



Rutgers Law School
Guide to Post Graduate Fellowships
Updated December 2022

Using the Guide: This guide provides an overview of postgraduate fellowships and presents students and alumni with examples of various types of fellowships by category. While this guide is comprehensive, it is not exhaustive. The deadlines and specifications for various fellowships often change and therefore we urge students to check **the corresponding web pages frequently for any updates.** This Guide should be used in conjunction with the various job sites that provide updated information about postgraduate fellowships, including the Public Service Update, PSJD, USA.gov, and Symplicity.com

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I- INTRODUCTION

One of the best ways to jump-start your career in the social justice/civil rights/legal services sector is by securing a postgraduate public interest fellowship. These fellowships are usually for a term of one or two years and provide public service opportunities for recent law graduates, including judicial clerks, to launch their careers in public interest. There are hundreds of fellowships available; while many involve a complicated, competitive application process, others are part of one to two-year jobs that require nothing more than a resume and a cover letter. Some large project-based fellowships require students to apply early, secure a host/sponsoring organization, and draft a sophisticated proposal. However, there are other types of fellowships that typically do not require proposals and have deadlines that run throughout the academic year.

Applying for fellowships can be very time-consuming, and the key to success is approaching the process in an organized and well-thought-out manner. While fellowships may vary in terms of their specifications and their selection criteria, all funders take a variety of qualifications into account, including academic credentials and experience. Law firm funders tend to use the same criteria they use for hiring associates. Certain nonprofits are more interested in candidates with practical experience and a passion for their work. Be diligent, take the time to research each fellowship carefully, and try to gain some insight into what the funders are looking for.

The rewards of securing a fellowship are tremendous. The fellowships provide a unique and valuable entry into the world of public service. Fellows can use their legal skills to create a positive change for disadvantaged populations. Moreover, most fellowships provide top-rate training and supervision and serve as an impressive credential for attorneys as they build their careers. While fellowships are a fantastic way to launch a career, keep in mind that they are not the only way of securing a postgraduate legal position in the public interest sector. Furthermore, the application process is competitive and rigorous; many applicants will not receive a placement. Students should also be exploring other entry points into their desired careers, and they should take full advantage of the resources offered by the Public Interest and Pro Bono Office and the Career Development Office. We hope you will find this guide useful as you begin to target postgraduate fellowships.

III- OVERVIEW OF FELLOWSHIPS

a. Project-Based Fellowships

About Project-Based Fellowships:

Project-based fellowships are funded by foundations that provide support for recent law graduates to carry out a project in conjunction with an existing nonprofit organization (“host organization”). Fellows typically propose to expand the scope of the host organization’s existing legal services, often by developing a new advocacy strategy or by reaching a new target population. Each foundation that funds project-based fellowships has its own criteria for governing different types of projects as well as the eligibility criteria of applicants and host organizations. Consider the comparison chart below, which focuses on four of the major foundations. Application deadlines for most project-based fellowships are one year before the commencement of the fellowship and typically take place in the fall. **Usually, this means that the application will be due in the fall of your 3L year or the year during which you are clerking.** These applications require significant preparatory work. It is often helpful to work as an intern or extern with your host organization before applying for a fellowship. Doing so helps you learn about the type of work the organization does, identify project ideas, and ensure that you and the organization are a good fit. Project-based fellowships are most suitable for students with considerable experience with a particular community or students who have the leadership skills to work with an organization in developing and implementing a viable project that will enable the organization to provide quality services or expand the scope of its representation.

Project-based fellowships require advanced and strategic planning and a considerable investment of time. For example, Equal Justice Works (EJW) and Skadden have a two-part application process: first, the applicant is required to apply for a “host organization,” and once the applicant secures a host organization, the fellow will prepare a proposal and submit filled applications to the funder.

Examples of Project Based Fellowships:

Equal Justice Works (EJW)

EJW organizes, trains, and supports public service-minded law students and is the national leader in creating summer postgraduate public interest jobs. About 70 design-your-own fellowships are awarded each year. This is an entrepreneurial fellowship, implying that the students must design a project in conjunction with a nonprofit host organization. The project must bring something new to the organization that distinguishes the fellow's role from that of a staff attorney. This project must be a carefully designed initiative involving innovative and effective legal advocacy on behalf of individuals, groups, or issues, especially those whose aspects are not represented in the legal system. Advocacy may entail a wide range of approaches, including, but not limited to, community legal education, training, organization of direct services, litigation, transactional work, and administrative or legislative efforts. EJW's Fellowships Program creates partnerships among public interest lawyers, nonprofit organizations, law firm/corporate sponsors, and other donors to provide more Americans with adequate access to the justice system.

Application for Fall 2023 will be available in July 2023.

Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC)

IJC is the country's first fellowship program dedicated to meeting the need for high-quality legal assistance for immigrants seeking citizenship and fighting deportation. Inspired by Chief Judge Robert Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, IJC brings together the country's most talented advocates, connects them to the best legal and community institutions in New York City (and beyond), leverages the latest technologies, and fosters a culture of creative thinking that will produce new strategies to reduce the justice gap for immigrant families, ensuring that immigration status is no longer a barrier to social and economic opportunity.

Application: <https://justicecorps.org/justice-fellowship/>

Deadline: October 28, 2022

Independence Foundation

The Independence Foundation supports public interest fellows working at organizations in the Philadelphia region that provide free legal services to disadvantaged clients. The Independence Foundation funds employment gives the fellows benefits and assists them with student loan repayment if needed.

Application Process: Applicants must contact and secure a position with a sponsoring organization before applying for a fellowship. The applicant cannot work on the prosecution or defense of criminal defendants and cannot take policy issues as their primary focus.

Application for Fall 2023 will be available in July 2022

Maida Fellowship Program

The Maida Public Interest Scholars Program was established in 2015 through the generosity of James and Dr. Sharon Maida. The fellowship aims to acknowledge, support, and sustain public interest legal work for the students and graduates of Rutgers Law School. Rutgers Law School students with a commitment to new employment at a public interest legal organization or government entity that will entail attorney supervision and employer-paid benefits are eligible to apply for this fellowship. This fellowship is available to Rutgers Law students only. *Application for one-year fellowship to begin in Fall 2023, available in March 2023.*

Skadden

The Skadden Fellowship Foundation, described as “a legal Peace Corps” by *The Los Angeles Times*, was established in 1988 as an affirmation of the firm’s commitment to public interest law. The foundation, funded by a bequest from the firm, awards 28 fellowships per year to graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks. Fellows provide legal services to the poor, which often includes a specific focus on the elderly, homeless, disabled, and racial minority populations. The Skadden Foundation does not fund criminal representation projects or civil projects that work with currently incarcerated people. Projects must be based in the United States. A distinguishing trait between the Skadden fellowships and the EJW fellowships is that the goal of the Skadden program is to provide *apprenticeships* for new lawyers. While both programs require that supervision by an attorney and training be provided by the host organization, Skadden seeks to “groom” the next wave of public interest attorneys rather than funding entrepreneurial or “cutting-edge” projects.

