Columbia Law School Global Public Service Fellowships 2018

Columbia Law School (CLS) is pleased to announce the annual 2018 Global Public Service Fellowships for J.D. and LL.M. students or graduates beginning or advancing their careers in public service law.

Through this year of practical training, the fellowships will allow graduates to gain the experience, skills, and professional networks necessary to begin or advance careers in the field of public service law, whether in academic life, in nongovernmental organizations or agencies, or as legal practitioners specializing in public service work. Second, they will enable public service organizations confronting great demand and diminished resources to benefit from the services of talented young lawyers. Proposals for the fellowship are due by 3:00 pm on Friday, March 9, 2018.

Terms of the Fellowship

The Global Public Service Fellowship will be awarded for a one-year term to selected students or graduates who obtain positions at qualified host organizations abroad. The position must require the fellow to make use of her/his legal education. The fellowship is available to graduates of CLS who are (1) members of the Class of 2018, including those who will graduate in October 2018 or February 2019, or (2) graduates of the Class of 2016 or 2017.

To be considered for this fellowship, an applicant must obtain a public service organization, intergovernmental agency, national supreme court, or international court/tribunal sponsor. Preference will be given to organizations based in the Pan-Asia region that are engaged in issues of international law and possess expertise in issues of global consequence, such as climate change, security, human rights, and immigration, including organizations located in or engaged in public service work in China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan. Social Justice Initiatives advisors will work with applicants to identify organizations that might be a good match.

Fellows must make a commitment to work at their sponsoring organization full-time, which is at least 35 hours per week. Fellows who secure and begin a full-time paid position before the end of the fellowship period or leave the fellowship position for any reason must notify Social Justice Initiatives as soon as possible regarding the last day to be worked. The fellow will not receive additional fellowship payments after that date. Fellows are not considered employees of CLS. CLS cannot pay for health insurance or other benefits. Further details will be supplied by Social Justice Initiatives to students who are granted a fellowship.

The fellowship carries a stipend of $60,000 a year and must begin within five months of graduation or, in the case of 2016 or 2017 graduates, within five months of the award date.

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

Columbia Law School Global Public Service Fellowships are available to CLS students or graduates who:

- Have completed or will have completed the requirements for their J.D. or LL.M. degree.
- Obtain a position at a qualified sponsor that will make direct use of the his/her legal education.
- Will be unemployed and will not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work during the time period for which the fellowship is sought.

A “qualified sponsor” is a public service\(^1\) organization, intergovernmental agency, national supreme court or international court or tribunal that commits, contingent upon the applicant’s receipt of the fellowship, to:

- Provide applicants with a position that will utilize his or her legal education.
- Provide appropriate training and supervision during the fellowship period.

CLS faculty members and CLS Centers are not qualifying employer sponsors.

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

- Exhibit a substantial commitment to pursue a career in public service law (including those who are transitioning from the private sector).
- Demonstrate preparation for a career in public service law.
- Will endeavor to work in the public service sector immediately after the fellowship concludes.

**Application Procedure**

1. **MEET WITH A SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES ADVISOR (MANDATORY).**
   Applicants must meet with an Social Justice Initiatives career advisor BEFORE submitting an application. Among other things, advisors can help identify public service organizations that match the applicants’ interests and will benefit from their service. Applicants with multiple interests are encouraged to meet with multiple advisors. Information about the advisors is available [here](#). Appointments should be made through SympliCity.

2. **APPLY TO SPONSORS.**
   Apply directly to nonprofit organizations or intergovernmental agencies of interest as fellowship host organizations.

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\(^1\) A public service entity is one whose proclaimed purpose is the advancement of a vision of the public good that is broader than the interest of particular clients or one that provides legal services for a specifically defined low-income or other marginalized and underserved population. Such entities will normally be registered nonprofit organizations, international or regional intergovernmental agencies, national supreme courts, or international courts or tribunals. CLS will determine whether or not a particular employer satisfies this requirement.
3. SUBMIT A FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION BY MARCH 9, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

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 3:00 pm on Friday, March 9, 2018. To apply, please email the following documents as one PDF to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu, using the subject line "Global Public Service Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name. Organize the documents in the order they are listed below.

1. The official cover sheet (included at the end of this notice).

2. A current résumé.

3. A personal statement (1,000 words maximum) about the applicant’s relevant experience, interest, and future aspirations with respect to public service legal work. The statement should include a discussion of the place of the fellowship in the applicant’s career plans.

4. A commitment letter from a sponsor that demonstrates that it is a qualified employer for purposes of this fellowship and describes the work, training, and supervision that the fellow will receive if the application is successful.

5. One letter of recommendation, preferably from a CLS faculty member or a supervisor at a relevant organization. The letter may be emailed to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu with the rest of the application or separately at the discretion of the letter writer.

6. Identification of two persons who would serve as references.

7. A copy of the applicant’s CLS transcript (unofficial is acceptable).

Selection

The fellow will be selected by a committee of CLS faculty, administrators, and public service law practitioners. Fellows will be selected by the end of March 2018.

CLS Social Justice Initiatives Fellowship Contacts

Nyanguthii Chege*
Director, International, Human Rights & Summer Programs
nchege@law.columbia.edu | (212) 854-3247

Rebecca Hinde (Contact for administrative questions)
Program Coordinator for Public Interest & Government Programs
rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu | (212) 854-3535

*Appointments should be made through Symplicity.
CLS GLOBAL PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS
2018 APPLICATION

First and Last Name: _______________________________________________________
Columbia Email: __________________________________________________________
Email that will be used after graduation: ______________________________________

Be sure that you have enclosed all of the following documents as a single PDF to
rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu (in this order):
• This cover sheet.
• A current resume.
• A personal statement (1,000 words maximum) about the applicant’s relevant experience,
  interest, and future aspirations with respect to public service legal work. The statement
  should include a discussion of the place of the fellowship in the applicant’s career plans.
• A commitment letter from a public service sponsor that demonstrates that it is a qualified
  employer for purposes of this fellowship and describes the work, training and supervision
  that the fellow will receive, if the application is successful.
• One letter of recommendation, preferably from a Columbia Law School faculty member
  or a supervisor at a relevant organization. The letter may be emailed to
  rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu with the rest of the application or separately at the
  discretion of the person writing the letter.
• Identification of two persons who would serve as references.
• A copy of your law school transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
• If you are a joint degree candidate, include certification from the institution conferring
  the joint degree that all requirements are completed.
• If the sponsor is a U.S. registered tax-exempt organization, a copy of its 501(c)(3) Tax-
  exempt Status Qualifying Letter must be attached.

SJI advisor with whom you met regarding this application: ________________________

Your signature and submission of this form constitutes your statement that you will not be
employed and will not have a fellowship, stipend or other source of funding to work during the
time period for which this fellowship is sought in 2018-19.

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

Signature: _______________________________ Date: ____________________

This application must be received by SJI no later than:
Friday, March 9 at 3:00 pm