

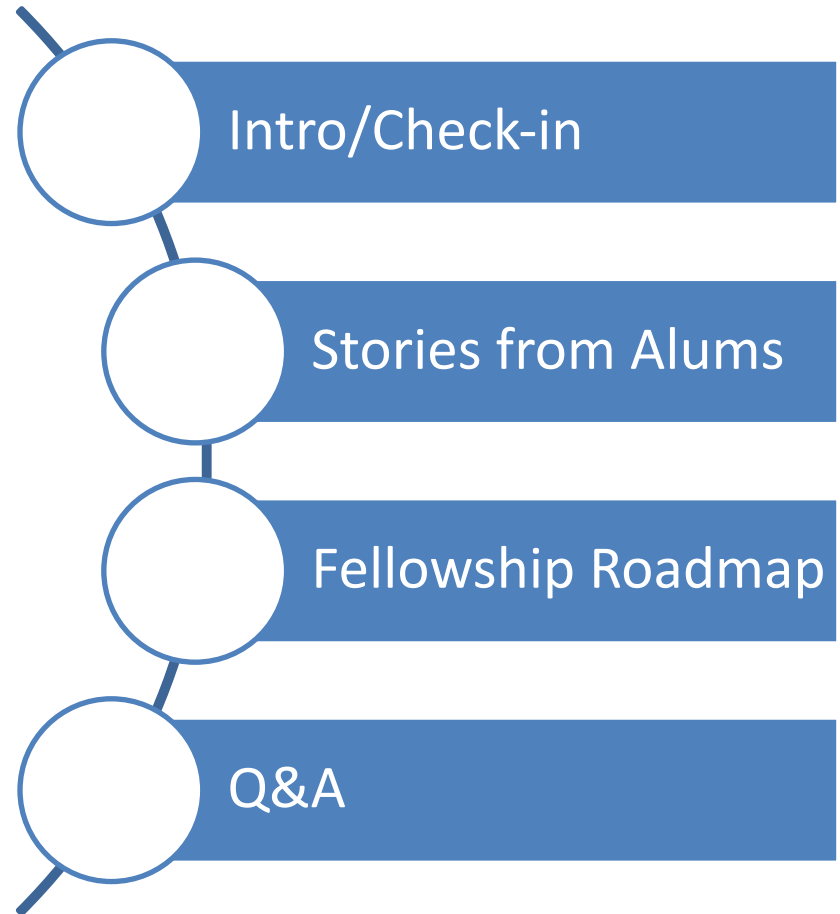


**Penn Law**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA CAREY LAW SCHOOL

# Fellowship Bootcamp Kickoff

July 27, 2020

# Welcome!



# Checking-in...

- These are not ordinary times...
- Be patient with yourself
- Be kind and supportive to each other
- Where you are in your process at this time will really vary and there is no single path or formula...





# Let's Hear from Alums!



Rick Mula L'15  
EJW Fellow, Southern Poverty  
Law Center, *Montgomery, AL*  
Staff Attorney at the ACLU of IL



Mariel Mussak L'20  
Skadden Fellow, Justice at  
Work, *Philadelphia, PA*

# Fellowship Roadmap

Start with your "Why?"



Find a Partner Org



Identify Fellowships (Based on Eligibility Criteria)



Collaborate with Org to Design a Project



Ask for Letters of Recommendations



Prepare Your Resume



Speak with Alums and with Funders



Draft Proposal: *Why this project? Why this org? Why me?*



*Know Your Deadlines and SUBMIT!!!*

# Finding a Partner Org

- Start with who you know...
- Check PSJD.org, Symplicity, NLADA, EJW's Twitter Account
- Examples that we have seen in the last couple of weeks...
  - *ACLU of San Diego*
  - *A Better Balance*
  - *National Veterans Legal Services Program*
  - *Texas Fair Defense Project*
  - *Bronx Defenders*
  - *Public Counsel*
  - \*\* Check both "Public Interest" and "Fellowship" listings in Symplicity
- Prepare to be flexible and open-minded as you conduct outreach, and put your enthusiasm and passion for the work front and center

# Which Fellowship(s) Should I Apply To?

- Discuss application strategy with your partner org
- Explore issues-specific fellowships (e.g. Soros)
- Discuss fellowship requirements with your partner org (e.g. EJW requires re: benefits and salary)
- Tailor your application to each funder (e.g. EJW likes to see innovation and opportunities for sponsorship involvement)
- Check eligibility requirements:
  - Skadden: 3Ls, outgoing clerks, LLM candidates
  - EJW: can be coming from a law school funded fellowship or from the private sector (but not from another national fellowship)
  - Independence: 3Ls, outgoing clerks, and attorneys who are employed and graduated within the last 5 years

# Which Fellowship(s) Should I Apply To?

- Skadden:
  - Must have a poverty focus and should address connection between poverty and race
  - Does not fund criminal defense work, immigration defense, reproductive justice projects, or environmental law projects
  - Partner org must be a 501(c)(3)
- EJW:
  - Does fund immigration work
  - Commonly funded projects include: immigration, child advocacy, and veteran representation
  - Looking for innovation, not staff attorney
  - Partner org must be a 501(c)(3)
  - Think about pro bono involvement for fellowship sponsor
- Independence – *Philly focus, and commitment to building Philly's future PI attorney community*
  - Focus on filling a gap in representation or improving existing services
  - Does not fund criminal defense work
  - Must be a 501(c)(3)
- Eligibility questions? When in doubt, ask us!!!
- Other fellowships? Ask us!!!



