

Brooklyn Law School

250 Joralemon Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201-9846

Phone: 718.780.7906; Fax: 718.780.0395

E-mail: admitq@brooklaw.edu; Website: www.brooklaw.edu

■ The Law Campus

Situated at the junction of the Brooklyn Heights Historic District, the Brooklyn Civic Center, and downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn Law School boasts a location unrivaled for its legal, cultural, and historical character. Students share their environs with federal and state judges, government officials, and lawyers in private practice, many of them alumni. Within a few-block radius are the US District Court; US Bankruptcy Court; US Attorney's Office; the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, and Family Court; the Brooklyn District Attorney; the Kings County Surrogate's Court; the New York City Civil and Criminal Courts; The Legal Aid Society; and numerous law firms. These are our laboratories, a backdrop for learning that few schools can replicate.

■ Renaissance Brooklyn

Multibillion-dollar construction projects have recast downtown Brooklyn as the city's third business hub, after Wall Street and midtown Manhattan. Here, moreover, is Brooklyn's most charming neighborhood, Brooklyn Heights. Overlooking New York Harbor and lower Manhattan, the Heights is where you will find much of our campus. Brooklyn Heights is the first New York City neighborhood designated as a historic district. Many of its original townhouses, brownstone mansions, carriage houses, churches, and public buildings survive, some registered as national historic landmarks. Many of our students and faculty live here in residence halls or in private apartments and homes. Nearby neighborhoods—Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, and Park Slope—also offer convenient, affordable housing.

■ Manhattan at Our Doorstep

Minutes away is the financial, legal, business, and cultural crossroads of the world: Manhattan. Proximity to Wall Street gives students easy access to school-year externships and summer jobs with major law firms and financial institutions. Students enjoy a great campus in a dynamic urban environment, softened by a small-neighborhood feel. This is New York City on a human scale—Manhattan without the hassle.

■ Building for the New Millennium

In recent years, Brooklyn Law School has undertaken \$118 million in capital improvements to serve its needs well into the twenty-first century. Nine residences, including our newest, the 21-story high-rise Feil Hall, allows us to **guarantee housing** to all first-year students, engendering a strong sense of campus community. A 78,000-square-foot library, one of the largest and most modern in the city, includes more than 544,000 volumes, 5 computer labs, 26 group study rooms, and seating for nearly 700. We also provide about 90 computer workstations, and over 2,400 other student-accessible network connections throughout our academic and residential buildings as well as over 2,000 wi-fi connections.

■ Our Faculty: Diverse, Brilliant, and User Friendly

Our 67 full-time faculty members comprise one of the largest faculties in New York. They are joined by more than 130

adjuncts, including many distinguished judges, practitioners, and corporate counsel. They are extraordinarily talented and, above all, superb teachers. Shaping public policy, making law in the community at large, they are also prolific authors. They are recognized nationally and globally for their scholarship in such areas as Commercial and Bankruptcy Law, Corporate and Securities Law, Evidence, Health Care, Information Privacy and Internet Law, Intellectual Property, International Business Law, Human Rights, and Women's Rights. BLS offers a congenial community. Its learning environment, while rigorous and challenging, remains supportive and nurturing. A desirable student-faculty ratio facilitates this dynamic. Faculty members are accessible to students in a way that few faculties are. There is a strong correlation between the priority we assign to teaching and mentoring and the fact that over the past three years, our average passing rate of nearly 83 percent was almost 6 percent ahead of the state-wide rate for first-time takers of the New York State Bar examination.

■ Our Students: The Best and the Brightest

The fall 2005 entering class included students from 34 states, as well as DC and 9 foreign countries, who earned degrees from more than 155 universities and colleges, including many of the nation's most prestigious. Sixty-seven percent completed undergraduate work at least one year before enrolling here. Fifty-two percent of them had LSAT scores in the top 10 percent nationwide. Minorities represented 27.6 percent of that class; about half of the students were women.

■ Our Alumni: Accomplished and Accessible

One of the great strengths of BLS is the size, stature, and loyalty of our more than 17,000 graduates in 49 states, as well as DC, 2 US territories, and 23 foreign countries—one of the largest alumni families of any law school.

