

The City University of New York  
**CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW**  
 Law in the Service of Human Needs

# The CUNY Courier

## Summer Law Institute at CUNY School of Law

Volume 1

### In this Issue

Pg. 2  
 Education  
 Meet the Staff

Pg. 3  
 SLI Guest  
 Speakers

Pg. 4  
 SLI Field Trips

Pg. 5  
 Class of 2015

Pg. 6  
 Mock Trial

Pg. 7  
 Final Thoughts



*CUNY SLI 2015 Students at Proskauer Rose*

### The 2015 Summer Law Institute at CUNY Law School

On Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 21 rising high school freshmen from Queens came together in room 205 of CUNY School of Law to begin their summer journey into the world of law. While many of them were unused to professional attire and meeting new people, they were very excited to start learning. For the next five weeks these rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Legal Outreach's Summer Law Institute ("SLI") at CUNY School of Law. The SLI is an academic experience that provides a very select group of students from Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens with the unique experience of studying Criminal Justice at one of the six SLI sites. This was the first ever SLI at CUNY and was special because it featured students from the local Long Island City and Astoria community and schools. The SLI at CUNY also had the distinct honor of being co-sponsored by the Elmezzi Foundation and Proskauer Rose LLP.

SLI inspires students to pursue careers in law and to strive for academic excellence. At each site, two law students and an undergraduate intern serve as instructors for the students. The first four weeks involve strenuous and fast paced classroom instruction. The final week of the program culminates with the students displaying their incredible improvement in a thrilling mock trial. They are invited to perform at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Courthouse before a real federal court judge. At this time, the Coordinators, the directors, their family, and their friends were witness to how far each student had progressed in a mere five weeks!

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# Education

Each morning, students engaged in challenging lessons from Legal Outreach's "Criminal Justice: Theory and Practice" curriculum, which taught the students substantive law and helped them develop analytic and oral advocacy skills. This portion of the day included lessons on topics such as Miranda Rights and Search and Seizure, which were designed to inform the students about basic criminal law. In the afternoons, students studied the "Criminal Trial: Process and Procedure" curriculum, from which they learned how to present opening and closing statements, conduct direct and cross examinations, and serve as witnesses in preparation for the culminating mock trial competition at the end of the summer.

In addition, once a week, lessons were given by Ms. Elliot on study skills, test taking tips, essay writing, and public speaking. All were designed to improve the students' academic skill set and improve their performance at mock trial.

For their homework, students completed a five-paragraph essay or essay rewrite each night. The essays usually posed a question that critically analyzed a topic discussed during that day's lesson. They also read and summarized up to two chapters a night and wrote thank you notes to each day's guest speaker.

## Meet the CUNY Staff

SLI Coordinator



Ebony Johnson has just finished her first year at Howard University School of Law. She is originally from Jacksonville, FL, and aspires to become an education research and policy professional upon graduating from law school.

SLI Coordinator



Alice Simmons is about to begin her second year at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Originally from Arlington, TX, Ms. Simmons focuses her studies on a Public Law, Regulation, and Government Affairs concentration.

SLI Intern



Denise Elliot has just finished her junior year at Colgate University. She is originally from Irvington, New York and hopes to attend law school after college.

# Guest Speakers



*Proskauer Rose LLP's Carl Forbes Jr. with the 2015 CUNY SLI Students*

At the start of most days, SLI began at 9 a.m. with a presentation by a guest speaker. This year 14 guest speakers introduced the students to a range of practice areas, including sports law, civil rights law, and environmental law. Students also heard from current CUNY School of Law professors who combine their interest in a particular legal field with their passion for training the next generation of public interest attorneys. Every afternoon, a student who excelled throughout the day was chosen to introduce the next day's guest speaker.

This year one of the students' favorite guest speakers was Proskauer Rose LLP's Carl Forbes Jr. Mr. Forbes took time out of his extremely busy day to talk to the students about why a career in law is one of the most rewarding careers there is. Giving the students personal stories, he was able to make a connection with each student. Carl Forbes Jr. worked with the students to conduct a successful deposition. He was able to tie his lesson perfectly into things the students were already being taught by their coordinators. Mr. Forbes assured our students that with support and hard work anything is possible.

Carl Forbes Jr. is one of the guest speakers who opened the eyes of our students to the diversity of career paths one can pursue with a law degree. Without our exceptional guest speakers, our students would not have been informed of the myriad career paths available to them with a law degree.



*Proskauer Rose LLP's Michael Cardozo*



*CUNY's Elizabeth Palombo*

# Friday Field Trips



## JetBlue

On July 10, 2015 we took a short walk from CUNY to our first field trip: JetBlue, where we ate a wonderful lunch from Panera Bread. One of our students, Attorney Kacanja, won tickets for travel anywhere within the U.S! The students were included in a conference with the lawyers from JetBlue. We even spoke to a few lawyers over the phone from the D.C. office! The best part of the trip was the tour of JetBlue's gorgeous building and the scenic rooftop where our students took plenty of selfies. Thank you JetBlue!

