

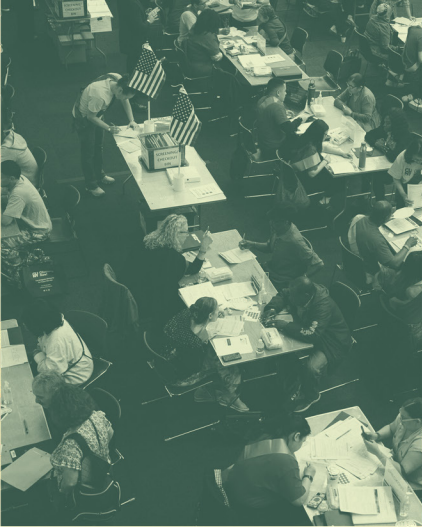


CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

CUNY

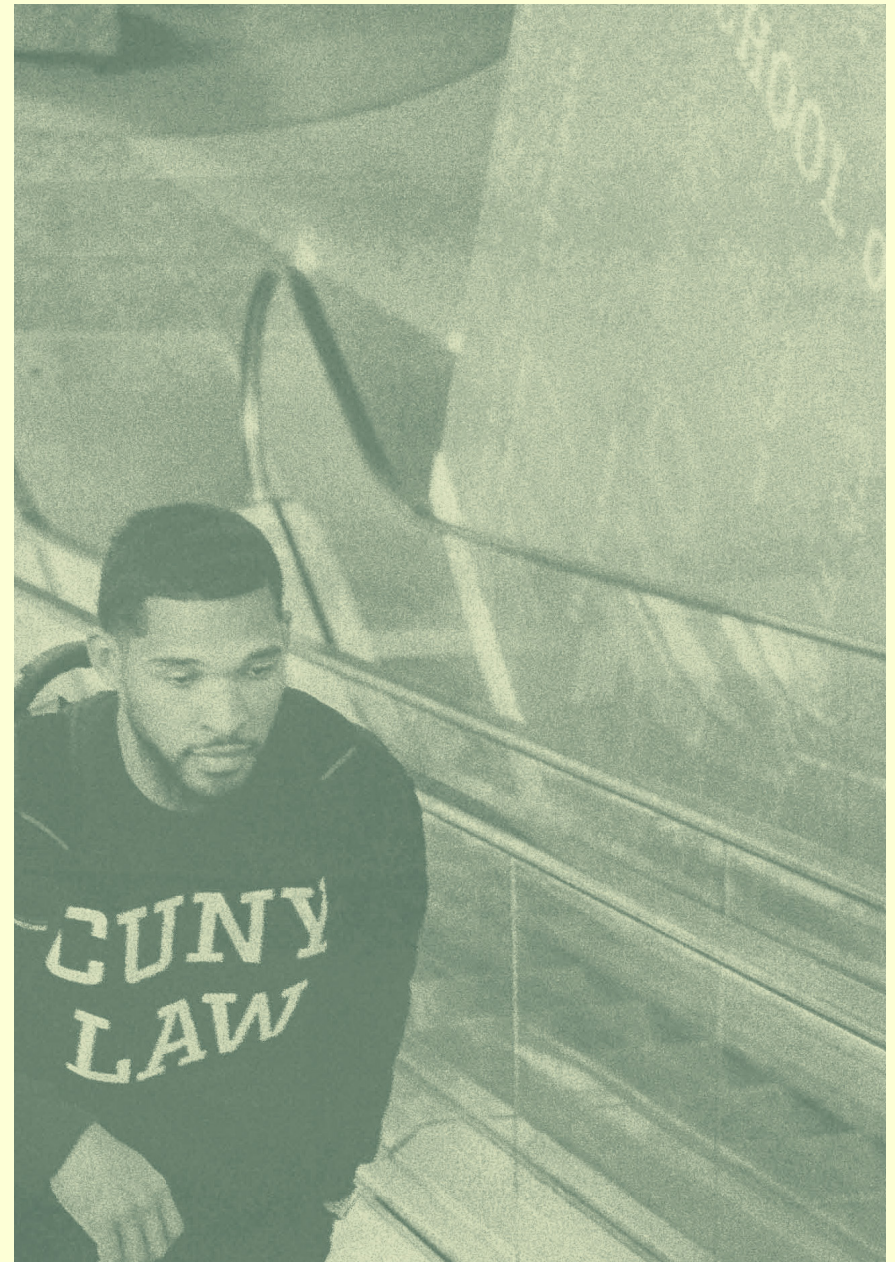
SCHOOL

OF LAW



**A curriculum (9) designed to teach the law in context, faculty (11) that practice what they teach, a skills program (13) that makes legal thinking accessible from day one, a sequenced curriculum grounded in experiential learning (15), and where community (17) is a method, not a back drop.**

**See what you can do with a CUNY Law degree (23) and why you belong here.**





# A LAW SCHOOL

CUNY School of Law  
was founded in 1983  
by a group of radical  
public interest lawyers  
determined to change  
legal education.

