

## **POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP RESOURCE GUIDE**

Various law firms and foundations offer prestigious **public interest fellowships** to fund graduating law students, judicial clerks and other attorneys seeking entry-level positions. Generally speaking, a fellowship is a unique opportunity to develop expertise in a specific area of public interest law by identifying a need in a particular community and striving to meet it through a legal project. In addition, fellowships enable new attorneys to work at leading public interest organizations that typically might hire more experienced attorneys. Fellowships usually fund attorneys for 2 or 3 years and some offer loan repayment assistance.

### **TYPES OF FELLOWSHIPS**

The following information is taken from the *PSLawnet Website*, July 2006. Please note that this is simply an overview of the types of fellowships opportunities available. For additional information on fellowships visit the PSLawNet the **UNL College of Law Career Services Office**

#### **Project-Based and Entrepreneurial Fellowships**

Project based fellowships provide interested applicants with the funding to work for a host non-profit public interest organization, generally known as a fellowship sponsor or host organization. These grants require that Fellows design an original project to perform at a non-profit organization for one to two years. Guidelines generally require the project to solve a specific legal problem in the community. Entrepreneurial fellowships operate under the same principle but are not specific to the legal community and can be used to fund a wide range of public service projects. These fellowships are usually extremely competitive.

#### **Organization-Based Fellowships**

Applying for the organizational fellowship is much like applying for any other job, the difference being that the position is designed to last only one to two years. Organizations that provide these fellowships provide funding for Fellows to work on a specific project within that organization for the duration of the fellowship. Some organization-based fellowships, often sponsored by private law firms, allow students to work with any non-profit public interest law organization. These Fellowships often provide the Fellow with invaluable experience working as a public interest lawyer and often have more of a mentoring component than a typical entry-level attorney position.

## **Policy Fellowships**

Policy Fellowships can be organization based or provide funding for independent research projects. Most organization based policy fellowships last one to two years. Organizations vary from private non-profits doing advocacy work to large think tanks. Research funding is either for a period of a few months or serves as general funding resulting in a published paper. While some of these fellowships may serve as a springboard into a policy career for recent law school graduates, many are offered only to professionals with 5 or more years of experience in the field.

## **Teaching Fellowships**

Teaching fellowships are generally offered by law schools to help recent graduates and young lawyer's transition into the legal academic arena. They generally last for one to two years and involve the production of a significant work of academic scholarship, intended for publication in a law review or journal. One common type of teaching fellowship is the clinical teaching fellowship, which requires the Fellow to perform administrative duties in a law school clinic and often allow the Fellow to teach law students in the clinic program. In the case of many of these fellowships, the Fellow will have earned an advanced degree such as an LL.M. by the end of the fellowship.

## **Research Fellowships**

Research fellowships provide funding for legal research projects in a wide assortment of practice areas. Many of these fellowships are very specific regarding the type and scope of the research performed. If you are interested in writing an article or essay in a certain area of law or other field, you may find that there is funding available to help you travel, perform interviews, or execute a variety of other information gathering tasks to help you research your paper topic. Note that many of these fellowships are available to current law students as well as graduates and professionals.

## **Non-legal Fellowships**

If you're already considering a career outside the law, one of these fellowships may help you get your foot in the door of another field, such as public administration, teaching, or foreign relations. Some of them may help you earn degrees in other areas; some may give you experience at a specific organization. Some last a few months while others last a few years. Many of these fellowships will assist you in exploring your options.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Start researching during your first summer.** The “Fellowship Calendar” on PSLawnet is a good place to start identifying fellowship programs. Getting an early start is important if you are planning to apply for a project-based fellowship. These require you to identify a host of organizations and projects by your second summer as applications are due in early fall of your third year. Approach potential host organizations early in the summer of your second year to see if that organization is interested in partnering on a project.
2. **Create a timeline.** Once you have identified the fellowships you wish to apply for, create a timeline of the deadlines and application requirements. Personal statements, letters of recommendation, resumes, and transcripts are all common elements of many fellowship applications.
3. **Communicate with the host organization early and often.** If you are applying for a project-based fellowship, you should be in regular contact with the host organization. This includes the supervisor, the staff, and the persons involved in the development and fundraising. The application should be reviewed by the host organization.
4. **Follow application guidelines and instruction directly.** Provide what is asked of you in the application and refrain from supplementing extra material. Applications may ask you to submit a resume and a listing of public interest-related experience. If they ask for it twice, submit it twice. Simply inserting the statement “see attached resume” is not advised. Look at the questions asked and answer them carefully.
5. **Seek a Mix of Letter Writers and Identify Their Roles for Them.** Collectively, your letters should reflect a balanced picture of you. If the person recommending you is expected to comment from a certain angle, be sure he or she knows this. Avoid abruptly asking someone for a recommendation letter after class, in the hallway, or via e-mail. Instead, make an appointment with the individual to discuss whatever you are applying for and how he or she can help you. If possible, give the letter writer any materials that might help him or her write a more detailed letter, such as your resume or a draft of an application essay that you prepared. Be sure you know to whom the letter is to be addressed, and, as a courtesy, give the writer a stamped addressed envelope to mail it in. Provide an exact deadline for the letter's completion and gently remind the letter writer of it later if necessary.
6. **Make it easy for reviewers to understand your application.** Use headings and subheadings to make the document easy to read and be sure the document reflects your one-sentence project description.

