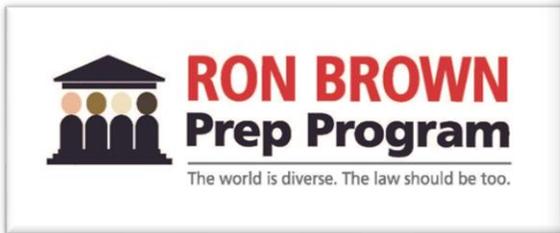


# RONALD H. BROWN CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

## ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



### OUR SUMMER 2020: ADVANCING OUR MISSION IN A VIRTUAL SPACE

#### SUMMER & WEEKEND LSAT BOOT CAMPS (JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 – PRESENT)

The *Summer LSAT Boot Camp* hosted by the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program and [the Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program \(SCS JIP\)](#) features college students from across the country and builds on one of our past programs (Prep Program II). We have admitted students from Minority Serving Institutions including Morehouse College, Spelman College, and SUNY College at Old Westbury. We have also admitted students who are alumni of the SCS JIP High School Division. The *Weekend LSAT Boot Camp* funded by the [Access Lex Center for Legal Education Excellence](#) and its [Diversity Pipeline Research Grant Program](#) features recent college graduates and adult learners in the New York metropolitan area—many of whom are already paralegals, legal services staff, or court clerks in the legal profession. This innovative pipeline program includes a more accommodating schedule for those who are working full-time and/or have family obligations. There is currently no comprehensive pipeline program that caters to this target audience of diverse non-traditional students and allows them to establish a solid foundation in order to climb the socio-economic ladder for themselves and their families.

LSAT Boot Camp students had a schedule comprised of: virtual LSAT diagnostics and classes led by Kaplan; workshops and panels led by the Ron Brown Center team; Peak Performance mental health counseling sessions, providing students with an opportunity to discuss their challenges and obstacles in taking the LSAT and applying to law school during group therapy and individual sessions; and Westlaw and LexisNexis trainings. The programming offers resources on all aspects of the law school admissions process and culminates in our annual Meet & Greet event, where our students are provided the opportunity to personally meet with an admissions representative at over 50 ABA-accredited law schools across the country. In addition, for two weeks, Summer students participated in a virtual judicial internship experience: each student was paired with a judge and their staff, and would be tasked with different assignments, such as observing hearings and taking minutes, conducting research, or drafting memorandum. The students also participated in a judicial speaker series, which was a Q&A with guest judges covering a variety of topics, moderated by St. John's Law Alumna Hon. Genine D. Edwards, justice on the Supreme Court 2nd Judicial District in New York, Kings County, who helped coordinate the two-week internship experience.

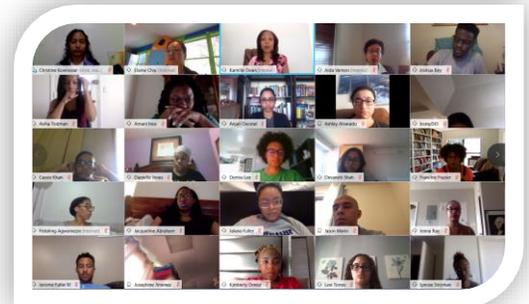
#### LSAC PLUS ONLINE (JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 – JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2020)

The Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program was provided the opportunity by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) to host an online alternative to their residential [LSAC Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars \(PLUS\) Program](#) for college students from across the country. St. John's

## RON BROWN CENTER

### SPECIAL THANKS

Efforts of the Ron Brown Prep Program would not have been successful without the hard work of many people including: former Director of the Ron Brown Center and Diversity & Inclusion at St. John's Law, Kamille Dean; faculty directors of the Ron Brown Center, Elaine Chiu and Rosa Castello; faculty members Professors Robin Boyle, Jeremy Sheff, and Rachel Smith; program coordinators Christine A. Kowlessar (St. John's Law JD, Class of 2019), Tatiana Orizaba Nicoll (St. John's University, BA, Class of 2020), and Aida Vernon; and five outstanding current law students (Aminah Ali, Benjamin Ranalli, Ridmila Singh, Zachary Sobel, and Ashley Williams). We are also grateful for the commitment of Dean Michael A. Simons and Vice Dean for Administration, Sarah Kelly.