■ The Career Center

Our Career Center is staffed by seven attorney-counselors and an attorney dedicated to job development/employer relations. Job listings are readily available to students and graduates via the Internet. In the most recently reported year, 98 percent of our students were employed nine months after graduation, placing us among the top law schools nationwide. For current salary information, see www.brooklaw.edu/career/empstats/.

■ First-year Program of Study

Day students take one core course in a seminar section of about 40 students, allowing for significant individualized skills training. Our goal is to help students cultivate the ability to think clearly, analyze problems thoroughly and carefully, and to recognize that no "legal" issue exists in a social, philosophical, economic, or political vacuum. Students participate in a Legal Writing Program structured to develop fully their writing abilities. An Academic Success Program, combining an early-start summer course with a series of support workshops, helps students reach their potential. This contributes to our exceptionally high retention rate between the first and second year.

■ **Upper-class Program of Study: The Art and Craft of Lawyering**

Our upper-class curriculum is designed to bridge the gap between law school and law practice and to make law school something that students enjoy, not merely endure. Students create individualized programs, choosing from over 200 electives in 19 concentrations and areas of interest. Some 75 percent of full-time and about 60 percent of all students participate in one or more of our 20 in-house and externship clinics, including over 400 students placed in a recent year in judicial chambers, law offices, and government agencies through our large externship programs. Simulation courses enroll nearly 950 students annually.

■ **Beyond the Core Curriculum**

We are consistently recognized as among the country’s top law schools in supporting public interest law. Our **Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Program** has placed over 350 students in a wide array of summer internships at leading public interest organizations nationwide and abroad.

Our **International Business Law Fellowship Program** is a rewarding educational experience for those pursuing careers in that field. We sponsor four student-edited journals: the *Brooklyn Law Review*, the *Journal of Law and Policy*, the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, and, launching in spring 2006, the *Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial, and Commercial Law*. **Barry L. Zaretsky Fellowships** are awarded to students based on demonstrated academic achievement and commitment to bankruptcy and/or commercial law. Our **Moot Court Program**, one of the nation’s finest, garnered 60 top honors—including 17 national championships—in recent competitions. Our **Center for the Study of Law, Language, and Cognition** explores how developments in the cognitive sciences—including neuroscience, psychology, and linguistics—have dramatic implications for the theory and practice of law. A **Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy** engages students in the legal issues and public policy concerns confronting health care organizations. A **joint-degree option** allows students to earn master’s degrees in business administration, city and regional planning, public administration, urban planning, political science, or library and information science. Finally, we offer **study abroad programs** in China, Germany, and Italy.

Applicant Profile

Admission to Brooklyn Law School is based on a meticulous appraisal of each applicant’s character, academic achievements, aptitude for the study of law, life experience, and other pertinent indications of professional promise.

BLS does not offer an LSAT/GPA admission profile, for numbers alone cannot provide a comprehensive assessment of a candidate’s potential for law school success. While matrices may be helpful to some, too often they needlessly discourage others—those with profiles slightly below our published numerical benchmarks who may still be competitive for admission here. Moreover, such profiles tend to reduce the selection process to a two-dimensional matrix, one which fails to portray accurately our admission practices.

To be sure, candidates with high test scores and commensurate grades are more likely to gain admission than those with lower grades and scores. Nevertheless, no combination

of grades and scores guarantees admission. We go to great lengths to ensure that all applicants are accorded consideration of all of their credentials, and every application is evaluated by several Admissions readers to ensure a range of perspectives.

Nonquantifiable factors also significantly influence our decisions. A partial list includes the quality of schools attended; the strength of the program of study; grade trends; the content of faculty letters of evaluation; the cogency of the candidate’s writing; campus leadership; significant service to community; the nature and quality of any work experience or foreign study/travel; awards and honors; and military service. We have a century-long tradition of offering opportunity to members of underrepresented groups.

In sum, all relevant factors presented in the application are evaluated carefully and, before reaching our decision, we do our best to form an assessment of the whole applicant.