

OUR HOUSE IS YOUR HOME

VERONICA DUNLAP, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (2014)



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 alumna Veronica Dunlap, a 2014 graduate of Fordham University School of Law, shares her City Bar story. She is currently Director of Strategic Initiatives at the National Network for Safe Communities.

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

I first visited the City Bar visit for the Annual Law Student Welcome Reception. The building was so beautiful and intimidating, but everyone there was so welcoming – it felt like family, right away. In 2011, my 1L year, I was the Fordham Law Thurgood Marshall Fellow at the City Bar. I then participated in the Alliance of Securities and Financial Educators (ASAFE) Securities & Finance Seminar Series, which deepened my industry knowledge through a curriculum delivered by leading experts in finance law and business.

DESCRIBE YOUR CITY BAR COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE.

In prior years, I served on the Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee and volunteered at pre-law events, helped with resume preparation for summer law interns, and conducted mock interviews. In 2016, I worked with the Women in the Legal Profession Committee on the *Street Smarts for Women Lawyers* publication.

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

I was placed in a leadership role before I believed I was ready. My mentors challenged my own perception of my readiness by helping me recall my path to where I had landed – it was eye-opening. What others saw in me, I had yet to fully embrace for myself. Now, I recognize and own my leadership ability and continued growth.



VERONICA DUNLAP

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

Believe in your dreams, wholeheartedly, and go after them full-force. There are people who will help you reach your goals – trust them.

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

The City Bar is my grounding place. It is where I go to remind myself why I became a lawyer. And because it is the regular gathering place for the people who treated me like family on my path to becoming a lawyer, it is my "second home." I am so grateful to have the City Bar as a resource.