

Summary: Short- & Long-Term Partnership Models

Short-Term Partnership Models (High-Impact, Flexible)

1. Pro Bono Clinics / Pop-Up Legal Clinics

- Structure: Single-day or short-series clinics (in-person or virtual)
- Strengths:
 - Immediate community impact
 - Low administrative burden
 - Easy student entry point
- Challenges:
 - Limited continuity for clients
 - Requires student supervision in compressed timeframes
- Best Use: Urgent or discrete legal needs; introductory student engagement
- Examples:
 - *Voting Rights Research-a-thon* - The Brooklyn Law School ACLU Chapter & Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC) led a one day research clinic to help restore civil rights to individuals who were formerly incarcerated. On a Friday, when students do not typically have classes, FRRRC conducted a 2-hour training via zoom, assigned individual cases to students that showed up, and stayed on zoom for an additional hour to answer questions while students conducted research. Students were able to stay past the training time to finish their work or complete their research and submit their research by a reasonable deadline. For students seeking pro bono hours to meet NYC bar admission requirements, FRRRC was able to provide supervision and sign affidavits.
 - [St. John's Law Students Volunteer to Close the Justice Gap for New Yorkers](#)
 - [St. John's Community Comes Together to Offer Legal Guidance to Low-Income New Yorkers](#)

2. Spring Break Service / “Alternative Spring Break” Programs

- Structure: 3–7 day immersive placements (local or travel-based)
- Strengths:
 - Focused engagement in a short period
 - Builds strong student commitment to public interest
 - Can support underserved or under-resourced regions
 - Works well if host organization can provide structured schedule to student(s)
- Challenges:
 - Logistical coordination (travel)
 - Limited duration of service
- Best Use: Capacity support for partner organizations
- Examples:

- [Brooklyn Law School Students Take on Pro Bono Work Over Spring Break](#)
- [St. John's Law Students Advocate for U.S. Military Veterans Over Spring Break](#)

3. Research and/or Small Project Partnerships

- Structure: 1-5 weeks
- Strengths:
 - Flexible and scalable
 - Can be completed remotely
 - Meets specific organizational needs
- Challenges:
 - Less direct client interaction
 - Requires clear project scoping
- Examples:
 - *Immigration Courtroom Advocacy Project (ICAP)* - Brooklyn Law students partnered with South Brooklyn Sanctuary, a grassroots organization, to provide research support to pro se immigrant clients seeking asylum amidst deportation proceedings. Under PSLC, faculty, and the law library's guidance and supervision, students developed country conditions reports for assigned clients in advance of individual hearings in immigration court.

Long-Term Partnership Models (Sustainable, Integrated)

4. Semester-Long Externships / Field Placements

- Structure: Academic-credit placements tied to coursework
- Strengths:
 - Consistent, supervised engagement
 - Aligns with academic calendar and learning goals
 - Builds institutional relationships
- Challenges:
 - Requires onboarding and supervision capacity
 - Limited to enrolled students
- Best Use: Ongoing legal services, casework support, structured learning

5. Law School Clinics (In-House or Partner-Based)

- Structure: Faculty-led clinics representing real clients
- Strengths:
 - High-quality, sustained legal services
 - Strong training and supervision
- Challenges:
 - Resource-intensive
 - Limited enrollment capacity
- Best Use: Complex or ongoing legal matters; systemic advocacy

- Examples:
 - [As Pro Bono Scholars Nine St. John's Law 3Ls Pass the Bar Exam and Accelerate Their Careers \(New York-specific\)](#)
 - [Inside the Defense and Advocacy Clinic's Life-Changing Work](#)
 - [Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic Leads Charge in Getting Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors](#)
 - [Brooklyn Law School Clinic Newsletter \(October 2025\)](#)
 - [Brooklyn Law School Hybrid Externship Clinics](#)

6. Fellowship Pipelines (Semester, Summer, & Post-Graduate)

- Structure: Internship placements
- Strengths:
 - Expands access for students with financial need
 - Builds long-term commitment to public interest careers
 - Strengthens partner organizations' capacity
- Challenges:
 - Funding-dependent - Law schools may provide stipends to students
 - Competitive selection processes
- Best Use: Sustained placements; workforce pipeline development
- Examples:
 - [From the Lone Star State to the Big Apple: Summer Public Interest Fellows Advance Justice](#)
 - [Brooklyn Law School Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Fellowship Program Celebrates 40th Anniversary](#)