

## J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships 2020

Columbia Law School is pleased to offer Public Interest and Government Fellowships for 2020 law school graduates interested in beginning their careers in public interest law, including human rights, or in government service. 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 faculty members and Columbia Law School centers 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 full-time work 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. Columbia 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, Columbia Law School J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships are available to members of the Class of 2020 who:

- Have or will have completed the requirements for their law school degree (and all joint 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., in 2020 but will not complete a J.D. in 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. Meet with an SJI advisor (Mandatory)

Applicants must meet with an SJI advisor BEFORE submitting an application. Among other things, advisors can help identify public interest organizations or government agencies that match your interests and will benefit from your service. **Cassandra Théano** will work with applicants interested in working for a human rights organization or international public institution. **Maddie Kurtz** will work with applicants interested in working for a domestic public interest organization. **Rachel Pauley** will work with applicants interested in working for a federal, state, or local government agency. Applicants with multiple interests are encouraged to meet with multiple advisors. Make an appointment through [Simplicity](#).

### 2. Apply to hosts

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

**3. Submit a fellowship application as soon as possible and no later than May 4, 2020. Decisions are made on a rolling basis; applicants are strongly encouraged to submit early.** For application instructions, see the attached Application Cover Sheet.

Please note: Students who are not able to obtain a host organization before the May 4 deadline may submit a partial application (at a minimum, the Application Cover Sheet and a resume) in order to keep open the possibility of receiving a fellowship. You must discuss the status of your search for a host with an SJI advisor prior to submission, however. Students who do not submit an Application Cover Sheet and a resume before May 4 will not be considered for a fellowship.

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

## **FELLOWSHIP CONTACTS**

*For questions about substantive issues such as fellowship criteria, your statement, or the appropriateness of a reference or host:*

### **Maddie Kurtz**

Director of Public Interest Professional Development Programs

PUBLIC INTEREST ADVISOR

[mkurtz@law.columbia.edu](mailto:mkurtz@law.columbia.edu) | 212-854-8360

### **Rachel Pauley**

Director of Government Programs

GOVERNMENT ADVISOR

[rachel.pauley@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rachel.pauley@law.columbia.edu) | 212-854-7486

### **Cassandre Théano**

Assistant Director of Human Rights and Public International Law

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW ADVISOR

[cassandre.theano@law.columbia.edu](mailto:cassandre.theano@law.columbia.edu) | (212) 854-3247

*For questions about submitting your materials or about the payment process:*

### **Rebecca Hinde**

Coordinator for Communications and Postgraduate Fellowships

[rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) | (212) 854-3535

**J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships 2019  
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](mailto: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 Columbia Law School faculty member. If the recommender would prefer, s/he may email the letter to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto: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 Columbia Law School transcript. **Do not email your transcript with your application.** SJI will add it to your materials upon receipt.

\*\*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:

\_\_\_\_\_