



## **Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (BROOKLYN A) 2019 Summer Law Student Internship Opportunities**

**BROOKLYN A's mission is to advance social and economic justice by empowering communities through innovative, collaborative, neighborhood-based legal representation and advocacy.** For over 50 years, we have provided high-quality legal assistance to individuals, families, not-for-profit community-based organizations (CBOs), community development corporations (CDCs), and coalitions interested in developing and sustaining vibrant, healthy communities.

**BROOKLYN A** is seeking motivated law students with a commitment to public interest work to join our 2019 Summer Law Student Internship Program. We offer opportunities in the following program areas:

- Community & Economic Development
- Consumer & Economic Advocacy
- Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Affirmative Litigation for Tenant Rights
- Eviction Prevention Services

### **Community & Economic Development Program**

**BROOKLYN A's** Community & Economic Development (CED) Program seeks law student interns who are interested in working with us during the Summer of 2019 to provide critical transactional legal support to nonprofit community based organizations (CBOs) and small businesses serving low-income communities primarily based in Brooklyn, but also throughout New York City.

Through our CED Program, **BROOKLYN A** partners with and provides transactional legal services to dozens of effective CBOs each year that have a demonstrated commitment to our common goal of social and economic justice. For CBOs to be effective and fulfill their missions they need support and assistance with their organizational formation, development, and ongoing operation. Providing consistent legal counsel is a critical element to the neighborhood-based and controlled community economic development process. **BROOKLYN A's** nonprofit clients have over the years developed thousands of units of affordable housing, provided hundreds of thousands of low-income individuals with essential primary and specialty health and dental care, provided child care and youth development services to children from infancy through college, and generally advocate for the rights of the communities they serve. CED Program attorneys work both as in-house and special project counsel, offering CBO clients ongoing, long-term representation. The CED Program also represents small businesses in transactional legal matters connected to commercial leases through its Small Business Support Project. In collaboration with two other legal services providers and a number of CBO partners, **BROOKLYN A** serves small businesses in all five boroughs.

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The CED Program's legal work involves, but is not limited to:

- Corporate formation and governance
- Real estate, including pre-development coordination, title and loan closings and commercial leases
- The drafting and negotiation of contracts
- Financing (public and private)
- Representation and negotiations with governmental authorities
- Employee relations

BROOKLYN A CED attorneys offer nonprofit clients both short-term and ongoing, long-term representation which encompasses the full range of services that private sector corporations routinely receive from their corporate counsel; they review, draft and negotiate contracts; they represent clients in real estate and financing transactions, administrative, and licensing and regulatory proceedings. The Small Business Support Project is a new growth area for BROOKLYN A and has an initial narrow focus on assisting small businesses with non-litigation commercial lease matters. The work is a natural complement to our historic work with CBOs and an additional tool in our organization's work to prevent displacement of low-income communities

Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis. Summer 2018 internships will likely begin in late May. Interns will be expected to work 40 hours per week for a minimum of ten weeks. Positions are not paid. BROOKLYN A is happy to assist students in obtaining internship funding via law schools, Equal Justice America or other organizations that are willing to fund the student.

Applications will be accepted by e-mail only, directed to [internships@bka.org](mailto:internships@bka.org), and should include a cover letter, resume, unofficial law school transcript, and brief writing sample. Please write "Summer 2019 CED Application" in the subject line of the e-mail. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we are not able to respond to every application submitted. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by e-mail.

### **Consumer & Economic Advocacy Program**

BROOKLYN A's Consumer & Economic Advocacy (CEA) Program seeks law student interns who are interested in working with us during the Summer of 2019 to provide legal support, representation, and advice to individuals involved in foreclosures and potential bankruptcies from communities primarily based in Brooklyn, but also throughout New York City.

The Program's legal work involves, but is not limited to:

- Home foreclosure support, especially for those in danger of homelessness
- Eviction defense and monitoring of the foreclosure process to ensure that the procedure is fair and the law is appropriately followed and applied

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- Assistance to homeowners in settlement conferences in helping to renegotiate the terms of loans
- Provision of intervention services to avoid imminent loss of home
- Honest and unbiased advising on retention of the home
- Assistance to homeowners in analyzing mortgages and other legal documents to determine appropriate legal defenses and counterclaims
- Protection from predatory loan practices and representing homeowners in foreclosures that are a result of predatory lending
- Commencing affirmative litigation challenging predatory lending practices, mortgage fraud, and housing discrimination
- Bankruptcy/debt relief
- Increasing awareness about unfair sales practices
- Loan modifications
- Reviewing and prepping Bankruptcy cases for stay and discharge violations

BROOKLYN A is currently one of the few not-for-profits in the country handling from inception to end in-depth and complex Chapter 13 and Chapter 11 bankruptcies. Interns will be exposed to and learn complex federal bankruptcy laws and assist with bankruptcy litigation.

Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis. Summer 2019 internships will likely begin in late May. Interns will be expected to work 40 hours per week for a minimum of ten weeks. Positions are not paid. BROOKLYN A is happy to assist students in obtaining internship funding via law schools, Equal Justice America or other organizations that are willing to fund the student.

Applications will be accepted by e-mail only, directed to [internships@bka.org](mailto:internships@bka.org), and should include a cover letter, resume, unofficial law school transcript, and brief writing sample. Please write "Summer 2018 CEA Application" in the subject line of the e-mail. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we are not able to respond to every application submitted. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by e-mail.