# DESIGNED

# TO SERVE

They believed that the  
profession could—and  
must—look different.

That a law school  
shouldn't mirror the  
systems the law  
should challenge but  
actively train lawyers  
to confront them.

# THE PEOPLE



## OUR FOUNDING VISION

From the beginning, the mission was clear:  
to train exceptional public interest lawyers;  
to diversify the profession.

**And to center the people—not the powerful—  
as the purpose.**

That meant designing a program rooted in  
practice and the everyday work of lawyering:  
listening with intention, to clients, to coalitions,  
to communities impacted by the law; reading  
the law in context, not as neutral doctrine but  
as a set of structures shaped by power and  
history; developing strategies with real people  
in mind, not just legal outcomes.

And seeing the law as one tool among many  
and knowing when to use it **so you're ready to  
practice law in service of something greater.**

Every part of our curriculum, community,  
and culture is built to deliver on that  
founding vision.





CRIMINAL LAW GROUNDED  
IN SYSTEMIC RACISM.

# THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO TEACH THE LAW AS IT'S LIVED.

CONTRACTS TAUGHT  
BY LABOR ORGANIZERS.

PROPERTY EXPLORED THROUGH  
DISPLACEMENT, OWNERSHIP,  
AND LAND THEFT.

## How we teach says everything

Law is not neutral—and we don't pretend it is.

At CUNY Law, legal education begins with a question: who does the law serve, and who does it exclude?

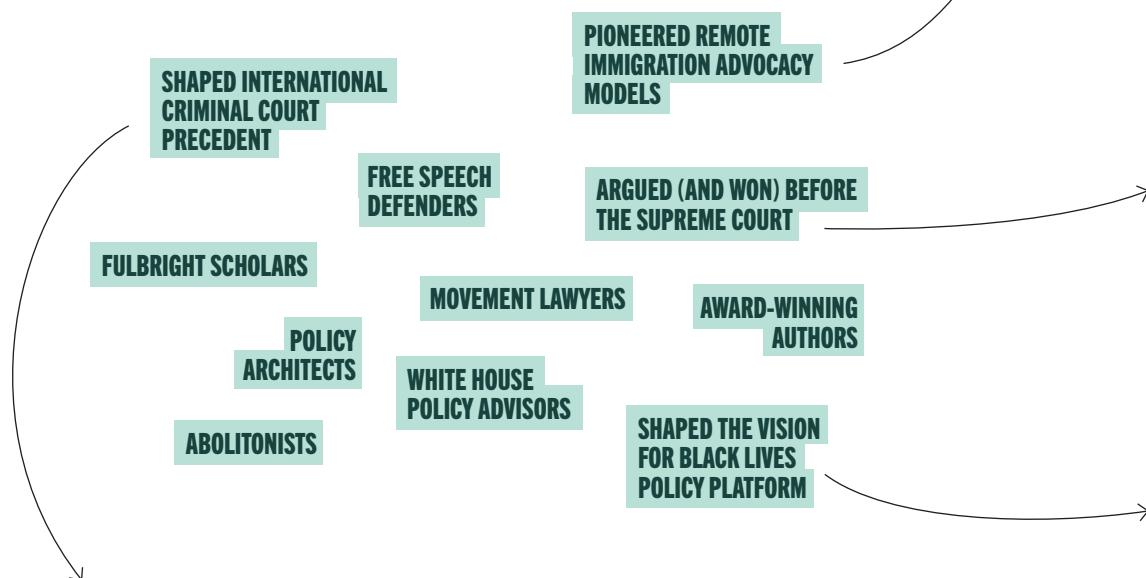
From your first semesters, you'll take classes like Law, Equality and Due Process and Critical Race Theory. These are not electives but essentials. **Each and every class is taught through a justice-centered lens by faculty who came to this law school because that is how they want to teach.**

They bring their passion for the work and the lived experience behind it into the classroom so you're ready to bring it into the world.



## We hire people who practice what they teach

Recognized as one of the most diverse in the nation, our faculty are here to change the way law is taught, learned, and practiced.



**Nermeen Arastu (she/her)**, Co-Director of the Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic, is redefining what immigration advocacy looks like. Her remote legal model for asylum seekers in detention earned national recognition and one of the highest honors in the field. Her approach to clinics exemplifies our focus on creativity, compassion, and the tools needed to drive systemic change.



**Ramzi Kassem (he/him)**, founding director of CLEAR (Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility), argued—and won—the 2020 Supreme Court case *Tanzin v. Tanvir*, setting a national precedent for accountability in government surveillance for individuals and communities alike.



