

Brooklyn Law School

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■ The Law Campus

Situated at the junction of the Brooklyn Heights Historic District, the Brooklyn Civic Center, and downtown Brooklyn, our school boasts a location unrivaled for its legal, cultural, and historical character. Students share their environs with federal and state judges, government officials, and lawyers in private practice, many of them alumni. Within a few-block radius are the US District Court; US Bankruptcy Court; US Attorney's Office; the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division; Family Court; the Brooklyn District Attorney; the Kings County Surrogate's Court; the New York City Civil and Criminal Courts; the Legal Aid Society; and numerous law firms. These are our laboratories, a backdrop for learning few schools can replicate.

■ Renaissance Brooklyn

Multibillion-dollar construction projects have recast Brooklyn as the new center of New York City's energy. Overlooking New York Harbor and lower Manhattan lies Brooklyn's most charming neighborhood, Brooklyn Heights, where you will find much of our campus. The first New York City neighborhood to be designated as an historic district, many Heights original townhouses, brownstone mansions, carriage houses, churches, and public buildings survive, recalling old-world urban elegance. Many of our students and faculty live here in residence halls or in private apartments and homes located on graceful, tree-lined streets. Nearby neighborhoods—Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Park Slope, Williamsburg, and DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass)—also offer trendy, affordable housing and a profusion of bistros, boutiques, galleries and clubs, all contributing to Brooklyn's growing reputation as the hippest part of New York City.

■ Manhattan at Our Doorstep

Minutes away is the financial, legal, business, and cultural crossroads of the world: Manhattan. Proximity to Wall Street gives students easy access to school-year externships and summer jobs with major law firms and financial institutions. Students enjoy a great campus in a dynamic urban environment, softened by a small-neighborhood feel. This is New York City on a human scale—Manhattan without the hassle.

■ Building for Your Future

In recent years, BLS has undertaken \$134 million in capital improvements to serve its needs well into the twenty-first century. Ten residences—including our largest, the 21-story high-rise, Feil Hall—allow us to **guarantee housing** to all first-year students, engendering a strong sense of campus community. A 78,000-square-foot library, one of the largest and most modern in the city, includes nearly 560,000 volumes, 35 interdisciplinary databases, 26 group-study rooms, and seating for nearly 700. Five computer labs host about 90 workstations; we offer over 2,400 other student-accessible network connections throughout our academic and residential buildings, as well as over 2,000 Wi-Fi connections.

■ Our Faculty: Diverse, Brilliant, and User-friendly

Our 65 full-time faculty members comprise one of the largest faculties in New York. They are joined by nearly 140 adjuncts, including many distinguished judges, practitioners, and corporate counsel. They are extraordinarily talented and, above all, superb teachers. Shaping public policy and making law in the community at large, they are also prolific authors. They are recognized nationally and globally for their scholarship in such areas as Commercial and Bankruptcy Law, Corporate and Securities Law, Evidence, Health Law, Information Privacy and Internet Law, Intellectual Property, International Business Law, Human Rights, and Women's Rights. BLS offers a congenial community. Its learning environment, while rigorous and challenging, remains supportive and nurturing. A desirable student-faculty ratio facilitates this dynamic. Faculty members are accessible to students in a way that few faculties are. There is a strong correlation between the priority we assign to teaching and mentoring and the fact that in the period 2004–2006, our average passing rate of over 84 percent was more than 7 percent ahead of the state-wide rate for first-time takers of the New York State Bar examination.

■ Our Students: The Best and the Brightest

The 2007 entering class included students from 35 states and Washington, DC and 10 foreign countries. Nearly two-thirds of the class are graduates of many of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities. Sixty-seven percent completed undergraduate work at least one year before enrolling here. Sixty-four percent had LSAT scores at nearly the 90th percentile or higher nationwide. Minorities represented 28.1 percent of the class; about half of the students were women.

