

## J.D. Public Interest and Government Fellowships 2019

Columbia Law School is pleased to offer Public Interest and Government Fellowships (“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.<sup>1</sup> 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 young 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. 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 2019 members who:

- Have or will have completed the requirements for their J.D. degree (and all joint degrees, if any)

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2019; Columbia Law School does not need to be the granting institution.

by May 30, 2019

- Are unemployed and do not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work in 2019-2020
- Intend to take the July 2019 bar examination or took the February 2019 exam

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 2019 but will not complete a J.D. in 2019; applicants who are completing a joint degree as part of the Class of 2019 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 2019

## **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 3, 2019.** For application instructions, see the attached Application Cover Sheet.

### **3. Applicants will be notified of selection decisions no later than June 2019.**

## **FELLOWSHIP CONTACT**

Please direct questions to:

### **Rebecca Hinde**

Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships

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

**J.D. Public Interest & Government Fellowships 2019  
Columbia Law School  
Application Cover Sheet**

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

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

To apply, please complete the following instructions no later than May 3, 2019.

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.\*

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 2019.
8. *If the host is a U.S. registered tax-exempt organization*, a copy of its 501(c)(3) Tax-exempt Status Qualifying Letter.

\*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, please contact Rebecca Hinde to arrange a secure and mutually convenient transfer method.

\*\*If your letter will be sent separately, please provide the recommender's name and email address:

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***Your signature and submission of this form constitutes your statement that you are not employed and do not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work for 2019-2020.***

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

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_