7. **Never underestimate the power of a personal statement.** This is often the hardest part to write. There is no such thing as a “right” or “wrong” personal statement, but there are good ones and bad ones. A good one comes from the heart and indicates a passion for the subject. A bad one is force, boastful, and/or angry. You should relate personal experiences that help the reader understand why the project is of interest.
8. **Start Writing.**
9. **Preparing for an interview.** Make an appointment with the Career Services Office for a mock interview and conduct additional research on both the host organization and interviewing parties prior to the interview. Take the time to search the employer’s website and review any newsletters or information on recent cases or initiatives.

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## POST GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Below is a *sampling* of post-graduate fellowship opportunities. For a more comprehensive list, register at [www.pslawnet.org](http://www.pslawnet.org).

### **ABA John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund Summer Legal Internship**

The Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program is managed jointly by the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty and the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants. The Program will pay a \$2,500 stipend to students who spend the summer months working for a bar association or legal services program designed to prevent homelessness or assist homeless or indigent clients or their advocates. The Legal Internship Program will provide much-needed legal assistance to organizations serving the under-represented and give students direct experience in a public interest forum. Through this, it aims both to help homeless clients and to encourage careers in the law which further the goals of social justice.

See [www.abanet.org/homeless/curtin.html](http://www.abanet.org/homeless/curtin.html)

### **Alliance for Justice Public Interest Fellowship**

The AFJ works to promote a fair and independent judiciary and strengthen public interest advocacy. See [http://www.afj.org/about\\_AFJ/index.html](http://www.afj.org/about_AFJ/index.html)

### **American Association of University Women**

The AAUW Educational Foundation is the largest source of funding for graduate women which supports scholarship, teachers, activists, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

See <http://www.aauw.org/about/index.cfm>

### **Center for International Environmental Law**

The Center for International Environmental Law sponsors fellowships for graduates in international and comparative environmental law.

See <http://www.ciel.org/index.html>

### **Earth Justice Defense Fund**

The Rick Sutherland Fellowship. Fellow will work in public interest environmental litigation for up to two years. "Socio-economic disadvantage" is one of the main considerations in awarding this fellowship, and its stipend is up to \$12,000/year. The application deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

See <http://www.earthjustice.org/>

### **Equal Justice Works**

(Formerly NAPIL) offers two-year fellowships for recent law graduates and experienced attorneys, who in conjunction with a nonprofit host organization, launch an effective, creative project on behalf of low-income and other needy communities. Equal Justice Works requires the host organization to set the fellow's salary commensurate to what a standard entry-level attorney (or attorney with similar experience) would receive at that organization. Beginning with the Class of 2002, Equal Justice Works will provide up to

\$37,500 toward that salary level. Equal Justice Works also offers loan repayment assistance for qualifying fellows.

See <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/programs>

### **Echoing Green**

Offers a two-year fellowship. The proposed project must be the original idea of the applicant and may be in any public service area including the environment, arts, education, health, youth service and development, civil and human rights, and community and economic development. Applicants must be determined to initiate social change and demonstrate the ability to effectively lead a project.

See <http://www.echoinggreen.org>

### **Environmental Law Institute**

Fellows will spend one year analyzing environmental law and policy and working with local organizations to develop innovative solutions to environmental problems. Salary is \$30,000 to \$39,000 plus benefits.

See <http://www2.eli.org/about.htm>

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Region 3 Michael F. Vaccaro Honors Attorney Fellowship: The Philadelphia office of the EPA hires law students and clerks for a two-year fellowship in all areas of federal environmental law. Salary is in between \$48,000- \$57,000. Deadline is February 8, 2008.

