

Brooklyn Defender Services

Contact Information

Website: www.bds.org

Phone: 718-254-0700

Address: 180 Livingston Street, 3rd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11217

Offices: Brooklyn

Description of Organization

Brooklyn Defender Services provides criminal, family and immigration defense for low-income clients charged with a crime, facing loss of their children or deportation in Brooklyn. Our attorneys and staff handle more than 45,000 cases per year. Our civil justice attorneys aim to reduce the collateral consequences of court-involvement by representing clients in education, housing, employment, and public benefits matters. We also work to correct systemic injustice and remove barriers to opportunity through a growing impact litigation and policy advocacy practice. BDS has a large staff of social workers who help clients cope with poverty and the many obstacles in their lives, as well as to help advocate for better outcomes for clients in the cases that brought them into court.

Volunteer Opportunities

Immigrant Youth Project: The Immigrant Youth Project assists our youngest and most vulnerable clients obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and permanent residency, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other benefits.

Second Chance Project: The Second Chance Project helps parents whose family court cases have been resolved favorably to clear their records with the New York State Central Registry (SCR) and move forward with their lives.

Areas of Substantive Law

Immigration

Family

Housing and Public Benefits

Education

General Notes

Capacity: BDS has the capacity to hold occasional meetings between clients and volunteers on-site, but volunteers are required to have their own dedicated work space.

Experience: No experience is required.

Training/Supervision: Training materials are provided and BDS staff attorneys are available for on-going mentoring and supervision, as needed.