Fordham Law prepares its students to confront the challenges of our times—to become leaders in the legal profession who will effect real change through principled, ethical lawyering; through active citizenship; and through an unwavering dedication to justice. From student-initiated groups and service-oriented legal centers to specialized academic courses, Fordham Law provides countless avenues for students to pursue public interest and service—and to learn about, practice, and get involved in social justice lawyering.

The hub of all public service activity at Fordham Law is the Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC), which helps organize and inspire more than two-dozen student-run pro bono, advocacy, and community service groups. For almost 30 years, Fordham Law students have coordinated with PIRC to spend their spring breaks volunteering to provide legal support and other resources to people in need around the world.

The School’s National Center for Access to Justice is dedicated to achieving reform that helps people obtain justice in the courts. The center’s Justice Index uses cutting-edge data analytics to help replicate best practices for access to justice in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Other public service opportunities include the Stein Scholars Program, which offers students a supportive community, extensive mentorship and guidance, unique academic training, and financial support to launch and maintain nonprofit and government careers.

The public interest and service concentration prepares JD students to fight injustice and to help empower and advocate for disenfranchised individuals and communities. In order to relieve some of the debt burden for our graduates who pursue careers in the nonprofit area, Fordham offers the Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

In addition to giving students hands-on work experience in a broad range of legal advocacy, assistance, and community legal education efforts in and outside New York City, all our public service initiatives actively develop solid lawyering skills and familiarize students with the kind of problem solving they will encounter throughout their professional careers.
Public Service Quick Facts

Fordham Law’s classes, on average, participate in more than 120,000 hours of public service work during their time in law school.

The Public Interest Resource Center received the American Bar Association’s Pro Bono Publico Award for public service, making Fordham Law one of three law schools to ever win the award.

The Stein Scholars Program is a nationally recognized award-winning program that provides students with a comprehensive three-year educational curriculum and abundant extracurricular opportunities that combine academic training with practical experience in public interest law.

PIRC Student Groups

Advocates for Sexual Health and Rights
Anti-Trafficking Legal Advocacy Society
Consumer Law Advocates
Domestic Violence Action Center
Environmental Law Advocates
Farm to Fordham
Fordham Law Advocates for Voter Rights
Fordham Law Defenders
Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity at Fordham Law School
Health, Education Advocacy and Law Society
Housing Advocacy Project
If/When/How Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Immigration Advocacy Project
International Refugee Assistance Project
Legal Education and Advocacy Project
Lincoln Square Neighborhood Children’s Law Project
Mentoring Youth through Legal Education (MYLE)
New Leadership Program of the Legal Aid Society
Prisoners’ Rights Advocates
Stein Scholars Program
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund of Fordham Law School
Students for the Education and Representation of Veterans
Suspension Representation Project
Unemployment Action Center
Universal Justice
Workers’ Rights Coalition
Youth Advocacy Law Association