See <http://www.epa.gov/>

### **Fair Trial Initiative Fellowship**

The organization funds six fellows each year. Fellows spend two years assisting experienced lawyers who are defending capital cases. Compensation is \$32,000 per year plus benefits.

See [www.fairtrial.org/](http://www.fairtrial.org/)

### **Fried Frank Fellowship Program**

This program gives junior lawyers the chance to spend two years in the litigation department of Fried Frank's New York office and then two years at either the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) or the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

See <http://www.ffhsj.com/index.cfm?pageID=2>

### **Frederick B. Abramson Public Service Fellowship**

The Frederick B. Abramson Public Interest Fellowship Award is a fellowship for up to \$10,000 awarded to one or more graduating law students, judicial law clerks, or practicing attorneys wishing to work in public interest law. The recipients must exemplify Fred Abramson's commitment to the use of law to advance the community and public interest by committing to at least one year's employment with a not-for-profit organization in the District of Columbia.

See <http://www.abramsonfoundation.org/fellowship/index.shtml>

### **Fullbright Fellowships**

Young professionals may apply for this grant sponsored by the US State Department. Awards are granted for study in over 140 countries.

See <http://www.iie.org/TemplateFulbright.cfm?section=Fulbright1>

### **George N. Lindsay Civil Rights Legal Fellowship**

Lawyers with less than two years of practice experience are hired for a one-year fellowship at Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. Fellows work on civil rights litigation, public advocacy, and transactional legal services for community groups. Salary is \$42,000, plus potential loan forgiveness of \$2000.

See [www.lawyerscommittee.org/2005website/jobs/lindsayfellowship/lindsay.html](http://www.lawyerscommittee.org/2005website/jobs/lindsayfellowship/lindsay.html)

### **Georgetown Graduate Law Fellowships**

*Institute for Public Representation:* Five recent law school graduates with public interest experience serve for two years as public interest lawyers and clinic instructors. The program leads to an LLM. Stipend is \$34,000/year.

See <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/graduate/fellowships.html#3>

*Prettyman-Stiller Fellowship:* Georgetown accepts five lawyers each year for this two-year program leading to an LLM. Fellows spend their first year in the District of Columbia public defenders office, and most of their second year supervising clinic students in the Juvenile Justice and Criminal Justice Clinics. Salary is \$36000, plus full tuition and fees in the LLM program.

See <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/Clinics/cjc/prettyman.html>

### **Holland & Knight - Chesterfield Smith Fellowship**

Fellows work full-time for 2 years solely on firm pro bono matters receiving the same compensation and benefits as other associates. Fellows will begin working in one of the firm's practice areas as third year associates. Candidates are selected during the fall of their second year of law school.

See <http://www.hklaw.com/id44/>

### **Human Rights Watch Fellowships**

Fellows monitor human rights developments in various countries, conduct on-site investigations, and engage in advocacy efforts.

See <http://www.hrw.org/jobs/>

### **Independence Foundation**

Fellows are funded for one to two years to work at Philadelphia-area legal services agencies. Applicants must have a commitment from a Philadelphia-area legal services agency. Salary is \$37,500 plus benefits and up to \$10,000 in loan forgiveness.

See [www.independencefoundation.org](http://www.independencefoundation.org)

### **John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest and Constitutional Law**

Fellows spend two years working on pro bono Constitutional litigation projects. At the end of the two-year fellowship, fellows have the chance to stay on at the sponsoring law firm in Newark with full second-year associate seniority. Salary is \$75,000 plus benefits.

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 is the next application period.

See [http://www.gibbonslaw.com/about/index.php?view\\_page=3](http://www.gibbonslaw.com/about/index.php?view_page=3)

### **Juvenile Law Center**

*Zubrow Fellowship:* Fellows are hired to work on all aspects of the Centers mission, including client work, litigation, public interest, and education. Salary is \$37,500.

See <http://www.jlc.org/index.php/about/zubrow>

### **Media Law Resource Center Fellowship**

The MLRC Fellowship Program offers recent law schools graduate the unique opportunity to join in all MLRC projects and to contribute to and develop specific First Amendment research and/or writing projects. The MLRC Fellowship begins in September for a period of one year. The Fellowship salary is \$35,000. Interested Candidates should send a resume to [jobs@medialaw.org](mailto:jobs@medialaw.org).