Application for Fall 2024: available in July 2023

These are some other fellowships from law schools across the US, available to students.

Berkeley Law Foundation

Each year, the Berkeley Law Foundation solicits proposals for a public interest law fellowship grant given to a recent law school graduate. The foundation awards grants to recent law graduates or new lawyers undertaking public interest projects that serve legally disadvantaged or underrepresented groups. You can read more about their current fellows [here](#) and their past fellows [here](#). Grants are usually awarded in the spring, and grantees start work in the fall.

Applications for the 2023-2024 fellowship are due by Friday, January 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Late applications will not be considered.

Columbia Law School Postgraduate J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowship

Columbia Pathways fellowship is available to graduates who demonstrate a serious commitment to, and preparation for careers as public interest, government, or human rights lawyers and are eligible for Columbia Law School J.D. Pathways Public Interest and Government Fellowships. Recipients work at a qualifying host organization in the U.S. or abroad for one year. The 2023 application will be posted later in fall 2022 and will be substantially similar to the 2022 application. Open to current 3Ls from any ABA-accredited law school in the United States.

Deadline: May 2

b. Entrepreneurial Fellowships

Entrepreneurial fellowships help fund projects that serve unmet legal needs. Applicants must apply for support to start a new organization.

Examples of Entrepreneurial Fellowships:

Ashoka Fellowship

The Ashoka Fellowship program aims to sponsor the next generation of social entrepreneurs—innovative individuals who can find solutions to society’s most pressing social, cultural, and environmental challenges in the United States and across the world. Fellows receive a three-year stipend, individualized support from Ashoka, and a supportive network with other fellows and alumni. You must receive a nomination to become an Ashoka Fellow; although the nominations are usually from someone else, you can also nominate yourself.

- *Application:* <https://www.ashoka.org/en-us/recommend-ashoka-fellow>

Echoing Green

The Echoing Green Fellowship provides funding and support to budding leaders and their organizations. Organizations must pursue novel solutions to major problems. The organizations and leaders that Echoing Green works with are diverse and span across the globe. One of the major focuses of Echoing Green is racial equity, and it seeks applicants who will transform or dismantle systems and practices that lead to disparities determined by race in the applicant’s communities. The program also seeks leaders who can identify the root causes of the inequity they’re addressing and are able to show how their work is advancing innovative solutions to address those inequities on a systematic level.

- *Application Informational Video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEjBLJVMHGg>
- *Deadline:* Usually in May. [Sign up](#) to receive information and to be notified about the timing of new application cycles.
- *Contact:* fellowship@echoinggreen.org for more questions about the fellowship.

Soros Equality Fellowship

The Soros Equality Fellowship seeks to support individual leaders influencing and transforming the racial justice field. A successful project should identify a challenge and propose a critical intervention that will meaningfully address the systems that reinforce inequities and discrimination in the United States. Applicants must be able to devote at least 35 hours per week to the project if awarded a fellowship, and the project must be the applicant’s only full-time work during the course of the fellowship.

- *Deadline:* January 31, 2023
- *Contact* equality.fellowships@opensocietyfoundations.org for more information

Soros Justice Fellowships

The Soros Justice Fellowships fund individuals to undertake projects that advance reform and catalyze change on a range of issues facing the U.S. criminal justice system. The fellowships are part of a larger effort to reduce the destructive impact of current criminal justice policies on the lives of individuals. There are three fellowships that fall under the Justice Fellowship: Advocacy Fellowships (duration 18 months), Media Fellowships (duration 12 months), and Youth Fellowships (duration 18 months). Applicants should have a clear understanding of the intersection of criminal justice issues with the needs of low-income communities and people of color communities.

- *Deadline:* January 31, 2023
- *Contact* sorosjusticefellowships@opensocietyfoundations.org for questions about the fellowship.

Other project-based fellowships include:

Justice Catalyst Fellowship

The Justice Catalyst Fellowship activates path-breaking approaches to social justice lawyering and affirmative litigation, which have a real-world impact and improve the lives of low-wage workers, the poor, and the marginalized. To this end, the Catalyst also launches and supports early-stage projects with existing public interest organizations or public agencies that employ or wish to adopt innovative approaches or legal strategies to address social problems. Justice Catalyst administers one-year project-based fellowships for graduating law students and for those up to two years out of law school to support public-interest work at nonprofits.

- *The deadline for 2024, will be December 1, 2023.*

c. Organizational Fellowships

A number of nonprofit organizations administer their own fellowships. The organization determines the salary, duration of the fellowship, and the scope of the fellow's work within the organization. Candidates apply directly to the organization, and the organization usually chooses the fellow without outside assistance. The fellowship is basically a term-limited job with the organization, typically designed for new law graduates or attorneys with little experience in the practice area. There is no expectation that the fellow will continue working with the organization when the fellowship ends. Indeed, unless a staff position opens or the organization is able to find additional funding to increase its staff, the fellow is unlikely to remain. There are dozens of organization-based fellowships, for which you rarely need more than a cover letter, résumé, and references.

Although organizational fellowships are quite competitive, the application process for them is relatively straightforward and familiar. You do not have to develop your own project for organization-based fellowships; instead, the focus is on your commitment to the work the organization already does. Organizational fellowships are positions within existing organizations, usually for a defined period of one to two years. Applicants do not need to develop their own projects; instead, they work on special projects designated by the organization. To find a broad list of organizational fellowships, visit PSJD.org and search for "Fellowships - Legal: Organizational" under "Job Type" in the job search tool.

The following are examples of organizational fellowships:

[Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging](#)

The Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging offers two-year fellowships to law school graduates interested in, and perhaps already in the early stages of pursuing, an academic and/or professional career in law and aging. The two-year fellowship is \$58,000 a year and is intended as a full-time position only. A fellow is expected to provide the Center with monthly activity reports. Fellows may live and work where they choose in the United States. Fellows must be either U.S. citizens or legal residents in the U.S. A legal services or other nonprofit organization involved in law and aging and must serve as the fellow's host agency and supervise a fellow's activities and projects. The fellow's host agency is responsible for providing employee benefits, employer's FICA payment, administrative support, workspace, computer, telephone, and email access. The two-year fellowship period typically starts around July 1 for those already admitted to the Bar and not later than September 1 for those who must sit for the Bar exam after law school graduation.

