



## Post Graduate Fellowships

If you are public interest minded and would like to work in the non-profit sector after graduation, a post-graduate fellowship can be one way to fund your work. Opportunities are limited so it is important that you start your search and complete your applications early (no later than the early fall of your final year in law school). Most fellowships are for a term of one to two years. Fellows may be able to obtain employment with their host organization or in their field of interest following their fellowship.

Important resources to help you identify opportunities include The Public Service Jobs Directory, [www.psjd.org](http://www.psjd.org) a searchable database that includes post-graduate fellowship opportunities and full-time public interest job listings, Symplicity, <https://law.fiu.edu/career-planning/students-alumni-job-database/>, and the weekly Ovadia CP&P Office Blog, <http://fiulawcareer.fiu.edu/>.

To maximize your chances for success you must:

1. Become familiar with the different types of fellowships: project based, organization based, entrepreneurial, and firm sponsored.
2. Find current and former fellows on the websites for the fellowships you are interested in. Contact those who are pursuing projects related to your area of interest.

### Types of Fellowships:

**Project-Based Fellowships:** The majority of these fellowships are awarded by two non-profit organizations, Equal Justice Works and the Skadden Fellowship Foundation.

- **Equal Justice Works (EJW)** <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad> has one of the largest national public interest fellowship programs providing financial and technical support to lawyers working on innovative legal projects. EJW funds two-year fellowships that offer salary and loan repayment assistance, a national training and leadership development program, and other support. Fellows develop and launch projects with non-profit host organizations that benefit individuals or groups and/or promote issues not adequately represented.
- **Skadden Foundation Fellowship (Skadden)** <http://www.skaddenfellowships.org/> awards some 30-35 fellowships yearly to graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks. Fellows provide legal services to the working poor, elderly, homeless and disabled, as well as to those deprived of their human or civil rights. Fellowships are for two years. For those fellows not covered by a law school loan repayment assistance program, the firm will pay a fellow's law school debt for the duration of the fellowship.

**Organization Based Fellowships:** These fellowships are cover a variety of practice areas, including children's rights, civil liberties, health law and media law. Funding organizations are based throughout the country, with a concentration in New York City and Washington, D.C. Some fellowships include:

- **American Civil Liberties (ACLU)** <https://www.aclu.org/careers/> has fellowships focusing on various issues and geographic areas. Some recent examples are: Human Rights Fellowship (NYC), Brennan First Amendment (NYC), Drug Law Reform (Santa Cruz, CA), Program on Freedom and Religious Belief (Washington, DC), National Security Applied Research (NYC), Karpatkin Racial Justice (NYC), Reproductive Freedom (NYC) and Women's Rights (NYC).
- **Human Rights Watch** <http://www.hrw.org/about/fellowships> funds fellowships focusing on international human rights.

**Entrepreneurial Fellowships:** Funders of these types of fellowships include:

- **Echoing Green Foundation** <http://www.echoinggreen.org/> offers full-time fellowships to emerging social entrepreneurs. The foundation applies a venture capital approach to philanthropy by providing seed money and technical support to individuals creating innovative public interest projects that seek to catalyze positive social change in the U.S. or abroad.

**Law Firm Sponsored Fellowships:** Several private law firms sponsor fellowships which allow entry level attorneys to work primarily or exclusively on pro bono matters either at the firm or at a partnering organization, for example:

- **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP** <http://www.friedfrank.com/index.cfm?pageID=49> (Fried Frank) sponsors fellowships with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and InMotion. Fellowships give junior lawyers the chance to spend two years in the litigation department of Fried Frank's New York office and then two years at either the LDF or MALDEF, or to spend one year as a Fried Frank litigator and then one year as a staff attorney at InMotion. After satisfactory completion of the program, fellows may return to Fried Frank, with full seniority, or if there are openings, they may continue to work as staff attorneys with LDF, MALDEF, or InMotion.
- **The John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest & Constitutional Law** [http://www.gibbonslaw.com/about/index.php?view\\_page=3](http://www.gibbonslaw.com/about/index.php?view_page=3) is housed at Gibbons P.C. and provides for fellows to undertake public interest and constitutional law projects and litigation on behalf of public interest organizations, legal services or public defender offices, government agencies, private non-profit corporations, courts and individuals.

Please contact Randee Breiter in the Abraham S. Ovardia Career Planning and Placement Office at [rgbreite@fiu.edu](mailto:rgbreite@fiu.edu) or 305.348.8359 for one-on-one guidance and assistance in your fellowship search.