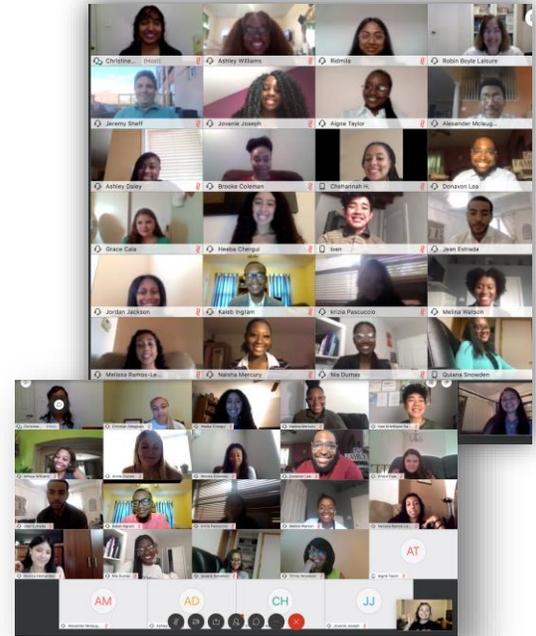
EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS™

Law serves as one of the host law schools for the residential PLUS Program, which is known as Summer Prep Program Foundations under the Ron Brown Prep Program. The curriculum of LSAC PLUS Online mirrored that of the Foundations program, serving as a skills and professionalism developmental program, and was managed by Co-Program Directors Christine A. Kowlessar and Tatiana Orizaba Nicoll. The four weeks consisted of an intense schedule of reading and writing assignments for Legal Writing and Property/Intellectual Property Law taught by St. John's Law faculty, Professor Robin Boyle and Professor Jeremy Sheff, respectively. The program also included: community building activities, led by Teaching Assistants Ridmila and Ashley; workshops covering resumes and personal and diversity statements, and panels featuring law students and legal professionals. The program focused on developing and improving academic abilities such as critical reading and writing, and critical thinking and analytical skills, and assisting students in navigating the law school application process, law student life, and a career in the legal field.



## HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2020 – AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2020)

The *Assembling a Dream Team for the Court...Room: An Introduction to Sports Law for High School Students* program hosted by the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program and sponsored by the NBA G League's Long Island Nets and the WNBA's New York Liberty featured public high school students from New York City and Long Island. This inaugural diversity pipeline program dedicated to high school students and sports law was an important alternative summer opportunity for students in grades nine through twelve who were unable to work, participate in camps, sports, and other extracurricular activities due to COVID-19 this summer. The program motto is: "Doing whatever it takes to diversify the legal arena of sports and entertainment." Daily live classes and events (Monday through Friday) included: lectures on sports law and civil rights, taught by American University Washington College of Law's Professor N. Jeremi Duru; lectures and workshops on developing negotiation skills, led by St. John's Law faculty, Professor Elaine Chiu; a professional development series on networking, financial literacy, the college admissions process, and the business of sports; community engagement activities focused on social justice; and sessions with the Teaching Assistants, Aminah, Ben, and Zach, to review materials and homework assignments, continue discussions from prior sessions, or conduct additional mini workshops such as resume formatting. We also had the honor of virtually meeting professional basketball player for the Brooklyn Nets, Garrett Temple, and having him address our students and answer some of their questions.



## EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT US!

### HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FEATURED IN THE NEW YORK POST

Below is a write-up in the New York Post, applauding the teams and the Prep Program for stepping up to the plate together to meet the challenge of an unprecedented summer with meaningful, impactful investment into the future of young people.