- *Apply Here:* <https://www.borchardcla.org/fellowships/online-application>
- *Deadline:* Application opens on March 1st and is due on April 3, 2023

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI)

ELI is an environmental law, science, and policy center that makes law work for people, places, and the planet. We envision a healthy environment, prosperous economies, and vibrant communities founded on the rule of law. Their mission is to foster innovative, just, and practical law and policy solutions to enable leaders across borders and sectors to make environmental, economic, and social progress. Since 1999, ELI has annually awarded a prestigious law fellowship. They offer both a one-year and a two-year fellowship opportunity. Each fellowship is an entry-level professional legal position. The one-year fellowship begins in September 2023 and ends in August 2024; the two-year fellowship begins in September 2023 and ends in August 2025. Past law fellows have gone on to judicial clerkships and environmental and human rights advocacy organizations, academia, federal agencies, and law firms.

- *Application:* to apply, submit an application package via ELI's online application system at <https://www.eli.org/employment>. Note that your submission must contain the following uploaded documents (Word or PDF format), as follows:
 - a cover letter and resume, combined into a single document;
 - a law school transcript;
 - identification of three professional references; and
 - a writing sample of approximately ten (but no more than 15) pages.
- *Deadline:* December 12, 2022.

The North Carolina Justice Center

The North Carolina Center is seeking a Leslie J. Winner Public Interest and Civil Rights Fellow. The Winner Fellowship allows a recent law school graduate to spend two years as a staff attorney at the North Carolina Justice Center, the state's leading private, nonprofit, anti-poverty organization. The North Carolina Justice Center is dedicated to transforming North Carolina's prosperity into opportunity for all. Their organization comprises projects that provide in-depth expertise on seven major policy areas. Our staff of litigators, researchers, community educators, public policy advocates, and communications specialists use our unique five-strategy approach to improve the lives of North Carolinians with low incomes. Applicants should possess strong research, writing, and analytical skills and a demonstrable passion for and commitment to social and economic justice. In addition, applicants should be interested in and committed to developing the skills to handle public interest litigation. A successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to improving social justice and racial equality. The Winner Fellow will work alongside other litigation staff of the Justice Center. The Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in high-impact trial level and appellate litigation in a wide range of civil rights and poverty law areas, including consumer, housing, education, employment, criminal justice, health, and public benefits. The Justice Centers' litigation strategies are part of a multi-disciplinary approach to advocacy that integrates legal, policy, public engagement, research, and communications strategies. While the position will primarily assist with the Justice Centers' litigation efforts, the Winner Fellow will be exposed to all aspects of the Justice Centers' work.

- *Application:* <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Apply/1323336>

Zubrow Fellowship

The Zubrow Fellowship provides an opportunity to engage in a wide variety of advocacy efforts on behalf of children in the delinquency and dependency systems. Brow Fellows are involved in training, legislative efforts, litigation, policy work, and some direct representation on issues ranging from the rights of dependent youth aging out of the foster care system to the needs of juveniles reentering the community from delinquent placements. This is a two-year fellowship.

- *Application:* [Here](#)
- *Deadline:* January 13, 2023.

Additional Examples:

The following are examples of other organizational fellowships that will be offered in the Fall of 2024. Where available, applications from the Fall 2023 year are included.

ACLU Fellowships:

- **ACLU-Marvin Karparkin Fellowship**: The Marvin Karparkin Fellowship is a one-year fellowship in the ACLU's Racial Justice Program (RJP). The RJP is part of the ACLU's Trone Center for Justice and Equality, which works to combat racial discrimination, ensure that our criminal justice system is fair and free of racial bias, advocate for humane and constitutional conditions of confinement, and abolish the death penalty as a legitimate form of punishment. Working with colleagues across the ACLU, they work to prevent algorithmic discrimination by both state and private actors.
- **National Security Project Fellowship** The National Security Project is part of the ACLU's Center for Democracy, which works to strengthen democratic institutions and values and advocates for government transparency and accountability, and reinforces the United States' commitment to human rights and the rule of law.
- **Reproductive Freedom Fellowship**. The Reproductive Freedom Project's mission is to secure a world that respects and supports everyone's right to form intimate relationships and to decide whether and when to have a child. Through litigation, advocacy, and 20 public education, the Project strives to ensure that the freedoms and opportunities enjoyed by some become the freedoms and opportunities enjoyed by all.
- **William Brennan Fellowship**. The Brennan Fellowship, named after retired Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, was created to give people just starting their legal careers an opportunity to receive training and experience in First Amendment advocacy and to help the ACLU advance its First Amendment goals.

[The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations Fellowship](#)

The Legal Department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations ("AFL-CIO") is offering a one-year fellowship beginning in September 2023. The fellowship offers an excellent opportunity for recent law school graduates to work with experienced union-side lawyers on a wide variety of issues. The AFL-CIO Fellow will work with lawyers in the AFL-CIO Legal Department and with other union lawyers around the country on a wide variety of matters. The Fellow will assist experienced lawyers working on cases and regulatory matters that affect the labor movement and the rights of workers.

See: <https://aflcio.hirecentric.com/jobs/220696-14071.htm>

[Americans United for Separation of Church and State-Constitutional Litigation Fellowship](#)

This is a two-year fellowship with American United (AU) which focuses on civil rights, impact litigation, and upholding core First Amendment protections to prevent the intrusion of religion into governance. This includes challenges to religious activities in public schools, public financing of religious institutions, government-sponsored religion in the public square, and discrimination against religious minorities.

[Business and Professional People for the Public Interest - Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellowship](#)

This is a two-year fellowship with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI), located in Chicago. BPI is dedicated to advancing social justice and improving the quality of life in Chicago by focusing on housing and community development, justice reform, public education, and political reform. Fellowship Website:

<http://www.bpichicago.org/fellowships/post-graduate-law-fellowships/>

[Disability Rights Advocates-Sidney M. Wolinsky Fellowship](#)

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) is the leading disability rights legal center, and works to advance equal rights and opportunities for disabled people across America. This fellowship is for two years, and entails working with the DRA in New York or California while receiving mentorship from more experienced lawyers.

