JOHN JAY PRE LAW INSTITUTE

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS
“It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive.”

Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States
The Pre Law Institute is the **nexus** of all pre-law activities at John Jay College. It focuses on preparing students for law school by crafting academic skill-building programs and emphasizing intensive and early engagement in developing **analytic and critical writing skills** that students need to **perform optimally** as law school applicants and as law students.

### Signature Programming:

#### Pre Law Boot Camps

*Specialized skills-based training beginning freshman year*

#### Law School Visits

*Campus visits to regional schools*

#### Speakers’ Series

*Attorneys and law professors give topic-based talks*

#### Mock Trial

*Annual competition judged by New York City attorneys and judges*

#### Law Student Shadowing

*A “day in the life” experience for students*

#### Speed Networking

*Networking sessions with attorneys to improve communication skills*

#### Pre Law Orientation

*Special orientation with activities for students interested in legal careers*

#### LSAT Prep Program

*Free LSAT prep course for students*

#### Law Day

*Day-long conference designed to prepare students for law school admissions*

#### Justices of the New York State Unified Court System

#### New York City Corporation Counsel

#### Law Firms

#### Legal Momentum

#### U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

### Studying Across the Nation

The Pre Law Institute builds **student success**.

Our most recent graduates were admitted to more than **55 law schools** and received more than **$3.1 million dollars in scholarship awards** including many full tuition scholarships to well-regarded law schools including several in the metropolitan New York City area such as Fordham University School of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and Brooklyn Law School.

Large scholarships and offers of admission to John Jay students have also come from other **nationally top-ranked law schools** including: Georgetown, University of California at Berkeley – Boalt Hall, University of Minnesota, Vanderbilt, Tulane, University of California at Hastings, University of Maryland, Northeastern, American, Emory and Loyola-Chicago.

In addition, students have been accepted to Pace Law School’s top-three ranked Environmental Law Program and New York and New Jersey’s public law schools, SUNY Buffalo, CUNY Law and Rutgers.
I am pursuing a career in public interest law because I want the opportunity to provide a voice for those who are underrepresented. I have had my fair share of experiences with discrimination and my talents have been underestimated because I am a Latina. While these stereotypes can be detrimental, I don’t find an uphill battle discouraging. To me these obstacles are motivating and remind me to do my best every day.

Through the PLI, I learned many life skills that one can only realize later after reflecting back in time. I learned how to manage deadlines and workflow and how to negotiate. I love that law is a profession that will always challenge one’s creativity and intellect. Having the privilege of doing what one loves and believes in doesn’t seem like work. It’s more like everyday inspiration.

I plan on studying international human rights because of my deeply rooted belief in basic rights for all human beings. People often say that one’s interests can change in law school, so I try to keep an open mind. I am pretty sure that if I am not working directly in human rights, I will still work in international law helping organizations focused on getting the United States to adhere to international law doctrines.
The need to safeguard and advocate for the rights of others is a lesson I learned early in life. Growing up in a disadvantaged Latino community brought issues of injustice to the fore. I watched as my undocumented best friend was almost lost to immigration limbo, cared for family members who were victims of medical malpractice, and listened to the silence as the voices of immigrants and battered women went unheard. **Becoming a lawyer is a way to step up and address the inequities that were unbearable to live through, let alone watch.**

For the last four years the amount of support I have received from John Jay’s PLI has been invaluable. I have sharpened my writing and analytical skills and started preparing – two years in advance – for the LSAT. I broke out of my shell and began to realize my full potential as a student. I had the benefit of mentors and through opportunities created by the PLI I interned with Governor David Paterson, Judge Marguerite Grays and the Law School Admission Council. I have gained a real life perspective of what it will take to reach my goal and the PLI has helped me to successfully shape myself as a strong candidate for law school.

I plan to pursue immigration law and women’s rights. However, through the PLI, I have come to appreciate the challenges and joys within all kinds of law.
Pre-law students at John Jay need financial support to compete with their peers across the country. Making a financial contribution to the Institute will make a meaningful difference in students’ academic experience and future career opportunities. Become a Friend of the PLI and directly support LSAT preparation for students and all the wonderful Pre Law Institute programming including Law Day and Pre Law Boot Camp.

Visit [WWW.JJAY.CUNY.EDU/GIVE](http://WWW.JJAY.CUNY.EDU/GIVE) to make a contribution and become a Friend of PLI.

There are many other important ways to get involved with the Pre Law Institute. You can:

- **MENTOR A STUDENT**
- **PROVIDE INTERNSHIPS**
- **PARTICIPATE IN LAW DAY, MOOT COURT, MOCK TRIAL OR PRE LAW BOOT CAMP**

For additional information about how you can make a difference, contact Vielka Holness at 646.557.4804 or PLI@jjay.cuny.edu. Visit [WWW.JJAY.CUNY.EDU/PLI](http://WWW.JJAY.CUNY.EDU/PLI).
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A senior college of the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice is the preeminent national and international leader in educating for justice. Set in the heart of New York City, John Jay offers students a rigorous liberal arts curriculum that balances the sciences, humanities and the arts and prepares students for successful futures. Offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees, John Jay’s faculty, students and alumni challenge the status quo as fierce advocates for justice and bring insight to and new perspectives to traditional fields.