



The Fordham SLI Review

The Fordham Summer Law Institute aims to instill in each student the awareness of his or her own potential by developing the core values of self-discipline, self-confidence and work ethics by persistently challenging their capabilities and by igniting the desire and willingness to learn and work hard.

A SUMMER OF EVOLUTION

Monday, July 1st, 2013 was the official start date of the rigorous five-week Summer Law Institute at Fordham School of Law in which criminal law was the main focus. That morning, nineteen nervous and wide-eyed 9th grade students walked into the building where unimaginable and tremendous growth took place for the next several weeks. This program culminated in a criminal mock trial case, *State v. Williams*, a case about assault, harassment, and riot. With two coordinators, Danielle Turcotte, who studies at Fordham School of Law, and Keli Young, a student at New York University School of Law, and the assistance of an intern, Alda Chan, a rising senior at Amherst College, the Fordham SLI began with high hopes that a team of focused individuals would come out at the end. The results surpassed these hopes. A team of *twenty-two*, including the coordinators and intern, emerged out of this growing experience together.

The 2013 Fordham
SLI with
Honorable
Katherine
Polk-Failla



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Excuses are monuments of nothingness. They build bridges to nowhere. Those who use these tools of incompetence, seldom become anything but nothing at all. - Unknown Author

-The Fordham Classroom Culture

"Learning about criminal law was an amazing experience. I would encourage everyone to try the program."

-SeongJi Oh



Award Ceremony

EDUCATION: A SUMMER OF LAW & ORDER

"I loved everything. I loved being around new people and becoming friends with everyone. I loved learning about everything. I learned from you, Ms. Chan, Ms. Young, and Ms. Turcotte. Thank you."

-Jeffery Gallimore

A typical day during SLI involved one morning lesson and one afternoon lesson. One half of the day engaged students in challenging lessons from Legal Outreach's "Criminal Justice: Theory and Practice" curriculum, where they learned substantive law as well as developed analytical and oral advocacy skills. The lessons covered a wide range of topics, including classification of crimes in New York, Mens Rea, Police Officers in Action, Search & Seizure, Miranda Rights, Racial Profiling, Arraignment, Plea Bargaining and Punishment. Every day, the students were assigned an essay, usually based on that morning's "Theory and Practice" lesson. This served not only as an opportunity for the students to practice their analytical and essay writing skills, but also to implement the laws they learned in their own arguments.

The other half of the day focused on the "Criminal Trials: Process and Procedure" curriculum, from which they learned how to present opening and closing arguments, conduct direct and cross examinations, and serve as witnesses in preparation for the culminating event of the summer: the mock trial competition.

"The SLI program motivated me and inspired me to not only stand up for what I truly believe is right, but to look at different things and situations in a new light."

-Saran Kane



Once per week students were instructed on aspects outside of the legal material. Lessons on study skills, note-taking, essay writing, professional etiquette, and even stereotypes enhanced their academic and general-life skill sets.

LIFESTYLES: GUEST SPEAKER SERIES



Kevin Warren, Vice President of Legal Affairs & Chief Administrative Officer of the Minnesota Vikings, captivated our students as he shared his success and life story in a humble and honest manner. His humorous energy in relating a list of 15 random facts to life lessons also allowed the students to truly connect to him.



Wendy R. Credle of Credle & Associates, PLLC. started off the guest speaker series with a bang. She inspired the students to break out of their shells by asking each student to speak about and defend their dreams. The students realized the courage they possessed after letting themselves be so vulnerable. Her energy filled up the classroom.



Asim Rehman, President and co-founder of the Muslim Bar Association of New York, engaged our students with a presentation on his real-life experience as an attorney who helped an individual on death row appeal his sentence. The students were loaded with questions about his pro bono work as he opened their eyes to the idea of providing everyone with a fair shot.

Guest Speakers

Every morning at SLI began with a presentation by a guest speaker. This year's 13 guest speakers introduced the students to a range of practice areas and careers, including entertainment law, contract law, discrimination law, and sports law. Each guest speaker shared their life story and how they became involved with the legal field. Furthermore, each speaker engaged the students in an interactive presentation designed either to expose students either to the particular area of law they practice or to inspire them to work towards a bright future. The students were asked to find puffery claims in a few sample product advertisements, debate the limits of freedom of expression in school, and even act as officers in a mock interview of an individual applying for asylum. Collectively, the guest speakers opened the students' eyes to the diversity of career paths that one can pursue with a law degree and inspired them to develop a vision for their future.



