

David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship 2020

Columbia Law School announces the 2020 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 fellowship will enable a Columbia Law School graduate to spend one year working in human rights in the U.S. or abroad. **Applications are due on Monday, February 10, 2020.**

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 2020, pursuing a J.D. or LL.M. degree, including those who will graduate in October 2019 or February or May 2020, or (2) current state or federal judicial clerks whose clerkships will terminate by fall 2020.

The fellowship is designed to enable a Columbia Law School 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 fellowship selection committee may accept a proposal for work within a governmental or intergovernmental human rights organization.

Qualifying placements may also include nonprofit organizations in the U.S. at which the majority of the fellow's work will use the international human rights law paradigm to combat domestic social justice issues.

Please note: The fellowship selection 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.

Application and Selection Procedure

The application deadline is **Monday, February 10, 2020**. To apply, please submit the materials listed on the last page of this notice. Email the materials **as one PDF** to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu, using the subject line "Leebron Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name.

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 2020.

Fellowship Contacts

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

Cassandre Theano*
Assistant Director of Human Rights and Public International Law
cassandre.theano@law.columbia.edu
(212) 854-3247

*Appointments should be made through Symplicity.

For questions about submitting your materials:

Rebecca Hinde
Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships
rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu
(212) 854-3535

**David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship 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 "Leebron Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name. Organize the documents in the order they are listed below.* **Applications are due on Monday, February 10, 2020.**

1. This official cover sheet
2. A current resume
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 fellowship's place in the applicant's career plans.
4. A project description (3 pages maximum) that includes:
 - a. a description of the host 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. If the recommender would prefer, they can email their letters to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu.
6. Identification of two *additional* persons who could serve as references and their contact information, including their email addresses and phone numbers
7. Indicia of a bona fide interest from your host organization (email or other communication is acceptable). **OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED.**

*The selection committee will also review each applicant's Columbia Law School transcript. **Do not email your transcript with your application.** SJL will add it to your materials upon receipt.

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

Recommender Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Letter will be submitted to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu by this date: _____