

## The Herbert and Nell Singer Social Justice Fellowship 2021

Columbia Law School announces the seventh annual Herbert and Nell Singer Social Justice Fellowship, which honors class of 1928 graduate Herbert Singer and his commitment to supporting meaningful learning experiences in public interest law. The fellowship will help launch the social justice career of a Columbia Law graduate who demonstrates substantial commitment, ability, and preparation for making a difference as a public interest lawyer. The fellow will receive a stipend to practice public interest or human rights legal work at a nonprofit organization in the United States. **Applications for the fellowship are due on November 2, 2020.**

### Terms of the Fellowship

One Singer 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 J.D. Class of 2021 (October 2020, February 2021, or May 2021) or (2) graduates from previous J.D. classes who are currently state or federal judicial clerks and for whom the clerkship is their first postgraduate position.

The fellowship will be awarded to an applicant who demonstrates a deep commitment to public interest or human rights legal work and an ability to make a substantial contribution to his or her field. It will provide the fellow with the financial ability to work with a public interest organization that addresses the unmet legal needs of low-income and disadvantaged individuals or of underrepresented communities or issues and that could not otherwise afford to hire an entry-level lawyer. The fellowship is also intended to provide the fellow with the opportunity to gain the practical legal experience necessary to advance his or her career as a social justice lawyer.

The fellowship carries a stipend of \$60,000 a year plus health insurance and all other fringe benefits to which an entry-level lawyer at the host organization is entitled up to the value of \$15,000. The fellow must begin work within five months of graduation or within five months of completion of a clerkship.

### Qualifying Projects and Host Organizations

Applicants can propose to be staff attorneys at their host organization or to implement a new project at the organization. Applications for a Singer Fellowship must include a description of the staff position or project. In evaluating the proposal, the Singer Fellowship Selection Committee will consider the appropriateness of the proposed host organization to the applicant's long-range career goals and, if applicable, to the proposed project.

Eligible host organizations are generally limited to public interest or human rights nonprofit organizations (501(c)(3) or the equivalent) located in the United States that engage in civil legal work as a substantial part of their mission. In most cases, these organizations will be involved in direct legal services, impact litigation, or public interest transactional work.

Qualifying projects may also be carried out at organizations that embrace new or interdisciplinary forms legal advocacy as long as a legal education is required for the project.

Applicants are encouraged to meet with Madeleine Kurtz, Director of Public Interest Professional Development, as they develop their proposals.

### **Application and Selection Procedure**

The application deadline is **November 2, 2020**. Application instructions can be found on the next page.

A committee consisting of the Dean for Social Justice Initiatives, a Columbia Law School faculty member, a Columbia Law School graduate, and a federal judge will select the fellow and an alternative recipient by the end of December 2020.

### **Fellowship Contacts**

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

Maddie Kurtz\*  
Director of Public Interest Professional Development  
[mkurtz@law.columbia.edu](mailto:mkurtz@law.columbia.edu) | (212) 854-8360

*For questions about submitting your materials:*

Rebecca Hinde  
Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships  
[rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) | (212) 854-3535

\*Appointments with Maddie Kurtz should be made on Symplicity.

**The Herbert and Nell Singer Social Justice Fellowship 2021  
Application Cover Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Host Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email the following documents to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) by **November 2, 2020** with the subject line **Singer Application**. The documents should be submitted as **one PDF** and organized in the order they are listed below. *The committee will also review your Law School transcript, but you should NOT email it. We will add it to your packet after submission.*

1. This cover sheet
2. A current resume
3. A personal statement (2 pages maximum) that demonstrates your deep commitment to public interest or human rights law and an ability to make a substantial contribution in your field. This should include your relevant experience and future aspirations with respect to public interest or human rights legal work. The statement should also include a discussion of the fellowship's place in your career plans.
4. A project description (3 pages maximum) including:
  - a. a description of the host organization or agency and its work; and
  - b. a description of your project, or of the work you will undertake in a staff position, and its relation to the work of the proposed host organization
5. A letter indicating bona fide interest in your proposal from the host organization. The letter should include discussion of how you would be supervised and a statement that the organization does not have the financial ability to hire entry-level lawyers.
6. Two letters of recommendation, preferably one from a Columbia Law School faculty member and one from a supervisor at a relevant organization other than the proposed host organization. If the recommenders prefer, they can email their letters to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu).
7. Identification of two *additional* persons who would serve as references

**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](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) by this date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter will be submitted to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) by this date: \_\_\_\_\_