Group picture with Guest Speaker Miguel Alexander Pozo and his Colleagues



Posing with Guest Speaker Anjanette Cabrera

TRAVELS: FRIDAY FIELD TRIPS

Every Friday, students attended field trips hosted by various legal institutions, including large corporate companies and law firms. This summer, the Fordham SLI visited the offices of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Colgate Palmolive, and Morgan Lewis.

At the **New York Lawyers for the Public Interest**, students had the chance to expand their legal knowledge outside of the criminal field and learn about public interest areas, such as environmental law.

All the information about pro bono work had them looking into a new prospective career path.

The welcoming staff at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest



With bright smiles and gift bags in hand, the students left the visit to Colgate-Palmolive happy and inspired.



Colgate-Palmolive

Over a delightful surprise breakfast, students learned about both the corporate and the legal side of the Colgate-Palmolive Company. They appreciated hearing about the advertising projects that Colgate-Palmolive has, such as hiring Kelly Ripa as its spokesperson and holding the world record for the most people using mouthwash at the same time.

Morgan Lewis

Students had the rare opportunity to take a tour of the multiple floors of this prestigious law firm. They felt great joy in having the chance to speak with and ask successful lawyers about their jobs and the choices they made that led them down their career path. The firm also prepared a real-life complaint for the students to read beforehand. They found this quite exciting because the complaint allowed them to step outside of criminal law.

The Fordham SLI students left the offices of Morgan Lewis impressed with all the attorneys' success and the beautiful view of NYC.



SPECIAL REPORT: MOCK TRIAL

The grand finale of the SLI was the Mock Trial Competition, where the students had the opportunity to argue the case of *State v. Williams* before accomplished attorneys and a U.S. District Court Judge. The students worked hard all summer toward this; they studied the processes and procedures of a criminal trial in their daily lessons, prepared and practiced for their assigned roles with their teammates. The burden of proof lay with the prosecution, who had to prove that the defendant, Bobbie “Weak Wills” Williams, was guilty of harassment and assault of the victim, Chris Green, and riot at the B.I.P. club in SoHo, New York.

This year **Counselor Melissa C. Rodriguez** (Morgan Lewis) and the **Honorable Katherine Polk-Failla** (U.S. District Court Judge, Southern District of New York) presided over the mock trials.



Mock Trial Teams

Guilty Mind We’ll Find (Prosecution)

Gabrian Francis
Lissa NGom
Shakira Seymour
Rummana Amrin

See Williams Acquitted & Gone—S.W.A.G. (Defense)

Laquan Garvey
SeongJi Oh
Jatara Clark
Claudene Roye
Endi Rugova

No Doubt (Prosecution)

Brian Li
Ava-Celeste Dujon
Priscilla Asamoah
Jeffery Gallimore
Kayla Medina

Justice League (Defense)

Soo Hee Kim
Saran Kane
Vanessa Rodriguez
Ali Eldeeb
Navdeep Gill

Mock Trial Stats

Semi-finals:

Guilty Mind We’ll Find v. S.W.A.G.

No Doubt v. Justice League

Finals:

Guilty Mind We’ll Find v. Justice League

Winning Team: Justice League

Fordham SLI 2013 Awards

Most Outstanding Participant Award:

Rummana Amrin

Leadership Award:

Jeffery Gallimore

Most Improved Student Award:

Lissa NGom

Mock Trial MVP’s:

Laquan Garvey, Claudene Roye, Navdeep Gill, Priscilla Asamoah, Shakira Seymour



From top to bottom: Rummana Amrin, Jeffery Gallimore, and Lissa NGom accepting awards

EDITORIALS: Student Experiences



"The SLI program motivated me to always strive for the best and that 'excuses are monuments of nothingness'".

-Ava-Celeste Dujon



Having a "Fun Day" at Astoria Bowl in Queens, NY.

"The SLI program helped me build confidence... criminal law is something everyone should learn."

