

## **MARSHA WENK FELLOWSHIP IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAW**

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### **TO: Rutgers Law Class of 2025**

The Marsha Wenk Fellowship in Public Interest was created in memory of Marsha Wenk, a 1987 graduate of Rutgers Law School-Newark. Marsha died in March 1996 at age 37 from pancreatic cancer. She dedicated her far-too-brief life and legal career to work in the public interest. Before law school, she was a political activist and union organizer. While in law school, she helped establish the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), which provides students with funding for summer public interest jobs. After graduation, she was first a public defender for four years, then a staff attorney and later Legal Director at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey here in Newark.

**Purpose:** After her untimely death, family, friends, colleagues, fellow students, and faculty established a memorial fund to create fellowships for Rutgers Law School-Newark students to provide stipends to pay for public interest positions during law school. The goals are to support students interested in developing a career in public interest law and foster a cadre of law students involved in public interest activities during law school. Students selected for the Fellowship will each receive a stipend to intern part-time at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey for one semester. We expect the Fellow to work with the other Wenk Fellows and the other public interest fellows at the law schoolmate and participate in public interest law activities at the Law School.

**Eligibility:** Students are eligible to apply to include all members of the Class of 2025.

**Application:** Submit the following materials:

- 1) your resume
- 2) a typed statement, no longer than one page, single-spaced, as to why you believe you should receive a Wenk Fellowship;
- 3) an informal transcript of law school grades; and
- 4) a writing sample (NO MORE THAN 5 PAGES)

As a single pdf document to Dean Feathers at [sjf151@law.rutgers.edu](mailto:sjf151@law.rutgers.edu) by April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. EST.

The Wenk Fellowship Selection Committee (including representatives of the law school, the ACLU-NJ, and the Wenk family) will consider evidence of a solid commitment to civil rights and civil liberties and a commitment to a public interest law career, including undergraduate and law school activities and work experience, as well as academic performance. The Committee plans to interview finalists in late April.