn't know how to make a career out of that desire, until CUNY Law.

At Teach for America, she taught first and second grade kids, who, she realized, had the threat of deportation hanging over their heads. She asked herself: what will their futures look like? How can I advocate for young people? When she found CUNY Law, she found a school that would acknowledge the real social costs of injustice and inequality. She was drawn to CUNY Law when she noticed that while other schools feature their professors, CUNY Law instead highlights its alums, and all the work they are doing to advance social justice. At CUNY Law, Steffi researched the school to prison pipeline at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana, She interned with Atlas:DIY, The Bronx Defenders' Immigration Practice, and UnLocal, Inc. providing pro bono immigration assistance to low-income community members. As a student, Steffi also interned for the Department of Justice in the Executive Office of

Immigration Review at New York Immigration Court.

After she graduated, she joined Atlas: DIY as an Equal Justice Works Fellow and is sponsored by the Paul Rapoport Foundation.

Atlas: DIY empowers immigrant youth to unlock access to legal services, learning opportunities, and leadership development, in a space owned, run, and governed by the youth themselves. At Atlas:DIY, Steffi created the LGBTQ Legal In-House Clinic, which provides pro bono legal representation to low-income LGBTQ youth of color, with a special emphasis on the immigrant community vulnerable to human trafficking, violent crimes, and other forms of abuse.

Steffi Romano '16 Staff Attorney, Unlocal, Inc.

ALUMNI INFO

CUNY Law alumni lead grassroots organizing, champion communities, and advocate for change. We're an alumni network that values collaboration, works intersectionally, and builds movements. You'll find us everywhere there is more work to be done; we build resources and run campaigns, we shape policies and procedures, we defend clients and communities, and we transform how the law is made, practiced, and applied.

You'll find us in many of the places you'd expect, such as legal aid and services, public defenders offices, as well as state and federal departments. You'll also find CUNY Law alums bringing our unique public interest lens to elected offices, community-led movements, and institutions where our work to uproot systemic oppression is transforming how the world works.

5,156

ALUMNI

75%

IN NY BUT WORKING ACROSS THE NATION

61%

WORK IN PUBLIC INTEREST AND PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS -THE HIGHEST ALUM PERCENTAGE IN THE NATION

CUNY Law alumni transform justice nation-wide.

21%

FOUND OR JOIN SOLO AND SMALL PRACTICE FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES 621

WORK AT NONPROFITS AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS NATION-WIDE

61%

BRING THE PUBLIC INTEREST LENS TO LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND PUBLIC INTEREST POSITIONS

Our alumni show the world that bringing a social justice lens to lawyering, advocacy, and leadership is how we'll transform justice. We share a mission to make the law reflect the identities and experiences of everyone to build a justice that is truly for all. Our vision is to continue to recruit new waves of public interest advocates that will help us grow and amplify our work; we want you with us because we know you'll make our alumni community that much stronger.

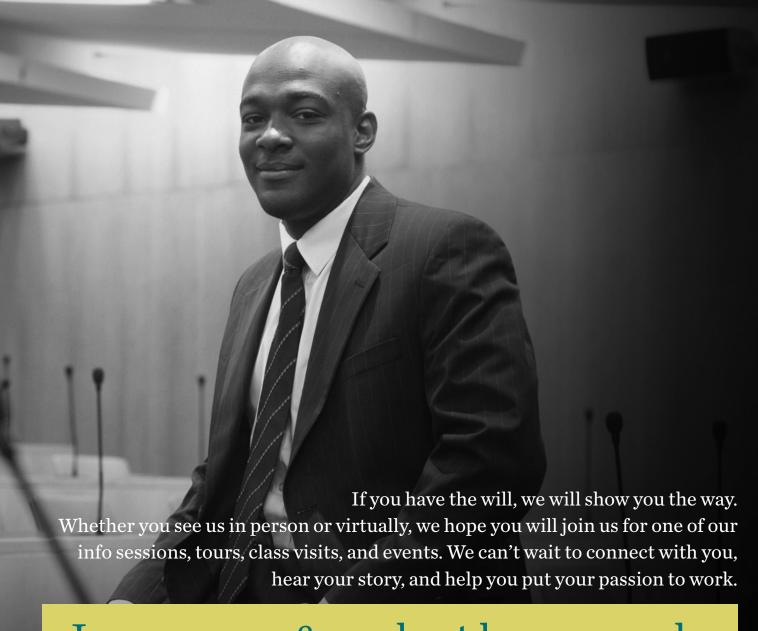
Imagine it: a multitude united, ready to help encourage, expand, and sustain your calling. We can't wait to meet you and see what you can do.



We need more changemakers in the world.

We need people who will fight for justice, equity and inclusion.

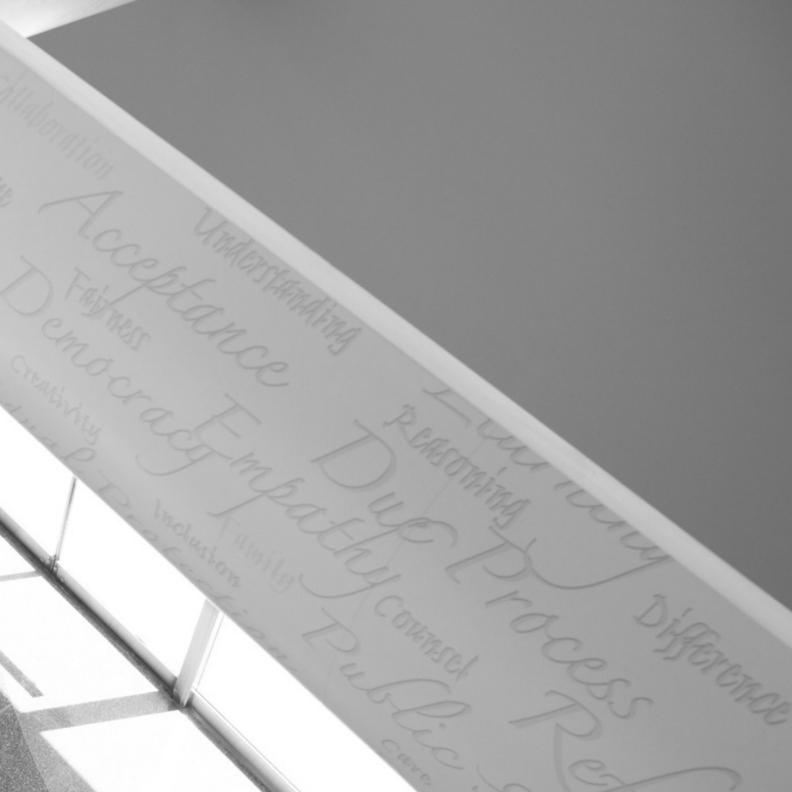
We need you down the block, in places of power, and on the frontlines of social justice.



Learn more & apply at law.cuny.edu

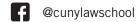
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