



203 Jay Street, Suite 300

Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-624-3894 Phone

718-624-3926 Fax

[INFO@ACCESSJUSTICEBK.ORG](mailto:INFO@ACCESSJUSTICEBK.ORG)  
[ACCESSJUSTICEBROOKLYN.ORG](http://ACCESSJUSTICEBROOKLYN.ORG)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

### ACCESS JUSTICE BROOKLYN ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD MEMBERS

**Brooklyn, New York** -- Access Justice Brooklyn announces the appointment of two new members to its Young Professionals Board (YPB) following the organization's Board meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Joining Access Justice Brooklyn's YPB are Martese Johnson, Associate at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, and Caleb Mims, Legal Marketing Specialist at Rubenstein. *"We are very happy to have Martese Johnson and Caleb Mims join Access Justice Brooklyn's Young Professionals Board. Martese and Caleb are both excited to utilize their talents in support of services that contribute to economic justice, helping ensure that income does not represent a barrier to legal help and financial stability. We're eager to integrate Martese and Caleb into our work and community,"* said Lilia Toson, Access Justice Brooklyn President & CEO.

Martese and Caleb join a 7-member Young Professionals Board including: Michelle D. Tuma, Winston & Strawn LLP, Co-Chair; Wendy Li, BSE Global, Co-Chair; Jacob Godshall, BrightSpire Capital, Secretary; Cooper Bellinson, Ares Management Corporation; Vidya Dindiyal; Richa Jain, PwC; and Aaron Kahen, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. Through their generosity of time, dedication, and diverse expertise, the YPB plays a critical role in strengthening the organization's pioneering pro bono model, expanding funding channels within their networks, and helping to ensure essential legal and financial literacy resources are accessible to thousands of Brooklynites in need.

Upon their appointment, the new members shared the following:

*"As a Southside Chicago native and a resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, I have both observed and experienced first-hand the injustices that persist as a result of citizens' lack of access to sufficient legal knowledge and representation. Access Justice Brooklyn's organizational mission to bridge the justice gap is synonymous with one of the major reasons I climb out of bed each morning. I am elated to join the YPB, and to serve as a resource to AJB and the larger Brooklyn community,"* said Martese.

*"I'm grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to the growing impact that Access Justice Brooklyn has had in building a more equitable Brooklyn; it's a huge honor and responsibility to help remove systemic barriers,"* said Caleb.



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Access Justice Brooklyn's YPB supports the organization's Board of Directors and its goal of closing the justice gap for individuals facing foreclosure, insurmountable debt, and other threats to their economic security – strengthening Brooklyn families and communities. The YPB unites rising professionals across the legal and non-legal sectors who are motivated to utilize their time, experience, and unique skill sets in service of Access Justice Brooklyn's mission and vision for an equitable Brooklyn. As advisors to and agents of the Board of Directors, the YPB leads an array of activities including event planning and fundraising, community outreach, and programmatic growth with a current focus on financial literacy and economic development, while providing ongoing guidance to the organization.

Access Justice Brooklyn is in an exciting phase of the organization's lifecycle, with Lilia Toson driving operational advancement and strategic growth. Therefore, with a wave of momentum and new engagement opportunities, Access Justice Brooklyn seeks to add several new YPB members including dedicated and socially conscious young professionals with a deep commitment to access to justice and economic security, and who bring innovative ideas and a passion for helping underserved communities in Brooklyn. Strong leadership abilities, a collaborative spirit, and a network of connections within the legal, financial, nonprofit, or corporate sectors are highly valued.

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### **ABOUT ACCESS JUSTICE BROOKLYN:**

Access Justice Brooklyn partners with compassionate pro bono attorneys and cross-industry professionals to provide high-quality, civil legal services and financial literacy education that help ensure equal access to the legal system. The organization focuses on services that contribute to the economic security of Brooklyn households, ensuring that income does not represent a barrier to legal help and financial stability. Its proven pro bono model—recruit, train, supervise, and support—also provides flexibility to address new legal issues as they emerge. Everyone, whether an attorney or not, has a role to play in expanding access to justice. Visit [www.accessjusticebrooklyn.org](http://www.accessjusticebrooklyn.org) or email [info@accessjusticebk.org](mailto:info@accessjusticebk.org) to volunteer, donate, or find other ways to get involved.

Press and YPB Recruitment Contact:

Melissa Starr | Chief Strategy Officer | 718-473-9209 | [melissa@accessjusticebk.org](mailto:melissa@accessjusticebk.org)

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