



The Pre-Law Institute

Law Day

March 28, 2025

**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PRE-LAW INSTITUTE

**CU
NY**

Letter from the President

Welcome to Law Day at John Jay!



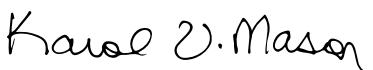
Law Day is one of John Jay College's signature events. Hosted by our transformational Pre-Law Institute (PLI), it is an exciting opportunity for students and alumni to explore the law school application process, strategize for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and network with professionals in the law.

Now in its 20th year, PLI has deepened John Jay College's footprint as one of the premiere undergraduate institutions fueling access and opportunity in the legal profession. In addition to Law Day, PLI offers over 90 high-impact programs, including Pre-Law Boot Camps, judicial internships and clinics, a free summer LSAT prep program, law school visits, and much more.

Being ranked **5th** for sending the most Black or African American applicants to law school in the U.S. and **15th** for the most Hispanic/Latino applicants, John Jay College is at the forefront of architecting a bar and a bench that will empower and enrich the workforce through the lens of justice. Even more inspiring, our students and alumni have been admitted to over **155** law schools in the past 7 years, and last year, **125** were accepted into one or more law schools!

I want to express our immense gratitude to the Samuel and Anna Jacobs Foundation, Inc. and all of our philanthropic partners for their unwavering commitment to student success at this dynamic institution and for making Law Day possible. I urge all students and alumni to take full advantage of the resources available throughout this impactful day.

With appreciation,



Karol V. Mason
President

Schedule of Events

9:45 a.m.

Registration Opens

New Building (NB), Atrium, 524 West 59th Street

10:15–11:15 a.m.

Morning Concurrent Sessions

Interviewing, Networking and Professionalism NB, L.63

Speakers from Proskauer, a leading global law firm, will provide guidance and tips on best strategies for interviewing, networking and professionalism. These "soft" skills are crucial for landing legal jobs and internship opportunities. This is an important workshop for students and alumni who are interested in pursuing a career in corporate law.

Speakers

Tara Brailey

Associate, Proskauer

Wendy Dessy

Director of Corporate and Social Responsibility, Proskauer

Sabrina Franconeri

Director of Training and Development, Proskauer

Katelyn Myers

Senior Manager of Human Resources Administration, Proskauer

Portia Procter

Associate, Proskauer

Mollie Wichtel

Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator, Proskauer

A Conversation with Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz NB, L.61

The District Attorney of Queens County, the Honorable Melinda Katz, will have a conversation with attendees about the role of the district attorney and her own career in public service. This is an important workshop for students and alumni who are interested in becoming prosecutors.

Speaker

The Honorable Melinda Katz

District Attorney for Queens County

(See page 6 for bio.)

Writing a Law School Personal Statement NB, I.63

This workshop will discuss ideas and strategies for writing your law school personal statement.

Speaker

Victoria Bond

Lecturer, English Department and Personal Statement Advisor, Pre-Law Institute, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

LSAT Success Strategies NB, I.65

This workshop will introduce attendees to the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and will provide an interactive session on best test-taking practices. Please note that this session will be repeated in the afternoon.

Speaker

Carolyn Nelson

Founder and President, Nelson Test Prep and Pipeline to Justice Instructor, CUNY School of Law

Financing Law School NB, I.66

This seminar will provide information about debt management, loans and budgeting for a law school education.

Speaker

Teria M. Thornton

Pre-Law and Diversity Initiatives Director, AccessLex Institute

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Plenary Session

Law School Admissions Panel NB, L.63

This panel will focus on law school admission requirements, including the importance of the LSAT, GPA, recommendations, personal statements, and admission deadlines.

Moderator

E. Mae Estrada

Associate Dean and Vice President, Enrollment Management, Student Financial Services, and Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, New York Law School

Panelists

Peter M. Eraca

Assistant Dean for JD & Graduate Admissions, Seton Hall Law School

Angelica Rocco Mooney

Assistant Director of JD Admissions, Fordham University School of Law

Denée Page

Director of Admissions, St. John's University School of Law

12:45–2:00 p.m. Luncheon

Student Dining Hall

President Karol V. Mason and Emily Madray '25
in conversation with

Roslyn Tom

Global Head of Transactions
Bloomberg's Legal & Compliance Department

(See **Roslyn Tom** bio on page 7.)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice would like to thank the Samuel and Anna Jacobs Foundation for its generous support of the Law Day Luncheon.

2:15–3:15 p.m. Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Bloomberg, L.P. Panel NB, L.63

Hear from Bloomberg, L.P attorneys who will share their own journeys and offer advice to aspiring attorneys.

Moderator

Tina Jiang

Legal Counsel, Bloomberg L.P.

Panelists

Cristina Cahn-Speyer

Legal Counsel, Bloomberg L.P.

Ronny Castro

Legal Counsel, Bloomberg L.P.

Sandi A. Turnipseed

AML/KYC Regional Program Lead for the Americas,
Bloomberg L.P.

