



Penn Carey Law Postgraduate Catalyst Fellowship Program Application for Fall 2023

Penn Carey Law School has a long-standing commitment to service. With one of the oldest and most rigorous pro bono requirements in the country, and the distinction of being the first law school to receive the ABA's Pro Bono Publico Award, Penn Carey Law ensures that all students engage in service as part of their legal education, and is committed to offering additional support to those students who aspire to dedicate their careers to public service. To that end, the Law School's **Catalyst Fellowships** support 3Ls who obtain post-graduate volunteer positions in government, nonprofit, or international organizations in which full-time staff positions may ultimately be secured.

Catalyst Fellowships

Penn Carey Law's Catalyst Fellowships fund students to work with local, state, federal and international government agencies, public defender offices, public interest organizations, NGOs, or international tribunals (e.g. International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court). Positions with other courts will not be eligible for Catalyst funding.

Eligibility: Penn Carey Law students in their last year of law school are eligible to apply for these fellowships. Alumni are ineligible.

Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis for one year of funding beginning in August or September of 2023, at a salary of \$50,000 for the year (including benefits, which begin either on the host organization's terms or on the first of the month after completion of your first 90 days). Fellows will also be eligible for up to \$2,000 in reimbursable professional development and technology expenses. Fellowship hosts are strongly urged to place fellows on their own payroll and seek reimbursement for salary and benefits from the university, but alternate arrangements may be made if necessary. Successful applicants will receive award letters detailing the payment process and the requirements of the fellowship. In addition, Fellows may be eligible for the Penn Carey Law Toll Loan Repayment Assistance Program (ToLRAP) and should review the comprehensive ToLRAP [website](#) for details.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINES

Applications for Catalyst Fellowships are due on **Friday March 31st by 5 pm ET**. All applicants will be interviewed and interviews will be held on April 24th, 25th, and 26th. Decisions will be communicated to all applicants no later than **Friday April 28th**. Interviews will be held by videoconference.

Completed applications must be submitted to fellowships@law.upenn.edu in one PDF document. Late applications will not be considered.

Applicants may also apply for a Project-based Fellowship but must submit a separate application. Applying for both sources of funding will not impact the selection process. Students may apply for Catalyst funding before they have secured a placement. To those students, conditional award letters can be provided in order to help them secure a commitment from prospective placements.

Please submit your application in **one complete document**, comprised of:

1. A current résumé.
2. A personal statement (no more than 3 double-spaced pages) that describes your relevant experience, interests, future goals with respect to public interest work, and any other reasons the committee should consider awarding you this fellowship.
3. A description of your sponsoring organization that details its mission and work, and that describes how your work will be important to its mission. If applicable, describe any prior work in which you have engaged with the host organization.
4. If you have not yet secured an internship or employment with your placement organization, please list up to five (5) possible organizations where you would like to work, with a description of their mission and the work you would propose to do for those organizations. Please detail the steps you have taken and will continue to take to secure a position with each organization you list. Be as specific as possible so that the Selection Committee can have a clear sense of the efforts you have made to secure positions with organizations that align well with your public service goals. Your application will be reviewed and you may be provisionally granted a Catalyst Fellowship subject to final approval of a placement or internship.
5. Two letters of recommendation from professors and/or past employers, particularly those who can speak to your commitment to and experience in public service. It is preferred that letters be included in the application packet. However, letters of recommendation may be sent to fellowships@law.upenn.edu and should be addressed to:

Toll Public Interest Center Advisory Board
3501 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104 fellowships@law.upenn.edu

Please remember that any member of the faculty or administration, including the staff of the Office of Career Strategy, the Toll Public Interest Center, and the Office of International Programs, can support you in your application because they do not participate in the selection of fellowship recipients.

Questions about this process may be directed to Neta Borshansky (nborshan@law.upenn.edu) and Jamie Reisman (jreisman@law.upenn.edu).