**Marbré Stahly-Butts (she/her)**, movement lawyer and a national leader in abolitionist legal strategy, draws on Black queer feminist thought, anti-capitalist politics, and a deep commitment to intersectional justice. She teaches Liberty, Equality & Due Process and Critical Race Theory, grounding students in the radical potential of law when it centers those most impacted.



**Lisa Davis (they/them)**, Dean of Clinical Programs, recently served as Special Adviser on Gender and Other Discriminatory Crimes at the International Criminal Court. They bring a deeply nuanced understanding of how systems of oppression intersect—and how institutions must evolve to address that complexity.

And they know not only your name, but also who you're on your way to becoming.



## We teach in community with intention

### ACCESS BY DESIGN

Not everyone enters law school with the same academic background—but everyone should have access to the core tools of legal thinking.

**Our renowned Skills Program is one of the ways we open up the profession and expand who thrives within it.**

From your first week, skills are part of the scaffolding designed to make legal thinking visible, collective, and accessible.

Skill-building isn't an add-on. It's structural. And it stays with you long after your first year.

Here, faculty join you inside your 1L classes not as lecturers, but as learners. While your law professor teaches the course, your skills professor is in the room too—tracking the material, the questions, and the thinking behind them.

Later, in small group sessions, they open up their thinking in real time, showing you how they approached the case, how they organized their notes, and what they noticed that you might have missed. They break down how to brief, outline, and study for exams **so the methods become as clear as the material.**



“No one assumes I should already know how to do this. And that’s been the difference between surviving law school and actually being trained to practice.”

3L STUDENT



# EXPERIENCE CHANGES EVERYTHING

## Learn by doing. Every semester.

From your first to your final semester, you learn by doing. Our sequential Lawyering Program stacks seminars, practicums, and clinics for every student.

### FIRST YEAR FOUNDATIONS

#### Start with structure.

In **Lawyering Seminars I & II**, your first year seminars, you build core skills through hands-on simulation: interviewing clients, developing strategy, writing persuasively, applying ethical judgment, and learning when to listen and when to lead.

### SECOND YEAR EXPLORATION

#### Then you deepen the work.

You choose courses that align with your purpose. In **Lawyering Seminar III** and through our practicum offerings, you'll explore immigration, family defense, disability justice, abolition, labor. You write for real people. You learn to sound like yourself in legal language.

### FINAL YEAR CLINIC

#### Step fully into the role of lawyer.

At CUNY Law, **every student takes a full-time clinic**. For an entire semester (or more), this is your only focus: five days a week in one of the nation's top-ranked clinical programs, doing the work of a real lawyer with real stakes. You'll represent clients, shape policy, and drive precedent-setting litigation.

You're in court. In coalition.

In conversation with the people most impacted and most determined to transform the law.

### PRACTICE

#### Before you even graduate, you're doing the work you came here to do.

Drafting clemency petitions. Leading Know Your Rights trainings. Shaping legal frameworks that don't just hold up—but hold open.

Whether you're preparing an asylum brief, organizing alongside tenants facing eviction, or advocating at the legislature, **you're using law as a tool for social change.**



# WE TEACH IN COMMUNITY



# BECAUSE NO ONE DOES THIS ALONE



## From first spark to last hurdle

### PURPOSE-ALIGNED ADVISING

**When a spark catches in class, in clinic, or in conversation, your faculty advisor helps you follow it into your next step.**

You'll be paired with an advisor who acts more like a mentor, helping you chart your path: what courses to take, what internships to pursue, which direction to follow.

Together, you'll shape the architecture of your degree, balancing requirements, sequencing courses, and making sure the structure aligns with your goals.



“

**Coming from full-time work and caregiving, I wasn't sure how I'd make space for everything... classes, clinic, bar prep. My advisor got that and helped me build a plan that matched my pace and my priorities.”**

3L STUDENT

## PREPARATION FROM DAY ONE

### BAR SUCCESS, BUILT IN

**Structured courses across your degree.**

You'll take bar-focused classes and electives from your first year through 3L, culminating in a course that hones your knowledge, strategy, and confidence.

**A full bar review, at no cost.**

After graduation, you'll have access to a complete summer bar prep program through our Kaplan partnership—free of charge.

**Support through the final stretch.**

You won't be doing this alone: bar mentors, tutors, and dedicated faculty walk with you through the last mile, offering structure, clarity, and care when it matters most.

Because it's not enough to help you cross the stage. **We're here to help you cross into the profession, practice-ready.**



## Student-Led. Mission-Driven.

### Belonging isn't about fitting in.

It's about being seen for the work you're here to do and being supported by people who understand what it takes to get here.