Peter Weston

Legal Counsel, Bloomberg L.P.

LSAT: Success Strategies NB, I.65

This workshop will introduce attendees to the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and will provide an interactive session on best test-taking practices. Please note that this session is a repeat of the session offered during the morning.

Speaker

Carolyn Nelson

Founder and President, Nelson Test Prep and Pipeline to Justice Instructor, CUNY School of Law

Mock Law School Class NB, L.76

This workshop will explore the law school classroom experience.

Speaker

Charles Robert Davidson

Assistant Dean, Student Professional Advancement and Director, Center for Post-Graduate Opportunities, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Melinda Katz



Melinda Katz became the District Attorney for Queens County in January 2020, making history as the first woman to hold the office.

Under her leadership, the District Attorney's office ensures that all defendants are treated fairly and in a non-discriminatory manner, while protecting the communities it serves in the most diverse county in America. District Attorney Katz restructured the office with new bureaus and mandates to manage challenges including taking guns off the street, empowering victims

of domestic violence and human trafficking and seeking justice even in the oldest of cold cases.

A new Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau merged the office's former Narcotics Investigations and Gang Violence Bureaus to focus on dismantling criminal organizations operating in Queens. The bureau targets the drivers of violence, including members of street gangs, narcotics distribution operations and firearms dealers. In March 2023, the bureau worked with the NYPD on one of the largest gang-takedowns in Queens history, resulting in a 151-count indictment brought against 33 alleged gang members, five of whom were charged with murder.

District Attorney Katz established a Cold Case Unit to solve the borough's oldest and most challenging homicide cases. The unit and NYPD worked to solve a 46-year-old homicide case of an 81-year-old World War I veteran killed in 1976. The office's Human Trafficking Bureau—the first of its kind in the city—uses a range of strategies and resources to find exploiters who engage in sex and labor trafficking. In October 2022, two defendants pleaded guilty to trafficking teenage girls by holding them at a Jamaica hotel and forcing them to have sex for money.

District Attorney Katz created a 24/7 Domestic Violence Helpline to assist those in need to connect with safety planning measures and other resources. Through the Queens Community Violence Prevention Project implemented by District Attorney Katz, six local groups received a total of \$300,000 in grants to help improve public safety with community-based violence prevention strategies.

On her first day in office, District Attorney Katz created a Conviction Integrity Unit with a mandate to reinvestigate and resolve credible claims of actual innocence or wrongful convictions. The unit has vacated 99 cases, including one in which a teenager was wrongly accused of murder and had served more than eight years in prison. She also ended the office's longstanding practice of requiring defendants to waive their 180.80 rights to order to initiate plea bargain negotiations and refusing to consider plea bargains on anything less than the top count after an indictment.

District Attorney Katz was born and raised in Queens and educated in public schools. She graduated with honors from the University of Massachusetts and received a Juris Doctorate from St. John's University School of Law.

Her long record of public service began with her 1994 election to the New York State Assembly where she wrote and passed legislation to protect New York's most vulnerable residents. District Attorney Katz was a member of the New York City Council from 2002 to 2009 and served as chair of the influential Land Use Committee. She used her legal background and community ties to steward major projects that helped pull New York City out of the 2001 recession.

In private practice, District Attorney Katz worked as a securities litigator for Weil Gotshal and as a shareholder of Greenberg Traurig, a position she held until her 2013 election as the 19th Borough President of Queens. District Attorney Katz lives in Forest Hills with her two sons.

Roslyn Tom



Roslyn Tom is a seasoned corporate lawyer and business partner with more than 30 years of experience in mergers and acquisitions, capital raising, transformative transactions and governance. As the Global Head of Transactions, Legal at Bloomberg L.P., she advises senior business leaders on the significant issues they face when analyzing corporate business opportunities. She also examines the full spectrum of

commercial and regulatory challenges affecting the growth of a company, including strategy, risk management, human capital, compliance, fiduciary duties and governance. In addition, Roslyn advises Bloomberg's venture capital team (Bloomberg Beta) on its investment portfolio at each stage of the corporate life cycle, from pre-seed to priced equity rounds to exits. Roslyn is a leader in Bloomberg's initiatives on inclusive leadership.

Prior to Bloomberg, Roslyn was a partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP and Dewey Ballantine LLP, and an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell, conducting IPOs, public and private company M&A and post-acquisition integrations, and advising boards on governance.

Roslyn recently completed the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program on Women on Boards: Succeeding as a Corporate Director. Roslyn graduated from Yale Law School, Harvard College and Stuyvesant High School. She served as law clerk to Judge John T. Noonan, Jr. for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She is an active volunteer for the charities supported by Bloomberg's Corporate Philanthropy department, and previously served as a member of the Board of Directors and corporate secretary of Classic Stage Company, a non-profit theatre company in New York City. She is an avid marathon runner and has completed the Abbott World Marathon Majors and, most recently, her 24th marathon.



Thank You

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
would like to thank the
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