

Justice John Paul Stevens Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program

(Application Can Just Be Submitted Electronically Along with an Official Electronic Transcript)

The Justice John Paul Stevens Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program (“Stevens Fellowship”) provides a grant of \$8,000 each to two students at Yale Law School who have secured unpaid public interest legal positions during the summer. These two Stevens Fellowships are awarded to help defray living expenses of deserving and committed students working in the public interest, as well as to provide much-needed legal assistance to public interest organizations.

Yale Law School joins a number of other law schools with Stevens Fellowships. The Fellowship seeks to honor Justice Stevens by promoting public interest and social justice values that characterized Justice Stevens’ work throughout his career. The Stevens Fellowship has been funded primarily through private contributions from former law clerks to Justice Stevens.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students seeking a Justice Stevens Summer Public Interest Fellowship must complete the Stevens Fellowship application and submit it electronically along with an official electronic transcript. You do not have to be eligible for SPIF funds in order to apply for a Stevens Fellowship.

Application Deadline: Your complete application should be sent electronically to **Professor Nancy Marder ’87** (nmarder@kentlaw.iit.edu) with a “cc” to **Christine Nolan** (christine.nolan@yale.edu) and **Jackie Outlaw** (jacqueline.outlaw@yale.edu) by **12 p.m. (EST) on Thursday, April 1, 2021**. There are no exceptions to this deadline. Your complete application only needs to be submitted electronically (to nmarder@kentlaw.iit.edu; christine.nolan@yale.edu; jacqueline.outlaw@yale.edu).

Complete applications must include:

- Application Form** – see page 5.
- Personal Statement** – see page 6.
- Resume**
- Official electronic transcript** – you can order an official electronic transcript through the YLS transcript ordering site at no cost.
- Certification with signature** – see page 7. Your signature can be handwritten or typed.

REQUIREMENTS & ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must secure a public interest position.

- a. Public interest organizations may include government agencies, legal services, advocacy groups, and policy reform organizations.
- b. Contact the Office of Financial Aid, or the Career Development Office for additional resources on Summer Public Interest positions and Past Fellowship organizations. Past Stevens Fellowship positions (from all participating law schools) are included on page 4.
- c. **If you have yet to secure an offer, but you are in the application process and have had an interview, you may still apply.** However, confirmation of a job offer must be provided before a Stevens Fellowship is awarded.

2. The public interest position must be unpaid.

- a. The Stevens Fellowship is designed to aid students who are working without pay.
- b. The Stevens Fellowship is **not** available for students receiving school credit for their work.

3. Applicants should commit to working 40 hours per week for a minimum of 8 weeks (full time) at their public interest internship.

- a. Fellowship recipients must sign (though your signature can be typed) an Agreement Letter, stating the number of hours to which they have committed and the number of weeks.
- b. The Fellowship Advisory Committee reserves the right to contact the employer to confirm this commitment.

4. Factors the Fellowship Advisory Committee Considers in Awarding Stevens Fellowships:

- a. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to public interest and social justice. Commitment is shown by:
 - i. Involvement in volunteer work at Yale Law School; and/or
 - ii. Public service volunteering outside of Yale Law School
- b. Other factors the Committee will consider include:
 - i. Nature of the proposed summer position;
 - ii. The impact of your work on the community;
 - iii. Your commitment and intentions as demonstrated in the personal statement.
- c. Academic achievement

EVALUATION PROCESS

The Fellowship Advisory Committee will be chaired by Professor Marder and may include an external reviewer and two internal reviewers (typically faculty members). The Fellowship Advisory Committee will review applications based on the stated requirements. Announcements will be made *approximately* two - three weeks after the application deadline.

AWARDING OF FELLOWSHIPS

Stevens Fellowship Recipients will receive a paper check for the full amount of their Stevens Fellowship, which should be issued by May. Recipients **MUST** complete a W-9 tax form before the end of the spring semester. Upon notification of having received a grant, the school will provide each Fellowship recipient with all the necessary tax forms. All such forms must be completed *before* Yale Law School can issue the fellowship award.

Each of the two Stevens Fellowship recipients must sign an Agreement Letter, stating where he or she will work, the number of hours he or she will work, and the number of weeks. A copy of the Agreement Letter must be forwarded to Professor Marder. The Fellowship Advisory Committee may also follow up with the public interest organization asking how the Fellow's work made a difference in the communities served by the organization.

At the end of the summer, Fellowship recipients must write a brief description of their summer, including information about the type of work performed and the ways in which it helped the organization. The description must be emailed to Professor Marder at the beginning of the fall semester. This description may be shared with the Justice Stevens Foundation and might also be used for future Stevens Fellowship promotion, including promotion of Stevens Fellowships the following year.

Examples of Past Stevens Fellowship Placements
(from Yale Law School and other schools)

Location	Organization
New York, New York	American Civil Liberties Union Reproductive Freedom Project
Washington, D.C.	Office of the Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission
New York, New York	Federal Defenders of New York, Southern District
San Francisco, California	Electronic Frontier Foundation
New York, New York	Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS)
Washington, D.C.	Amnesty International
Providence, Rhode Island	Rhode Island Office of the Public Defender (Appellate Division)
San Luis Obispo, California	California Rural Legal Assistance
Chicago, Illinois	Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.
Washington, D.C.	Children's Defense Fund
Seattle, Washington	Defender Association
San Francisco, California	American Civil Liberties Union Immigrants' Rights Project
Washington, D.C.	Department of Justice
Mexican Hat, Utah	DNA—People's Legal Services
Oakland, California	East Bay Community Law Center
Chicago, Illinois	Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities
New York, New York	Legal Aid Society
Sacramento, California	National Organization for Women
Atlanta, Georgia	Southern Center for Human Rights

**STEVENS SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
APPLICATION FORM**

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Current Address: _____

Current Phone: _____

Summer Address (if different): _____

Summer Phone: _____

Dates at Summer Address: _____

Sponsoring Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor
(name/title): _____

Phone: _____

Employment Dates: _____

Approx. hours work per week: _____

List any other fellowships, scholarships, and financial aid, or pay you may receive this summer (and the date of notification of those awards).

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

The Personal Statement allows you to inform the Fellowship Advisory Committee of your commitment to public interest work and social justice. It is an important part of the application, should not exceed approximately one single-spaced page, and must address the following topics in the order requested.

- I. Select an example of public interest work that you have done in the past and explain what made it meaningful to you.
- II. What attracts you to public interest work?
- III. Why are you interested in obtaining a summer position in public interest law? Please explain your goals.
- IV. What sort of impact do you think your summer position will make on the community?
- V. Please provide any other information you think the Committee would find useful.

**Stevens Summer Fellowship Program
CERTIFICATION**

My signature below (handwritten or typed) indicates that everything I have included in my Stevens Fellowship Application is true to the best of my knowledge. If at any time any information in this Stevens Fellowship Application changes, including but not limited to the number of hours I will work, I will immediately e-mail or otherwise contact Professor Marder.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____