

TIPS TO BUILD AND FOSTER A PUBLIC INTEREST CULTURE IN YOUR LAW SCHOOL

GETTING STARTED

- [PSJD](#)
- [Spinlaw – U of T](#)
- [Pro Bono Students Canada](#)
- [Public Law Option at uOttawa](#)
- [Public Law Links uOttawa](#)

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Does your Faculty or Office have a strategic plan in place to promote public interest
- What are the goals of your Faculty? Of your Office? Do they align?
- What resources are available and promote Public Interest to your students?
- Is there a “gap” in programming offered to students?
- What is the class size and needs of your student body?
- Who are the key members at your Faculty/Staff?

PRACTICAL STEPS

- Find your allies (Dean, Faculty members, Student Associations and Groups, Community Organizations, Alumni's)
- Set specific and achievable goals (S.M.A.R.T. Goals)
- Prepare a concrete plan and a timeline
- Determine what the incentives and the value added are for all parties involved
- Make a list of community groups, Organizations and Student Associations
- Build a relationships with community groups, Organizations and Student Associations
- Attend student information sessions, Alumni Events or Faculty Lectures
- Organize speaker panels and include public interest panelists
- Centralize the resources

TO OVERCOME

- Myths and stereotypes associated with Public Interest careers
- Lack of buy in from Faculty Members or students
- Lack of direction within the Faculty
- Undefined goals or goals that are too broad
- Lack of resources (i.e. time or funds)
- Abandonment of projects
- Duplication in programming (Build from already existing initiatives)
- Turn around time or employee turnover in organizations (change in resource person)

THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Refer or make a recommendation
- In Person Connection
- Share and update Twitter
- Create a timeline
- Attend conference or networking event in the community
- Meet with Faculty members and colleagues
- Schedule a skype call rather than a telephone call or e-mail
- Grab coffee or lunch
- Set goals
- Connect on LinkedIn
- Write ideas
- Join clubs, groups or boards
- Go for a tour or visit an organization's office space
- Update website
- React or comment on Facebook pages or social media
- Create a list of already existing resources at your faculty
- Connect and speak with other law school Career Offices

****This is a non-exhaustive list of action steps that can be adopted to promote a public interest culture within your law school. Take action now! Brainstorm some ideas below.*

[illegible]

Building and Fostering a Public Interest Culture In Your Law School

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CT

Description: This interactive panel presentation and discussion workshop will focus on how to build and sustain a culture/community of public interest as a small/solo career services office, part of a generalist career services office, or solo pro bono program. Participants will hear from law school professionals, at different stages of the process and in different law school environments, who are working to cultivate a positive environment to support public interest. This session will educate participants on how to engage their communities towards forming a supportive culture and provide participants with techniques and tools to establish key partnerships, programming, and action plans to sustain it.

Facilitators:

- Karine Laframboise, Manager, Career and Professional Development and Faculty of Law (Common Law), University of Ottawa
- Rochelle McCain, Director, Judicial Clerkships, Yale Law School
- Melanie Rowen, Associate Director for Public Interest/Public Sector Programs, UC Berkeley School of Law
- Gregory Zlotnick, Director, Pro Bono Programs, Center for Legal and Social Justice, St. Mary's University School of Law

Agenda:

- Welcome/Panelists Introductions
- Interactive Poll/Ice Breaker to gauge attendees' stages of school culture
- Session Overview
- Breakout Session/Workshop
- Closing/FAQs/Takeaways

Breakout Questions/Topics:

- What do you think you and your team/faculty are currently doing well to promote a public interest culture?
- Have you identified any limitations or areas of improvement?
- Have you set goals for yourself, your team, or your faculty?
- Have you noticed a difference in the ability of public interest employer's participation with your law students due to the pandemic (increase or decrease)? Has the remote work facilitated the relationship building with organizations?
- Is your public interest population adequately reached by and involved in programming/activities?
- Where do opportunities exist for collaboration in your school community?
- What is unique about your public interest community?
- What can you take away from this session and implement in the coming weeks? What are you committing to do in the coming months?
- What three key resources do you need to be successful in developing/sustaining your public interest community?
- How will you measure success and assess the development of fostering and maintaining your public interest community?

