

OUR HOUSE IS YOUR HOME

EMMANUEL FASHAKIN, JR., BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL (2014)

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

DIVERSITY

The New York City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline programs support high school, college, and law students as they pursue careers in the legal profession. Diversity Pipeline alum Emmanuel Fashakin, Jr., a 2014 graduate of Brooklyn Law School and member of the Government Ethics and State Affairs Committee, shares his City Bar story. He is currently a litigation associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I first stepped foot into the City Bar for a Government Ethics and State Affairs Committee meeting as a student-member, and was further introduced to all the Association has to offer through the Diversity Fellowship Program.

WHO ARE YOUR MENTORS?

I was fortunate to meet a host of people who took an interest in my development as a law student and emphasized the meaningful relationships one could cultivate as a City Bar member. I am especially grateful to my professors Bill Araiza, Winnie Taylor, and Stephen Weiner. They helped shape me into the lawyer I am today.

DESCRIBE SOME OF THE WORK YOU DO AS A CITY BAR COMMITTEE MEMBER.

I serve on the Government Ethics and State Affairs Committee and work with the subgroups tasked with researching or writing various ethics-related projects. Our recent reports include support for a no-excuse absentee voting constitutional amendment and support for an early voting period.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO YOURSELF 10 YEARS AGO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Keep going. It will all pay off.



EMMANUEL FASHAKIN, JR.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON DEALING WITH SURPRISES ALONG YOUR CAREER PATH?

"Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome" is associated with the legal profession for good reason. It is part of what makes the field so interesting. Whether the surprise is pleasant or unsavory, I have found success in: 1) keeping an open mind that sometimes things will not go as planned; 2) remaining focused on the objective so as not to let the surprise derail the end goal; 3) reaching out to others for advice if needed; and 4) reflecting on these unforeseen episodes in order to take away tangible lessons that I can apply to future situations.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CITY BAR?

It has been an absolute pleasure being a member of the New York City Bar Association. The 1L Diversity Fellowship was a wonderful experience that changed the course of my legal career. I remain a proud member and will continue to look for ways to give back to the City Bar and aid its efforts.