

## Post Public Interest Fellowship Employment Report Fellowships Conducted 2006-2011 March 2014

The Career Development Office surveyed the 99 graduates from the Classes of 2006-2011 who completed a public interest fellowship to learn about their fellowship experiences and their post-fellowship employment choices. CDO received survey responses from 86% of the 99 graduates. Through independent research, CDO verified first post-fellowship and current employment from the remaining graduates who did not respond to the survey.

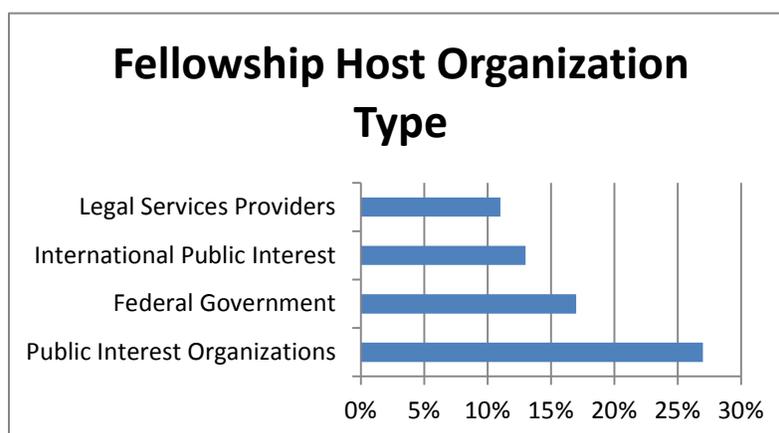
The 99 graduates surveyed obtained a total of 104 fellowships. Of the 99 YLS graduates, 62% are women and 38% are men, which is a common trend in the public interest. <sup>1</sup>

### Fellowship Timing and Types

The most common fellowships obtained by these graduates were the Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellowship (25%), the Yale Public Interest Fellowship (19%), the Robina Foundation Post-Graduate Fellowship in International Human Rights (11%), the Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights (10%), and the Skadden Fellowship (6%). The popularity of the Yale Law School fellowships demonstrates that these fellowships provide essential support to YLS graduates pursuing public interest careers.

Nearly three quarter (73%) of fellows began their fellowships in the year they graduated. 14% served as fellows 1 year after graduation and 6% served as fellows two years after graduation, 6% served as fellows three years after graduation with the remaining 1% serving four years out.

The most popular types of fellowship host organizations were domestic public interest organizations (27%), the federal government (17%), international public interest organizations (13%) and legal services providers (11%).



<sup>1</sup> See *After the JD II: Second Results from a National Study of Legal Careers*, 62, NALP Foundation, 2009 and Dilks, Katie, "Why Is Nobody Talking about Gender Diversity in Public Interest Law?" *NALP Bulletin*, June 2010.

## Fellowship Locations

The majority of fellows (81%) completed their fellowships in the United States. More than half of fellowship recipients completed their fellowships on the East coast. Fellows also choose Southern states (13%) with New Orleans, LA as the most popular site.

Fellowship Locations	
Washington DC	29%
New York	24%
International	19%
Louisiana	6%
California	5%
Other (AL, AZ, CT, GA, IL, MA, MI, MO MS, NC, PA, TX, WA)	17%

## Fellowship Job Satisfaction

The vast majority of fellows (93%) indicated that they would recommend their placements to future fellows.

Fellows who indicated that they would NOT recommend their placements provided the following reasons:

- They did not do the type of work they expected (litigation vs. policy)
- There was a lack of oversight
- Staff changes made it difficult to predict the experience for future fellows
- Their unique and/or specialized project would make it difficult to replicate their particular experience.

Fellows are keen to share their knowledge. As their comments indicate, many would be happy to answer any questions from prospective applicants.

## First Post-Fellowship Employment

About a third of all fellows (34%) accepted employment with their fellowship host organizations upon completion of their fellowships. Judicial clerkships were the next most popular employment choice followed by other public interest work, law firm practice, academia and business.

Of those who served as judicial clerks upon completion of their fellowships, 47% followed their first clerkship with a second one, 33% commenced work at a law firm, and the remainder entered academia or public interest.

## Gender Breakdown

Post Fellowship Employer	Total	Women	Men
Fellowship Host Organization	34%	62%	38%
Judicial Clerkship	25%	72%	28%
Law Firm	13%	62%	38%
Other Public Interest Organization (not host organization)	15%	54%	46%
Academia	6%	50%	50%
Other Government (not host)	5%	50%	50%
Business	2%	50%	50%

71 % of those who secured employment with their fellowship host are still working for the same organization.

## Conclusions

- Fellows who begin in public interest tend to stay in the public interest
- Post-graduate public interest fellowships provide an invaluable way for applicants to obtain permanent positions in fields that are historically difficult to enter. Additionally, fellows gain practical knowledge they take with them regardless of their ultimate career goals.
- Only a quarter of individuals who go to a firm after their fellowship remain there.

There is a higher incidence of longevity when fellows are hired by their host organization.