



Equal Justice Works Fellowships 101: Mobilizing Passionate Public Service Leaders

About

Equal Justice Works is the nation's largest facilitator of opportunities in public interest law.

A large group of people, mostly in business attire, are posed for a group photo in a garden. In the background, there is a circular fountain with water spraying upwards. The garden is filled with trees, manicured lawns, and several large, ornate stone planters containing flowers. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "/ Become a Fellow" is centered over the group.

/ Become a Fellow

Join a Fellowship Program

- Work as a corps on designated priority issue
- Interviewed and selected by host organization
- Rolling and seasonal deadlines pending availability
- Apply after graduation and bar exam for immediate hire

Design Your Own Fellowship

- Project-based
- Work with your prospective host organization to design a project and submit an application as a rising 3L (*application closes September 20, 2019*)
- Interviews are conducted by Equal Justice Works and selected sponsors

A man and a woman are sitting at a desk, looking at a smartphone together. The woman is on the left, pointing at the screen, and the man is on the right, holding a pen. There are papers and a green folder on the desk. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay.

/ Design your own Fellowship

Fellowship Components: Candidate

Eligibility for Class of 2021

- Graduate of member law school by September 2021 with JD or LLM
- Not have held full-time, permanent public interest attorney position
- Not participated in other major Fellowship programs (e.g. Skadden, Echoing Green, etc.)

Keys to Success

- Personal connection, commitment to public interest, innovation. No transcripts, no GPA/class ranks required.

Fellowship Components: Project

Eligibility

- Underserved people and/or issues in our legal system
- Direct services, advocacy, education, litigation, or some combination
- Not international law

Keys to Success

- Innovative project
- Not a staff attorney or public defender position, built-in sustainability, ambitious but feasible
- Balance candidate passions with sponsor preferences



Fellowship Components: Host Organization

Eligibility

- Non-profit organization with legal staff
- Capable of providing benefits, health insurance, office space
- Able to support and supervise new attorneys
- Based in the United States or territories

Keys to Success

- Supervisor has experience in the project area, project aligns with strategic vision and mission, prior relationship a plus, look far and wide for best fit

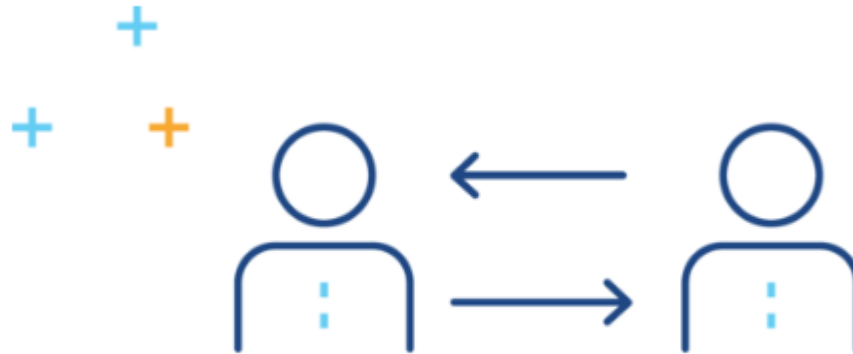
Identifying a Host Organization

- Widen your search
- Use PSJD, our website, career services contacts, alumni
- Dream Big - approaching an organization cold is okay, but come with ideas
- Have a project outline ready when approaching an organization
- Organizations may solicit for a specific project idea
- If the organization has never hosted Fellows, come prepared with an overview of the benefits (see Application Guide on our website)

Fellowship Components: Sponsors

Fellowship sponsors may express issue area or geographic preferences for the Fellowship projects they will consider for funding.

- Law firms, Corporations, Foundations, Bar foundations, Individuals
- See our website for updates on sponsor interest in particular geographic and issue areas



Writing a Competitive Application

- Different than a standard job application or grant
- Focus on fit: candidate's unique ability to bring the right project, at the right time, with the right organization
- Blend data, personal stories, and client narratives to highlight the impact on people
- Key Sections: Statement of Need, Goals, Timeline, Personal Statement, Sponsor Involvement



Most Common Application Mistakes

- Writing too little - each field should be at or near character limit
- Neglecting “Pro Bono Opportunities” section
- Disjointed personal statement / summarizing resume in personal statement
- Not including information on the legal/service provider landscape and community partners
- Overambitious project design OR staff attorney projects
- Generic or vague one-sentence project description
- Typos, spelling, grammar errors, clarity - Use a review team

I Submitted My Application, Now What?

- September 2020: Applications due
- October 2020: Alumni Review and Score Applications
- November 2020 - March 2021: Candidates Slated and Interviewed by Sponsors
- November 2020 - March 2021: Candidates Selected on Rolling Basis
- May 2021: Selection Process Closes
- September 2021: Class of 2020 Fellowships Begin

Fellowship Benefits

- Salaries set by host organization, commensurate with the starting staff attorney salary
- Health care coverage and other fringe benefits
- Equal Justice Works' Loan Repayment Assistance Program
- Annual Leadership Development Training in November
- Network of more than 1,800 Fellows & Alumni

What Should I Do Now?

1Ls should start:

- Thinking about the type of Fellowship project you are interested in, identify internships with organizations that do that work, build relationships
- Invest your time in gaining public interest experience

2Ls/3Ls that are clerking/taking a gap-Fellowship should start:

- Approaching organizations
- Asking professors and supervisors for letters of recommendation
- Fine-tuning resume and outlining personal statement
- Start draft of application!



Equal Justice Works for Law Students

- Rural Summer Legal Corps
- Immigration Summer Legal Corps
- National Advisory Committee
- Student Representatives
- Public Interest Awards
- Conference and Career Fair





Questions?



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