

**MARY A. MCCARTHY MEMORIAL FUND  
SHORT-TERM POSTGRADUATE  
PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Mary provided students with an example of a totally committed and unconflicted advocate. She taught her students to take their clients seriously, to listen respectfully to each client's goals for the representation, and to do everything humanly possible to achieve those goals.**

*Miriam Berkman, former associate clinical professor, Yale Law School*

Mary Abigail McCarthy was a creative and dedicated public interest lawyer. She was a member of the clinical faculty at Yale Law School from 1982 until her death in 1990 at the age of 41. The Mary A. McCarthy Memorial Fund was established by Mary's family and friends to honor her commitment to the legal representation of powerless people. The fund seeks to continue Mary's work by providing financial support to law students who are equally committed to working in the public interest and who demonstrate the special respect and zeal for clients that characterized Mary's professional career.

## **ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

The Mary A. McCarthy Memorial Fund annually awards one to three grants to recent YLS graduates who wish to engage in unpaid public interest legal work for a limited period of time immediately following graduation. Currently enrolled students who will be graduating in December 2022 or June 2023 are eligible to apply.

Applicants may do work that is equivalent to that of a staff attorney in a public interest law office or undertake a public interest project of their own design. Emphasis will be given to work in the areas of practice that especially interested Mary, specifically mediation and the rights of women, immigrants, prisoners, and criminal defendants. In keeping with the conviction, held by those who knew Mary, that her interests would have continued to expand, applications for other projects will also be welcomed. While the committee will consider all generally appropriate applications, it will favor those emphasizing legal work in direct client service settings and those that impact underserved communities in the United States.

Fellowship stipends vary, depending on the length of the projects as well as the number and relative suitability of the proposals received. However, most often, awards are based roughly on \$3,000 a month, with a maximum award of \$18,000 for 6 months of work. Applications for less than two months of employment will not be accepted, except under unusual circumstances. This is a limited fund and applicants are not guaranteed an award.

### **Yale Non-Discrimination Policy and Your Host Organization**

Your fellowship host organization must certify compliance with Yale Law School's Non-Discrimination Policy. For instructions on confirming organization compliance, please click [here](#).

**In a world that is far from perfect, where social and economic injustices are widely accepted, Mary served as a model for those who believe lawyers can help build a more just society. While her death reminds us of our own vulnerabilities, her life was a stunning example of how those could be transcended.**

*Theodore Hsien Wang '90, San Francisco Lawyers Committee for Urban Affairs*

## **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

To apply for a Mary A. McCarthy Memorial short-term postgraduate fellowship, please submit the following:

1. A personal statement describing your experiences with and commitment to public interest and your aspirations for future work as well as the ways in which the proposed fellowship fits with those goals;
2. The name and a brief description of the organization where you will be working;
3. The duration of the fellowship;
4. A narrative description of the staff work or proposed project you will be doing, including an explanation of the community need that the fellowship is intended to serve;
5. A brief letter or email from the host organization discussing the staff work or proposed project and its importance as well as the professional supervision available to the applicant, including the name and contact information of the supervisor;
6. A resume and unofficial transcript;
7. Applicants should indicate if they expect to have any other source of income during this period and whether they have accepted an offer of permanent employment.

Applications are typically one to two pages in length. Please submit these materials by email to [norma.dapolito@yale.edu](mailto:norma.dapolito@yale.edu) with "Mary A. McCarthy Memorial Fund" in the subject line of the email. ***Applications for those graduating in December 2022 will be accepted and acted upon on a rolling basis starting October 17, 2022, for as long as funds last. Similarly, applications for those graduating in June 2023 will be accepted and acted upon on a rolling basis beginning March 17, 2023, until funds are depleted.*** Questions may be directed to Norma D'Apolito.