Legal Outreach, Inc.
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ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017
OUR MISSION

Legal Outreach seeks to change the educational trajectory of urban youth from underserved communities in NYC and facilitate the pursuit of higher education by using intensive legal and educational programs as tools for fostering vision, developing skills, and enhancing confidence.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2016-17, Legal Outreach achieved its programmatic objectives. All programs operated at full capacity. In September of 2016, 230 students enrolled in the College Bound Program. At the end of the academic year, 213 students remained, making the final retention rate 93%. Legal Outreach also helped 100% of the Class of 2016 (48 seniors) who completed the four-year College Bound program apply and gain admission to competitive colleges. These 48 seniors have taken the acute academic skills and professionalism developed at Legal Outreach to prestigious universities such as Yale, MIT, Columbia, Cornell, Georgetown, Swarthmore, Pomona, Smith, Carnegie Mellon, Case Western, Mount Holyoke, Hampshire and Skidmore, among many others.

We're also pleased with the outcomes associated with our Law and Justice Institutes implemented in partnership with Columbia, NYU, St. John's, Fordham, CUNY, and Cardozo Law Schools. 169 students enrolled and 157 completed the rigorous five week program. Many thanks to all of our individual and institution partners who provided our youth with such rich insights, information and experiences. Special thanks goes to Fordham and NYU Law School for supporting our efforts to serve more Black and Latino males through our PACT Institutes and to Cardozo and Columbia Law School for welcoming the first classes of young minority girls being served through our RISE Institutes. We're also grateful to all those who supported our June 20th Pipeline to Diversity Benefit at MetLife. The event was memorable and instrumental in helping us meet our programmatic and financial goals.

The outstanding results emanating from our Law and Justice Institute and College Bound Program continue to reflect the work ethic of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strength of our support from our Board and Advisory Board, Foundation and Corporate funders, law firm supporters, and individual donors. We were also pleased with the results from our special initiatives in particular, the GAVEL Program which enables us to expand our impact.

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

Best Wishes to All,

James

James B. O'Neal
Executive Director

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2017 Law and Justice Institute

Working in conjunction with Columbia, NYU, St. John’s, Fordham, Cardozo, and CUNY Law Schools, Legal Outreach organized and coordinated an intensive five-week program in 2017 known as the Law and Justice Institute (LJI) for 169 junior high school students from across New York City. Students were selected to participate in the LJI based upon their desire to pursue professional careers, their commitment to their own educational advancement, and their need for additional academic support. The 169 students chosen for the program, which operated Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00/4:00 pm, were immersed in 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 both the public and private sectors who specialized in fields of law including family, civil rights, criminal, sports, entertainment, corporate, and more. Field trips were taken to a number of legal offices, agencies, and departments throughout the city. The program culminated as usual in a mock-trial competition, which was held this year at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouses, courtesy of Karen Milton, the Circuit Executive for the U.S Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Justin Marziliano and Janice Kish. LJI participants gave outstanding performances to their live audience of actual New York court judges, family, friends, and other observers.

THE COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

Each year, students who successfully complete the Law and Justice Institute are invited to apply to the College Bound program, a four-year multifaceted support program designed to help participants improve their academic performance in high school and prepare for the rigors of college. In the 2016-17 academic year, the following services were provided to 230 College Bound participants.

1. After-school Study and Tutorial Center: To instill self-discipline and to establish academic work as top priority, Legal Outreach operated an after-school study and tutorial center Monday through Thursday from 4:30-6:30 PM. Those required to attend were freshmen with averages below 90 and sophomores and juniors with averages below 85 in major subjects, with the exception of students who were receiving documented tutoring at their schools.

2. Saturday Writing Academy: To develop and enhance students’ writing skills, Legal Outreach implemented a structured, four-year writing program for College Bound students at every grade level. Required writing classes took place on alternating Saturdays from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Freshmen were taught the rules of grammar, sophomores received instruction in essay writing, juniors learned the art of persuasive writing, and seniors were assigned a college-level research essay project.

3. Life Skills and Advisory Program: To cultivate students’ study and decision-making skills, Legal Outreach required all College Bound freshmen to attend bi-weekly academic skill development and life skills workshops from September through May. Between workshops, freshmen attended group and individual advisory sessions that focused on goals, time management, priorities, and common issues that could distract them from achieving their academic and professional goals.

