The David Nierenberg ’78 International Refugee Assistance Project Fellowship

The Nierenberg International Refugee Assistance Project Fellowship was established in 2018 by David Nierenberg, Yale Law School ’78, and his wife, Patricia. Their support for the fellowship originates from their strong family interest to help displaced persons, honor ancestry, and serve as a reminder to our nation about the sanctity of human rights.

Description

The International Refugee Assistance Project (“IRAP”) organizes law students and lawyers to develop and enforce a set of legal and human rights for refugees and displaced persons. Mobilizing direct legal aid, litigation, and systemic advocacy, IRAP serves the world’s most persecuted individuals and empowers the next generation of human rights leaders.

This fellowship funds a one-year position, beginning in September 2019, in either IRAP’s Legal Department or Litigation Department. Fellowship applicants must indicate which Department (Legal or Litigation; not both) they seek to join as a fellow. The Department selected by an applicant has no bearing on the likelihood of receiving the fellowship.

IRAP’s Legal Department directly represents the most vulnerable refugees and persecuted individuals in their applications to reach permanent safety, including: survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, interpreters and other U.S. allies targeted by local extremists, LGBTI individuals, persecuted religious minorities, and children with medical emergencies. More information about the Legal Department’s work is available here.

IRAP’s Litigation Department has been at the forefront of challenging government policies that harm refugees and other vulnerable populations, including through challenges to the President’s Executive Orders banning immigration from certain Muslim-majority countries, policies suspending certain refugee processing, and mass denial of refugee status to Iranian religious minorities. More information about the Litigation Department’s work is available here.

Eligibility

Graduates of any ABA accredited law school are eligible to apply. The fellowship is open to current 3Ls and attorneys who have graduated within the last three years. Applicants must be a member of any bar or eligible to sit for the bar prior to the start of the fellowship.

Pay and Other Benefits

The stipend for this position is $47,500 for the year. Benefits will be provided.

Application Instructions

Applications will be accepted from January 4, 2019 through February 19, 2019. Interested candidates should complete the online application available here with the following information:

1) Name, email, law school, degree, and year of graduation or expected year of graduation.

2) A personal statement of interest no longer than 1,000 words:
(a) describing the applicant’s experiences with and commitment to working on behalf of refugees and displaced people;

(b) explaining why the applicant wishes to work at IRAP specifically;

(c) identifying the IRAP department (Legal or Litigation) that the applicant seeks to join as a fellow and explaining the applicant’s choice, including—for those selecting the Litigation Department—any prior experiences with civil litigation; and

(d) describing how the fellowship would help to achieve the applicant’s long-term goals.

3) Up to three letters of recommendation, preferably including at least one from a legal employer or supervisor, and one from a clinical or academic professor.

4) An unofficial transcript.

5) A resume.

6) A writing sample of no more than 10 pages.

**Questions**

For further information, please contact Norma D’Apolito, Director of Public Interest, at norma.dapolito@yale.edu or (203) 436-2580.

Decisions are expected by mid-March 2019.

Updated 1/28/19