### **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic**

BROOKLYN A's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) seeks law student interns who are interested in working with us during the Summer of 2019 to assist the LITC Director on current tax cases. Such work will include legal research and writing, as well as client interviewing and document review. Students will also assist with tax education and outreach in the community.

Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis. Summer 2019 internships will likely begin in late May. Interns will be expected to work 40 hours per week for a minimum of ten weeks. Positions are not paid. BROOKLYN A is happy to assist students in obtaining internship funding via law schools, Equal Justice America or other organizations that are willing to fund the student.

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Applications will be accepted by e-mail only, directed to [internships@bka.org](mailto:internships@bka.org), and should include a cover letter, resume, unofficial law school transcript, and brief writing sample. Please write “Summer 2019 LITC Application” in the subject line of the e-mail. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we are not able to respond to every application submitted. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by e-mail.

### **Affirmative Litigation for Tenants Rights**

BROOKLYN A’s Group Representation Unit seeks law student interns who are interested in working with us during the Summer of 2019 to bring affirmative litigation and fair housing cases on behalf of low-income tenants in Brooklyn. Interns will work with attorneys to represent tenants and community coalitions in anti-harassment and fair housing litigation. The Group Representation Unit collaborates with a coalition of neighborhood organizations throughout North, East, and Central Brooklyn to preserve and expand affordable housing for lower income residents of those areas in the face of rapid gentrification and tenant displacement.

BROOKLYN A firmly believes that in struggles against severe residential displacement or harassment, low-income tenants are empowered when united. In order to defend the rights of our clients, preserve affordable housing, and protect our communities, our model of legal services involves a holistic, comprehensive, and innovative approach to litigation and advocacy.

Internship activities involve:

- Assisting attorneys in affirmative litigation on behalf of tenant associations confronting predatory landlords seeking to vacate their buildings, housing discrimination and exclusionary re-zonings
- Assisting attorneys with litigation in Kings County Housing Court, New York Supreme Court, and Federal Court
- Preparing witnesses for trial, arguing motions, and advocating for clients in and out of court
- Researching legal issues, drafting memos, motions and press releases
- Joining coalition efforts to collaborate with local community-based organizations
- Aiding with legislative and policy reforms.

Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis. Summer 2019 internships will likely begin in late May. Interns will be expected to work 40 hours per week for a minimum of ten weeks, and will be expected to attend tenant association meetings, which usually take place in the evenings. Positions are not paid. BROOKLYN A is happy to assist students in obtaining internship funding via law schools, Equal Justice America or other organizations that are willing to fund the student.

Applications will be accepted by e-mail only, directed to [internships@bka.org](mailto:internships@bka.org), and should include a cover letter, resume, unofficial law school transcript, and brief writing sample. Please write “Summer 2019 Group Representation Application” in the subject line of the e-mail. Due to the

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volume of applications we receive, we are not able to respond to every application submitted. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by e-mail.

### **Eviction Prevention Services**

BROOKLYN A's Housing Representation Unit seeks law student interns who are interested in working with us during the Summer of 2019 to prevent individuals and families from being evicted from their homes.

An eviction jeopardizes stable employment, family stability, school attendance and neighborhood ties. Once homeless the climb back to housing and stability is difficult. We believe that stable housing is the anchor from which all other positive outcomes can flow. Over the summer, interns will play an integral part in cases from start to finish and will have the opportunity to witness the positive impact their work has on the lives of our clients.

Daily responsibilities will include the drafting of legal papers for filing with the court or administrative agencies and client intake. Interns will be supervised by practicing attorneys and will be provided opportunities to develop litigation strategies and participate in active litigation.

The Housing Representation Unit work includes, but is not limited to:

- Eviction proceedings, including non-payment, holdover and HP proceedings in the Civil and Housing Courts of the City of New York
- Administrative hearings and judicial appeals therefrom in cases involving with the New York City Housing Authority, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, and New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development
- Proceedings with any housing agency which could result in eviction
- Gaining and preserving access to affordable public and subsidized housing for low-income populations. BROOKLYN A represents tenants in expiring contract-subsidized housing and negotiates with landlords on tenants' behalf.
- Keeping families in their homes, fighting illegal overcharges, and securing appropriate repairs and essential services.
- Coordinating with social services caseworkers to help families obtain One-Shot Deals and Family Eviction Prevention Supplements to assist with rental arrears and maintain ongoing affordability of tenants' housing. We ensure tenants will be able to pay their rent and preserve their housing.

Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis. Summer 2019 internships will likely begin in late May. Interns will be expected to work 40 hours per week for a minimum of ten weeks. Positions are not paid. BROOKLYN A is happy to assist students in obtaining internship funding via law schools, Equal Justice America or other organizations that are willing to fund the student.

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**THOMAS McC. SOUTHER, ESQ.**, BOARD CHAIR  
**JESSICA A. ROSE, ESQ.**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A**  
SHRIVER TYLER MACCRATE CENTER FOR JUSTICE

Applications will be accepted by e-mail only, directed to [internships@bka.org](mailto:internships@bka.org), and should include a cover letter, resume, unofficial law school transcript, and brief writing sample. Please write “Summer 2019 Eviction Prevention Application” in the subject line of the e-mail. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we are not able to respond to every application submitted. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by e-mail.

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