[Equal Justice Initiative Legal Fellowship](#)

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) was founded in 1989 to tackle issues surrounding mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the American criminal justice system. The EJI fellowship is a two-year opportunity for recent law school graduates to work on EJI's newest initiative on race and poverty, which seeks to examine the history of racial subordination, exclusion, and segregation through the law. See: <https://eji.org/employment/legal-fellowship/>

[Human Rights Watch](#)

Human Rights Watch is the largest human rights organization based in the United States. Human Rights Watch researchers conduct fact-finding investigations into human rights

abuses in all regions of the world. Human Rights Watch then publishes those findings in dozens of books and reports every year, generating extensive coverage in local and international media. Each year, Human Rights Watch awards four International Human Rights Fellowships to recent graduates of law schools or graduate programs (master's and above) in journalism, international relations, area studies, or other relevant disciplines. Fellows work full time for one year with one or more divisions of Human Rights Watch, based in New York City or Washington, DC. Fellows monitor human rights developments in various countries, conduct on-site investigations, draft reports on human rights conditions, and engage in advocacy aimed at publicizing and curtailing human rights violations. FAQs from 2023 Application: <https://careers.hrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/FAQs-2022.pdf>

If/When/How-Reproductive Justice Fellowship Program

For over a decade, the Reproductive Justice Fellowship Program (RFJP) has placed fellows with partner organizations around the country for a year-long program that provides them with experience, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

Application for 2023: <https://www.ifwhenhow.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/23-24-RJFP-Fellow-Application-Information-UPDATED-DEADLINE.pdf>

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights George N. Lindsay Fellowship

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights was created to fight for the civil rights of African-Americans and other racial minorities. Lindsay Fellows have the opportunity to learn more about civil rights law in the Washington D.C. office for a year, gaining expertise in legal areas including Voting Rights, Economic Justice, Criminal Justice, Educational Opportunities, Hate Crimes, Public Policy, Special Litigation and Advocacy, Fair Housing and Community Development, or Digital Justice. The Lawyers' Committee annually sponsors the one-year George N. Lindsay Civil Rights Fellowship. Fellows become involved with substantive legal work, including co-counseling litigation with prominent law firms and non-litigation activities such as transactional legal services, legislative and public policy advocacy, and public education on important civil rights matters.

Application for 2023:

https://www.lawyerscommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220505_2023-2024-George-N.-Lindsay-Civil-Rights-Fellowship-Final-.pdf

Lynn Walker Huntley Fellowship

A joint project of the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the Lynn Walker Huntley Fellowship will help early-career attorneys develop the skills and experience they need to advance education equity through research, policy analysis, and litigation. The goal is to build a pool of in-house legal staff that can support efforts in increasing educational opportunities for students of color and students from low-income families in the southern states. The fellowship honors the rich legacy of Lynn Walker Huntley, a trailblazing lawyer, and architect in philanthropy, who was deeply involved in a wide spectrum of civil rights cases and causes. Among her many accomplishments, Lynn Walker Huntley was the first Black woman to serve as Editor of the Columbia Law Review, the first Black woman to head the Special Litigation Section in the Civil Rights Division of the

U.S. Department of Justice, and the first woman president of the Southern Education Foundation. Fellows will receive ongoing professional development and mentorship from the Southern Education Foundation and Southern Poverty Law Center

Applications for the 2024-2026 Fellowship will be available in October 2023

Application for the 2021-2023: <https://southerneducation.org/what-we-do/government-affairs-and-advocacy/lwh-fellowship-application/>

Reporter's Committee-Jack Nelson-Dow Jones Foundation Legal Fellowship

The Reporter's Committee is dedicated to protecting the First Amendment rights of journalists by providing pro bono representation, filing amicus curiae briefs, and providing other legal resources. **Applications are open from July 15 to October 1** for the following year.

d. Academic Fellowships

A number of schools offer opportunities for law students pursuing academic careers, to gain valuable research and writing experience, designed to provide them with a foundation to launch an entry-level academic position.

Examples of Academic Fellowships:

[American Academy in Berlin-Berlin Prize Fellowship](#)

The American Academy offers residential fellowships to emerging as well as established scholars, writers, and professionals who wish to engage in an independent study in Berlin. Around two dozen Berlin Prizes are conferred annually. In addition to placing a high priority on the independent work of its fellows, the Academy is in a unique position to aid fellows in establishing professional and general networks both in Berlin and beyond. The Academy's public outreach, which facilitates the introduction of a fellow's work to a wider audience, serves its mission of fostering transatlantic ties through cultural exchange.

[Columbia Law School Associates in Law Program](#)

While in residence, associates teach how to conduct legal research and writing, write scholarly articles, attend moot job talks, critique one another's work, attend faculty workshops, and otherwise prepare to go into the law teaching job market. The program has a long and successful track record of placing associates in tenure-track academic positions in law schools.

[Georgetown University Law Center Research Fellowship](#)

Georgetown Law is pleased to offer the Georgetown Law Research Fellowship for emerging scholars who seek to pursue a career in teaching law. They are seeking applicants with an aptitude for independent legal research as demonstrated by their work as students. or by their activities after law school.

[The Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program's fellowships](#)

The Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program's fellowships provide opportunities for outstanding scholars and legal practitioners to undertake research, writing, and scholarly engagement on Animal Law & Policy projects that further our mission. Fellows devote their time to scholarly activities in furtherance of their research agendas and contribute to the work of the Animal Law & Policy Program. Fellows will be expected to participate in Program activities, contribute to the intellectual life of the Program, and are encouraged to organize one or more academic events related to their fellowship project. Fellows also have the opportunity to mentor students, assist with the placement and supervision of students in

experiential learning opportunities, and contribute to the Animal Law & Policy Program's broader presence. We specifically look for recent advanced degree graduates, who are committed to pursuing publishable research that will make a significant contribution to the area of animal law and policy. Applicants are evaluated by the quality and significance of their research proposals and their record of academic and professional achievement.

- *Application:* <https://animal.law.harvard.edu/opportunities/fellowships/>
- *Deadline:* January 2, 2023.

National Institutes of Health-Department of Bioethics Fellowship

The Department of Bioethics is pleased to offer a limited number of two-year post-doctoral and pre-doctoral (post-baccalaureate) fellowships. Their interdisciplinary department strives to create an academic environment where their fellows have the opportunity to learn many aspects of bioethics as well as support to develop and implement an independent scholarship agenda, with guidance from faculty mentors. Fellows participate in the activities and the intellectual life of the department and study ethical issues related to the conduct of research, clinical practice, genetics, and health policy.

New York University School of Law-Furman Center for Real Estate Fellowships

NYU Furman Center fellowships are awarded to post-doctoral researchers, legal scholars, and law and policy graduate students with exceptional academic ability and achievement, as well as dedication to the highest standards of interdisciplinary empirical and legal research about housing, land use, real estate, and urban affairs.

If you are interested in establishing a fellowship at the NYU Furman Center, please contact Matt Murphy, Executive Director, at matthew.murphy@nyu.edu.