See

[http://www.medialaw.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About\\_MLRC/Employment\\_Opportunities/Employment\\_Opportunities.htm](http://www.medialaw.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About_MLRC/Employment_Opportunities/Employment_Opportunities.htm)

### **New Voices: A National Fellowship Program**

Fellows are supported for two years (full support the first year and 75% support the second year, the organization must provide remaining 25% of support during fellow's second year). Program supports work in the following areas: foreign policy, international economic policy, peace and security, international human rights, women's rights, reproductive rights, racial justice/civil rights, HIV/AIDS and migrant and refugee rights. Fellow's work should be directed toward Katrina and Rita related work. Only nonprofit organizations based in the Gulf Coast region (in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi; the Gulf Coast of Texas and Florida; and the three cities with the largest numbers of displaced residents -Atlanta, Dallas, and Houston) are eligible.

See <http://newvoices.aed.org/home.html>

### **Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press**

*Jack Nelson Legal Fellowship:* The fellow (who must be a recent law school graduate) will spend one year monitoring developments in state and local freedom of information law, as well as assisting with defense requests from reporters. Salary is \$30,000 plus benefits.

See [http://www.rcfp.org/fellowships/fellow\\_jn2007.html](http://www.rcfp.org/fellowships/fellow_jn2007.html)

*Reporters Committee Legal Fellowship:* The fellow (who must be a recent law school graduate) will spend one year monitoring developments in First Amendment law, drafting memos and briefs, and assisting with defense requests from reporters. Salary is \$30,000 plus benefits.

See <http://www.rcfp.org/interns.html>

**Sullivan and Cromwell Pro Bono Fellowship**

The firm hires a current judicial clerk to spend one year representing pro se civil litigants in New York City. The fellow receives a full S&C first-year associate salary, benefits, and office space. At the completion of the fellowship, the fellow becomes a full-time associate at the firm.

See <http://www.sullcrom.com/>

**Robert M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellowship**

Law students receive \$5,000 for a full summer of public interest work in either the San Francisco Bay Area or the Los Angeles Metro Area.

[www.takasugifellowship.com/](http://www.takasugifellowship.com/)

**Presidential Management Fellows Program**

The PMF Program is designed to attract to the Federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs. This rigorous two-year paid program includes 80 hours of formal classroom training each year, challenging assignments, potential for accelerated promotions, developmental learning, and networking opportunities. Fellows are hired by Federal Agencies and given exposure to domestic and/or international issues in such areas as public administration, technology, science, criminal justice, health, and financial management, to name a few.

See <https://www.pmf.opm.gov/>

**Public Interest Law Initiative**

This program offers internships and fellowships to law students and graduates who want to work in public interest law in the Chicago area.

See <http://www.pili-law.org/index.html>

**Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program**

This graduate fellowship offers young professionals the chance to work in executive positions in German companies where they will experience the cultural, political and economic climate of this dominate European nation. The goal of the program is to advance America-German/European relations.

See <http://www.cdsintl.org/fromusa/bosch.htm>

**Skadden Fellowship Program**

Funds twenty-five Skadden Fellows each year for a one year term with the expectation of renewal for a second year. Fellows create their own projects and work through a host organization. This fellowship strongly considers the applicant's academic achievement in addition to public interest commitment and project proposal.

See <http://www.skaddenfellowships.org>

**Soros Foundation**

Offers a variety of fellowships.

See <http://www.soros.org>

### **The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**

Offers the George N. Lindsay Civil Rights Fellowship Program. This one-year fellowship allows recent law school graduates to become familiar with civil rights practice by working with many of the nation's leading civil rights experts at the national office in Washington, D.C.

See <http://www.lawyerscomm.org/2005website/jobs/lindsayfellowship/lindsay.html>

### **University of Georgetown Graduate Fellowships**

List of several fellowships in different areas.

See <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/fellowships.html>

### **US DOJ, Office of the Solicitor General, Bristow Fellowship**

The Solicitor General's office offers a one-year fellowship for attorneys to work on briefs against certiorari which are filed against the government, as well as work on recommendations for appeals in lower federal courts.

See <http://www.usdoj.gov/osg/opportunities/bristapp.html>

### **White House Fellowship Program**

The White House offers one-year fellowships to 11-19 individuals who work as full time special assistants to a Cabinet member or senior presidential advisor.

See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/fellows/>

### **World Learning Democracy Fellows**

US AID posts fellows with either JD or Masters Degrees to overseas mission for a one-year term. Fellows promote and strengthen democratic practices in those countries. Salary range is \$33,000 to \$87,000, though the top end of the scale requires many years of practice experience.

See <http://wld.usaid.gov/>

### **Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowships Program**

Fellows work with women's rights groups, civil rights groups, congressional offices, governmental agencies, and Georgetown University Law Center clinics working on women's issues.

See <http://www.wlppfp.org/about/special.html>