



NALP AEC 2024



Public Interest Fellowships: Tips for Applicants & Host Organizations

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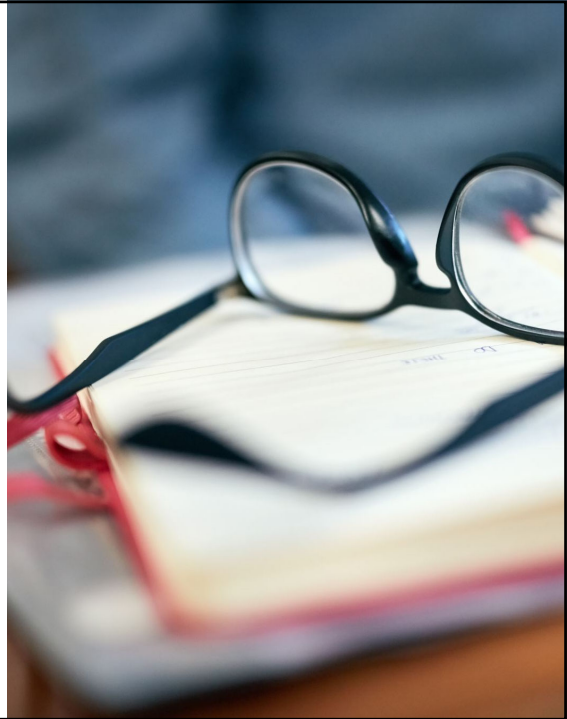
Who We Are

- Lauren Hartley, Equal Justice Works
 - Becca Vogt, Immigrant Justice Corps
 - Kerry Stotler, American University
Washington College of Law
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Who You Are

- Law School Professional
- Fellowship Host Organization
- Other
- How familiar are you with fellowships?
 - Very
 - Somewhat
 - Not at all



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Defining "Fellowship" & What We Are Talking About

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Types of Fellowships

- Project-Based
- Cohort
- Organizational
- School-Sponsored
- Clinical Teaching

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Project Based Fellowship Programs

- Equal Justice Works Design-Your-Own
- Skadden
- Justice Catalyst
- Echoing Green
- School-sponsored (some)

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HENRY MCDONALD

-  **Hosted by** Justice Resource Institute
-  **Service location** Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
-  **Issue area** Health Care, LGBTQ+ Rights, Medical-Legal Partnership
-  **Program** Design-Your-Own Fellowship
-  **Sponsored by** Pfizer Inc.
-  **Law school** Northeastern University School of Law
-  **Fellowship class year** 2023



Example: Equal Justice Works Design Your Own

- Henry established a MLP to bridge the gap between a local social services org & legal services org, offering civil legal services to young people at risk of HIV

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Example: Skadden



Zakiya Lewis

New York University School of Law

Fellowship

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Washington, DC

2023

Develop litigation challenging anti-diversity and inclusion laws, to support low-income students with marginalized, intersectional identities who benefit most from culturally responsive and inclusive learning environments.

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Example: Justice Catalyst



YULIE LANDAN
Immigration Justice

Yulie Landan is a 2023-2024 Justice Catalyst Fellow working at National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild to conduct systemic litigation on behalf of immigrants detained in Louisiana and Virginia to shut down detention centers and provide direct representation to individuals that remain detained while decarceration efforts continue.



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Cohort Fellowship Programs

- Immigrant Justice Corps
- Equal Justice Works Corps cohort programs
- Others smaller groups:
If/When/How, Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship, etc.



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Example: Immigrant Justice Corps Justice Fellowship – Direct Representation



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Example: Equal Justice Works Disaster Resilience Program

JORDAN DAVIS

- Hosted by** Disability Rights California
- Service location** Sacramento, California
- Issue area** Disaster Response and Preparedness
- Program** Disaster Resilience Program
- Sponsored by** Disaster Resilience Program
- Law school** Golden Gate State University School of Law
- Fellowship class year** 2021

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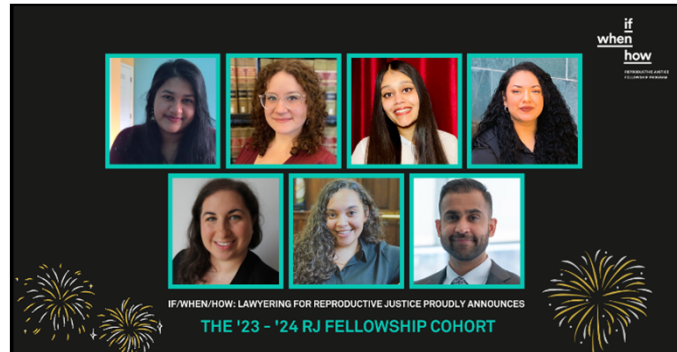
I hope to bring awareness to some of the issues people with disabilities face and ensure that state and local governments prioritize the safety and welfare of ALL residents in disaster resilience planning.

Jordan Davis /
2021 Equal Justice Works Fellow

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Example: If/When/How Reproductive Justice Fellowship Program

- 2023-2024 RJ Fellow: Cassandra Pilla
 - "Being a reproductive justice fellow is a huge honor. When I applied to law school, my goal was to become a lawyer to be a more effective reproductive justice advocate. My post-law school dream has never wavered, and I am most excited to be able to contribute to the reproductive justice movement as a new lawyer."