New York University School of Law-Global Fellows Program

The Global Fellows Program brings academics, practitioners, government officials, and post-doctoral scholars from around the world to NYU for up to one year, to conduct and present their research for future publication. The principal objective of the Global Fellows Program at NYU School of Law is to create a scholarship that entails conducting advanced research. They have a notable history of hosting distinguished scholars, judges, lawyers, and government officials who wish to spend time advancing their scholarship and engaging in the intellectual life of the Law School. Fellows are welcome to participate in academic activities such as lectures, colloquia, seminars, and conferences.

New York University School of Law - Law and Economics Fellowship

The NYU Center for Law, Economics, and Organization has a post-graduate fellowship for students who have either obtained a J.D. or have obtained or nearly obtained a Ph.D. in Economics, and have a strong interest in law. These fellowships are designed to support future legal academics interested in law and economics.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship Program

The Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Program is a scholarly community where individuals pursue advanced work across a wide range of academic disciplines, professions, and creative arts. Radcliffe Institute Fellowships are designed to support scholars, scientists, artists, and writers of exceptional promise and demonstrated accomplishment, who wish to pursue work in professional fields, academia, and in the creative arts. The Radcliffe Institute encourages applications in all disciplines and on any topic.

Stanford University

Stanford seeks to hire a teaching fellow for the LLM Program in International Economic Law, Business & Policy. The appointment is for a two-year position with the possibility of a third year by mutual agreement, beginning in August 2023. The fellow will assume significant academic, advising, and administrative responsibilities. The principal functions of the teaching fellow are to prepare and lead a colloquium on international business issues for the 15-20 students who enroll in the program annually, to advise students on their curricular choices, and to assist in the admissions and orientation process for the incoming class. The fellow will also organize and facilitate informal workshops, outside speakers, and academic and social events, be responsible for day-to-day administrative management of the LLM program, advice and counsel LLM candidates on academic and personal issues, respond to inquiries from prospective LLM applicants and interact with our faculty in support of the LLM program goals and needs. The ideal candidate will be an aspiring academic with a strong interest in one or more of the core subject areas spanned by the program (including international trade, international investment law, international dispute resolution and arbitration, international business transactions, and international antitrust). It is expected that the responsibilities of the teaching fellow will occupy approximately half of his or her time, with the remaining time available to pursue the fellow's own research agenda. The fellow will have full access to the research resources of Stanford University and access to faculty workshops.

Deadline: January 3, 2023

University of Chicago Law School, Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellowship

Each year the University of Chicago Law School awards six Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellowships. The Fellowships offer law school graduates an opportunity to prepare for an academic career. Fellows can pursue scholarly interests, attend workshops, interact with other faculty, and audit courses or seminars. The Bigelow program has been very successful in placing its Fellows in tenure-track academic positions in law schools. The Fellows' primary responsibility is to design and carry out a program of tutorial instruction for first-year students. The Bigelow Program provides instruction in legal research, writing, and analysis. Initial Fellowship appointments are for one year, and can be renewed for a second year; most Bigelow Fellows serve for two years. Bigelow Fellows who return for a second year typically teach an upper-level seminar on a topic of their choosing (subject to approval) in addition to the legal research and writing course.

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law-Binder Clinical Fellowship Program

The Binder Clinical Fellowship Program offers opportunities for clinical teaching and research designed to prepare the fellow to seek a permanent clinical faculty position at a law school. The fellowship position typically has a two-year term. In the fall and spring semesters of the first year, the fellow co-teaches and acts as a supervising lawyer in existing clinics and/or clinical skills courses. A member of UCLA's clinical faculty is the primary teacher for the courses and mentors the fellow in UCLA's tradition of practical training grounded in theories of layering. During the following summer, the fellow is expected to be fully engaged in a scholarly research project.

- *Deadline:* UCLA Law will be accepting applications in spring 2023 for two-year Binder Fellowship positions. This application will be forthcoming, and the posting will specify a due date for all applications.

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law-Critical Race Fellowship

UCLA School of Law's Critical Race Studies Program (CRS) offers a fellowship to support the research and professional development of a candidate pursuing a career in teaching law. The only program of its kind in the country, CRS is the premier institutional setting for the study of the intersection between race and the law. Anchored by renowned scholars whose research helped found and continues to advance the Critical Race Theory in legal scholarship and related disciplines, CRS supports a unique intellectual community for faculty and students, including formal J.D. and LL.M. specializations in Critical Race Studies.

- *Deadline:* The school is not currently accepting applications. Please join their [mailing list](#) to be notified regarding their next application cycle.

University of Vermont-Legal Fellowship, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS)

The legal fellow at CAFS will work with the faculty, staff, and students on legal projects and initiatives, and help oversee and implement grant-funded legal and policy projects to support sustainable food and agriculture. The legal fellow will develop novel legal tools to improve food and agriculture; translate those tools for broad use (e.g., through social media, web resources, and in-person training); supervise students; conduct outreach to local, regional, and national organizations to create strategic partnerships that amplify the Center's progressive work; and will help develop funding sources. This is a two-year position, with the second-year contingent on funding availability and performance. *Food and Agriculture Fellowship will become available in August 2023.*

Women of Color Teaching Fellowship

University of Wisconsin Law School's William H. Hastie Fellowship Program has provided aspiring scholars with an outstanding opportunity to prepare for a career in teaching law. The two-year law school Fellowship reflects a commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and especially encourages applications from candidates of color and other underrepresented communities in the legal fraternity. Fellows pursue a scholarly agenda of their choice, typically prepare two pieces for publication, and receive mentoring in both teaching and scholarly work. Fellows are required to be in residence in Madison and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin

e. Clinical Fellowships

About Clinical Fellowships:

There are a number of clinical fellowships that provide opportunities for recent graduates to pursue work in public interest, by teaching in a law school clinic. These fellowships can be a gateway to a clinical teaching career, and can also be an opportunity for high-level training in specific areas of public interest law. Most of these fellowships are tailored to attorneys with clerkship and/or practice experience, but some are open to 3L applicants. Many offer fellows the opportunity to earn an LL.M. through their work in the fellowship. These fellowships are best suited for students who have considerable in-house clinical experience and want to hone their skills in a specific area of law by practicing law in a law school environment. Clinical fellows often use the fellowships to launch a high-powered career in public interest, while others use them as an entry into the clinical teaching market

Examples of Clinical Fellowships

Georgetown's Clinics are among the best known and many of their Clinical Fellowships are listed below.

