

Gabriel Tejada

Gabriel Tejada is a third-year law student and Lawrence Byrne Public Interest Fellow at St. John's University School of Law.

Born to a single-mother, in El Salvador, Gabriel is the first college graduate in his family. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a B.A. in Sociology and Spanish.

Upon graduating, Gabriel served as an AmeriCorps member where he volunteered 1,900 hours in a classroom in East New York. He then taught 5th grade writing in East Harlem. From 2016-2020, Gabriel worked as a social worker helping dual-diagnosed clients develop skills for job-readiness and avoid prison sentences.

During his first two years of law school, he helped create a presentation for Street Law en Español, where LALSA students, Latino lawyers, and Latina Judges discussed the changing procedural landscape during the height of the pandemic following the eviction stay ordered by the Governor. Gabriel also assisted pro se debtors declare Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions through Legal Services NYC through the NYC Bankruptcy Assistance Project. Last summer, Gabriel interned with an Assistant United States Attorney at the US Attorney's Office Civil Division in the Eastern District.

Gabriel is working part time at Morris Duffy Alonso Faley & Pitcoff as a student paralegal. He drafted a case note on the Court of Appeals case, *Maldovan v. County of Erie*, which is to be published in April in the New York Law Journal.

Gabriel can't wait to finally be a lawyer and be the first lawyer in his family.