## Manhattan County DA'S Office

On July 17, 2015, our students travelled to lower Manhattan. The trip began with an excellent overview of the criminal justice system. This included a presentation from Assistant District Attorney Lisa Zito.

ADA Zito followed up her presentation with a tour of the courthouse, culminating in allowing everyone to watch a live trial. The students were able to observe the direct examination of a hostile witness as well as objections. We could not think of a better way to illustrate everything they learned this summer!



## Proskauer Rose LLP

Our last field trip was held on July 23, 2015, on a visit to Proskauer Rose LLP. The students had the amazing opportunity to have a networking session during lunch with various Proskauer Rose attorneys.

After lunch we split into group tours of the building, which was gorgeous! To finish the field trip, Proskauer led the students in various fun law related activities. The students could not stop talking about their time at Proskauer Rose!



# CUNY Law School

## SLI Class of 2015!

**Attorney Armadeep Banga**  
The Steinway School

**Attorney Marissa Campiz**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

**Attorney Fatema Choudhury**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

**Attorney Ayanna Clark**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

**Attorney Edgar Flores**  
ReStart Academy

**Attorney Amiyah Gonzalez**  
Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts

**Attorney Tatiana Jordan**  
Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts

**Attorney Keisi Kacanja**  
The Steinway School

**Attorney J'von Leong**  
Oak Middle School in Orange County

**Attorney Guadalupe Martinez**  
Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts

**Attorney Lisa Martinez**  
Leonardo da Vinci Intermediate School

**Attorney Jaime Minor**  
Kurn Hattin Homes

**Attorney Dinna Mohamed**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

**Attorney Ahamed Bilal Mohamed Mohideen**  
The Steinway School

**Attorney Anahi Rodriguez**  
Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts

**Attorney Safa Salman**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

**Attorney Lalon Shoeb**  
The Steinway School

**Attorney Ruppy Singh**  
Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts

**Attorney Sasha Spajic**  
Baccalaureate School for Global Education

**Attorney Olivia Vasquez**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

**Attorney Elizabeth Vigniero**  
The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria



*The Dean of CUNY School of Law, Michelle Anderson, with the 2015 CUNY SLI Students*

# Mock Trial



Throughout the program, students learned the process and procedures of a criminal trial. In preparation for the mock trial competition, students were coached by SLI instructors. This year, students argued *People v. Carper*, a case involving a defendant named John "Kay-B" Carper. He attended the Met Gala with his wife, Meyonce Coals, but ended up getting into an altercation with his sister-in-law, Zorange Coals, in an elevator. The witnesses to the fight were Frankie Flash, the photographer who has a possible vendetta against Kay-B, Zorange Coals, the victim, and Chris "Big C" Wallace, who is Kay-B's bodyguard.

Kay-B and Zorange got into a car accident later that night. The prosecution tried to present a case to prove that after they had their physical altercation in the elevator while leaving the Met Gala, rapper John "Kay-B" Carper intentionally crashed his vintage Rolls Royce into a vehicle driven by his sister-in-law Zorange Coals. The defense argued that it was an accident and Kay-B did not intentionally hit Zorange's car because he was not the driver.

The students argued their case before the Honorable Judge Furman at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Courthouse in Lower Manhattan. Every student was given a score and when each team was tallied up the defense team was declared the winner!



# Final Thoughts

## *Thank You!*

A special thanks to **CUNY School of Law's Dean Michelle Anderson and Cheryl Howard**, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, **Leslie Torres, and Karyn Manocchia** for hosting our Summer Law Institute at their beautiful law school and providing us with guest speakers from CUNY staff!

**Elmezzi Foundation** for their co-sponsorship and support.

**Zone 126** for their support and recruitment efforts.

The entire staff at **JetBlue and Melissa Lauradin** for hosting our students on a field trip with such great enthusiasm.

**Lisa Zito and Denise Liriano** for setting up our field trip to the NY County DA's Office.

The entire staff at **Proskauer Rose LLP** for their co-sponsorship and for hosting us on a field trip with great hospitality and sending us three fantastic speakers.

**Associate Dean Cheryl Howard** for being the judge at this year's semi-finals.

**Honorable Jesse Furman** for being the judge at this year's finals.

## Guest Speakers

Dean Michelle Anderson – CUNY School of Law  
Stephen Ahron – Proskauer Rose LLP  
Marshall Bellovin – Ballon Stoll Bader & Nadler  
Rebecca Bratspies – CUNY School of Law  
Michael Cardozo – Proskauer Rose LLP  
Ryan Dooley – CUNY School of Law  
Pamela Edwards – CUNY School of Law

Carl Forbes, Jr. – Proskauer Rose LLP  
Cheryl Howard – CUNY School of Law  
K. Babe Howell – CUNY School of Law  
John Meringolo – Meringolo & Associates  
Elizabeth Palombo – CUNY School of Law  
Michelle Pastor – Legal Outreach, Inc  
Sam Sue – CUNY School of Law



Attorney Leong channels a politician



Attorneys Minor and Banga have a little fun on the Jet Blue rooftop



Attorneys Vasquez and Salman practice their hand at crisis management