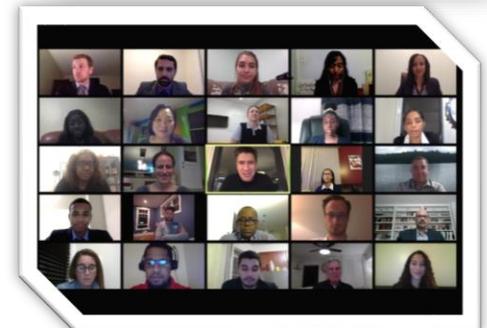
<https://nypost.com/2020/08/29/nets-liberty-and-st-johns-start-law-course-for-hs-students/>



### SUMMER TEACHING ASSISTANTS WORK TO BUILD A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE LEGAL PROFESSION

Hear from the five Law School students that took on the roles of Ron Brown Prep Program Teaching Assistants for our LSAC PLUS Online Program and High School Sports Law Program.

<https://www.stjohns.edu/about/news/2020-09-17/summer-teaching-assistants-work-build-more-diverse-and-inclusive-legal-profession>





## COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSJ)

### ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT ORGANIZATION COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY

On September 7, 2020, student groups banded together and declared their commitment to making the St. John's Law community an actively anti-racist institution, and to combat the varying forms of injustice that are witnessed daily not just a national scale but a local one.

THIS STUDENT ORGANIZATION COMMITMENT ("COMMITMENT") is made this day of September 7, 2020 ("Effective Date"), by and between the various represented and undersigned St. John's University School of Law Student Organizations ("STUDENT ORGS") at the forum of the St. John's University School of Law Affinity Group Alliance ("AGA").

#### I. THE AGREEMENT

In light of the killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police and the pattern of police violence against Black communities:

Recognizing the verbal and written commitments to solidarity with BLSA and the Black community made during the "No More Talking, What are we Going to Do?" event on June 4, 2020 ("Dialogue Day");

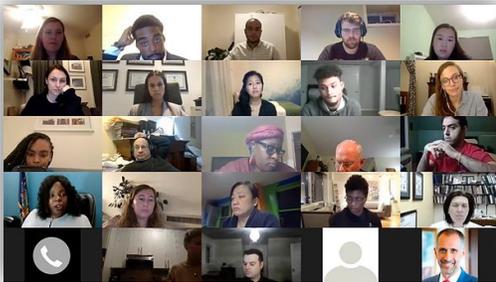
And understanding that there are unique actions each student organization can take as a result of our individual areas of expertise to highlight and combat anti-Black racism and police brutality,

We, the STUDENT ORGS, resolve to make the following changes to our community:

1. The STUDENT ORGS shall acknowledge and challenge anti-Black racism in their fields.
2. The STUDENT ORGS understand the importance of diversity and inclusion and shall consider diversity as a criterion for speakers when planning events.
3. The STUDENT ORGS shall host at least one event or activity per year that addresses anti-Black racism in their field.
4. The STUDENT ORGS shall have an executive board position or committee dedicated to diversity and inclusion.
5. The STUDENT ORGS shall communicate to their incoming E-board each year the importance of maintaining the commitments made in this document.
6. The STUDENT ORGS acknowledge that this contract and the individual commitments made in Section II represent a minimum commitment to solidarity with the Black community and anti-racist work. For this reason, each organization shall, in the years following the 2020-2021 school year, continue to work to improve and increase its commitment to anti-racism.

We, the STUDENT ORGS, understand the magnitude of the COMMITMENT, and pledge to hold ourselves accountable for these commitments.

The STUDENT ORGS also agree to be held accountable to the COMMITMENT by the mechanisms and measures described in Appendix A.



### CREATING A NEW SPACE FOR DIVERSE VOICES AT SJUCSJ.ORG

In September of 2020, CSJ launched its new [website](#), featuring a blog and a forum for dialogue. The site expands upon the mission of CSJ: to provide an open and inclusive platform and outlet for St. John's Law students, and even those outside the Law School community; to learn about and advocate for the broad spectrum of social justice issues. The vision is to: connect, collaborate, dismantle, and rebuild. By connecting with each other and externally, diverse voices are heard, and diverse ideas are shared. With this empowerment in a digital space, those ideas would be able to come to fruition through collaborative efforts. The dismantlement of systemic racism and the establishment of a new foundation is the goal, and that goal can be formulated through this platform through education and organization around practical steps and tangible solutions.



