The David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship 2018

Columbia Law School announces the 2018 David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship, which honors the Law School’s former Dean (1996-2004) and his commitment to providing meaningful experiences in human rights law. This annual Fellowship will enable a Columbia Law School graduate to spend one year working in human rights, either in the United States or abroad.

Proposals for the fellowship are due by 3:00 pm on Monday, February 12, 2018.

Terms of the Fellowship

The Leebron Fellowship will be awarded for a one-year term. The Fellowship is available to graduates of Columbia Law School who are (1) members of the Class of 2018, pursuing a J.D. or LL.M. degree, including those who will graduate in October 2017 or February or May 2018, or (2) current state or federal judicial clerks whose clerkships will terminate by Fall 2018.

The Fellowship is designed to enable a Columbia Law graduate interested in pursuing a career in human rights law to gain practical experience working with a human rights organization. Through this year of practical training, the Fellowship aims to provide the graduate with the skills necessary to start or advance a career in the field of human rights law, whether in academic life, in governmental, intergovernmental, or nongovernmental organizations or agencies, or as legal practitioners specializing in human rights work.

The fellowship carries a stipend of $45,000 a year and must begin within five months of graduation or within five months of completion of a clerkship.

Qualifying Placements

Host organizations must be engaged in human rights law advocacy. In most cases, these organizations or agencies will be involved in human rights education, monitoring, reporting, litigation, grassroots mobilization, or other forms of advocacy. They may be involved in human rights work in general or in specific areas of the human rights movement such as, but not limited to, women’s rights, children’s rights, labor rights, refugee rights, humanitarian law, transitional justice, health care, and so on. Most qualifying organizations would identify themselves as part of the broader universal human rights movement, relying on the norms declared in international and regional treaties and declarations.

Qualifying placements may include organizations embracing new and interdisciplinary directions in the human rights movement, such as those following in substantial part a rights-based approach to economic development, humanitarian relief, media, health, or environmental activism. In special circumstances, the Selection Committee may accept a proposal for work within a governmental or intergovernmental human rights organization.

Qualifying placements will also include nonprofit organizations in the United States at which the majority of the Fellow’s work will use the international human rights law paradigm to combat domestic social justice issues.
Application Procedure

Applications must be received by Social Justice Initiatives no later than 3:00 pm on Monday, February 12, 2018. To apply, please email the following documents as a single PDF to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu, using the subject line "Leebron Application" followed by your last name and first name. Please 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 interest and human rights legal work. The statement should include a discussion of the place of the fellowship in the applicant’s career plans.

4. A project description (3 pages maximum) that includes:
   a. a description of the host organization or agency and its work in the local and international context;
   b. a description of the applicant’s project and its relation to the work of the proposed host organization; and
   c. an estimated budget (to demonstrate feasibility).

5. 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.

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

7. A copy of the applicant’s Columbia Law School transcript (unofficial is acceptable)

8. Indicia of a bona fide interest from your host organization (email or other communication acceptable).\(^1\) OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED.

Selection

The Fellow will be selected by a committee of Columbia Law School faculty, administrators, and human rights practitioners. A Fellow and an alternate will be selected by the end of March 2018.

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\(^1\) The committee understands that projects and/or host organizations proposed in this application may be tenuous or uncertain prior to an award of funding. The committee will allow changes to the Fellow’s project or host organization as long as they are within the parameters of the Fellowship as outlined in this notice of application.
**Fellowship Contacts**

**Nyaguthii 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.*
The David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship 2018
Columbia Law School

Application Cover Sheet

Name: ________________________________________________________

CUIDNo.: ______________________________________________________________________

Email Address: __________________________________________________________________

Telephone Number: __________________________________________________________________

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3. A personal statement (1,000 words maximum) about your relevant experience, interest, and future aspirations with respect to public interest and human rights legal work. The statement should include a discussion of the fellowship’s place in your career plans.
4. A project description (3 pages maximum) that includes:
   a. a description of the host organization or agency and its work in the local and international context;
   b. a description of your project and its relation to the work of the proposed host organization; and
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5. A letter of recommendation, preferably from a Columbia Law School faculty member or 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.
6. Identification of two persons who would serve as references
7. A copy of your Columbia Law School transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
8. Indicia of a bona fide interest from your host organization (email or other communication acceptable).¹ OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED.

Signature: ___________________________________________________________ Date: _________

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¹ The committee understands that projects and/or host organizations proposed in this application may be tenuous or uncertain prior to an award of funding. The committee will allow changes to the Fellow’s project or host organization as long as they are within the parameters of the Fellowship as outlined in this notice of application.