

**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 2023 or June 2024 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 complete this [form](#).

Applications for those graduating in December 2023 will be accepted and acted upon on a rolling basis starting October 23, 2023, for as long as funds last. Similarly, applications for those graduating in June 2024 will be accepted and acted upon on a rolling basis beginning March 18, 2024, until funds are depleted. Questions may be directed to [Norma D'Apolito](#).