

SUMMER LAW INSTITUTE

Newsletter

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Empowering Students to find their voices, learn the law, and grow as professionals.

For the summer of 2025, 24 bright students made their way to CUNY Law School every day to study the criminal justice system. With a passion to learn threaded into the classroom, these students built beautiful friendships and grew as scholars every day. Through this intensive five-week program, students were challenged as they studied complex material about the criminal justice system and understood the ins and outs of criminal trial procedure. CUNY Summer Law Institute students were challenged everyday to rise up beyond their capabilities. They grew their skills through comprehensive lessons, thought-provoking essay writing, weekly exams, and high expectations that transcended their limits.

Legal Outreach also exposed these students to professionalism through daily guest speakers and interactive field trips. Finally, our amazing students took to the courtroom and participated in a mock trial where they put their newly-found skills to the test.

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Meet the Staff



*Ms. Bannie Bajwa
Legal Teaching Fellow*

Ms. Bannie Bajwa is a rising 2L at Georgetown University Law Center and is from the Bay Area, California. Ms. Bannie graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara in 2024 with her Bachelors in Psychological and Brain Sciences and a minor in Professional Writing. Ms. Bannie is a sustainable fashion enthusiast and loves trying new matcha places around the city. She had an amazing time teaching at the SLI and loved building connections with students.



*Mr. Dorian Provencher
Legal Teaching Fellow*

Mr. Dorian Provencher is a rising 2L at Rutgers Law School - Newark and is from Western North Carolina. Mr. Dorian graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2022 with a major in Politics & Human Rights and International Studies. Outside the classroom, Mr. Dorian loves walking around NYC, reading, and traveling around the world. He had an amazing experience teaching at the SLI and aims to continue working with Legal Outreach in the future.



*Ayman Badawy
Coordinating Intern*

Mr. Ayman Badawy is the Coordinating Intern at CUNY this summer, is a rising junior at Emory University. He is majoring in political science and philosophy and plans to attend law school after receiving his bachelor's. His passion for the intersection between education and the law, along with criminal justice, was solidified after the Summer Law Institute. In his free time, he playing guitar, thrifting, and going to the gym. He hopes to continue working with students in the future.

Field Trips



Pictured: Students at Bloomberg LP

Our students started to build their sense of professionalism through weekly field trips to prestigious law firms and legal institutions. These institutions provided mock legal activities that pushed students to utilize their knowledge of the law in unique new ways.

Guest Speakers



Pictured: CUNY students with Guest Speaker Jordan Lewis from Bloomberg LP

Every Monday through Thursday over the summer our classroom was graced with visits from attorney guest speakers. Thank you for helping expand our students' visions for their futures!

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Thurgood Marshall Courthouse

During this field trip, students had the opportunity to visit the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse. The courthouse's historic ties to Supreme Court justices served as a crucial landmark for the students to learn about the pathways of Supreme court justices, like Sonia Sotomayor. The students heard a presentation on being a senior probation officer. Afterwards, they received a speech from United States Circuit Judge Danny Chin on his journey to the bench and work as a judge.



Proskauer LLP

Our field trip to Proskauer exposed the students to sports law. The students were warmly welcomed by an associate who told a motivating story about his journey to law today. For the activity, students were presented with a sports team transfer case and supervised by associates. They then presented their case to students and attorneys and were scored by a group of Proskauer lawyers.



Bloomberg LP

During our trip to Bloomberg LP, our students were inspired and challenged. Students were first given a presentation from a managing partner on international privacy law. Then, students did an activity on privacy law with attorneys and in groups. Afterwards, students were given the chance to debate each other



Mock Trial: Prosecution v. Defense

Students engaged with the knowledge they've learned over the summer through the Mock Trial competition. Inspired by the 2023 Union Square riot that occurred at an event held by internet personality Kai Cenat, our case this year was State v. Bennett. In this case, Mr. Jay Bennett has been charged with a class E felony of riot in the first degree, after holding an event in "Alliance Square" which became disorderly. Amidst the chaos, one witness, Sonia Sinclair, was hit by a fire extinguisher and injured. The case was tricky for both sides to argue, as students had to debate whether Jay Bennett "knowingly" incited a riot, or whether it was a mistake.



Prosecution

Danna Peralta
Alisha Gomes
Jasmine Latimer
Talia Mohamed
Lucia Yepez
Angela Yepez

Josselyn Popoca
Blaze Winter
Armaan Farooqui
Kayla Echeverria
Emma Rosario
Sophia Fattakhova
Jonathan Liu

Defense

Syed Rahman
Abrar Miazi
Estrella Jaime
Saldana
Ellie Zhang
Elek Tas-Winer
Ksenia Gunko

Eric Zheng
Ahnaf Rana
Tenzin Khamsang
Faysal Ahmed
Ahnaf Rana
Aiden Miah

The prosecution presented their case, arguing that Jay Bennett knowingly incited a riot through intentionally disregarding Alliance Square's carrying capacity. They argued that injuries sustained by Sonia Sinclair were the direct responsibility of Jay Bennett. The defense argued that Jay Bennett could not have been aware of the ensuing riot due to the fact that he was inside a car with blacked out windows, Additionally, they claim he could not have known a riot would ensue. During the Finals of the competition, Prosecution 1 and Defense 1 (the first column of the prosecution and defense) passionately presented their arguments in front of the attorney Justin L. Brooks, who gave a verdict of guilty.

The Verdict:

Guilty

Our Students

With the SLI, I changed in the shortest span of time I had ever changed in my entire life. LO simply chose the right people. They have kids who were not only smart, but so very kind, and they have instructors that can teach us so much without it being boring. After eighth grade, I didn't believe I was going to find the right people and teachers for me. However, in just one week, SLI changed my perspective completely. *- Jasmine Latimer*



SLI has helped me excel academically through holding high expectations, like daily homework, thank you letters, essays, and, most importantly, time management. I have always struggled keeping up with time, and I tend to write a lot, but writing essays in one hour forced me to be more concise and decide which words were necessary. I was really nervous, but I came out of SLI learning valuable life skills. I feel like I accomplished a lot.

- Talia Mohamed

Kayla Echeverria

Danna Peralta

Abrar Miazi

Armaan Farooqui

Emma Rosario

Syed Rahman

Sophia Fattakhova

Blaze Winter

Ahnaf Rana

Alisha Gomes

Eric Zheng

Elek Tas-Winer

Estrella Jaime Saldana

Aiden Miah

Angela Yopez

Tenzin Khamsang

Josselyn Popoca

Lucia Yopez

Jasmine Latimer

Faysal Ahmed

Ellie Zhang

Talia Mohamed

Jonathan Liu

Ksenia Gunko

Final Thoughts & Thank You!

Thanks to all the supporters and sponsors that helped make Legal Outreach's Summer Law Institute possible! Over the past five weeks, our students have truly grown into young professionals who are ready for high school and beyond. Your support allowed these students to learn not just about criminal justice, but about the importance of teamwork, confidence, and advocacy. We cannot thank you enough!

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Guest Speakers

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