■ Our Alumni: Accomplished and Accessible

One of our great strengths is the size, stature, and loyalty of our more than 18,000 graduates in 49 states and Washington, DC; 2 US territories; and 24 foreign countries—among the largest alumni families of any law school.

■ The Career Center

Our Career Center is staffed by seven attorney-counselors and an attorney dedicated to job development/employer relations. Job listings are readily available to students and graduates via the Internet. An average 98.3 percent of students in the 2003–2006 graduating classes were employed nine months after graduation, placing us among the top law schools nationwide. For current salary information, see www.brooklaw.edu/career/empstats/.

■ First-year Program of Study

Day students take one core course in a seminar section of about 40 students, allowing for significant individualized skills training. Our goal is to help students cultivate the ability to think clearly, analyze problems thoroughly and carefully, and recognize that no legal issue exists in a social, philosophical, economic, or political vacuum. Students participate in a Legal Writing Program structured to fully develop their writing abilities. An

Academic Success Program, combining an early-start summer course with a series of support workshops, helps students reach their potential. This contributes to our exceptionally high retention rate between the first and second year.

■ Upper-class Program of Study: The Art and Craft of Lawyering

Our upper-class curriculum bridges the gap between law school and law practice, making law school something students enjoy, not merely endure. Students create individualized programs, choosing from among 240 electives in 17 concentrations and areas of interest. Some 60 percent of all students and 75 percent of our full-time students participate in one or more of our 21 clinics, including more than 240 enrolled this year in one of our in-house clinics and over 530 students participating in externships in legal departments and judicial chambers, experiencing the law in real time. Simulation courses enrolled some 1,050 students this past year.

■ Beyond the Core Curriculum

We are consistently recognized as among the country's top law schools in supporting public interest law. Our Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Program has placed over 375 students in a wide array of summer internships at leading public

interest organizations nationwide and abroad. **Summer Public Service Grants** award up to \$5,000 per student to support public service employment. The **Dennis J. Block International Business Law Fellowship Program** is a rewarding educational experience for those pursuing careers in that field. An **International Human Rights Fellowship Program**, which includes \$5,000 stipends for summer work, was recently launched. We sponsor four student-edited journals: the *Brooklyn Law Review*, the *Journal of Law and Policy*, the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, and the *Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial, and Commercial Law*. **Barry L. Zaretsky Fellowships** are awarded to students based on demonstrated academic achievement and commitment to bankruptcy and/or commercial law. Our **Moot Court Program**, one of the nation's finest, garnered over 60 top honors—including 21 national championships—in recent competitions. Our **Center for the Study of Law, Language, and Cognition** explores how developments in the cognitive sciences—including neuroscience, psychology, and linguistics—have dramatic implications for the theory and practice of law. A **Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy** engages students in the legal issues and public policy concerns confronting health care organizations. A **joint-degree option** allows students to earn master's degrees in business administration, city and regional planning, urban planning, political science, or library and information science. Finally, we offer **study-abroad programs** in China, Germany, and Italy.

Applicant Profile

Admission to Brooklyn Law School is based on an appraisal of each applicant's character, academic achievements, aptitude for the study of law, life experience, and other indications of professional promise. BLS does not offer an LSAT/GPA admission profile, for numbers alone cannot provide a comprehensive assessment of a candidate's potential for law school success. While matrices may be helpful to some, too often they needlessly discourage those with profiles slightly below our published numerical benchmarks who may still be competitive for admission. Moreover, such profiles tend to reduce the selection process to a two-dimensional matrix, one which fails to portray accurately our admission practices. To be

sure, candidates with high test scores and commensurate grades are more likely to gain admission than those with lower grades and scores. Nevertheless, no combination of grades and scores guarantees admission. Nonquantifiable factors also significantly influence our decisions. A partial list includes the quality of schools attended, the strength of the program of study, grade trends, the content of faculty letters of evaluation, the cogency of the candidate's writing, campus leadership, significant service to the community, the nature and quality of any work experience or foreign study/travel, awards and honors, and military service. We have a century-long tradition of offering opportunities to members of underrepresented groups.