

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

**BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT AND PRO BONO PARTNERS JOIN CUNY AND THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS IN CITIZENSHIP DAY EVENT**

**Brooklyn, New York** — On Saturday, September 21, 2019 in celebration of National Citizenship Day, the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) and pro bono partners Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, Proskauer Rose LLP, and Capital One participated in the largest naturalization application assistance event in New York City. Hosted at John Jay College, volunteers for the CUNY and New York Daily News Citizenship Day helped over 600 individuals complete naturalization applications.

*"We were delighted by the invitation from CUNY Citizenship Now! to sponsor the largest citizenship event in the City. The commitment of the pro bono attorneys and staff from Fried Frank, Proskauer, and Capital One will enable hard-working legal permanent residents to achieve their dreams of becoming U.S. citizens,"* said Anne O'Grady, VLP Pro Bono Director.

With upcoming changes in fee waiver rules that are expected to present new applicant challenges, the timeliness of the Citizenship Day event and access to assistance was even more critical. The knowledge and compassion demonstrated by the more than 100 volunteers provided a level of security and confidence for applicants who may have otherwise felt intimidated by the required paperwork and process.

*"This clinic ensures that its clients who are longtime New Yorkers can gain security and stability for themselves and their families as they continue to lead productive lives and enrich our city. Naturalization is not a simple process, so we believe that the clinic's clients really benefit from legal expertise,"* said Fried Frank resident pro bono counsel in New York and litigation special counsel Jennifer L. Colyer. *"Our Firm's active pro bono practice is made possible by the exceptional organizations we partner with, including Brooklyn VLP and CUNY Citizenship Now! We are so proud that our attorneys prioritize events like Citizenship Day, the largest naturalization application assistance event in New York City."*

*"We are honored to take part in this clinic,"* said William C. Silverman, the Pro Bono Partner at Proskauer. *"Helping individuals obtain citizenship is a meaningful way to give back to our community."*

Organized by CUNY Citizenship Now! volunteers attended a training on Friday, September 13th to prepare for the Citizenship Day event on the 21st. As a sponsor, the VLP provided the CLE credit for the 4-hour training session as well as for the all-day event and harnessed its pro bono model to recruit volunteers. The efforts of those involved resulted in a record number of citizenship applications completed through the CUNY and New York Daily News Citizenship Day, impacting the lives of hundreds of immigrant New Yorkers and their families.

---

**About the VLP:**

The mission of the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP), an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is to ensure that the legal system is accessible to those who, because of special needs or the overwhelming burden of poverty, would not otherwise have their rights protected or their voices heard. Since 1990, the VLP has harnessed the powerful pro bono commitment of the private bar to provide critical civil legal services and equal access to the justice system to thousands of Brooklyn residents. As an essential legal lifeline, the VLP remains uniquely responsive to the evolving legal needs of Brooklyn's overlooked and underserved communities. For more information please visit: [www.brooklynvlp.org](http://www.brooklynvlp.org).

Press Contact: Melissa Starr | Director of Development | 718-473-9209 | [mstarr@brooklynvlp.org](mailto:mstarr@brooklynvlp.org)

**About Fried Frank:**

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP advises the world's leading corporations, investment funds, and financial institutions on their most critical legal needs and business opportunities. The Firm's approximately 500 lawyers are

based in North America and Europe. Fried Frank has a long and proud history of providing pro bono legal counsel to individuals, groups and organizations in need across a wide spectrum of areas, ranging from immigration to criminal defense appeals to civil rights and tax and corporate general business matters. More information can be found at [www.friedfrank.com](http://www.friedfrank.com).

**About Proskauer:**

We are 725+ lawyers serving clients from 13 offices globally. Proskauer's roots in New York City go back to 1875, when the Firm was founded. Today, the world's leading organizations choose Proskauer as a strategic partner to drive their business forward. We work with asset managers, major sports leagues, Fortune 500 companies, entertainment industry legends and other industry-redefining companies. We are entrepreneurial, inclusive, and committed to making a difference for good. More information can be found at [www.proskauer.com](http://www.proskauer.com).

###