



# 2021-2022 Year In Review

## A NOTE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

As we wrap up our first decade of educating the future generation of lawyers and leaders, we reflect on the many milestones Legal Prep has achieved - more than we could have envisioned back in 2012. The progress Legal Prep has made in providing a quality education in West Garfield Park was evident at graduation where we all cheered, hugged and cried as our 2021 graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas. It was evident at our annual fundraiser where Legal Prep alum from the class of 2016 provided moving accounts of their experiences at Legal Prep and how those experiences prepared them for challenges and successes in their post-secondary pursuits. That progress was evident as younger siblings of the Class of 2026 walked through the door for freshmen orientation to follow in the footsteps of their older brothers and sisters. That progress was achieved because of the dedication and support of our teachers, staff, students, families and supporters. For that we are grateful. We invite you to visit us and become part of the success at Legal Prep.

*Sam Finkelstein (Co-Founder, CEO and Principal) and Rather Stanton (Co-Founder and Board Member)*

## FAST FACTS

### Our School

- First and only legal-themed public high school in Illinois
- Only public high school in West Garfield Park
- Dedicated social and emotional learning team
- 100% diverse student body
- 95% qualify for low income assistance
- 80% will be first generation college students

### Our Legal-Themed Curriculum in Action

- At each grade level, students take a substantive law class taught by teachers who are licensed attorneys.
- Students interact with 20+ corporations and law firms monthly through the Law Programs.
- Guest teachers from the legal and business community advise students on careers and career paths.
- The Federal Bar Program, the State's Attorney Office and the local law schools provide learning opportunities for students.
- Legal Prep partners with the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) to bring a monthly law clinic to the community.

### Additional Support for Our Students

- Freshmen take a year-long Social Emotional Learning/Life Skills class.
- 12 deans, social workers and college counselors focus on the well-being of the whole student.
- 40 students participate in a mentoring program with mentors from the community.
- Juniors are offered an SAT prep course taught by our corporate partners.
- 50% of our juniors and seniors earn college credit through our dual credit law class.
- On The Path to Success
- 100+% of our students visited at least one college.
- 95+% of our seniors applied to FASFA for college financial assistance.
- 90+% of our seniors graduated.
- 70+% of our seniors were accepted to over 50 colleges and universities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### A Return to In Person Learning

- Students and staff benefited from a return to the school for in-person learning. While the law programs remained remote, we were able to hold the final competitions for both Negotiations and Mock Trial in person, with the winning teams and their coaches celebrating the victory together.



### Santa's Room

Legal Prep students and staff spread holiday cheer throughout the West Garfield community by creating a "Santa's Room" at the school. Neighborhood elementary school students were invited to visit Santa and receive a small gift. They also enjoyed snacks and activities with their family and friends, while the adults had the chance to learn about community programs offered through the school.





## HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

### A Summer to Remember

A cohort of rising sophomore boys participated in a weeklong summer camp in WI, sponsored by Four Star Fellowship - Camp for All. At the camp, the students combined traditional camping activities with opportunities to develop life skills such as teambuilding, self-determination and perseverance.



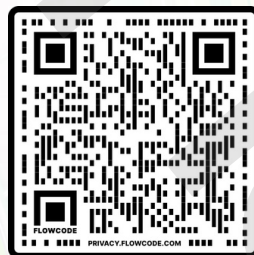
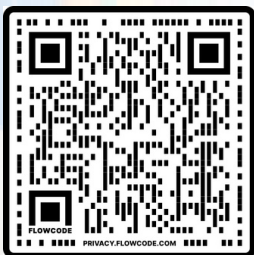
### A Student Recognized

Some of you may have met rising Senior Keyontae S. at our annual fundraiser, but did you know that he was named Boys & Girls Club of Chicago Youth of the Year? We are proud of Keyontae's accomplishments and know that he will continue to set and achieve his goals. You can find his interview with Fox 32 News, where he discusses what he hopes to do in the future, here: <https://www.fox32chicago.com/video/1042112>.



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## OUR PRINCIPAL RECOGNIZED

We also are proud of our principal and co-founder Sam Finkelstein who was recently recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a Notable Leader in Community Development for his commitment to providing a quality education to students on Chicago's West Side and to supporting their families through a variety of community based programming. Sam's commitment to providing a diverse pipeline of lawyers and leaders began long before co-founding Legal Prep. Read more about Sam's accomplishments at <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/awards/samuel-finkelstein>.



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## PLANS FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

**Law Programs** - We are introducing Debate and Public Speaking into our Law Program for Juniors and are excited to welcome Walgreens and Riley Safer Holmes & Cancilia among the new Law Program partners for this program. This exciting curriculum will build on the advocacy and analytical skills that the students developed in the Negotiations and Mock Trial modules. If you would like to partner with us on this new program or would like to learn more about the Law Programs, please contact Laura Miller, Director of Development at [lmiller@legalprep.org](mailto:lmiller@legalprep.org).

**Seminar Wednesdays** - We are excited to add "Seminar Wednesdays" to the curriculum, which provides students with the opportunity to pursue individual interests and a respite from the rigors of the academic week. The offerings include Improv & Sketch Comedy, Keyboarding, Financial Education and Investing, Flawless Beauty, African-Americans in Film and TV, Drivers' Education, The Art of Poetry, Spoken Word, and Rap, Grit Lab (taught through the University of Pennsylvania), Computer Science and Coding, Self-Care and Mental Health, and a Blues Band, to name a few.

**Just The Beginnings Conference** - Our juniors and seniors will be attending JTB's annual conference this fall. Our students will participate in judicial and negotiation panels, have lunch with the judges, and hear from Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Legal Prep Charter Academy must raise \$1,500 per student to cover the "funding gap" between the public funds received and the operational costs incurred to provide quality educational programming for our students. Additional funds to meet the additional activities offered our students and the long-term growth initiatives of our school. Please consider donating to Legal Prep at [www.legalprep.org](http://www.legalprep.org) or mailing your donation to Legal Prep Charter Academy, 4319 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60624. For more information, please contact Laura Miller, Director of Development, at [lmiller@legalprep.org](mailto:lmiller@legalprep.org).