PUBLIC INTEREST + SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTACTS

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PUBLIC INTEREST +
SOCIAL JUSTICE
AT-A-GLANCE

PLEASE SEE BERKELEY LAW EVENTS CALENDAR FOR MORE DETAILS www.law.berkeley.edu/events-calendar/
AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST CALENDAR AT bit.ly/1AA60Sr

START HERE

No matter your career path, participating in social justice and public interest courses, clinics and extracurricular offerings is part of the Berkeley Law experience.

PUBLIC INTEREST + SOCIAL JUSTICE AT-A-GLANCE FOR J.D.S

	ARRIVE	WEEKS 1-2	1ST MONTH	1ST SEMESTER	1L YEAR	2L YEAR	3L YEAR	POST GRAD	BECOME A MENTOR. PAY IT FORWARD!
		ATTEND: Public Interest + Social Justice Orientation - Part I: Intro to Community & Part II: Meet the Faculty		SIGN UP: mentor programs			NOMINATE: friends for awards- the Sax Prize, Francine Diaz Memorial Award, and Eleanor Swift Award	REGISTER: with alumni networks affiliated with centers, clinics, student groups, Alumni Office, CDO	
CAREER DEVELOPMENT	REVIEW/PLAN: financial aid options including loan management			ATTEND: Public Interest/ Public Service Internship & Career Fair MEET: Career Development Office (CDO) for career exploration & 1L summer job search	LINE UP: 1L summer job	LINE UP: 2L summer job RESEARCH: post-graduate fellowships SEEK: alumni mentors RESEARCH/APPLY: post-graduate judicial clerkships	APPLY: post-graduate fellowships and other funding for public interest work MEET: Financial Aid about LRAP and other loan repayment options	APPLY: Bridge or other post-graduate funding APPLY: clerkships or public interest fellowships	
HENDERSON CENTER			ATTEND: Henderson Center's Social Justice Thursdays: Core in Context programs ATTEND: Henderson Center's Critical Foundations	ATTEND: Henderson Center's Ruth Chance Lecture series ATTEND: Hon. Mario G. Olmos Law & Cultural Diversity Memorial Lecture	LEARN/PLAN: coursework around the Public Interest + Social Justice Certificate and other certificate requirements ATTEND: Robert D. & Leslie-Kay Raven Lecture on Access to Justice	ATTEND: Henderson Center events DO: course-work around the Public Interest + Social Justice Certificate requirements	APPLY: Public Interest + Social Justice Certificate ATTEND: Henderson Center events BE RECOGNIZED: Public Interest + Pro Bono Graduation		
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION - CLINICAL, FIELD PLACEMENT + PRO BONO PROGRAMS		ATTEND: Pro Bono Program/ Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects (SLPS) Information Session			LOG: pro bono hours for Public Interest/Public Sector Summer Fellowships ('Dean's Grants') eligibility EXPLORE: 2L & 3L Experiential Education offerings: Clinics, Field Placements, Judicial Externships, UCDC Law Program, Advocacy Competitions, & Practicums ATTEND: Clinic Information Session	TAKE ON: SLP Leadership role DO: Clinic, Field Placement, Judicial Externship and/or Practicum PARTICIPATE: advocacy competitions	DO: Clinic, Field Placement, Judicial Externship and/or Practicum LOG: pro bono hours for Pro Bono Pledge		
STUDENT ACTIVITIES			CHECK OUT: Student Activities Fair	ATTEND: subject-specific and affinity student organization meetings	JOIN: a journal ATTEND: other center events and programs		ATTEND: other center events and programs		

Building and Fostering a Public Interest Culture In Your Law School

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CT

Ideas, Brainstorms, and Random Musings:

Pick 3 ideas you'd like to bring back to your law school:

1.

