

LEGAL UTREACH

RAISING THE BAR



ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

OUR MISSION

Legal Outreach prepares urban youth from underserved communities to compete at high levels by using intensive legal and educational programs as tools for fostering vision, developing skills, enhancing confidence, and facilitating the pursuit of higher education.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2011-12, Legal Outreach achieved each of its programmatic goals. All programs operated at full capacity, and the final retention rate was 95%. In September of 2011, 230 students enrolled in the College Bound Program. At the end of the academic year, 219 remained. Legal Outreach also helped 100% of the seniors (58) who completed the four-year College Bound program apply and gain admission to competitive colleges. These fifty-eight seniors have taken the acute academic skills and professionalism they developed at Legal Outreach to high-ranking universities such as Amherst (2), Bowdoin, Brandeis (2), Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Fordham, Mount Holyoke (3), New York University (2), Smith (2), Wesleyan (4), Williams (2) and many more.

The results of our program continue to reflect the work ethic of our students and the dedication of our staff. Between the years 1993 and 2012, 445 students completed the four-year program; 442 of them – 99.3% – have entered college. More than two-thirds have matriculated at colleges and universities identified by Barron's as the nation's "most or highly competitive" colleges. The success of our students continues to be the strongest testimonial of our work.

We are emboldened by these results but remain ever mindful that the success of our youth would not be possible without the generous support of our partners, boards, funders and volunteers. We look forward to continuing to work with you to change the life trajectory of students from underserved communities.

Best Wishes to All,

James B. O'Neal
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SUMMER LAW INSTITUTES AT COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, ST. JOHN'S, FORDHAM, BROOKLYN, & NYU LAW SCHOOLS

Working in conjunction with **Columbia, New York, St. John's, Fordham, Brooklyn, and NYU Law Schools**, Legal Outreach, Inc. organized and coordinated an intensive, five-week program for 123 junior high school students from Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens in 2012. Students were selected based upon their desire to pursue professional careers, their commitment to their own educational advancement, and their need for additional support. The 123 students chosen for the program, which operated Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, were introduced and exposed to the following:

1. **Legal analysis through an exploration of topics contained within Legal Outreach's "Criminal Justice" Curriculum;**
2. **Guest Speakers representing a variety of careers within the legal profession;**
3. **Legal institutions including courts, law firms, and law agencies; and**
4. **The litigation process through the implementation of a mock-trial competition.**

Speakers included attorneys in the areas of family law, civil rights law, criminal law, entertainment law, corporate law, and environmental law. Field trips were taken to a number of legal offices, agencies, and departments throughout the city. The mock-trial competitions, the final event of the summer, was hosted by New York Law School, where SLI participants performed outstandingly before actual New York court judges and a full house of family, friends, and observers.

THE COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

Each year, students who complete the Summer Law Institute are invited to apply to the College Bound program, a four-year, multi-faceted, support program designed to help participants improve their academic performances and prepare for the rigors of college. In the 2011-2012 academic year, the following services were provided to 230 College Bound participants.

1. **After-school Study and Tutorial Center** - During the academic year, Legal Outreach operated an **after-school study/tutorial center**, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. Attendance was mandatory for freshmen who did not earn at least a 90 average in major subjects and for sophomores, juniors, and seniors with averages below 85. The center emphasized the development and acquisition of study skills, habits, and disciplines which enabled students to improve their school performance.
2. **Saturday Writing Academy** - For two Saturdays each month, College Bound freshmen were required to attend a writing program from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm to learn and master the elements of grammar and usage. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors were required to attend two Saturdays per month to master the art of essay writing, persuasive writing, and research and writing, respectively.
3. **Life Skills and Advisory Program** - To help students develop into mature adults capable of making sound and rational decisions in key areas of life, Legal Outreach required all freshmen to attend academic, career, and life-skills workshops. Each workshop was designed to help students think, assess, and plan for the future. Workshops were held biweekly from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. During the weeks in between, students participated in individual and group academic advisory sessions.
4. **Mentor/Mentee Program** - Legal Outreach assigned each sophomore, junior, and senior to a lawyer/mentor in order to expand his/her knowledge of the profession and exposure to professionals.
5. **Constitutional Law Debate Program** - Every other month College Bound sophomores, juniors, and seniors competed in moot-court like activities that explored constitutional law issues. Through this program, students developed and enhanced their speaking, listening, and thinking skills as they presented arguments before lawyers and law students who judged their arguments and questioned their positions.
6. **Internship Programs** - By meeting prescribed academic standards, College Bound rising sophomores earned internships at "Wall Street" law firms and other legal institutions. This summer, deserving students were provided with the opportunity to work directly with lawyers from **35 law firms, 6 public interest organizations/government agencies, 4 financial institutions, as well as with 10 federal judges.**

7. **SAT Preparation Program** - College Bound rising juniors spent the summer of 2012 enrolled in a SAT Preparation Course conducted in conjunction with **Kaplan**. This past year, fifty-five students were taught techniques and strategies for improving their performance on standardized tests. Legal Outreach supplemented the course by offering additional assistance from tutors and by organizing individual and group study sessions. Scores rose an average of 325 points, from 1284 on the first diagnostic to an average of 1609 on the final diagnostic.
8. **College Prep Class and College Application and Selection Process** - During the summer of 2012, College Bound rising seniors were enrolled in a Philosophy class taught by a Fordham professor and were provided with assistance, seminars, and information on selecting colleges, writing personal essays, and completing admissions and financial aid applications. A schedule was prepared to help students complete each task in a timely manner to enhance their chances of admission.
9. **Parent Support Program** - Every other month during the academic year, Legal Outreach conducted workshops with the parents of the College Bound participants. Parents were provided with information and tools to assist their children in their academic journey.

LEGAL OUTREACH STAFF

James B. O'Neal, *Executive Director*

Bethsheba Cooper, *Co-Director and Managing Director of College Access Programs*

Stephanie Shemin-Feingold, *Director of Development and Strategic Planning*

Tamika Edwards, *Managing Director of Training and Special Initiatives*

Heather Creed, *Managing Director of Academic Programs*

Ariel Joseph, *Law-Related Education Coordinator*

Grace Pickering, *Law-Related Education Coordinator*

Carolina Ramirez, *College Bound Study and Life Skills Program Coordinator*

David Harrington, *Director of Writing and Academic Development*

Allison LaFave, *Marketing, Communications, and Development Associate*

Pebbles Byndloss, *Director of Finance and Operations*

Alfas Miah, *Program Associate*

Financial Statement for the Year Ending August 31, 2012 (Unaudited)

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Foundations and Corporations	\$1,296,500
Individual Contributions/Other	\$ 347,074
Revenues Earned	\$ 48,340
Government Grants	\$ 96,600

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE **\$1,788,514**

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,513,240
SUPPORTING SERVICES:	
Management & General	\$ 200,860
Fundraising	\$ 146,495

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,867,361¹**

NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR **(\$77,737)²**

¹Does not include depreciation.

²Financed through operational reserves.

2011-2012 FUNDERS

Altman Foundation
 Best Buy Children's Foundation
 Blue Ridge Foundation
 Bullitt Foundation
 Butler Foundation
 Charles Hayden Foundation
 Clark Foundation
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2011-2012 CONTRIBUTORS

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 United States District Court Judges

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Legal Aid Society – Juvenile Rights Division	Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz LLP
Linklaters	Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP



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