

*Toll Public Interest Center*

**Penn Law Postgraduate Catalyst Fellowship   
Program Application**

**2017-2018**

Penn 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 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 has established a comprehensive and competitive **Penn Law Postgraduate Catalyst Fellowships Fellowship Funding Program** that 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**

A growing number of our graduates seek to launch careers in government agencies or in international organizations where project-based fellowships may be less effective than funded staff volunteers. In response, Penn Law has created Catalyst Fellowships that will fund students who have secured unpaid volunteer positions with local, state, federal and international government agencies, public defender offices, NGOs, or international tribunals.

***Eligibility: Only Penn 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 up to one year of funding beginning in August or September of 2017, at a salary of $40,000 for the year (including benefits, 90 days after the start date). 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 Law Toll Loan Repayment Assistance Program (TolLRAP) and should review the comprehensive TolLRAP [website](https://www.law.upenn.edu/careers/toll-loan-repayment.php) for details.

**Application Process & Deadlines**

Applications for Catalyst Fellowships are due on **Friday, March 24 by 12:00PM.** All applicants will be interviewed the week of **Monday, April 24th**. Decisions will be communicated to all applicants no later than **Friday, April 28th**. There is a strong preference for in-person interviews, but arrangements can be made via Skype if necessary.

**Completed applications must be submitted to Hillary Wiesel (**[**hwiesel@law.upenn.edu**](mailto:hwiesel@law.upenn.edu)**). Late applications will not be considered.**

Applicants may also apply for a Project-based Fellowship. 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

Catalyst Fellowships Application

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| Name: |  |  | |  |
|  | Last | First | | M.I. |
| Address: |  | |  | |
|  | Street Address | | Apartment/Unit # | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | City | State | ZIP Code |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phone: |  | Email: |  |

Please attach the following to make one complete document:

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 have 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. Three 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 emailed directly to the Toll Public Interest Center by recommenders who wish to do so. Letters of recommendation should be addressed to:

Toll Public Interest Center Advisory Board  
Attention: Hillary Wiesel, TPIC Assistant Director  
3501 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
[hwiesel@law.upenn.edu](mailto:hwiesel@law.upenn.edu)

Please remember that any member of the faculty or administration, including the staff of the Toll Public Interest Center, the Office of Career Planning and Professionalism, 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 Hillary Wiesel, Assistant Director of the Toll Public Interest Center, at: (215) 898-9667 or [hwiesel@law.upenn.edu](mailto:hwiesel@law.upenn.edu) or Neta Borshansky, Associate Director of Public Sector Careers and Director of Government Programs, at: (215) 898-3086 or [nborshan@law.upenn.edu.](mailto:nborshan@law.upenn.edu.)