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Organizational Fellowships

Fellows work directly with the organization where they apply

Examples:

- ACLU
- Juvenile Justice Center Zubrow Fellowship (PA)
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- Equal Justice Initiative (AL)
- National Center on Philanthropy and the Law (NY)

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Fellowship Characteristics

	Project-Based Fellowships	Cohort Fellowships
FELLOWSHIP PROJECT		
Project Design	• Candidate with Host Organization	• Facilitating org with input from key stakeholders
Primary Grant Applicant	• Candidate & Host Organization	• Facilitating org is the prime awardee, Host Organization is a subgrantee
Project Vetting	• Facilitating Org/Alumni	• Facilitating Org
Selection of the Fellow	• Fellowship Sponsor or Facilitating Org	• Facilitating Org or Host Org competitively selected by Facilitating Org
Employer	• Host Org	• Host Org
Type of Position	• Not a staff attorney	• Can be a staff attorney
Funder	• Sponsor (private firms, corporations, individual donors)	• Public/foundation grants
Fellowship Term	• 1 or 2 year	• 1 or 2 year

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Application & Selection Timelines

	Project-Based Fellowships	Cohort Fellowships
Timing		
Applications Due/Accepted	• Approximately 1 year before	• Ad hoc (as funding is available)
Application Content	• Unique Project Plan	• Closer to standard job application
Eligibility	• Current students/recent grads; private attnys who want to transition to public sector	• Current students/recent grads; may need to be licensed
Application to Selection	• Apps due fall/early winter, interviews follow, September - March, depending on program	• Typically weeks/months

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Advising Students & Applicants

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Why apply for a fellowship?

- Project-based – design your “dream job”
- Secure a job before graduation
- Support from facilitating organization
- Support & learning with peer fellows
- On-ramp to host org if they do not hire entry level staff attorneys
- Professional development & training offered by facilitating org
- Facilitator’s connections/alumni network
- For law school alumni: transition to public interest

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What is the best fit?

- Timing (timeline chart)
- Student interest & experience
- Potential host orgs
- Geographic considerations
- Student nature/inclination/spirit (Project based – need a strong candidate with entrepreneurial spirit)?
- Program eligibility requirements & focus (GPA; interview process)

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Application & Selection Timelines

	Project-Based Fellowships	Cohort Fellowships
Application Process		
Applications Due/Accepted:	• Approximately 1 year before	• Ad hoc (as funding is available)
Application Content:	• Unique project proposal	• Closer to standard job application
Eligibility:	• Current students/recent grads; private attnys who want to transition to public sector	• Current students/recent grads; may need to be licensed
Interview:	• With facilitating org or sponsors	• With host org or facilitating org
Application to Selection:	• Apps due fall, interviews follow, September - March, depending on program	• Typically weeks/months*

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Advising Considerations: Project-Based Fellowships

- Candidates often apply going into 3L = start 2L spring!
- Proposal may parallel a business plan
- Robust project proposal PLUS standard application materials (resume, cover letter, letters of rec)
- Pre-existing relationship with proposed host?
- Can they demonstrate strong commitment + knowledge of project area + entrepreneurial inclination?
- Some: nature of sponsor involvement

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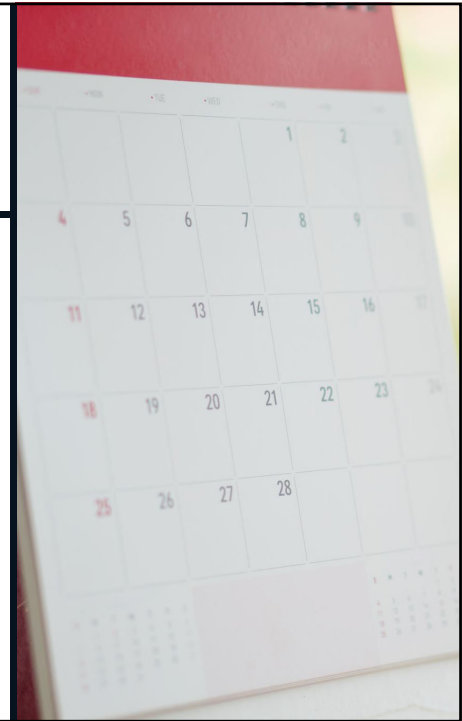
Advising Considerations: Cohort Fellowships

- Candidates often apply after graduation or in 3L with expectation of fall starts = current students & recent alumni
- Similar to standard job application
- Standard application materials (resume, cover letter, letters of rec) with some adjustments
- Pre-existing relationship with host org helps, but is not as important; connection to location/job
- Commitment to + knowledge of project area considered

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Common Tips for Programming

- Incorporate into public interest programming starting early
- Target 2Ls for Project-Based = 2L spring presentations
- Project-based: helpful to have “advisory committee” to help review; may include program alumni
- Make sure students apply for all fellowships that make sense – not just one
- 3L Fall for many organizational fellowships



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Tips for Host Organizations

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Considerations For All Fellowships

- Goal & fit
- Organizational Eligibility
- Structure – funding, sponsor involvement, external support for candidate, sustainability expectations
- Financial Commitment
- Candidate pipeline & identification
- Timeline



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Special Considerations for Project-Based Apps

- Organizational fit & buy in
- Training & supervision for unique project
- Unique sponsor involvement/connection
- Input needed to develop app
- ID candidate early

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Questions?

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