

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

# *Youth Law Day Programs*

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**Sponsored by the NYSBA Committee on Diversity and Inclusion  
and its Youth Law Day Subcommittee**

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High School Students at Youth Law Day Program  
Hofstra Law School



# What is Youth Law Day?

Youth Law Day (YLD) is a program sponsored by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and administered by its Youth Law Day Subcommittee.

The goal of the program is to provide high school students with a sense of the law school experience, and to reduce the mystery or sense of unattainability that might be associated with it. The centerpiece is an interactive classroom experience led by law-school faculty. Students are presented with fact patterns and introduced to legal principles, and are then asked to apply the law to the facts. The session is followed by discussion among smaller groups of students in break-out sessions.

The Youth Law Day Subcommittee partners with law schools to develop event programming and recruit speakers. Programs often include panels on the law school experience, with such topics as: how to apply to law school, financing a legal education, campus life, academic success, making the transition to the work world, and addressing questions such as "is law school right for you, and what can I do with a law degree?"

The program also features—with flexibility to tailor the agenda to a particular law school's interests—

- Greetings by the law school dean and a senior NYSBA leader
- Full group discussion of an ABA DVD called "Choose Law"
- An inspirational luncheon speech by a leading local minority attorney

- Panels on student life and/or admissions
- 3L-led school tours and courthouse visits
- Mock trial and/or moot court demonstrations

The inaugural program was held at Fordham Law School in fall 2006. Additional programs soon followed at Albany Law School and Hofstra University School of Law. Since then, 14 of New York's 15 law schools have opened their doors to students in their communities. Many law schools have participated on a regular basis during the past 11 years, expanding the scope of the program. In 2017 alone, the program was attended by more than 750 local high-school students.



Touro Law School



Syracuse Law School



# Program Budgeting

Cost will vary based on school location, number of participants and in-kind assistance. Typical services and possible expenses may include:

## Light breakfast and full lunch

Law school food services or caterers may offer discounts.

## Substitute Teacher Pay

Some high schools are able to participate only if the cost of substitute teachers is covered.

## Space rental and audio / visual services

Law schools do not usually charge room fees and provide assistance with video, audio set ups at no charge.

## Student Travel

Districts may charge for busing students to program location.

## Awards

For participating schools and presenters.

## Giveaways

For teachers, students and other participants.

## Accommodations

For speakers and guests. Presenters may need to stay overnight before an early-morning program.

## Printing

Programs and handouts.

## Budget Range (Approximate)

\$1,500 to \$3,500, but most fall into the \$2,200 to \$2,500 range.

## Funding

The New York State Bar Association's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion applies yearly for a grant from the New York Bar Foundation (NYSBF) to provide financial support for YLD programs, in collaboration with law schools and their ability to fund a portion of the program. The NYSBF has been a substantial source of support for the program since 2010. Neither funding nor amount is guaranteed. Law schools often also apply for a grant through the Law School Admissions Council to augment funds. The Committee on Diversity and Inclusion also directly supports this program by providing materials and other in-kind support.

# Youth Law Day Programs

## 2006

Fordham

## 2008

Albany Hofstra

## 2009

CUNY Syracuse  
Hofstra Touro

## 2010

Hofstra Syracuse

## 2011

Buffalo Fordham

## 2012

Buffalo Syracuse  
Fordham Touro

## 2013

Buffalo St. John's  
CUNY

## 2014

Buffalo Hofstra  
Columbia Fordham  
Cardozo NY Law

## 2015

Albany Hofstra  
Cardozo NY Law  
Columbia NYU  
Fordham Touro

## 2016

Brooklyn NY Law  
Columbia Syracuse  
Fordham Touro  
Hofstra

## 2017

Albany Fordham  
Buffalo Hofstra  
Cardozo St. John's  
Columbia Syracuse  
Cornell Touro



Albany Law School



Fordham Law School

## Youth Law Day Subcommittee Members

**Elise Jaffe, Chair**  
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**Jeffrey Bernstein**  
McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney  
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**Michael Bernstein**  
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**Richard M. Gutierrez**  
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**Hon. Helena Heath**  
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**Sonji Patrick**  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF

**Dominique Saint-Fort**

**Mirna Santiago**  
Acacia Network

**Benu Wells**  
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP



Syracuse Law School

## Sample Agenda from Youth Law Day at Fordham Law

**REGISTRATION** 8:30 a.m.

**WELCOME** 9:10 a.m.  
Elise B. Jaffe, Hunter College

**INTRODUCTION** 9:15 a.m.  
Nestor M. Davidson  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**VIDEO: "CHOOSE LAW"** 9:20 a.m.

**DISCUSSION** 9:30 a.m.  
FACILITATOR: Nestor M. Davidson

**PANEL 1** 10:00 a.m.  
"Planning for College and Law School"  
MODERATOR: Hillary Mantis

**BREAK** 10:50 a.m.

**MOCK LAW CLASS** 11:00 a.m.  
FACILITATOR: Carmen Morales, Esq.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS & LUNCH** 12 NOON  
Damaris Hernandez  
Partner: Cravath, Swaine & Moore

**PANEL 2** 1:00 p.m.  
"What Can I Do With My Law Degree?"  
MODERATOR: Elise B. Jaffe

**CLOSING REMARKS  
and EVALUATIONS** 2:10 p.m.  
Nitza Milagros Escalera, Assistant Dean of  
Student Affairs



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