

J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships 2020

Columbia Law School is pleased to offer Public Interest and Government Fellowships for J.D. graduates of ABA-accredited law schools interested in beginning their careers in public interest law, including human rights, or in 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 lawyers.

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

- Provide the applicant with a position for a one-year 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 centers or faculty members do not qualify as hosts.

The J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships pay a stipend of \$40,000 for one year of full-time work. Fellows must commit to work full-time at their host (at least 35 hours per week) for twelve consecutive months.

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to the aforementioned, the fellowships are available to class of 2020 members who:

- Have or will have completed the requirements for their J.D. degree (and all joint de-

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 2020; Columbia Law School does not need to be the granting institution.

degrees, if any) by May 30, 2020

- Are unemployed and do not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work in 2020-2021
- Intend to take the February 2020 or July 2020 bar examination

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 of the class of 2020 but will not complete a J.D. as part of the class of 2020; applicants who are completing a joint degree as part of the class of 2020 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 2020

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply to hosts

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 as soon as possible and no later than May 4, 2020. For application instructions, see the attached Application Cover Sheet.

3. Applicants will be notified of selection decisions no later than June 2020.

FELLOWSHIP CONTACT

Please direct questions to:

Rebecca Hinde

Coordinator for Communications and Postgraduate Fellowships

Social Justice Initiatives at Columbia Law School

rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu | (212) 854-3535

Mailing Address: 435 West 116th Street, Box B-26, New York, NY 10027

**J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships 2020
Columbia Law School**

Application Cover Sheet

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Proposed Host Organization: _____

Country in Which You Would Serve Your Fellowship (if known): _____

Please email the following documents **as one PDF** to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu, using the subject line "J.D. Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name. Organize the documents in the order they are listed below. * **Applications are due May 4, 2020.**

1. This cover sheet.
2. An essay explaining how a position with the host will help you begin a career in your chosen field (no more than one page).
3. Your resume.
4. A letter of recommendation, preferably from a member of the faculty of your law school. If the recommender would prefer, s/he may email the letter to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu *no later than the deadline for the rest of the application.* **
5. A list of two *additional* references with their titles, affiliations, and contact information. We recommend that at least one be someone who supervised your legal work.
6. A commitment letter from your host that demonstrates its qualifications 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.
7. *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 2020.

*The selection committee will also review each applicant's law school transcript. **For security reasons, however, we ask that you do NOT email your transcript.** Instead, you may request that your registrar provide a copy (preferably electronic) directly to Rebecca Hinde, or you may contact Rebecca Hinde to arrange another secure and mutually convenient transfer method.

**Please complete the following only if your recommendation letter is *not* included in this PDF.

Recommender Name: _____

Email: _____ **Letter will be submitted by this date:** _____

If you have accepted an offer for a paid position or fellowship in the future, identify the position, employer, and start date:
