THE MARY A. MCCARTHY PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP
AT YALE LAW SCHOOL

Yale Law School is pleased to announce a one-time direct services-based Mary A. McCarthy Public Interest Law Fellowship for 2019-2020 open to graduating law students and recent graduates (last three years) from an accredited U.S. law school. The goal of the fellowship is to encourage and support new lawyers seeking to work in the public interest providing direct legal services. The fellowship provides a one-year stipend of $47,500 and a health-care contribution of up to $5,000 in situations where health care benefits are not provided by the host organization. Fellows are expected to begin in the summer or fall of 2019.

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. 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.

The fellowship is intended to support projects serving the underrepresented and disadvantaged and is open to proposals in a wide range of substantive areas of law. Proposals will be accepted for a direct services legal project: a) designed by the applicant in partnership with a sponsoring organization; b) to work on an existing project with a host organization; or c) to work as a staff attorney at a public interest organization.

Interested applicants should directly submit the following materials by March 18, 2019 to ylsipfellowships@yale.edu.

1) a concise one paragraph summary of the proposed project;
2) a personal statement of interest no longer than 500 words, describing the applicant’s experiences with and commitment to public interest and the ways in which the fellowship would help achieve the applicant’s long-term goals;
3) a detailed project proposal of no more than 1,500 words, describing the need for the proposed project, its potential impact, and the capacity of both the applicant and the sponsoring organization to implement the proposal in the fellowship year;
4) a letter of support from the host organization, detailing the organization's purpose, a description of how the applicant’s proposed work fits with the host organization’s work, and a description of the supervision the applicant will receive;
5) 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;
6) an unofficial transcript; and
7) a resume.

Yale Law School students who previously submitted proposals through the YLS common application process will be considered for this fellowship and need not reapply. Decisions are expected by the end of March.