Volunteering for the LAWS program has been a very rewarding experience! I have been able to develop lasting mentoring relationships with students, help them navigate their academic experience and guide them through career choices. The LAWS program has been a valuable opportunity to learn from students' life experiences and give back to our community in a real and direct way.”

- First Year Law Student

LAWS is a partnership between Osgoode Hall Law School, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and the Toronto District School Board.

LAWS offers interactive and transformative educational programming to high school students who face barriers to academic success and accessing postsecondary education. Most LAWS students lack role models for higher education and are the first in their families to consider university. Through collaborative and innovating learning experiences, LAWS exposes students to legal issues, the legal system, and careers within the justice sector. In partnership with law students like you, we can deliver engaging law and justice themed programming to youth.
**LAWS law student volunteers:**

- Learn first-hand about the issues facing marginalized youth and newcomers
- Provide the support and guidance young people need to succeed
- Act as role models for youth considering postsecondary education
- Build rewarding relationships with amazing young people
- Develop mentoring skills which are highly valued in the legal profession
- Enhance their own classroom learning by teaching young people about the law and communicating complex legal issues simply and succinctly
- Build their public speaking, facilitation, and oral advocacy skills in a low-stress, supportive environment
- Cement their commitment to legal education and public interest work

Volunteering for LAWS is a great way for law students to develop important professional skills, create meaningful relationships with youth, and make a positive and lasting contribution to the community.

**LAWS activities are recognized by OPIR—the Osgoode Public Interest Requirement.**

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

There are a number of ways for law students to get involved with LAWS. The time commitment can be flexible and varies depending on the activity. Law students will be trained in advance and fully supported. No previous experience working with youth is required. A LAWS staff member will be present at most activities to provide further support and guidance. To get more information and to sign up, come to the volunteer information session and the volunteer training session at the beginning of the school year.

- **LAWS Labs! (Tutors and Activity Facilitators)**
  LAWS Labs are an after school weekly program that includes academic tutoring followed by fun activities such as mock trials, debates and model United Nations. Each LAWS Lab is staffed by 5-10 law student volunteers available to help students with a variety of homework assignments, scholarship applications, test and exam preparation, as well as to facilitate some of the activities. LAWS Labs are a great way to get involved with LAWS on a regular basis, get to know the students and develop your mentoring, public speaking and advocacy skills. You may also choose to tutor an assigned student one-on-one and meet with them once a week to help them with their studies.

- **Workshop Facilitators**
  LAWS in-class legal workshops happen throughout the year and cover a wide variety of topics. Some workshops have previously been developed and only require that you familiarize yourself with them; others will be an opportunity for you to create an entirely new resource. Workshops take place both in our regular stream classes and in ESL classes, which we visit as part of our Newcomer Program. Workshops are a great way to practice your presentation and public speaking skills and work with a diverse group of students.

- **Group Leaders**
  Each month, LAWS group leaders accompany students to a number of fun and interesting activities throughout the city. Not only will you be helping students attend exciting learning opportunities, you will get a chance to meet and interact with interesting members of the justice sector.
  - **Courtexture Program**—Group Leaders meet a group of four to five students at their school or at a courthouse on scheduled days and take them to one of a number of courthouses around the city, including Old City Hall, Metro North, College Park, Metro East and 311 Jarvis. They spend the morning exploring the courthouse along with a Justice of the Peace or job shadowing various legal professionals. A tour of the holding cells is a highlight.
  - **Law Firm Mentoring Program**—Group Leaders meet groups of students at their school on scheduled days and accompany them to and from their mentoring sessions at downtown law firms, where they have lunchtime mentoring sessions with practicing lawyers.