## JOURNAL OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (JCRED)

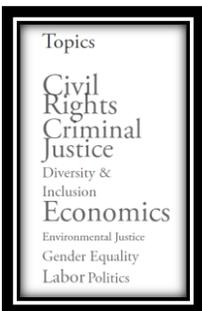
### FORTHCOMING SYMPOSIUM ISSUE:

### *RACIAL CAPITALISM, AN ELABORATION IN LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP*

This issue will explore the legal dimensions of our capitalist political economy and its systemically racist nature. Featured articles will discuss legal analysis that grapples with the reality of Racial Capitalism in our society. From the racially disparate harms of the COVID-19 pandemic to the calls from the Black Lives Matter Movement to #DefundPolice, the racialized nature of our capitalist political economy has become impossible to overlook. Readers will be delving into the process of extracting social and economic value from the racial identity of others, predominantly those of non-white (person of color) identity, and what lies beyond its horizon.

### CHECK OUT THE SHORT-READS ON JCRED.ORG

JCRED's [website](#) features short blog-style essays from St. John's Law students adapted from their scholarly papers. These articles focus on the social, racial, and economic implications of a topic. This includes subject matter regarding Civil Rights, Economics, Criminal Justice, and the Coronavirus Global Pandemic.





## ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A GIFT

Please consider supporting the future of our students as we embark on the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program for College Students and welcome the next class of Ron Brown Scholars at St. John's Law for 2021. Your generosity in making a difference in the lives of our students can contribute to sustainable growth and development of the Ron Brown Prep Program. The following is a link to our Give Campus portal to donate to the Ron Brown Center: <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/10665/donations/new>. This page may also be accessed through our website: [www.stjohns.edu/ronbrownprep](http://www.stjohns.edu/ronbrownprep). Once on the Give Campus page, under **Designation**, you must select **Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights** from the dropdown menu.

### THE RON BROWN PREP PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:

♦St. John's University ♦7Sage ♦Access Lex Institute ♦Asian American Bar Association of New York ♦AXA Foundation ♦AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company ♦Bank of China International Ltd. ♦CUNY Black Male Initiative ♦Dillard University ♦Duane Morris LLP ♦Fridolin Charitable Trust ♦Harlem's Children's Zone ♦Harris Beach LLC ♦Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP ♦Joan Capps Foundation ♦John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies ♦Kelley Drye ♦Kramer Levin ♦Latham & Watkins ♦Law School Admissions Council, Inc. ♦Mayer Brown ♦Merck & Co., Inc. ♦NAPABA Law Foundation ♦Paul Hastings LLP ♦The United Negro College Fund ♦White & Case LLP ♦York College

### CALLING ALL MENTORS!

Our legal mentors are the pillars of the Ron Brown Prep Program community. You provide valuable feedback in building rapport with students to administer guidance to them as they pursue a career in the legal field. You can be an integral part of our 2021 year by serving as a mentor.

### RON BROWN PREP PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Please consider becoming a program sponsor. Your support can provide much needed assistance to Prep Program students on their journey to attend law school by donating a partial or full tuition scholarship (up to \$3,000.00).

## APPLY NOW!

### CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE!

For the year 2021, the Ron Brown Prep Program will be partnering once again with Law School Admission Council as one of the host law schools for the 2021 LSAC Prelaw Undergraduate Schools (PLUS) Program ("LSAC PLUS Online"). Applications for 2021 LSAC PLUS Online will open in January of 2021 and are accessible through our website, which includes program dates and curriculum, as well as the components of the applications: [www.stjohns.edu/ronbrownprep](http://www.stjohns.edu/ronbrownprep)

Additional programming for the Summer of 2021 will be announced January of 2021. Please check out our webpage for any updates!



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**SCHOOL OF LAW**

**RONALD H. BROWN**

**CENTER**

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