



## **PENN LAW POSTGRADUATE PROJECT BASED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION 2021-2022**

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Penn Law School has a long-standing commitment to service. With one of the oldest and most rigorous pro bono requirements in the country, and the distinction of being the first law school to receive the ABA's Pro Bono Publico Award, Penn Law ensures that all students engage in service as part of their legal education, and is committed to offering additional support to those students who aspire to dedicate their careers to public service. To that end, the Law School has established a comprehensive and competitive **Penn Law Postgraduate Project-based Fellowship Funding Program** that enables students and recent alumni to partner with a nonprofit organization and design a one-year project to address a particular need of a client, community, or legal issue.

### **PROJECT-BASED FELLOWSHIPS**

These fellowships offer recent Penn Law graduates the opportunity to gain entry into a local, national, or international public interest organization, helping to launch the fellows' public interest careers.

***Eligibility: Penn Law students and graduates may apply for these fellowships in their last year of law school or at the conclusion of judicial clerkships undertaken immediately after graduation.***

Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis for a one-year term beginning in September of 2021. Fellows will design their own projects, which must be law-related insofar as they substantially utilize legal training and skills. Fellows must partner with a public interest organization. (A public interest organization is defined as: any nonprofit organization or institution whose primary purpose is to serve or advocate on behalf of individuals or organizations whose interests, for various economic, political or social reasons, are not adequately represented by the private sector or the government.) At the discretion of our funders, at least one fellowship may be specifically designated for the Greater Philadelphia Region.

Fellows will be employees of the partner organizations for twelve (12) months. Partner organizations will be reimbursed a total of \$55,000 for the Fellow's salary, plus the cost of the Fellow's ordinary health benefits. Travel and other expenses will not be funded. Successful applicants and their partner organizations will receive award letters detailing the payment process and the requirements of the fellowship. In addition, Fellows may be eligible for the Penn Law Toll Loan Repayment Assistance Program (TollRAP) and should review the comprehensive TollRAP [website](#) for details regarding the program.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINES

Applications for Project Based Fellowships are due on **Friday, April 9, 2021 by 5:00PM EST**. All applicants will be interviewed the week of **April 26, 2021**. Decisions will be communicated to all applicants no later than **Friday, April 30, 2021**. There is a strong preference for in-person interviews, but arrangements can be made via Skype if necessary.

**Completed applications must be submitted to [fellowships@law.upenn.edu](mailto:fellowships@law.upenn.edu), in one PDF document. Late applications will not be considered.**

Applicants who are eligible will also be considered for Catalyst funding. If you do not wish to be considered for this particular source of funding, please state this in your application.

Please submit your application in **one complete PDF**, comprised of:

1. A current resume
2. A project title and brief summary of no more than 75 words that describes your project and its overall objectives.
3. A personal statement (no more than 3 double-spaced pages) that describes: your relevant experience, interests, future goals with respect to public interest work, and any other reasons the committee should consider awarding you this fellowship.
4. A description of your sponsoring organization that details its mission and work, and that describes how your work will be important to its mission. If applicable, describe any prior work in which you have engaged with the host organization.
5. A description of your project (up to 6 double-spaced pages). Please discuss why your project is important to the community you propose to serve. Tell us about any other organization that may be doing the type of work you propose, or alternatively, discuss the gap in service that currently exists in your proposed area. Please include the geographic scope of your project and why you chose it. Finally, please detail your goals for the year, including a timeline that explains the project's specific activities and reflects all phases of the project and the time you will allocate to meet your goals and achieve your expected outcomes.
6. Please answer the following questions after discussing with your host organization. *Please note: the answers to these questions should reflect a collaborative effort between you and your prospective host organization).*
  - Name of your primary supervisor.
  - How many years and what type of experience the supervisor has working in this substantive area and in managing other attorneys.
  - Whether the supervisor will be responsible for supervision of others in addition to you, and if so, how many people.
  - How often the supervisor will meet with you. Please describe the planned level of interaction between you and the supervisor.
  - State the number of total staff, including non-attorneys, in the office.
  - Please indicate what items the organization plans to provide for your physical work environment (i.e. desk, office, cubicle, computer, and phone).
  - Please provide specific plans for your training and professional development. The description may include both skills-based and substantive trainings, in addition to opportunities to serve on community coalitions or task forces, and introductions to leaders in the field. If the project represents a new practice area for the organization, describe the organization's plans to provide you with support and resources specific to the practice area.
7. One letter of support from your sponsoring organization.
8. Two letters of recommendation from professors and/or past employers, particularly those who can speak to your commitment to and experience in public service. It is preferred that letters be included in the application packet. However, letters of recommendation may be emailed directly to the Toll Public Interest Center by recommenders who wish to do so. Letters of recommendation should be addressed to:

Toll Public Interest Center Advisory Board  
3501 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
[fellowships@law.upenn.edu](mailto:fellowships@law.upenn.edu)

Please remember that any member of the faculty or administration, including the staff of the Toll Public Interest Center, the Office of Career Planning and Professionalism, and the Office of International Programs, can support you in your application because they do not participate in the selection of fellowship recipients.

Questions about this process may be directed to Neta Borshansky at [nborshan@law.upenn.edu](mailto:nborshan@law.upenn.edu) and Jamie Reisman [jreisman@law.upenn.edu](mailto:jreisman@law.upenn.edu).