

Professional Organizations

• American Bar Association

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_students.html/

The American Bar Association Law Student Division supports law students with career guidance and bar exam preparation. It also connects students with internships to help them succeed in law school and transition with legal careers. This is best for future lawyers or law students in their junior years.

• National Lawyers Guild

<https://www.nlg.org/>

The National Lawyers Guild is a national association of law students and advocates dedicated to advancing civil rights. Members can access legal trainings and conferences that support careers in public defense. It is best for students interested in advocacy and public defense. Students should join in their freshman or sophomore year.

• Federal Bar Association

<https://www.fedbar.org/law-student-division/>

The Federal Bar Association connects law students with federal judges and government agencies. They provide educational programs focused on federal practice. Student members gain access to local chapter events that supports their transition from law school to legal practice. This is best for law careers, students should join in their senior year.

• National Association of Police Organizations

<https://www.napo.org/>

The National Association of Police Organizations represents police officers and law enforcement associations across the United States. They advocate for policies that support public safety professionals. They are also dedicated to promoting the interests and well-being of those who serve and protect communities. This is best for students interested in law enforcement and best to join in your freshman or sophomore years.

• NY State Peace Officers Association

<https://nyspeaceofficer.org/>

The New York State Peace Officers Association represents peace officers across New York State through training programs and professional development opportunities. It works to strengthen the role of peace officers by promoting high standards of professionalism and fostering collaboration among law enforcement agencies. This is best for NY law enforcement careers. Students should join in their sophomore or junior year.

• Case Management Society of America

<https://cmsa.org/>

The Case Management Society of America is an organization that supports case managers through certification. They promote high-quality patient care across the healthcare community. There are conferences along with local chapter events for healthcare professionals. This is best for students in case management or reentry work. Students should join in their freshman or sophomore year.

• Forensic Social Work Alliance

<https://fswalliance.org/>

The Forensic Social Work Alliance is an organization that supports social workers who are involved in social work and the legal system. Members gain access to training and continuing education. This is best for forensic social work, courts, and mitigation. Students should join in their junior or senior year.

• National Association of Social Workers

<https://www.socialworkers.org/>

The National Association of Social Workers is the largest organization for social workers in the United States. It provides conferences and guidance to strengthen social work practice in areas like healthcare, mental health, child welfare, and community services. It is best for all social work students and students should join in their freshman or sophomore year.

• NASW New York Chapter

<https://naswny.socialworkers.org/>

The National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter is the New York chapter of a national professional organization that supports social workers through continuing education. They also provide events that help social workers in New York connect and build skills to help influence social policy. This is best for local networking and internships in NY. Students should join in their sophomore or junior year.

• American Board of Clinical Social Work

<https://www.abcschw.org/>

The American Board of Clinical Social Work is a professional organization that provides support for clinical social workers who want to demonstrate advanced competence in mental health practice. It promotes high standards in clinical social work through credentialing and continuing education. This is best for advanced forensic certification. Students should join after graduate school.

• 13 Forward

<https://www.13thforward.com/about>

The organization 13th Forward is a social impact initiative focused on advancing justice and opportunity through storytelling and community-driven programs. It works to highlight systemic issues and support efforts that create more fair and inclusive outcomes for diverse communities. This is best for advocacy, reentry work, policy reform, community leadership. Students should join in semesters 1, 2, 3, and 4.

• End Prison Violence

<https://www.endprisonviolence.org/>

The End Prison Violence is an advocacy group focused on ending violence in New York State prisons. They aim to improve safety and humane conditions for both incarcerated people and staff. This is best for grassroots advocacy, system reform, community organizing, and justice-impacted populations. Students should join in semesters 1, 2, 3, and 4.

• NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice

<https://nysmicj.org/>

New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice works to promote fairness and diversity within the criminal justice system while supporting the growth of its members. It offers leadership development and educational events for criminal justice professionals and students across New York State.