[Georgetown University Law Center's Clinical Fellowships](#)

Georgetown University Law Center's fellowships offer new and experienced attorneys alike the opportunity to combine study with practice in the fields of clinical legal education and public interest advocacy. Each fellowship is associated with one of the Law Center's clinical programs and varies considerably from the others in purpose, requirements, and duties. Fellows typically enroll in a two-year program, during which they are in residence at a specific Georgetown clinic. In at least one of their years in residence, fellows directly supervise J.D. students enrolled in the clinics, assist in teaching clinical seminars, and work on their own cases or other legal matters in representing their clinic's clients. Fellowships usually begin in the late summer with an intensive orientation designed to introduce fellows to clinical teaching methods. The orientation is part of a year-long teacher training course titled Elements of Clinical Pedagogy. Upon completing the requirements for graduation, a fellow is awarded the degree of Master of Laws (Advocacy). Complete and submit your application through the [GU360 portal](#). The application will go live on March 22, 2023. Applications must be submitted by April 10, 2023, 12:00pm (noon). All students must apply online during that window.

For more information about each fellowship, click the associated links below.

- [Appellate Litigation](#): Two graduate fellowships for LL.M. candidates interested in training as appellate advocates in the federal and D.C. courts. Fellows argue at least two cases in the federal courts of appeals, work with students on cases pending in the

D.C. courts, federal courts of appeals, and the United States Supreme Court, and also supervise students' written work and oral advocacy preparation.

- [Center for Applied Legal Studies](#): This fellowship provides a unique opportunity to learn how to teach law in a clinical setting. Fellows and faculty members work as colleagues, sharing responsibilities for teaching classes, selecting students for the clinic, supervising students in their representation of clients, grading, and all other matters.
- [Criminal Justice & Juvenile Justice \(Prettyman & Stiller fellows\)](#): This fellowship program combines instruction in the Law Center's graduate school with representation of indigent clients in the local courts of the District of Columbia. After five weeks of study of criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and trial practice, fellows accept court appointments to defend clients in misdemeanor cases, and eventually, in felony cases.
- [Domestic Violence Clinic](#): This two-year graduate teaching fellowship is for individuals interested in learning how to teach law in a clinical setting, prepare for a career in litigation, and work on issues of physical abuse between intimate partners.
- [Federal Legislation Clinic](#): Those interested in developing their skills as "legislative lawyers" -- lawyers who use their legal skills to advance social policy, would find this program useful. The goal of the Clinic is to provide a comprehensive education regarding the federal legislative and administrative process through active involvement in selected pieces of legislation and regulations.
- [Harrison Post-Graduate Teaching Fellowships](#): Fellows supervise JD students enrolled in the housing and community development clinic and the policy clinic, help teach clinical seminars, directly serve Institute clients and conduct policy research. Fellows are in residence year-round for a two-year appointment, where after they receive an LL.M. degree.
- [Institute for Public Representation Fellows](#): Attorneys at the Institute function as counsel for groups and individuals unable to obtain effective legal representation on matters with a significant impact on issues of broad public importance. The Institute works in the areas of the first amendment and media law, environmental law, civil rights, and general public interest matters. The application will be available in October
- [International Women's Human Rights Fellows](#): This clinic offers a teaching fellowship for those interested in developing their skills as advocates. Fellows aid in deciding on appropriate topics for the clinical course, teaching the clinical course, planning course

materials, and supervising students. Fellows also conduct the research, writing, and editing necessary to transform student work into publishable pieces. The application will be available in October.

- [Law Related Education Fellowships \(Street Law Clinics\)](#): Fellows develop teaching, supervisory and research abilities in a setting that combines public education, clinical teaching, and public interest work. The fellowship program combines seminar teaching, field supervision of second- and third-year law students, administration, curriculum development and scholarly research in the context of practical law affecting everyday life. Fellows also conduct research, writing, and curriculum development. The fellowship includes a study of educational methodology, clinical legal education, substantive legal topics, and supervisory techniques. Applications are usually available in November.

Additional Clinical Fellowships:

The following are among the other law schools that offer entry-level clinical fellowships:

Harvard Law School–Albert M. Sacks Clinical Law Fellowship

The goals of the Sacks Fellowship are to provide opportunities for promising graduates to increase their practice-related skills and knowledge and to engage in research and investigative projects related to practice and clinical law teaching. The Fellowship is a two-year appointment that rotates to a different clinic every two years.

- *Application from last year:* [here](#)
- *Anticipated Deadline for Fall 2023:* February 15, 2023

Pace Law School–Environmental Litigation Clinic

The fellow will work part-time in Pace's Environmental Law Program while working toward an LL.M. in Environmental Law. Fellows can research cutting areas of the law through the on-campus Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies, Energy & Climate Center, and Land Use Law Center for Sustainable Development. Fellows can choose from unparalleled prospects to develop their skills internationally, and through on-the-job practical externships.

- *Application:* visit [site](#) for specific applications
- *Anticipated Deadline:* April 30, 2023

University of Baltimore–Bob Parsons Veterans’ Law Clinic Fellowship

The University of Baltimore School of Law invites applications for a Fellowship in the Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic. This public interest fellowship program is useful to attorneys interested in pursuing a law school teaching career and seeking exposure to law school clinical teaching.

University of Oregon–Domestic Violence Clinic Fellowship

This attorney position will be part of the Domestic Violence Clinic. This position is a direct-service position and does not have an educational component. It reports to the Faculty Director and will be mentored by the Clinic Supervisor. An aspiring incumbent must have a J.D., an Oregon Bar license, a passion for helping survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, an interest in working with volunteers and clients.

- *Deadline:* varies, see [here](#).

Yale Law School’s Robert M. Cover Fellowship in Public Interest Law

This fellowship is a two-year Fellowship designed for a lawyer with at least two years of practice experience who is considering a career in law school clinical teaching. The Fellow will work with the Worker & Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic ("WIRAC"). The Fellow's responsibilities include representing WIRAC clients, supervising students, assisting in teaching WIRAC classes, and working on one's own scholarship. In addition, the Fellow may be asked to co-teach a section of a half-semester experimental program for first-year students, Introduction to Legal Research and Writing. Candidates must be prepared to apply for admission to the Connecticut bar. Professors Muneer Ahmad, Marisol Orihuela, and Michael Wishnie. *Information about the 2023 fellowship will be posted in February 2023*

f. Governmental Fellowships

Fellowships with federal or state government entities are typically available only to law students, immediately after graduation or as a judicial clerkship. These are typically referred to as “Honors Programs.” Postings announcing Attorney Honors Program openings are available on [USAJobs](#) and are consolidated and tracked in the Government Honors and Internship Handbook prepared by The Arizona University James E. Rogers College of Law (the “Arizona Guide”). We strongly encourage students to take advantage of both resources. A non-exhaustive overview of some of the best-known governmental fellowships is furnished below.