2.

3.

Now Pick 1 to focus on:

Your Focus Idea: _____

Identify 3 action items to move your idea forward:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now pick 1 action item and schedule it:

DEADLINE FOR ACTION ITEM: _____

After your deadline, briefly reflection upon this action item. How did this process work for you? Did the outcomes match your intention? Will this experience change how you approach future action items—and if so, how?

Once you've reflected upon your action item, go back to your action items list, pick another item and schedule it. Finish up the action items and go back to your 3 ideas to re-focus and keep moving your ideas forward.

Adapted from Mel Robbins, Best Decade Ever: Toolkit #2 – Dream Builder, available at <https://melrobbins.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/BDE-Toolkit-2-Dream-Builder.pdf> (last accessed 17 March 2022).

BEST DECADE EVER

TOOLKIT #2

DREAM BUILDER



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#DREAMBIGGER

(617) 284-0725

THE KEY TO DREAMING BIG IS THINKING SMALL

The practice of dreaming big helps you identify what you want, but it doesn't help you with the how. The how is where most people get stuck. Now that you know the power of dreaming big, it's time to unlock the power of thinking small.

There's a simple reason why 92% of people fail at their goals: they're too vague. Goals like "I want to work out more" or "I want to change careers" will overwhelm you because your brain has no idea where to start.

Your brain loves tasks, which is why dreaming big is overwhelming and can make you feel anxious. Your brain doesn't know where to start. It doesn't have a specific plan.

Your dreams aren't going to be built with huge, impossible actions. They're built by the little things that you do consistently.

That's where the Dream Builder comes in-- it walks you through breaking down your big dreams into easy, specific, and fun steps that you can actually do.

The Dream Builder leverages powerful science that's proven to help you stick to your goals and maintain momentum. It's a method you can come back to over and over to keep you on track, help you out when you're feeling stuck on what to do next, and helps you see all the progress you've made.



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HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO

- 1. Write down your big dream:** This is your theme. It's the "why" you can keep coming back to when you feel stuck or need a little extra motivation.
- 2. Do a brain dump:** Think of all the things you need to do to make your dreams come true. These can be skills you have to learn, habits you have to build, people you need to meet, books you want to read, anything you come across in your research. Keep it all down here in one place. This helps ease anxiety, because you're getting it out of your brain and onto paper. You can use this anytime you think of something that might help towards your dreams. Keep this sheet handy, or use a notebook of your own to keep track.
- 3. Pick 3 things from your brain dump:** Pick the ones that seem most interesting to you. Don't overthink this. If you have to close your eyes and pick, do it.
- 4. Pick just one of those three:** Again, don't overthink this. Do the one that seems most interesting or doable to you. If you can't pick, close your eyes and point to one!
- 5. Write down 3 actions to make it happen:** Make these as small and specific as possible. Your brain loves specific tasks. When you have a specific goal, you're 90% more likely to succeed!
- 6. Pick one to start with:** Pick just one of those 3 actions to start with.
- 7. Schedule it:** Write down exactly when you're going to do it. Write them here and then add them to your calendar app, set reminders on your phone, write them in your planner, or whatever you use to manage your schedule.
- 8. Keep a did it list:** Every time you get something done that relates to your dream, add it to the list! You'll be amazed at all the progress you make.

Keep repeating this process when you've finished one of the things on your list. Use it when you feel stuck, or don't know what to do next, or feel like you're making no progress. Remember, the little things add up. You'll be making big progress on your dreams before you know it.



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DREAM: _____

BRAIN DUMP:



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PICK THREE THINGS FROM YOUR BRAIN DUMP

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

PICK ONE TO FOCUS ON

THREE ACTIONS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

PICK ONE

SCHEDULE IT

DATE _____

TIME _____



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DID IT LIST

[illegible]

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