

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL
BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER & GROSSMANN LLP FELLOWSHIP - 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT

Columbia is proud to offer one of the most supportive Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAPs) of any law school. The Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP Fellowship (Bernstein Fellowship) provides enhanced loan repayment support for selected Columbia Law School Students who show exceptional dedication and potential for making a substantial contribution to public interest law, including government service, and whose career and first post-graduate job (other than a judicial clerkship) will be substantially devoted to using the law to fight racial, gender and/or other discrimination.

In addition to the benefits of Columbia's standard Loan Repayment Assistance Program in effect July 2008 forward, the Bernstein Fellowship provides enhanced loan repayment support for Columbia Law School students. The Bernstein Fellowship is awarded for a five (5) year period. During that time, the Law School will cover 100% of eligible debt service for loans borrowed up to the cost of Columbia Law School tuition¹ for Fellows whose annual income does not exceed \$100,000,² as long as the Fellow remains in public interest law work covered by the Bernstein Fellowship. All Bernstein Fellowship loans the Fellows receive are forgiven on an accelerated scale; upon completion of three years in qualifying employment covered by the Bernstein Fellowship, all Bernstein Fellowship loans received up to that point will be forgiven, and all new Bernstein Fellowship loans made after that time will be forgiven at the end of each six-month period. In the case of married graduates, spousal income will not be considered in the benefits calculation for Fellows, but one half of income generated from joint assets will be considered.

¹ Indebtedness covered by the Fellowship is formal debt incurred by the Fellow for payment of Columbia Law School tuition. This means, among other things, that: for joint-degree programs, only the Columbia Law School tuition portion of the joint-degree debt is covered; and educational debt from any other graduate education, including loans borrowed at another law school is not covered. Amounts borrowed above the cost of Law School tuition, but within the standard student budget are the responsibility of the Fellow but may be covered by Columbia's standard LRAP program. Please see the Loan Repayment Assistance Program policy for details.

² Fellows will be expected to contribute 34.5% of income above \$100,000 toward their annual debt service for loans borrowed to finance Law School tuition. The difference between the Law School tuition debt repayment obligation and the expected contribution provides the amount of the Fellowship loan made to Fellows participating in the Program.

The Fellowship is subject to rules and guidelines governing Columbia's Loan Repayment Assistance Program as set forth in the LRAP policy description in effect as of July 2008, as amended by the addition of a new program that combines traditional LRAP with the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. This means, among other things: The Law School will make LRAP loans to the Fellow to cover all payments on qualifying law school educational loans as long as the Fellow remains in qualifying public interest or public service law work. (If the Fellow leaves qualifying employment before all Fellowship loans have been forgiven, the Fellow will be required to reimburse Columbia Law School for the amounts of the outstanding debt.) The loans must be borrowed through institutionally approved and certified loan programs. Personal loans from banks or from family members, and credit card and consumer debt are not covered by the Fellowship, even when they are used to finance tuition costs. Other loans not covered are commercially available educational loans not certified by the Financial Aid Office, bar exam loans, and loans taken out by parents to finance a student's education. Again, please see the Loan Repayment Assistance Program policy for details.

At the end of the five (5)-year Bernstein Fellowship period, the graduate may apply for the standard LRAP program, if eligible to do so. If the Fellow leaves qualifying employment before all Bernstein Fellowship loans have been forgiven, the Fellow may apply to the standard LRAP program, if eligible to do so, and otherwise will be required to reimburse Columbia Law School for the amount of unforgiven Bernstein loans.

Eligibility

The Bernstein Fellowship is available to (1) members of the Columbia Law School Class of 2017 (October 2016, February 2017 and May 2017) and (2) those members of the Columbia Law School Classes of 2016, 2015, and 2014 who currently are clerking for a federal or state judge and whose clerkships are their first post-graduate employment who

- have demonstrated a serious commitment to work in public interest law;
- plan to work full-time as a lawyer in the public interest sector immediately following graduation or the clerkship;
- have taken educational loans to finance part of his or her Columbia Law School education and are eligible for standard LRAP;
- will devote a substantial amount of her or his time to using the law to fight racial, gender and/or other discrimination.

Application and Selection

You may apply even if you have not yet secured permanent post-graduate employment. **Do not apply if you are a 3L or a clerk who will be clerking next year.** You should apply in the spring before the end of your clerkship(s).

Fellows are selected by a committee composed of faculty, administrators, and graduates who are committed to assisting Columbia Law students realize their goals of building careers as public interest lawyers working to fight racial, gender and/or other discrimination.

Applications must be on the official Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP Fellowship Application Form.

Applications must be received by Rebecca Hinde **no later than Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.** Applications should be sent to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu. You will receive a reply confirming receipt of your application.

Candidates will be informed of the selection committee's decision on or before July 14, 2017.

DETACH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE APPLICATION FORM.

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APPLICATION FORM

Detach this application form from the announcement.

Name: _____

Class Year: _____ CUID: _____

Local Address: _____

Local Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The application consists of:

1. This cover sheet.
2. A separate typed document on which you respond to the requests below. Indicate the request to which you are responding by repeating its title and number.
3. A copy of your resume.
4. A copy of your law school transcript.
5. A reference letter from a law school professor. This letter should be addressed to The Selection Committee. The letter should be submitted with the rest of the application. Alternatively, it may be emailed directly to Rebecca Hinde (rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) no later than June 22, at the discretion of the professor. If a letter will be arriving from a professor separate from your application, please indicate this when emailing your application.
6. A reference letter from a current or past public interest employer who is not a Columbia Law School professor. This letter should be addressed to The Selection Committee. The letter should be submitted with the rest of the application. Alternatively, it may be emailed directly to Rebecca Hinde (rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) no later than June 22, at the discretion of the employer. If a letter will be arriving from an employer separate from your application, please indicate this when emailing your application.

A single .pdf containing all application materials (with the possible exception of #5 and/or #6, as noted above) must be received by Rebecca Hinde **no later than Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.** Applications should be sent to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu. You will receive a reply confirming receipt of your application.

REQUESTS

1. Demonstration of serious interest in public interest law work devoted to fighting racial, gender, and other discrimination: Discuss your interest in the practice of law to advance racial and/or gender equality, what you have done to demonstrate this interest and the relationship of the postgraduate or post-clerkship position you have obtained or will seek to this interest, specifically including a statement regarding the proportion of your work time that will be allocated to anti-discrimination work. Be as specific as possible. Indicia of interest include, but are not limited to: past summer or other employment (law or non-law related), volunteer positions, courses taken, papers written, student activities in college and/or the Law School. (1 to 2 pages)

2. Long-term goals: What are your long-range career goals? How does the postgraduate or post-clerkship position you have obtained or will seek further these goals? How long do you expect to remain in this position? (1 page maximum)

3. Any other information (optional): Briefly provide any additional information you would like to have considered in the selection process. (Half page maximum)