Typically, the largest and most competitive Government Honors Program is the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General’s Honors Program. Participating DOJ organizations include The Antitrust, Civil, Civil Rights, Criminal, Environment and Natural Resources, and Tax Divisions; the Federal Bureau of Prisons; the Executive Office for the Immigration Review; the U.S. Trustees’ Office; and select U.S. Attorney’s Offices. For more information on the program and application, visit justice.gov/legal-careers/entry-level-attorneys. Other popular Government Honors Programs include those offered by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Housing and Urban Development Program, and the Department of State. Applications for these programs open in mid-summer with application deadlines in July–October.

The following are several examples of federal governmental fellowships:

[Department of Justice Attorney General Honors Program](#)

The Attorney General’s Honors Program is Justice’s competitive, centralized recruitment program that is the only way for new attorneys (i.e., third-year law students and students who enter judicial clerkships, graduate law programs, or qualifying fellowships within 9 months of law school graduation) to enter Justice in an attorney position.

- *The deadline for Applications for 2024 will be in September 2023.*

[The Barbara A. Ringer Copyright Honors Program](#)

The Ringer Honors Program offers eighteen to twenty-four-month paid fellowships for attorneys in the initial stages of their careers who demonstrate exceptional ability and interest in copyright law (Ringer Fellows). Ringer Fellows work closely with senior attorneys and others in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), the Office of Policy and International Affairs (PIA), the Office of the Register (REG), and/or the Office of Registration Policy and Practice (RPP) on a range of copyright-related law and policy matters. In addition to performing an important public service, Ringer Fellows acquire unparalleled insight into the U.S. copyright system to draw upon in their future careers. The Office is accepting applications for the Ringer Honors Program through December 31, 2022.

Application: attach a statement of interest, transcript, writing sample, and references combined into a single document file (preferably in a PDF format) that is labeled with the applicant's name and intended start date (for example, "Jane Smith Fall 2023") and send it to ringerhonorsprogram@loc.gov

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-Honors Attorney Program

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Honors Attorney Program is a highly competitive and prestigious 2-year entry-level professional development program. It is a unique opportunity for outstanding students in their final year of law school, new law school graduates in a post-graduate program, and recently graduated judicial clerks to learn and work in support of the FDIC's mission of maintaining stability and public confidence in the nation's financial system. This program is designed for individuals who have an academic or practical interest in judicial administration, litigation, and legal procedure. The fellow assigned to the Administrative Office will be expected to produce an article for publication and make a presentation to United States judges on a topic in legal practice or procedural reform.

- *Application:* <https://www.fdic.gov/about/careers/student-opportunities/honors-attorney-program/index.html>
- *Deadline:* Submissions for Fall 2024, will be accepted beginning June 1, 2023.

ii. State Attorney General's Office

State attorney general offices (state AGOs) have a variety of job opportunities for new attorneys. Some state AGOs offer one-year fellowships, while others have Honors Attorney Programs. Most State Attorney General's Offices anticipated having applications available in September 2023, for Fellowships to begin in Fall 2024. The American Constitution Society's ASC Post-Graduate Fellowships Guide, provides comprehensive information about states offering AG Honors and other fellowships. See: <https://www.acslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Post-Grad-Opportunities-11.16.22.pdf>

The Empire State Fellows Program

The Empire State Fellows Program is a full-time leadership training program that prepares the next generation of talented professionals for careers as New York State policymakers. The incoming class of Empire State Fellows will serve from September 2023 to September 2025, and receive an annual salary of \$85,000, plus a generous benefits package. At the end of the fellowship, a performance review process will identify Empire State Fellows that will be given the opportunity to continue to serve as leaders in New York State government after completing the program.

Empire State Fellows Class will open after January 1, 2023.

g. Firm-Sponsored Public Interest/Pro Bono Fellowships

About Firm-Sponsored Fellowships:

Law firms have developed a variety of public interest fellowship models. In all of them, the fellow is paid by the firm for a period while they engage in public interest work. The models are: 1) a law firm places a fellow with a designated public interest organization for a fixed time, with or without a commitment to work with the sponsoring law firm; 2) a law firm has the fellow work within the firm exclusively on *pro bono* matters, and 3) a public interest law firm hires a fellow to work essentially as an entry-level associate for a specific term.

Example 1: Combining work at a law firm with work at a non-profit

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobsen

The Fried Frank Civil Rights Fellowship was created to bridge the worlds of private law firm litigation and public service law in collaboration with two of the country's leading civil rights advocacy organizations, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (NAACP LDF) and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). The Fried Frank Civil Rights Fellowship provides an entry-level lawyer with the opportunity to spend two years as a Fried Frank litigator and then two years as a staff attorney with NAACP LDF or MALDEF. At the end of their four-year commitment, the Fellows are encouraged to interview to return to Fried Frank or apply to continue at the relevant civil rights organization. Several former Fellows hold high-level positions at either NAACP LDF or MALDEF.

- *Application:* [here](#)
- *Deadline:* January 13, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. EST

Example 2: Working at a law firm and focusing on their *pro bono* docket

John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest & Constitutional Law

Gibbons P.C. annually sponsors the nationally recognized John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest & Constitutional Law. The 2023-2025 Gibbons Fellow should be a person of high academic achievement and professional accomplishment. Preferably, the selected person should have served a judicial clerkship or been actively working in the field of public interest law; only in extraordinary cases will persons who are currently third-year law students be considered for the Fellowship. The Gibbons Fellow must have demonstrated a real commitment to public interest work and must commit to remaining as a Fellow for the two years beginning in the fall of 2023.

- *Application:* [here](#)
- *Deadline:* February 28, 2023

Example 3: Working at a public interest law firm

Bredhoff & Kaiser PLLC, Washington, D.C.

Bredhoff & Kaiser, PLLC is an established, thirty-lawyer firm with a national practice representing both international and local labor unions and related organizations (such as pension, health and welfare funds), non-profits, and individuals. Their lawyers practice regularly before federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels, as well as administrative and other tribunals. The Greenfield Fellowship is a one-year fellowship. Greenfield Fellows participate in cases as active members of the team and, with appropriate supervision, take on real and increasing responsibility for factual and legal case development. Candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, substantial writing sample, and at least three references from the candidate's academic and career experience in law.