# Designing the Project

Successful project proposals are written in close collaboration with your host organization

- ❖ Articulate a Need that is Significant
- ❖ Provide Evidence of the Need
- ❖ Be the Solution
- ❖ **Focus on Your Clients**
- ❖ Demonstrate Your Passion
- ❖ Demonstrate Community Buy-in if Possible
- ❖ Show Your Execution Abilities
- ❖ Show Sustainability
- ❖ Answer the Big THREE:

❖ ***Why me? Why this project? Why this org?***



# Why this project?/Why this client population?

- Identify a gap in services and a compelling need
- Look for a match between your skills/passions and this need
- Tell a human story –Who are your clients?
- Create a cohesive application with a theme
- Start with articulating the problem, and use data and stories to support the need and to demonstrate the impact that you can have
- Demonstrate community buy-in: *e.g. a letter of support from a community group, or reference to a needs assessment or study*
- Articulate realistic goals

# Articulating your “WHY ME?”... What drives you to do this work?



# Why this org?

- Show through your application that you and your partner org are collaborators (through sponsor letter and through your application as you talk about the project as a fit between you and the org)
- What about this org's approach to lawyering and advocacy is a particularly good fit for this project?

# Letters of Rec/Resumes/Sponsor Letter

- Letters of Rec:
  - Two recommendation letters, (and for EJW, 3 additional references)
  - Should be tailored to your candidacy for a fellowship in particular
  - Skadden: one faculty member (academic or clinical); one from a supervisor
  - Look for faculty who have relevant practice experience, fellowship experience, or community involvement related to your project
  - Reach out by early August at the latest
- Resumes:
  - Can be longer than a page
  - Don't hold back on relevant experiences – showcase the breadth and depth of your long-term commitment to public service, even dating back to college and possibly high school
- Sponsor Letter
  - Another opportunity to demonstrate the needs of the project

# Speak with Alums and with Funders

## ➤ Who?

- Penn Law Fellowship Directory
- Other Current and Former Fellows (listed on fellowship websites)
- Former or current fellows at your partner org

## ➤ Questions to ask:

- What was the focus of your fellowship?
- Can you give me some feedback on my project idea? Does it seem do-able? Do you have any suggestions for improvement? Do you have any advice as I work on my application

## ➤ Conversations with Funders:

- Seek input from Kathleen Rubenstein at the Skadden Foundation ([Kathleen.Rubenstein@skadden.com](mailto:Kathleen.Rubenstein@skadden.com)), Brooke Meckler at EJW ([bmeckler@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:bmeckler@equaljusticeworks.org))

- *Prepare your elevator pitch – Who are you? Who is your partner? What is your project about? Any feedback on your project?*



# Draft Proposal and Get Feedback!

- Stay tuned for Fellowship Bootcamp details (review sessions will take place in late August/ early September)
- Plan to submit first drafts to Neta and Jamie by mid-August
- A note about feedback...

# Ready to Submit? Know Your Deadlines!



Skadden: 9/14

EJW: 9/17

Independence: 9/28

Immigrant Justice Corps: 10/7

Gideon's Promise: October TBD

Justice Catalyst: 10/13

Penn Fellowship: Late March/Early April 2021

# Upcoming Webinars Hosted by Fellowship Programs

- EJW
  - “Last-Minute Tips”
    - August 12th, 3 – 4 pm ET
    - Sept. 2nd, 3-4 pm ET
- Skadden
  - August 3rd, 5 pm ET
- Justice Catalyst
  - Recorded Webinar can be viewed at:  
<https://justicecatalyst.org/get-started/>
- Immigrant Justice Corps
  - August 19, 5-6 pm ET, September 9, 5-6 pm ET
- Gideon’s Promise: reach out to us for a recording

# Questions and Next Steps

- ✓ Discuss your fellowship plans with Neta and/or Jamie
- ✓ Read our emails for details about Bootcamp Application Review Period (which will be in late August/Early September)
- ✓ Plan to submit first drafts to Neta and Jamie by mid-August

# Finally...

- ✓ Pace yourself, set goals and a timeline for yourself, take breaks...
- ✓ You've already worked so hard to get where you are – keep up the great work!
- ✓ We are here to support you every step of the way so don't hesitate to reach out!

