



COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS

As part of its ongoing efforts to advance racial justice in the Columbia community and beyond, the Law School invites applications from second-year J.D. students for the inaugural Racial and Social Justice Fellowships for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Law School's Anti-Racism Steering Committee, created this past summer by Dean Gillian Lester, establishes the Columbia Law School Racial and Social Justice Fellowships in recognition of the unique role that lawyers can play in addressing structural racism and social inequality and of the desire of many Columbia students to use their law degrees in furtherance of this work. The goal of this new Fellowship is to provide financial assistance during law school to facilitate students' pursuit of careers in racial justice as well as to enhance opportunities for students of color in public interest careers.

Terms of the Fellowship

Awards: Five Fellowships of \$25,000 each will be awarded in Spring 2021, with grant funds disbursed to the student account in Fall of 2021.

Eligibility: Current second-year (2L) Columbia Law School students are eligible to apply. Recipients will receive their funding in the fall of their 3L year. Fellowships will be available to (1) Columbia Law students who intend to pursue racial justice legal work after graduation and/or (2) Columbia Law students from racially underrepresented groups who intend to pursue other social justice legal work after graduation. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to racial or social justice legal work, an intent to pursue this work after graduation, and an ability to make a meaningful contribution in their chosen field.

Application Process and Selection: The application deadline is February 15, 2021. Application instructions can be found below. A committee consisting of members of the faculty and administration will select the Fellows.

The selection committee will consider factors such as the following in assessing candidates:

- Demonstrated commitment to social or racial justice work. This might include:
 - Participation in specialized Law School programs such as the Public Interest/Public Service Fellows Program, Human Rights Institute 1L Advocates Program, or Davis Polk Leadership Initiative;
 - Participation in clinics, externships, or other experiential learning opportunities and/or participation in classes focused on social justice or public service topics;

- Work experience, including summer internships and term-time internships as well as work experience prior to and during law school;
 - Volunteer experience;
 - Extracurricular activities, including leadership or participation in student groups, affinity groups, moot courts, journals, and pro bono activities;
 - The candidate's reflections on, and aspirations for, addressing racial and/or social justice issues; and
 - Demonstrated skills that will be useful in pursuit of racial or social justice work.
- Personal background and life experience
 - Career goals and anticipated career path
 - Evidence that the Fellowship will help the candidate pursue a full-time career in racial or social justice.

For questions, please contact Erica Smock, Dean for Social Justice Initiatives & Public Service Lawyering and member of the Anti-Racism Steering Committee, at els13@columbia.edu.



**COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Name _____ UNI _____
Preferred email address: _____
Preferred phone number: _____
JD Class Year: _____
Preferred Pronouns _____

Please email the following documents to Rebecca Hinde (SJI) at rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu by February 15, 2021, with the subject line “Racial and Social Justice Fellowship Application.” The documents should be submitted as one PDF document and organized in the order they are listed below. The selection committee will also review your Law School transcript, but you should not email it. We will add it to your packet after submission.

Documents to submit:

1. This cover sheet
2. A current resume
3. A personal statement (1000 words maximum) that describes your commitment to addressing racial or social injustice. This statement should address relevant experience and future aspirations, including postgraduate career plans. (The selection committee does not expect your career plans to be fully mapped out, but it is interested in hearing about your career interests, goals, and expectations, and whether you intend to pursue a private sector/corporate position at any point.)
4. Two letters of recommendation. It is strongly preferred, but not required, that one recommendation should come from a Columbia Law School faculty member. If the recommenders prefer, they can email their letters directly to Rebecca Hinde at rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu. These letters of recommendation may be brief; the selection committee will follow up directly with recommenders as needed. Please include the names and email addresses for your recommenders in your application.
5. Short-answer questions (200 words maximum per question):
 - How would this Fellowship enable you to better pursue your career goals?
 - How does your personal background and/or membership in an underrepresented group and/or your financial situation make you a good candidate for this funding?
 - *Optional:* What do you think distinguishes you from other applicants?
 - *Optional:* Please tell the Committee what you intend to do during 2L summer and 3L year to make you a stronger candidate for a career in racial or social justice work.

- *Optional:* Please explain any factors that have prevented you from developing a demonstrated commitment to racial or social justice work to date.
- *Optional:* Is there anything else you would like the Committee to know about you?