

Designed to provide professional experience, development and educational programs for inner-city students in high school, college, and law school that are interested in pursuing legal careers.

High School Student Programs

Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program

The Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program is an intensive program which places high-achieving inner-city high school students with legal employers for the summer, and provides them with additional programming before, during, and after the summer designed to help them prepare for a legal career.

Students are selected to participate in the Program based upon personal interviews and demonstrated academic excellence. They are first nominated by their schools and then interviewed at the New York City Bar; this process consists of face-to-face meetings with the students and a written test that is administered to determine comfort with challenges common in an office environment. Job assignments in firms vary depending on the needs of the employer, but typically include assisting paralegals, filing, record keeping, assisting library and back-office personnel, data entry and document and exhibit organization.

Prior to interviewing with employers, all applicants participate in a mandatory, three-part Pre Employment Training. The purpose of this training is to identify the students who are most prepared to take on the requirements of the Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program, and to provide valuable training for all students to help them strengthen their application materials for future opportunities.

In addition to their employment, the interns attend the following development workshops:

Pre-Employment Trainings

These trainings provide all applicants with one-on-one resume and cover letter review, presentations on interview preparation, mock interviews, and general office etiquette including email/telephone training, speaking and presentation exercises; and professional attire workshops.

Networking Workshop & Speed Networking at ABC News

A comprehensive networking training, followed by participation in a Speed Networking Program sponsored by ABC, where students meet in speed-sessions with volunteer attorneys.

Law Class at Columbia University

A law class provided by Professor Carol Sanger of Columbia Law School where interns discuss a domestic abuse case and are exposed to the Socratic method.

Diverse Career Opportunities Panel

A panel of four attorneys in diverse career fields speaks about their career paths and provide advice for attaining one's professional goals; students then meet in small group sessions with attorneys who speak about their career paths followed by an open networking session.

Mock Trial in Federal Court

Law students and volunteer attorneys coach the interns at Fordham Law School as they prepare for a mock trial, which is argued before a federal judge.

Job Shadow Week

To culminate their internships, students spend a week shadowing attorneys in companies and organizations; each student is paired with the company that most closely aligned with their career aspirations. The students participate in mock meetings, observe attorneys within each organization, and some students shadow attorneys in court.

Since the program's inception in 1993, the program has placed more than 1,200 students in law firms, corporate law departments, non-profit/government organizations and law schools throughout the city.

My Rights, My Nation: Constitutional Rights Symposium

The City Bar hosts an annual symposium for regional high school students to discuss the ways in which the Constitution affects their everyday lives, entitled “My Rights, My Nation: Talking About Constitutional Freedoms – Now and in the Future”. The program, held on a Saturday, focuses on three different areas of individual rights that are the subject of recent decisions in the U.S. Supreme Court and other appellate courts. Materials are prepared and emailed to the students in advance of the program. The students participate in small group discussions led by State Supreme Court Justices and lawyers from various City firms and agencies, where they are able to exchange ideas on the subjects in a non-academic setting.

Dispute Resolution/Negotiation Competition

In collaboration with Fordham Law School Dispute Resolution Society, high school students participate in a workshop to learn the art of negotiation. Participants are divided into teams and each team is tasked with representing the interests of its client. After negotiations, students present their creative ideas to resolve the issues at hand and are critiqued by a panel of law student judges. Following this workshop, 16 teams of students, coached by volunteer attorneys, participate in a Negotiation Competition, with preliminary rounds hosted by Fordham Law School, and the final round hosted by the New York City Bar.

Undergraduate Programs

LSAT/Law School Preparation Series

This annual two-day series, co-sponsored by more than a dozen LSAT Prep companies and fourteen regional law schools, provides students with presentations and panels to help prepare them for taking the LSAT and applying to law school. Representatives from LSAT prep companies provide materials and presentations with sample exams and strategy sessions while the panels focus on selecting and applying to law school, financing law school, and expectations and recommendations for first-year students.

Law Preview Scholarship

In collaboration with Practicing Attorneys for Law Students, Inc. (PALS), the City Bar offers full-tuition scholarships to diverse law students for the Law Preview law school prep course. Scholarship recipients receive more than 45 hours of instruction from top law professors and attorneys who provide comprehensive previews of core first-year classes, and attend workshops on test-taking strategies, case briefing, time-management, outlining, note-taking and studying, as well as programs on legal careers and extracurricular activities. In addition, scholarship recipients receive law student membership to the City Bar and are enrolled in the PALS program, where they are matched with an attorney mentor.

Law Student Programs

Securities and Finance Law Seminar Series

A six-part Seminar Series on Securities and Finance Law for diverse students attending New York City area law schools. The sessions are presented by leading legal and compliance practitioners. Participants have an opportunity to learn about the nuts and bolts and cutting edge issues in securities and finance law, explore careers in securities and finance law, and develop professional networks by meeting legal and compliance practitioners.

Thurgood Marshall Fellowship Program

The Thurgood Marshall Fellowship Program is designed to honor the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall by providing internship experience in public service or civil rights to talented minority law students. In this program, one Fellow will spend a year working with the City Bar’s Committee on Civil Rights and the City Bar Justice Center for a year.

C. Bainbridge Smith Scholarship

The C. Bainbridge Smith Scholarship Committee provides scholarships to second and third year inner-city law students who have spent a significant portion of their lives in New York City, demonstrate character, intelligence and promising aptitude for the law, and face a special economic disadvantage (including lack of funds, or physical or cultural handicaps).

For more information on any of these programs, please contact:

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