

# LAURA TAYLOR

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Bronx Defenders (BxD), Bronx, New York**

**Legal Internship, Summer 2022**

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The Bronx Defenders (BxD) is a 501(c)(3) public defender nonprofit that provides holistic public defense to the low-income people of the Bronx. The organization defends 27,000 low-income Bronx residents each year in criminal, civil, child welfare, and immigration cases. I have accepted a legal internship in the Criminal Defense Practice, meaning that I would be assisting attorneys in representing indigent clients in criminal misdemeanor and felony cases. The internship program generally allows its students to learn more about the other practice areas, including immigration and housing law, in an effort to further educate interns on holistic defense. The Bronx Defenders has a more comprehensive description of their work [here](#), and their model of holistic defense can be found [here](#).

I first decided to apply to The Bronx Defenders after taking a class on holistic defense offered at my law school, so being selected to intern at this organization and learn more about holistic defense is one of the greatest honors of my career thus far. As a Criminal Defense Practice intern, I will go court with supervising attorneys, conduct investigative and client interviews, participate in bail applications, and I will also be given the opportunity to engage and connect with clients and the community, engaging in anti-oppression and equity mentoring programs.

In the legal profession, I hope to begin my career with a legal fellowship at a nonprofit organization like The Bronx Defenders, then transition into public defense. Through internships, externships, and clinic opportunities thus far, I have had a breadth of experiences in policy work and appellate representation. However, I have not had much of an opportunity to engage in direct trial-level public defense, and so having the opportunity to do so at such a phenomenal

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organization will already be a great introduction to public defense generally. I also believe that learning about public defense from the nation's leading public defense practice will benefit me in transitioning to any public defense organization after I graduate, as I will build best-practice skills there.

Additionally, working at a nationally renowned organization will allow me to build a network of mentors and supporters as I try to find post-graduate fellowship and public defense opportunities. The quality of mentorship will be unparalleled, and this is something that I would greatly appreciate as I try to plan my future career.