Yale Law School has a longstanding commitment to public service, including service in the federal government. Through the generosity of Sam and Ronnie Heyman, the Law School created the Heyman Federal Public Service Fellowship Program in 2005. These one-year fellowships allow recent YLS graduates to work closely with high-level leaders in the U.S. federal government, either through an existing position or through a “special assistant” type position as well as work. Appropriate positions include high-level, substantive work with a sponsoring office, agency, or commission. The goal of the fellowship is to inspire a new generation to serve by allowing YLS alumni to explore careers in public service and to bring creative, entrepreneurial ideas to the federal government.

The 2019-2020 Application

Generally, two to three Heyman Fellowships are awarded each year for fellows to work in the executive or the legislative branch of the United States federal government. Judicial clerkships, entry-level positions, and work for political campaigns are not eligible. Fellows for 2019-2020 will receive approximately $47,500 (in lieu of compensation) and health benefits equivalent to those received by Yale University employees.

The Law School has adopted a common application for the 2019-2020 fellowship cycle. The common application will open on the afternoon of January 4, 2019 and has a deadline of January 31, 2019. Click here to access the online application system. Click here for instructions on using the online system.

Heyman applicants are required to meet with Norma D’Apolito to discuss the scope and details of their fellowship proposals in advance of the submission to allow for revisions. If you have any questions about the Heyman Fellowship, contact Norma D’Apolito, Director of Public Interest, at norma.dapolito@yale.edu or (203) 436-2580 or Michael Werner, CDO Public Interest Fellow at michael.werner@yale.edu or (203) 432-0073.

Applications should include:

1. **Personal statement** (500 words maximum) describing the applicant’s experiences with and commitment to public interest, public service, and/or human rights, aspirations for future work, and the ways in which the fellowship will help achieve the applicant’s aspirations.

2. **Concise summary** (1 paragraph) of the proposal that includes the place in which the applicant will work and the goals of the project the applicant will undertake.

3. **Proposal** (1500 words maximum)

   **Project proposal**: (a) to pursue a project designed by the applicant in partnership with a sponsoring organization; or (b) to work on an existing project with a host organization. The proposal should address: 1) the problem or need that the project seeks to address; 2) the project's specific goals and how the applicant will meet those goals within the one-year fellowship period (a proposed timetable should be included); 3) a discussion of any relevant background information – legal, historical, factual – necessary to understanding the need for and the goals of your project, as well as any challenges that you anticipate.
Staff positions: The proposal should address: 1) nature of the fellowship position and the organization that will host the fellow; 2) type of work the applicant expects to do in the fellowship position, including any particular project the applicant intends to carry out; and 3) a discussion of any relevant background information – legal, historical, factual – necessary to understanding the need for and the goals of the fellowship position, as well as any challenges that you anticipate.

a) Depending on the fellowship or fellowships for which you are applying, you may seek funding for either a specific project or a staff position. You should consult the individual fellowship descriptions for further information.

b) For Liman, the project description must reflect how the project would engage with the relevant legal regime and may include an additional 1500 words, for a total of up to 3,000 words in the project description (including footnotes).

c) Please note that the proposal, whether for a project or a staff position, should not be an essay akin to a substantial or supervised analytic writing, nor is mastery of the area of law expected. Rather, the goal is to explain how you hope to use or change the relevant law or otherwise contribute to the human rights or well-being of others. We ask that you provide sufficient legal, historical, and factual context for us to understand the need you seek to address, the nature of the work you propose, and the impact you intend that work to have.

4. Statement of other fellowships or public interest positions to which to applicant has applied or plans to apply and, if none, an explanation (for example, a gap year, unusual geographic or project-specific need, and so on). Applying for external funding is not a requirement for receiving a YLS-funded fellowship, but is strongly encouraged, absent extenuating circumstances.

5. A resume.

6. Official YLS Transcript.

7. Two letters of recommendation: One from YLS faculty and one from a supervisor or employer.

8. RECOMMENDED: An additional letter of recommendation from YLS faculty.

9. List of people, including current or former fellows, whom the applicant consulted. The purpose of some of the fellowships is to connect you to a field and to learn from people close to it. We therefore expect that before you craft a proposal, you have talked to some of those working in the arena. We will provide a list of current and former fellows and their fields so that you may consult with them. We recommend that you discuss the project with 2-4 people in the field, whether on the list we provide or not, who can help you think through it.

10. Host letter, detailing: 1) organization's purpose and function; 2) a description of how the fellow’s proposed work fits with the host organization’s activities; 3) a description of the supervision the fellow will receive, including identification of the fellow’s immediate supervisor; 4) the resources that will be provided to support the project (e.g., office space, computer, malpractice and/or other insurance, if needed); and 5) a statement addressing the potential for the organization to retain the fellow as a full-time member of the organization’s staff beyond the fellowship year. NOTE: Post-fellowship retention is not a requirement.
Special Requirements:
Proposals to work in the executive branch of the United States may be subject to additional requirements. If you plan to submit a fellowship application for an executive branch placement, you must first consult with a program administrator about the special requirements that may apply.

PLEASE NOTE: The Department of Defense may have additional requirements that make it difficult for them to accommodate Heyman Fellows. If you are considering applying for a fellowship with a sponsor in the Department of Defense, please contact Norma D’Apolito to discuss your plans.