

LEGAL OUTREACH THANKFUL THURSDAY

Newsletter

Each November, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, Legal Outreach highlights two partnering organizations that have significantly enhanced our ability to address the inequities in educational and professional opportunities for minority, low-income and other underserved youth. This year, we have chose to shine a light on a corporation and a law firm, both of whom have partnered with us through these challenging times to change the diversity outlook and educational trajectory of our students, Bloomberg LP and Proskauer Rose LLP.

Bloomberg

David Levine
Chief Legal Officer

Proskauer

Michael Cardozo
Retired Partner

Over the last couple of years, more and more corporations and law firms have made greater commitments to diversity. Can you talk about Bloomberg's commitment to diversity through enhanced educational opportunities for underserved youth?

At Bloomberg, we are committed to creating a workplace culture that values difference, fosters inclusion, and promotes collaboration across our entire organization – and creates change in society around us.

Through our skills-based volunteering programs, Bloomberg employees invest in local communities by sharing their expertise. We provide mentoring and internships for underrepresented youth in fields like finance, journalism, technology, and law. Our Legal & Compliance team works in partnership with our Corporate Philanthropy team to create a robust and meaningful Pro Bono program that helps to expose and engage more young people in opportunities within the legal field. There is clear synergy in our efforts to effect social change, social impact, and improve the communities in which we live and work.

We understand that diversifying the legal profession means increasing equitable access to opportunity from the very beginning of the pipeline—a major part of why we have worked so closely with Legal Outreach over the years. Our dedication to various pipeline programs demonstrates our commitment to exposing the profession to more individuals from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds and providing the tools to help them make it to law school and beyond.

Through our partnership with Legal Outreach, we host high school students for an intensive mock legal examination and college/pre-law preparatory program. Through these efforts, we aim to move the needle so that we play an active role, today, in shaping the diversity of tomorrow's legal industry.

Obviously, Legal Outreach is pleased to have been chosen as an organization that Bloomberg is supporting. What led to that decision? What about the work or the approach that LO is taking that makes it the type of organization that you want to support?

We are very proud to partner with Legal Outreach. Volunteers from our department contribute their time and expertise to Legal Outreach in two different ways. Some serve as guest speakers at Legal Outreach's Summer Law Institute in order to inspire rising 9th graders from underserved communities in NYC to strive for academic excellence and pursue careers in the law. This amazing program prepares urban youth for higher education, professional careers, and community leadership by using intensive legal and educational programs as tools for fostering vision, developing skills, and enhancing confidence in one's ability to achieve goals.

Other volunteers from our Legal team serve as judges for Legal Outreach's Moot Court Debater of the Year competition. During this debate, they judge Legal Outreach's top 8 high school student debaters. The winners of the competition receive a monetary prize that goes toward their Legal Outreach scholarship which is awarded to them upon graduation. Our people have found engaging with the Legal Outreach team and students incredibly rewarding and we're excited to see the next generation of legal professionals get their start through these programs.

Proskauer has been working with Legal Outreach for many years, and our partnership is borne from a mutual understanding that we must meaningfully engage with more youth from underserved diverse communities if we want to diversify the legal industry.

Legal Outreach's impact and results speak for themselves: the data showing the success of their programs and initiatives demonstrates that they are engaged in work that is changing lives and increasing access to opportunities for underserved youth. The decision to partner with Legal Outreach was an easy one as our leadership has long understood that to advance diversity, we need to, as early as possible, open the eyes and minds of youth from underserved communities to the real opportunities that exist beyond their own worlds. The more underserved youth we can expose to the practice of law, the greater chances of growing the collegiate and eventual law school applicant pools which determine who enters the practice of law.

Why is the pipeline a critical component of your diversity and educational work and why is it so important to work with youth from underserved communities and backgrounds?

We believe in the opportunity to partner with local organizations and invest in youth from underserved communities and backgrounds. We know the power of exposure and engagement early in a young person's life and how that can inspire them to pursue a range of careers they might not have previously considered – such as roles in STEM or the breadth of work in the financial or legal sectors. This helps support our commitment to ensuring today's youth can reach their full potential – and contribute to their community and the world.

Through hundreds of volunteer projects – and hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours – each year, Bloomberg's employees help them to see that they too can reach their goals through plenty of hard work and determination. And this effort becomes even more powerful when the Bloomberg employees they work with and get mentorship from look just like them. Now they have role models that they can look up to and aspire to follow in their footsteps.

Proskauer strives to be an ambassador and leader in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion—its core to our history and our founding. When you look at our efforts, at the high school and college level, all the way through our diversity scholarship programs and award winning mentorship and sponsorship initiatives, there is a dedication to being engaged at every level of the pipeline.

We have seen such profound impact through our partnership with Legal Outreach where several of our Proskauer Scholars have moved on to attend highly ranked colleges, including Yale, Brown and Cornell, and we have even welcomed some of them back as summer interns at the firm. We are motivated by these results but equally dedicated to the need to do more and better. We know that we must approach moving the needle on diversity, equity and inclusion from all fronts. Until we have ensured that, at all levels, talented students and professionals from underrepresented/underserved backgrounds have access to the same opportunities to succeed as others, we must continue to work, day in and day out, to create a more equitable legal industry and practice.

To read the Full Interviews:

[Click Here](#)

Thank You Bloomberg and Proskauer for your support of our programs and your commitment to Diversity & Social Justice!

LEGAL OUTREACH
RAISING THE BAR

November, 2022

To support Legal Outreach's skill-building, college access, professional exposure and leadership development programs, make your donation:

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