-Jatara Clark



Getting Ready for the Mock Trial Finals at NYLS

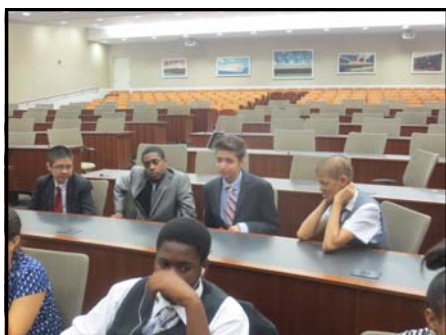


"I'm going to work really hard for my future. I promise not to slack off and when life gets tough I'll make sure I'll get up and do what I have to do. The day I'm on stage I'll remember you three as the people who inspired me to finally believe in myself and do what I have to."

-Navdeep (Tina) Gill

"The SLI program made me want to participate and learn more ahead of time so that I can be more prepared."

-Ali Eldeeb



CLOSING STATEMENT

*Special thanks to **Fordham University School of Law** for sponsoring this Summer Law Institute, especially **Dean Nitza Escalera** and **Hillary Exter**, for their support and assistance.*

*Special thanks to our Summer Law Institute sponsors at **Colgate Palmolive**, especially **Kevin Clunis**, and **Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP**, especially **Prashanth Jayachandran**, **Andriette Roberts**, and **Amanda Smith**.*

*Special thanks to **Colgate –Palmolive**, **Morgan Lewis**, and **New York Lawyers for the Public Interest**, for hosting our students on field trips.*

Guest Speakers

Wendy Credle, Partner, *Credle & Associates, PLLC*

Asim Rehman, President & Co-Founder, *Muslim Bar Association of New York*

Courtenaye Jackson-Chase, General Counsel, *NYC Department of Education*

Horace Anderson, Professor of Law, *Pace Law School*

Kevin Curnin, Partner & Director, *Stroock—Public Service Project*

Anjanette Cabrera, Attorney & Shareholder, *Little Mendelson*

Kathryn Anderson, Asylum Officer, *United States Citizenship and Immigration Services—Newark*

Miguel Alexander-Pozo, National President-Elect, *Hispanic National Bar Association*

Brigitte McLeod-Williams, Senior Marketing Counsel, *Colgate-Palmolive*

Kevin Warren, Vice President of Legal Affairs & Chief Administrative Officer, *Minnesota Vikings*

Darryl Gibbs, Vice President & Counsel, *Axa-Equitable*

Leslie Caldwell, Partner, *Morgan Lewis*

Jamaal Lesane, Vice President, Legal and Business Affairs, Teams and Sports Operations, *Madison Square Garden Company*

Summer Law Institute Leadership

Directors:

Ariel Joseph, *Legal Outreach*, **Grace Pickering**, *Legal Outreach*

Coordinators:

Danielle Turcotte, *Fordham School of Law*

Keli Young, *New York University School of Law*

Intern:

Alda Chan, *Amherst College*

Mock Trial Coaches & Judges

John Shin, Chief Compliance Counsel at Colgate-Palmolive
(Practice Round Judge)

Melissa C. Rodriguez, of Counsel at Morgan Lewis (Semi-Finals)

The Honorable Katherine Polk-Failla, U.S. District Court Judge,
Southern District of New York (Finals)

Fordham SLI Student Participants

Rummana Amrin, Baccalaureate School for Global Education

Priscilla Asamoah, MS 181 Pablo Casals

Jatara Clark, Frederick Douglass Academy (IS 10)

Ava-Celeste Dujon, JHS 144 Michelangelo

Ali Eldeeb, IS 230

Gabrian Francis, M.S. 180 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams

Jeffery Gallimore, JHS 144 Michelangelo

Laquan Garvey, MS 181 Pablo Casals

Navdeep Gill, IS 230

Saran Kane, Frederick Douglass Academy (IS 10)

Soo Hee Kim, Baccalaureate School for Global Education

Brian Li, New York City Lab School for Collaborative Studies

Kayla Medina, Baccalaureate School for Global Education

Lissa NGom, MS 181 Pablo Casals

Seongji Oh, Baccalaureate School for Global Education

Vanessa Rodriguez, JHS 144 Michelangelo

Claudene Roye, JHS 144 Michelangelo

Endi Rugova, MS 181 Pablo Casals

Shakira Seymour, JHS 144 Michelangelo