At CUNY Law, many students are caregivers, organizers, full-time workers—often all at once. They bring deep purpose and lived experience to the classroom, and lift one another up through community.

BLACK LAW STUDENTS  
ASSOCIATION

MUSLIM LAW  
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL  
LAWYERS GUILD

LABOR COALITION

more than **30** student orgs

JEWISH LAW  
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL  
REFUGEE ASSISTANCE  
PROJECT

OUTLAWS

LATIN AMERICAN LAW  
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Students push, advocate, and show up for each other inside the classroom and far beyond it. They lead Know Your Rights trainings, run student orgs and affinity spaces, and host symposia.

### They show up when and where it matters and for each other.



## There's no one way to practice public interest law.

What you do with your CUNY Law degree is up to you. Just ask our alumni. They run solo and small firms rooted in social justice, often serving the same neighborhoods that shaped them.

They're elected to state legislatures, local office, and community boards. They shape policy at the city, state, and national level. They lead movements, change laws, and litigate across borders.

And no matter where they go, from nonprofits to government to legal services to private practice, one thing is consistent: **CUNY Law grads are known for showing up prepared, for hitting the ground running, and for doing the work.**

Each graduate carries forward our motto: law in the service of human needs.

5,400+  
ALUMNI

We send more graduates into public interest than any other law school in the country.

JOSÉ ABRIGO '13 HE/HIM

### Director of HIV Project, Lambda Legal

Leads national HIV rights litigation; co-counsel in a current U.S. Supreme Court case challenging restrictions on PrEP access.

KATIE CORWIN '24 SHE/HER

### Reproductive Justice Advocate, Ohio

Legal strategist shaping reproductive protections under Ohio's post-Roe amendment.

CRISTIAN FARIÁS '14 HE/HIM

### Legal Journalist, The Appeal

Nationally published journalist covering courts, civil rights, and decarceral ideas in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Nation*, *GQ*, and many other publications.

YASMEEN FARHANG '13 SHE/HER

### Director of Advocacy, Immigrant Defense Project

Leads statewide campaigns to dismantle ICE policing through a racial justice lens.

KARY MOSS '87 SHE/HER

### National Director, ACLU Affiliate Support & Initiatives

From leading the ACLU of Michigan through the Flint crisis to shaping strategy across all 50 state affiliates.

JOHN WHITLOW '03 HE/HIM

### Professor & Co-Director, Community & Economic Development Clinic, CUNY Law

Leads national work at the intersection of housing justice, racial capitalism, and collective ownership—partnering with tenant unions, land trusts, and worker co-ops.



## You belong here.

We're built to remove barriers so more students with lived experience, clarity of purpose, and the drive to serve can step into the profession and reshape it.

This is a school where support is structural. Where tuition is affordable. Where mentorship is real. And where the legal profession starts to look more like the people it's meant to serve.

We don't just open the door to law school. We open the door to the profession and to the power to change it.

**If you're ready to do the work—this is the place that's ready for you.**

As a public law school, our lower tuition means less debt and more freedom to choose work that matters.

### PUBLIC

Earn your JD alongside an MIA (City College), MPA, or MA (John Jay) to expand your reach and impact.

### DUAL DEGREE OPTIONS

We have the most diverse law school faculty and student body in the country because representation is power.

### REPRESENTATION

### EVENING PROGRAM

Classes with tenured faculty and full-time support held four nights a week, designed for professionals, caregivers and community leaders.

# THIS IS WHAT ACCESS TO LAW SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE.

### COMMUNITY

Justice is personal. And it shows up in every classroom. 40% of students are first-generation college graduates.

### PIPELINE TO JUSTICE

A nationally recognized program to support students who show extraordinary potential for public interest lawyering, and get a real chance to prove it.

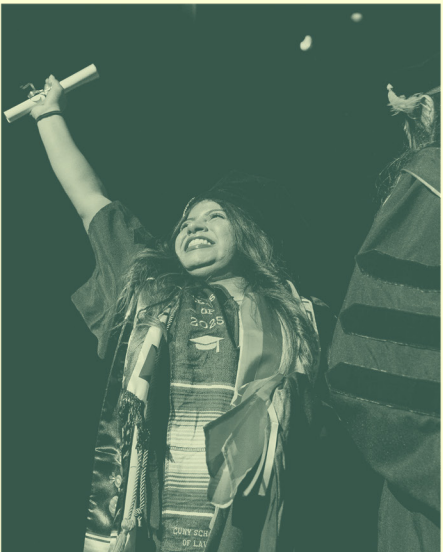




**In 1983, CUNY Law opened its doors with a radical purpose: to be the people's law school. That mission shaped our beginning.**

**Now it's yours to carry forward.**







**CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW**

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