



Post-Katrina New Orleans, where BU Law students work *pro bono*

Public Interest

137 Years of Preparing Public Interest Leaders

At BU Law, you'll join a community of students, faculty and alumni who share your passion and commitment to public interest. You'll find members of our community working in every corner of the public interest world—in public defenders' and prosecutors' offices, civil rights organizations, law firms, international nongovernmental organizations, businesses, courts, neighborhood organizations, governmental agencies, small and large nonprofit organizations and intergovernmental bodies. As a BU Law student, you'll have many opportunities to learn about public interest issues and gain practical experience. You'll also receive guidance and support to help you prepare for and pursue a career in public interest.

- Our Public Interest Scholars Program provides financial support to a number of our students who have been engaged in public interest work, and who plan to pursue a career in public service.
- Our Public Interest Project (PIP) provides grants to support students working in summer public interest jobs.
- Our Financial Aid Office provides financial information about prudent borrowing practices, budgeting, and evaluating loans to find your best options. After graduation, the office also offers information and support, including:
 - a federal loan repayment option that bases monthly loan payments on your income;
 - a federal loan forgiveness program for those who pursue a career in public interest work; and
 - BU Law's Loan Repayment Assistance Program.
- Our Career Development Office helps you explore the world of public interest, gain experience during law school, apply for public interest positions, and learn about *pro bono* options that can supplement traditional legal practice.

Public Interest Opportunities Abound at BU Law

- Jump right in with Community Service Day and Public Interest Orientation in September.
- Join the *Pro Bono* Program as early as your first year and get involved in the public interest legal world.
- Participate in Spring Break *Pro Bono* Trips. Past trips have focused on New Orleans, where students addressed post-Hurricane Katrina legal issues. In 2009, students also began working with the South Texas *Pro Bono* Asylum Representation Project.
- Join PIP, a student-run organization devoted to raising funds to support first- and second-year students who work in summer public interest jobs. The annual Public Interest Auction run by PIP is one of the most popular events on the School of Law calendar.

(More on Reverse)

Faculty Spotlight

"My areas of teaching and practice are an extension of my personal, political and philosophical beliefs about law as a change agent for social justice."

Professor Susan Akram, who worked for many years as an immigration lawyer before joining the faculty in 1993, teaches in BU Law's Civil Litigation Clinic. She supervises law students in their representation of indigent clients in immigration and refugee cases. She is a co-founder of the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights, a major U.S. resource for survivors of torture, traumatized refugees, and those seeking asylum. Her distinguished research was recognized with a Fulbright Senior Scholar Teaching and Research Award for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Susan M. Akram
Clinical Professor of Law



“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

The *Pro Bono* Program motto.

- Join BU Law's *Public Interest Law Journal*, a non-partisan publication dedicated to the academic discussion of legal issues within the public interest.
- Learn about an amazing array of timely issues at public interest events. Topics have included international human rights, environmental law, the war on terrorism, civil rights, international criminal tribunals, poverty and law reform, consumer law, religious freedom, and the roles of Congress, the President and the Judiciary in the 21st century.
- Learn from faculty members who are engaged in numerous public interest activities through the clinical programs, *pro bono* projects, and the Public Service Committee.
- Network with BU Law alumni who are experts in the field. Between 10-15% of graduates pursue public interest careers immediately upon graduating from law school in nonprofit and government organizations. Other graduates in private practice stay involved in public interest through their *pro bono* work and civic activities. Our alumni stay involved with the law school's current public interest efforts by advising students, participating on panels, partnering on *pro bono* projects, serving as mentors, and hiring law student interns.

Public Interest Work Prepares You for Practice

Through BU Law's clinical, externship, and *pro bono* programs and an extensive array of courses, you can prepare for a rewarding career in public service.

- In clinical programs, you'll represent real clients under the supervision of faculty attorneys. Choose from the Civil Litigation Program, Criminal Law Clinic, Legislative Counsel Clinic, Health Law Externship or Legal Externship Program. These programs will give you invaluable experience working with clients and honing your lawyering skills.
- You may join the *Pro Bono* Program to gain experience and earn a notation on your transcript recognizing your commitment to public interest work.
- You'll choose from an extensive curriculum of elective classes that will help prepare you for public interest work.
- You may participate in one of our 13 study abroad programs through which students have ready access to international public interest organizations. Of particular interest, our program in Geneva, Switzerland offers students an opportunity to work in over 200 international organizations, including the World Health Organization and the U.N. High Commission on Refugees.
- You'll partner with experienced attorneys in the Career Development Office (CDO) to map out your strategy for a public interest career. CDO attorneys with extensive public interest experience will help you to:
 - Plan your course selection, clinical and *pro bono* work.
 - Prepare and apply for public interest fellowships and government honors programs.
 - Research areas of interest, identify public interest employers, write resumes and cover letters, and prepare for interviews.
 - Meet BU Law graduates and other public interest attorneys from around the world through networking events at the law school.

“What makes BU Law truly unique is the support of the faculty, administration and alumni for new ideas and programs. When a group of students wanted to organize a service trip to New Orleans, BU went above and beyond by establishing an annual trip and expanding into other alternative spring break programs.”

Jessica Sutton '09

