

**Kimberly Varela** is a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (JJC) - CUNY majoring in Criminal Justice B.S. and minoring in English. She is the recipient of academic honors, such as the Peter F. Vallone Scholarship and Dean's List. She was recently hired as a Research and Administrative Assistant at the Office for Student Research and Creativity at JJC.

Kimberly strives to become a public interest attorney who specializes in either immigration or labor law. These fields of law especially interest her because she would like to aid underrepresented communities. Therefore, she plans on providing underrepresented individuals with pro bono services in the future as an attorney to ensure that they have easier access to justice.

In pursuit of her goal, Kimberly joined the 2022 summer cohort for the CSTEP Project L.A.W. program at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. She learned under the guidance of practicing attorneys how to write in legal terms and critically analyze labor cases.

Although Kimberly currently has her sights set on law, she also has past experience in data research. She has interned at the Human Resources departments of NYCEDC and Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Her duties at NYCEDC consisted of researching missing employee data and developing reports based on vendor Corporate Social Responsibility data. Similarly at Kirkland and Ellis LLP, she conducted data research on alumni through external website monitoring. These experiences allowed her to identify and apply data research to her area of interest.