



STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM





"I was proud to inform my peers about what I learned in the courts."



"I had the pleasure of working with many dedicated Family Court professionals, and learning about the range of rehabilitative services and programs in place for juvenile delinquents."



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Are you a student interested in acquiring hands-on experience in a court setting while sharpening your leadership, analytical and public speaking skills? If your answer is "yes," then the New York State Unified Court System's Student Ambassador Program is a wonderful opportunity for you.

The Student Ambassador Program is a unique internship, offering students unparalleled opportunities for personal and professional growth. Student Ambassadors work closely with court personnel, including judges, to learn about court operations and court initiatives. Students from high school, college and law school work under the guidance of judicial and non-judicial personnel in developing a program or method of communication to inform the public about an aspect of the judicial system. Student Ambassadors play an active role in the court system's public education efforts, imparting the knowledge they acquire about the role of the courts to their peers and the community. The Court System's Office of Public Affairs provides on-going guidance and support to the program coordinators.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Student Ambassadors begin their internship by participating in an orientation on the history and structure of New York's Unified Court System. Students select and study an aspect of court-operations during the semester, working closely with experienced court professionals to help raise awareness about the selected topic among their peers and members of the local community.

The Student Ambassador Program encourages creativity, with potential assignments ranging from developing written materials on the chosen subject for distribution to the public, to conducting information sessions on the selected topics. Students may also write about the issue in a school publication, or create a Web advertisement or public service announcement to bring the topic to the public's attention. In the past, students have updated courthouse web sites, presented their projects at school internship forums, and assisted with Community Law Day programs.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SERVING AS A STUDENT AMBASSADOR?

As a Student Ambassador you will be able to . . .

- Increase your knowledge of the judicial system
- Learn about the work of lawyers and many other court professionals
- Identify career opportunities within the courts and the criminal justice system
- Gain professional skills as you develop and implement a project involving public outreach
- Enhance your problem-solving, analytical and leadership abilities
- Improve your communication skills and build self-confidence
- Fulfill academic internship requirements

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM?

Student Ambassadors must serve a minimum of one semester and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 or "B" or higher.

HOW DOES ONE APPLY?

To obtain additional information about the program or the application process, please contact:

NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ROOM 866, NEW YORK, NY 10004
TELEPHONE: 212-428-2116
EMAIL: OPAOUTREACH@COURTS.STATE.NY.US

AMBASSADOR APPLICATION

Below are sample questions you may be asked during the application process.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

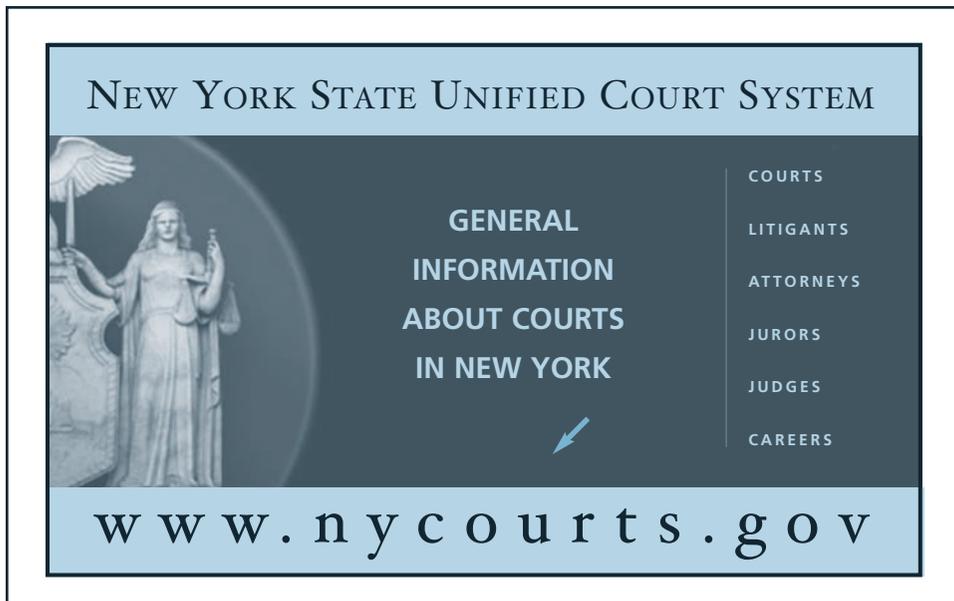
- 1) Why do you want to be a Student Ambassador?
- 2) What are three skills you possess that would make you an effective Student Ambassador?
- 3) Describe an experience in which you have disagreed with a friend over an issue you feel strongly about, and explain how you resolved it.

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM: A PROUD TRADITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The mission of the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) is to promote the rule of law and serve the public by achieving just and timely resolution of all matters before the courts.

One of the largest and busiest court systems in the world, the New York State Unified Court System operates in each of New York's 62 counties and hears approximately four million cases every year. UCS employs more than 16,000 individuals, including over 1,200 judges, with our non-judicial employees carrying out vital duties in courtrooms and court offices. UCS employees play an essential role in the administration of justice, as New York's state courts deal daily with a range of important issues including public safety, families in crisis, preservation of our natural environment and public education.

Please visit our Web site at www.nycourts.gov to learn more about the role, structure and history of the New York State Unified Court System.



The image shows a screenshot of the New York State Unified Court System website. At the top, the text "NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM" is displayed in a serif font. Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with a list of menu items: "COURTS", "LITIGANTS", "ATTORNEYS", "JURORS", "JUDGES", and "CAREERS". In the center of the page, there is a large, light blue area with the text "GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COURTS IN NEW YORK" in a bold, sans-serif font. A blue arrow points downwards from the bottom of this text block towards the website address. On the left side of the page, there is a grayscale image of a classical statue of a woman, likely representing Justice, holding a scale and a sword. At the bottom of the page, the website address "www.nycourts.gov" is written in a large, lowercase, serif font.

"I strongly recommend the Student Ambassador Program for those with interest in our courts and legal system who seek a truly hands-on learning experience."



"What I found most rewarding was the opportunity to work with professionals who have a passion for their work and serving the public, which further strengthened my sense of community and civic responsibility."

"As a Student Ambassador, I had the privilege to interview judges and observe their courtroom styles, gaining a thorough understanding of the judge's role in the courtroom. Most importantly, I got the chance to view judges as real people, not the stereotypes we see on television."



