Heyman Federal Public Service Fellowship Program for 2020-2021
Yale Law School

Yale Law School has a longstanding commitment to public service, including service in the federal government. Through the generosity of Sam and Ronnie Heyman, the Law School created the Heyman Federal Public Service Fellowship Program in 2005. These one-year fellowships allow recent YLS graduates to work closely with high-level leaders in the U.S. federal government, often through a “special assistant” type position. Appropriate positions include high-level, substantive work with a sponsoring agency, office or committee. The goal of the fellowship is to inspire a new generation to serve by allowing YLS alumni to explore careers in public service and to bring creative, entrepreneurial ideas to the federal government.

The recipients and host organizations of the Heyman Fellowship for 2019-2020 are:

Dylan Kolhoff ’19 – U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Washington, DC
Chris Looney ’19 – U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Deputy General Counsel, Washington, DC
Charlotte Schwartz ’19 – U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Office of Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Washington, DC
Alex Wang ’19 – U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, Washington, DC

The 2020-2021 Application

Generally, two to three Heyman Fellowships are awarded each year for fellows to work in the executive branch or the legislative branch of the United States federal government. Judicial clerkships, entry-level positions, and work for political campaigns are not eligible. Fellows for 2020-2021 will receive a stipend of $47,500 and, if needed, up to $5,000 to purchase medical insurance.

Heyman applicants are required to meet with the Public Interest Director, Norma D’Apolito, to discuss the scope and details of their fellowship proposals in advance of the submission to allow for revisions. If you have any questions about the Heyman Fellowship, contact her at norma.dapolito@yale.edu or (203) 436-2580, or you can set up a time to meet here.

The Law School has adopted a common application for all YLS fellowships, including Heyman. The common application for the upcoming year will open on the afternoon of January 6, 2020 and has a deadline of February 3, 2020. Click here to access the online application. Click here for sample instructions on using the online system.

All applications will require the following information:

1. Personal statement (500 words maximum) describing the applicant’s experiences with and commitment to public interest, public service, or a specific
area of law and the ways in which the fellowship will help achieve the applicant’s career aspirations.

2. **Concise summary** (1 paragraph) of the proposal that includes the place in which the applicant will work and the goals of the project the applicant will undertake.

3. **Proposal** (1500 words maximum)

   Depending on the office for which you are applying, you may seek funding for either a staff position or a specific project.

   **Staff positions:** The proposal should address: 1) nature of the fellowship position and the organization that will host the fellow; 2) type of work the applicant expects to do in the fellowship position, including any particular project the applicant intends to carry out; and 3) a discussion of any relevant background information – legal, historical, factual – necessary to understanding the need for and the goals of the fellowship position, as well as any challenges that you anticipate.

   **Project proposal:** The proposal should address: 1) the problem or need that the project seeks to address; 2) the project's specific goals and how the applicant will meet those goals within the one-year fellowship period (a proposed timetable should be included); 3) a discussion of any relevant background information – legal, historical, factual – necessary to understanding the need for and the goals of your project, as well as any challenges that you anticipate.

   Please note that the proposal, whether for a project or a staff position, should not be an essay akin to a substantial or supervised analytic writing, nor is mastery of the area of law expected. Rather, the goal is to explain how you hope to use or change the relevant law or otherwise contribute to the workings of the government and the well-being of its citizens.

4. **Statement of other fellowships or public interest positions** to which the applicant has applied or plans to apply and, if none, an explanation (for example, a gap year, unusual geographic or project-specific need, and so on). Applying for external funding is not a requirement for receiving a YLS-funded fellowship, but is strongly encouraged, absent extenuating circumstances.

5. **A resume.**

6. **Official YLS Transcript.**

7. **Two letters of recommendation:** One from YLS faculty and one from a supervisor or employer.

8. **RECOMMENDED:** An additional letter of recommendation from YLS faculty.
9. **List of people, including current or former fellows, whom the applicant consulted.** The purpose of some of the fellowships is to connect you to a field and to learn from people close to it. We, therefore, expect that before you craft a proposal, you have talked to some of those working in the area. Alternatively, we can provide a list of current and former fellows and their fields so that you may consult with them. We recommend that you discuss the project with 2-4 former fellows or people in the field, whether on the list we provide or not, who can help you think through it. Click [here](#) to view a list of recent recipients.

10. **Host letter,** detailing: 1) organization's purpose and function; 2) a description of how the fellow’s proposed work fits with the host organization’s activities; 3) a description of the supervision the fellow will receive, including identification of the fellow's immediate supervisor; 4) the resources that will be provided to support the project (e.g., office space, computer, malpractice and/or other insurance, if needed); and 5) a statement addressing the potential for the organization to retain the fellow as a full-time member of the organization’s staff beyond the fellowship year. NOTE: Post-fellowship retention is not a requirement.

Samples of successful Heyman fellowship applications can be found in CDO’s Fellowship Guide Vol. II [here](#).

**Special Requirement**

Some government agencies may require the University to enter into an IPA agreement, whereby the University employees the fellow directly and the fellow is seconded to the government. These IPA agreements are sometime difficult to arrange and can interfere with the agency’s ability to accept the fellow. The Department of Defense is one agency that requires an IPA. If you plan to submit a fellowship application for such a placement, you should first consult with Norma D’Apolito, to discuss the IPA process.