Columbia Law School
Postgraduate J.D. Public Interest & Government Fellowship 2018
Notice and Application

Columbia Law School (CLS) is pleased to offer Postgraduate Public Interest and Government Fellowships (“Fellowships”) for 2018 J.D. graduates of ABA-accredited law schools interested in beginning their careers in public interest law or government service.¹ The fellowships serve two important purposes. First, they allow graduates to gain the experience, skills, and professional networks they need to obtain permanent paid positions in their fields. Second, they enable public interest organizations and government agencies confronting great demand and diminished resources to benefit from the services of talented young lawyers.

To be considered for a fellowship, applicants must first obtain a written commitment by a “qualified sponsor” to provide meaningful legal work and supervision. A “qualified sponsor” is a public interest organization or government agency (federal, state, local, multinational, or international) that commits, contingent upon the applicant's receipt of a CLS Fellowship, to:

- Provide the applicant with a position for a one-year fellowship period that will require the use of his or her legal education
- Provide appropriate training and supervision during the fellowship period
- Consider the fellow for an appropriate permanent full-time paid position if applicable funding becomes available

Columbia Law School faculty and Columbia Law School Centers are not qualifying sponsors.

The Fellowships pay a stipend of $40,000 for one year of full-time work. Fellows must commit to full-time work at their sponsor (at least 35 hours per week) for twelve consecutive months.

Fellows are not considered employees of Columbia Law School. Columbia Law School cannot pay for health insurance or other benefits. In some cases, fellows are able to arrange to receive benefits through their sponsors.

This packet contains information about eligibility requirements and application and selection procedures, including deadlines. Please read carefully.

ELIGIBILITY
In addition to the aforementioned, CLS Postgraduate Public Interest and Government J.D.

¹ The Fellowship is open to applicants receiving their J.D. from any ABA-accredited law school in the U.S. as part of that school’s class of 2018; Columbia Law School (CLS) does not need to be the granting institution. Applicants who are CLS students, however, are asked to refer to the notice and application posted at http://www.law.columbia.edu/social-justice/students/careers-public-service/postgraduate-fellowships/current-fellowships as it contains information relevant to advising services they are required to seek out at CLS.
Fellowships are available to members of their law school’s J.D. class of 2018 who:

- Have or will have completed the requirements for their J.D. (and all joint degrees, if any) from an ABA-accredited law school in the United States by May 30, 2018
- Are unemployed and do not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work in 2018-2019
- Intend to take the July 2018 bar examination or took the February 2018 exam

Please note that priority for the Fellowship will be given to applicants who:

- Demonstrate a substantial commitment to pursuing a career in public interest law or government service
- Demonstrate preparation for a career in public interest law or government service
- Will endeavor to obtain employment in the public interest or government sector before or immediately following the Fellowship’s conclusion

Please note that the following are NOT eligible for the fellowship:

- Applicants who are completing a law degree other than a J.D., such as an LL.M., as part in 2018 but will not be completing a J.D. in 2018; applicants who are completing a joint degree as part of the class of 2018 are eligible as long as one of those degrees is a J.D.
- Applicants who have completed a J.D. as part of a class earlier than the class of 2018

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

1. APPLY TO SPONSORS
   Apply directly to nonprofit organizations or government agencies of interest with a resume, cover letter, and additional materials as appropriate.

2. SUBMIT A FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION BY May 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
   It is important to comply with the requirements for applications set forth on the application form, which is attached to this notice.

Applications must be received no later than May 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. All parts of the application must be submitted at once with the exception of the recommendation letter, which may be submitted separately at the option of the recommender. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants will be informed of decisions in June 2018.

DELIVERY METHOD
Applications must be emailed to socialjustice@law.columbia.edu using the subject line "CLS Fellowship Application" followed by your last name and first name. You will receive a confirmation of receipt within 24 business hours. The application must consist of a single .pdf.

Applications may NOT be submitted by fax, mail, or in person.
Columbia Law School
Postgraduate Public Interest & Government Fellowship 2018
Application

First and Last Name: ____________________________________________

Current Email Address: __________________________________________

Alternate Email Address:__________________________________________

To apply, please email a single .pdf document including the following documents in the order listed below. Email the .pdf to socialjustice@law.columbia.edu using the subject line "CLS Fellowship Application" followed by your last name and first name.

- This cover sheet
- An essay explaining how a position with the sponsoring employer will help you begin a career in your chosen field (no more than one page)
- Your resume
- A copy of your law school transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
- A letter of recommendation, preferably from a member of your law school’s faculty. The letter may be sent with the rest of the application or separately at the discretion of the person writing the letter. If sent separately, it must be emailed to socialjustice@law.columbia.edu no later than the deadline for the rest of the application.
- A list of two additional references, including their titles, organizations and contact information. We recommend that at least one of your references be someone who supervised your legal work.
- A commitment letter from your qualified sponsor that demonstrates its qualifications as a sponsor for purposes of this Fellowship and describes the work you will be assigned and the training and supervision you will receive if your application is successful.
- If you are a joint degree candidate, certification from the institution conferring the joint degree that all requirements will be completed in time for you to receive both degrees in May 2018.
- If the sponsor is a U.S. registered tax-exempt organization, a copy of its 501(c)(3) Tax-exempt Status Qualifying Letter

Your signature and submission of this form constitutes your statement that you are not employed and do not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work for 2018-2019.

If you have accepted an offer for a paid position or fellowship in the future, please identify the position and employer and indicate when the position will commence:

______________________________________________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ______________

This application, including the letter of recommendation, must be received at socialjustice@law.columbia.edu no later than May 30, 2018 at 3 p.m.