- *Application:* Send materials to hire@bredhoff.com.
- *Preference is given to applications received by December 1.*

Cohen Milstein Fellowship

The Cohen Milstein Fellowship offers recent law school graduates an opportunity to build litigation skills, experience litigation under different substantive areas of law, work alongside a range of attorneys, and explore the diverse and rewarding career paths available for public interest litigators in the private sector. Over the course of their one-year term, Fellows have the opportunity to work on high-stakes matters with attorneys across the Firm, including [Antitrust](#), [Securities & Investor Protection](#), [Civil Rights & Employment](#), [Human Rights](#), [Consumer Protection](#), [Public Client](#), [Employee Benefits](#), and [Whistleblower/False Claims Act](#) practice groups. Fellows participate in all aspects of the Firm's work, including investigating potential cases, researching cutting-edge legal issues, conducting discovery, drafting pleadings, and collaborating with the firm's colleagues in leading firms across the country. *Application:* For more details regarding the application process and to apply for the Fellowship, click [here](#).

Katz, Marshall & Banks, Washington, D.C.

The lawyers of Katz, Marshall & Banks are nationally recognized leaders in the areas of whistleblower law, employment law, sexual harassment law, Title IX discrimination, and civil rights and civil liberties matters. They provide expert advice and representation on a wide range of whistleblower matters, including whistleblower retaliation cases and reward programs before the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other federal programs. The Katz, Marshall & Banks Litigation Fellowship and Associate positions offer fellows the opportunity to work on important whistleblower, employment discrimination, and civil rights cases with experienced practitioners at the firm.

[Loevy & Loevy, Chicago, IL](#)

Loevy & Loevy is a civil rights law firm based in Chicago, which litigates cases around the country. Loevy & Loevy specializes in police misconduct, prisoners' rights, First Amendment, and whistleblower cases. Their practice areas also include complex litigation and commercial matters, Freedom of Information Act and open government matters, class action, employment law, and banking discrimination. The fellowship: The Justice Fellowship offers standout practicing attorneys, judicial law clerks, and law graduates committed to civil rights and criminal justice an unparalleled opportunity to work on trial and appellate litigation with a top-tier national civil rights law firm. The Justice Fellows participate in all aspects of the practice of their civil rights, including wrongful convictions, police shootings, and prisoners' rights practices. Justice Fellows typically commit to a two-year term, and many of their previous Justice Fellows have continued in the firm thereafter. The compensation is \$100,000 per year plus a bonus, with full benefits including fully-paid employee and dependent health coverage and life insurance, employer-funded HRA accounts, dental, vision, and 401(k) plans, and generous time off. Preference is given to judicial clerks.

Application: To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, list of references, and a sample of your writing to justicefellowship@loevy.com. Your cover letter should describe what drives your interest in civil rights work. Your writing sample should include a cover page describing the context of your written work.

IV- ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

Most fellowships want students or clerks who are goal-oriented and have a strong commitment and a deep connection to their goals and mission. Most fellowships require some or all of the following:

Personal Narrative

Several applications require an essay describing your public interest, devotion, and experiences. In the absence of a specific requirement, these items should still be addressed in your cover letter. Regardless of the format, you should aim to persuade the funder of your commitment, skills, and interest. The narrative breathes life into your application and allows the reader to get a sense of who you are.

Resume

A resume is a marketing piece that you can use to highlight your commitment to public service. You should include your qualifications for a specific fellowship, especially if your narrative has a word limit. For these specific fellowships, you can be less concerned with the one-page rule and more focused on including all your public sector work experience, community service, volunteer experience, and other public interest activities. Do not hesitate to refer to your college activities and even significant high school services. The more detailed you are, the more you demonstrate your commitment to a long-term public interest career path. However, if your résumé is not filled with such activities, you can still balance that by drafting a very detailed narrative that demonstrates your knowledge of and commitment to public interest.

Writing Sample

When possible, submit a writing sample – a brief, white paper, or publication in the area of law you want to practice. Even if you have nothing precisely on point, a writing sample on another topic could still demonstrate related expertise or a commitment to public interest issues.

Recommendations

Letters of recommendation are often required for fellowships. Some firms ask for a list of references and will expect it to include at least one law professor and one previous employer. The best recommenders are those who can discuss your strengths and the quality of your work.

V- DRAFTING TIPS

Be sure the problems your project addresses are concrete and can be implemented during the timeframe of the fellowship. It is important that the issues you address are not too broad, and that the issues are compelling. The plan must be realistic. The proposal should be your road map, job description and action plan for the next two years. While the criteria for various project-based funders vary, the following are ways to strengthen your proposal for all project-based proposals:

Ensure that your project fits the parameters of a given fellowship funder.

Remember to evaluate the funder's goals and mission. You should ensure you are suggesting projects that fit in with their parameters. It is very important you convey clearly and concisely how your project fits within the funder's goals. Funders tend to frown on fellows being used as Band-Aids for more staff attorneys. It is vital to your success that your project is new and creative, and not a natural extension of an existing project within the organization unless it has an innovative change or expands to reach another population.

Demonstrate your commitment to the community and issues served by your project.

The easiest way to demonstrate your commitment to your area of interest is to work in that area. Throughout law school, you should be seeking a clinical, internship, and outside placement opportunities at agencies and organizations that do the work you want to do. If an organization already knows your work, they would be more willing to sponsor you for a fellowship. Even if they do not, odds are you will get to know others at similar organizations that will know you and want to sponsor you. Many times, the most successful applicants can demonstrate a direct connection between the work they want to do and the community they want to serve. It is very important to work in the community you are seeking a fellowship in, prior to the process. If you want to be in Miami, work in that legal community before applying for the fellowship.

Establish how your project will assist in providing vital assistance in meeting an unmet legal need in the community.

Be sure to do your due diligence. Ensure there is a substantial need for your project before you go full steam ahead. You should focus on a specific community and its issues, rather than a broad national issue. If you are really interested in a national issue, try to address it on a smaller scale in one community.

Establish that you and your organization are well matched and poised to launch the proposed project.

It is crucial to the project's success that your project and the organization are a good match. Funders will carefully examine the organization's financial stability, staffing issues, and community effectiveness when deciding on a fellow. Again, be sure to conduct your research diligently on all the organizations in a community which work on your issue area, and ensure you are selecting to match with the best-suited agency. If you find it difficult to locate a good match, it may be helpful to call the funders and ask them where they have had fellows in the past do such work. It is likely that if they funded an organization in the past, it was a good fit. However, many first-time sponsor organizations are selected every year. Just remember, if you choose an organization that has never had a fellow before, make sure to take extra time to highlight their stability and accomplishments. It can also be very helpful to indicate clearly in your application how the organization will provide you with training and supervision.

VI- CONCLUSION

Public interest fellowships are attractive for several reasons. They allow graduates to creatively pursue their passions and interests while providing the training necessary to pursue a permanent public interest or teaching position. They also provide networking opportunities and develop strong professional contacts in the field. The application process can be time-consuming and challenging but obtaining one of the many prestigious fellowships listed in this guide will provide a graduate with a solid foundation for entry into the legal profession.