

ABOUT THE CHRISTOPHER SLATTERY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD:

The Letica Award was first established by the Access Justice Brooklyn Board of Directors in 2001 to recognize leaders who have dedicated themselves to the promotion and expansion of pro bono service in an effort to create equal access to justice for all.

AWARD RECIPIENT:



Sophia K. Barclay is a first-generation lawyer born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, to Caribbean-born parents. Sophia Graduated from Brooklyn College in 2014 with a B.A. in Political Science. Then she earned her J.D. in 2019 from New York Law School, where she was an affiliate of the Diane Abbey Law Institute for Children & Families.

In August 2019, Sophia began her legal career as a law clerk to the Hon. Michael P. Wright, Justice of the Superior Court, Family Division, Morris County. Sophia also served as an assistant law clerk to the Hon. Joanne D. Quinones, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, Kings County.

Volunteering has always allowed Sophia to contribute meaningfully to her community. Her commitment to public service began as a college student, where she often volunteered with New York Cares and continues today through her work with organizations like Access Justice Brooklyn.

Sophia began volunteering with Access Justice Brooklyn's Uncontested Divorce Clinic in March 2021. As a volunteer, Sophia assisted families through uncontested divorces from start to finish, including preparing the paperwork, commencing the action, completing service, and submitting and entering the judgment. She enjoyed helping these families through the difficult process of divorce. However, Sophia loved most the opportunity to connect with her clients, hear their stories, and celebrate their newfound independence after the divorce ended successfully. As she assisted these families, they even shared in her achievement of being admitted to the New York State Bar!

Sophia has a genuine passion for matrimonial and family law and today has a strong interest in increasing the use of mediation within this practice area, specifically within black and brown communities. Sophia is working to become a trained mediator and knows the skills developed through her volunteer work with Access Justice Brooklyn will help.