



## From The Principal's Desk

Greetings from SLJ!

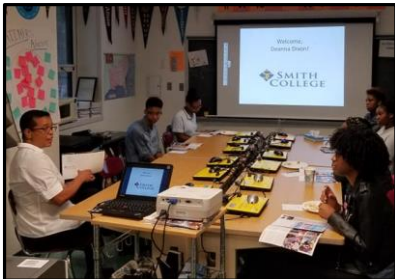
As we prepare to close this calendar year and look forward to 2019, I call upon us to reflect on the mission statement that drives our work:

"The Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice (SLJ) believes that the success of each student is a community responsibility. Staff, families and partners work together to challenge and support students with a curriculum that respects their right to learn at high levels and with enrichment services that every student deserves. SLJ delivers personal attention in an empowering environment that fosters intellectual independence and civic engagement. Equipped with an understanding of law and social justice, SLJ's students, most of whom come from the city's historically least served communities, graduate ready to succeed in college and effect change in society."

In 2018, there were many accomplishments of SLJ students and alumni that exemplify our mission statement. In March, students organized and led a campus-wide walk out as part of a national protest against gun violence. In June, 99% of our seniors graduated. During the summer, students traveled domestically and abroad, immersing themselves in experiences that expanded their worldviews and allowed them to take intellectual risks.

This school year, we welcomed a new cohort of scholars to SLJ, the Class of 2022. 9th graders have already begun to engage in their exploration of law and justice. 10th graders have engaged in activism through community service projects, 11th graders have explored career opportunities through our second annual Career Site Visit Day, and 12th graders are in the final stages of applying to college. Across all grades, we currently have 82 students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. Our alumni are serving in leadership capacities on college campuses, working in service organizations, and pursuing graduate degrees. I am honored to be a part of this amazing work.

What we accomplished in 2018 would not have been possible without you. Thank you for your continued support of the SLJ Mission! – *Merilee Valentino*



Smith College Representative Visit.



Hon. Katherine B. Forrest discussing  
*12 Angry Men* with students.



Career Site Visit Day (at Twitter).

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grader Meets Justice Sotomayor

"On September 14th, I got to meet one of my heroes, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. I intern after school at the Brooklyn Public Library and earlier in the month, I came across a posting that she would be at the library for a book signing. As a fellow New Yorker of Latino descent, Justice Sotomayor has been an inspiration for as long as I can remember. In fact, part of the reason I chose SLJ was to be an advocate for equity and justice like her. Moreover, Justice Sotomayor shared some words of wisdom that reminded me what I am striving for and why it is important for students like me to make their dreams a reality and embrace who they are unapologetically. Maybe one day soon we'll be able to get her to visit SLJ. :-)" – Alex '20





2018 Race Judicata Winners.



Young Men's Initiative Retreat.



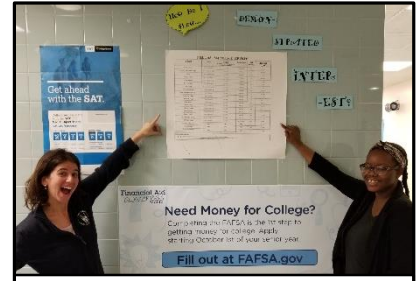
JP Morgan Chase Mentoring Session.



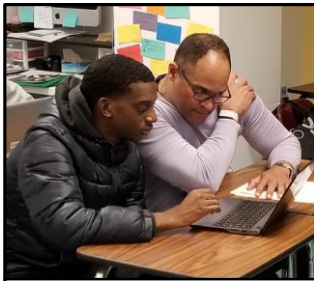
Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.



Cravath volunteer helping student with college essay.



College Rep Visits Calendar.



Volunteer reviewing student's college application.



Incoming 9th graders and families begin their SLJ journey at Meet Your Advisor Night at Cravath.



After School Club Recruitment Fair (Chess Club).

## The Call to Serve

Education can be a great equalizer. But only when there is equal access to education. This is why SLJ's mission—to provide students from underserved communities with educational opportunities otherwise beyond their reach—is so critical.

The vast majority of SLJ's students live below the poverty line and have no family members who have attended college. The odds are stacked against them. But SLJ's students routinely beat the odds. Last year, an incredible 96% of SLJ seniors enrolled in college. Recent SLJ graduates have attended some of the best colleges in the country, including Columbia, Colgate, Middlebury, Penn, and Williams. In fact, SLJ's Ivy League acceptance rate now rivals that of the most prestigious private schools in New York City. SLJ is an amazing place that is working wonders to level the playing field for the students it serves.

I joined the Board of the Adams Street Foundation in 2015 because I wanted to support SLJ's life-changing mission. I hope you will join me in that cause. Volunteer, donate, spread the word. We will accept help in whatever form you can give it. And we welcome you to schedule a visit to the school so you can see firsthand the amazing transformations taking place. – J. Wesley Earnhardt

