

BLSPI Bar Grant Application

To apply for a BLSPI Bar Grant, you must:

1. Be a student who is graduating from Brooklyn Law School in Spring 2011 or Fall 2011 and be sitting for any state's bar exam in July 2011 or February 2012.
2. Complete the following application by **5pm, Friday, April 22**. Place seven copies in the box outside the BLSPI office (714M); also email a copy of your application package to blspi@brooklaw.edu. **Late applications will not be considered**. The committee expects to notify applicants of its decisions on or before May 5.

If you have any questions about the application, please contact Michael Berman, michael.berman@brooklaw.edu.

Distribution of funding

10 Grants of \$1,000 each will be disbursed by the Bar Grant Committee, which is made up of non-graduating BLSPI board members, Brooklyn Law School alumni, and professors.

Criteria and eligibility

Selection criteria will be based on:

- 1) Demonstrated commitment to the public interest
- 2) Intent to pursue a legal career in the public interest
- 3) History of service to public interest organizations and pro bono projects at Brooklyn Law School

Public interest is defined as the work of:

- 501(c)(3) organizations within the United States,
- Federal, state and city government organizations,
- International intergovernmental organizations not organized for monetary gain,
- Foreign non-governmental organizations recognized by the committee as pursuing the public good, and
- Law firms or other organizations with articulable public service missions which are not otherwise excluded below

The following is not considered work in the public interest:

- Employment that primarily benefits the members of a limited membership organization such as a credit union, fraternal or religious order or a cooperative,
- Work for which one's political support or party affiliation is taken into account in the hiring decision, and
- Direct lobbying on the federal, state or local government level

Any question of what qualifies as public interest will be resolved at the committee's sole discretion. Committee determinations are final.

Individuals who are receiving any kind of bar review course subsidization or financial support for their study period are eligible to apply, but this factor may be considered during application review. If an awardee subsequently receives any such support within six months of award disbursement, they must notify BLSPI, which reserves the right to recoup the bar grant at that time. An awardee must return the grant value if they are employed at either (1) a non-public interest job, or (2) a public interest job with a starting salary of \$60,000/year or more, on the first anniversary of their graduation from Brooklyn Law School.

ELEMENTS OF APPLICATION

- Application cover sheet, attached here.
- Evidence of bar review course registration (for example, your invoice).
- Your current resume.
- Describe your involvement in student organizations during your time at Brooklyn Law School. Explain why you chose to do the work that you did. Feel free to use bullet point form. (500 word limit.)
- Describe your involvement in non-student organization activities during your time at BLS. Please include internships, externships, clinics, employment, and non-legal activities. Explain why you chose to do the work that you did. Feel free to use bullet point form. (500 word limit.)
- How do you view your role in serving the public interest? What do you see yourself doing five years down the road? Ten years? (1,000 word limit.)