4. Mentor Program: Legal Outreach assigned each sophomore, junior, and senior to an attorney mentor to expand students’ knowledge of the legal profession and provide exposure to life as an adult professional.
5. **Constitutional Law Debate Program**: On four occasions during the academic year, College Bound sophomores, juniors, and seniors competed in moot court-like activities that explored constitutional law issues. Students developed their speaking, listening, and thinking skills as they presented arguments before lawyers and law students who judged their presentations and challenged their positions.

6. **Internship Programs**: By meeting high academic standards, College Bound rising sophomores earned internships at “Wall Street” law firms and other legal institutions. This summer, 59 deserving students were provided with the opportunity to work directly with 35 law firms, 4 financial institutions, 4 real estate firms, 2 government offices, 3 public interest offices and 2 judges’ offices with 9 placements.

7. **SAT Preparation Program**: Rising juniors spent the summer of 2017 enrolled in an SAT Preparation course conducted in conjunction with Princeton Review Test Prep. 51 students learned techniques and strategies for improving their performance on this standardized test. Legal Outreach offered additional assistance from tutors and by organizing individual and group study sessions. Scores rose an average of 108 points, from 1076 on the first diagnostic to 1184 on the final diagnostic (well above the national average of 1083).

8. **College Prep Class**: During the summer of 2017, 49 rising seniors took a five-week, college-level Western Philosophy class on Ethical Dilemmas. The course was taught by a college professor and graded by college standards. The class was taught four times per week over five weeks. Students were subject to quizzes, wrote a major paper, and took mid-term and final exams, all of which determined their final grade.

9. **College Admissions Program**: 45 of the 49 rising seniors began the college application process during the summer of 2017. Students received personalized and small group assistance with selection of colleges, writing drafts of personal statements, and completing sample admissions applications. Parents were provided with information on the financial aid process. The rising seniors also took bus trips to visit several colleges.

10. **Transition to College Workshops**: During the spring of 2017, our 48 seniors took part in Transition to College workshops designed to expose them to issues they will likely encounter over the course of their college journey. The workshops explored a wide range of topics including: roommates, classmates and professors, course selection, micro-aggressions, budgeting, and campus resources.
SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Growing Academically Via Education in the Law (GAVEL): The GAVEL program represents Legal Outreach’s efforts to share its knowledge, curricula, philosophy, and methodology with parties interested in replicating aspects of our Law and Justice Institute or College Bound Program.

North Star
In 2017, Legal Outreach partnered with North Star in Newark to once again engage four schools in an after-school mock trial program and competition. Fifty middle school students participated in the program over the course of ten weeks. The middle school students were coached by 8 law students from Rutgers Law School. Two of the middle school teams were assigned the role of the prosecution and two the defense. The program culminated in a Mock Trial Competition at Seton Hall School of Law in Newark where parents, teachers, and middle school administrators observed the two trials and rooted for their respective schools. Ronald Chen, the Dean of Rutgers School of Law, presided over the trials.

NJLEEP
In 2017, Legal Outreach continued to work with NJLEEP, which has replicated our Law and Justice Institute in conjunction with Seton Hall Law School as well as our College Bound Program for students in Newark. Legal Outreach licenses both its legal and educational curricula to NJLEEP as its sister organization.

Elizabeth Blackwell Middle School (MS 210)
In 2017, Legal Outreach partnered with MS 210, located in Queens NY, to deliver Professional Development and licenses for Legal Outreach’s Urban Law Man curriculum and Criminal Justice curriculum. The curricula was used in two seventh and two eighth grade classrooms.

Project U.S.E.
Legal Outreach partnered with Project U.S.E. in 2017 by licensing our Life Skills curriculum for the Young Adult Program at Project U.S.E. The curriculum was used specifically for a group of young people who were transitioning to independence.
Financial Statement for the Year Ending August 31, 2017 (Unaudited)

**SUPPORT & REVENUE**

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**EXPENSES**

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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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**NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR**

0

1 Does not include estimated depreciation of $302,779.11

**LEGAL OUTREACH STAFF 2016-2017**

- James B. O’Neal, Co-Founder and Executive Director
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In addition, Legal Outreach would like to thank our:

- 250+ Contributors ($1 to $499)
- 50 Summer Internship Providers
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