



CENTER ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Harvard Law School

Student Fellowship Program

Call for Inaugural Student Fellows
2021-2022

The Center on the Legal Profession Student Fellowship Program is a one-year program designed for Harvard Law School students interested in learning more about the structures, norms, and dynamics of the global legal profession. As a Student Fellow, you will conduct original, empirical research on the legal profession, produce scholarly pieces and “short form” thought leadership (writing, blogs, podcasts, ect.) and receive in-depth mentorship from a dynamic community of researchers and practitioners exploring issues ranging from legal careers to diversity and inclusion to globalization to legal education to innovation.

Our Student Fellowship Program includes three main components: (1) an independent, empirical research paper project on the legal profession with the goal of publication in a scholarly journal and/or the Center’s digital magazine, *The Practice*; (2) “short form” thought leadership pieces for the Center’s various publications on a range of topics; and (3) being an active member of our vibrant intellectual community, including mentorship and privileged access to Center workshops, conferences, and other events. We encourage applicants to learn more about the Center on its website (CLP.law.harvard.edu) and via its digital magazine, *The Practice* (thepractice.law.harvard.edu). All HLS students receive complimentary access to publication (see attached to claim your subscription). The Student Fellowship Program, launched this academic year, builds off of (and replaces) the Center’s Empirical Research and Public Interest Research Grant programs. You can read about some of the project’s students have previously conducted as part of those programs [here](#) and [here](#).

Eligibility

The student fellowship program is open to enrolled Harvard law students, including JDs, LLMs, and SJDs. Students enrolled in the JD program are not eligible for the formal fellowship program during their 1L year, however we encourage them to reach out as there may be other ways to get involved (e.g., as a research assistant. While the program is targeted primarily to HLS students, the Center will consider enrolled Harvard graduate students on a case-by-case basis.

Duration

Student fellowships are for one academic year, typically September through May. However, we are open to alternative arrangements (e.g., starting in the Spring and running through the following Fall). We are also open to projects that might require more than one year, and are happy to discuss this with prospective fellows.

Responsibilities

Student fellows will have the following responsibilities:

Original Empirical Research Paper Project. Student fellows will conduct independent, empirical research on a topic of interest relating to the legal profession with the ultimate goal being a paper of publishable quality. There are no set requirements for the topic other than it focuses on the structures, norms, and dynamics of the global legal profession. At the start of the fellowship in the Fall, Student Fellows will meet with the Center to discuss project ideas and agree on schedule of completion. Generally speaking, research will be conducted over the course of the academic year with the expectation of a publishable draft by the end of the Spring semester. Student Fellows are expected to present their research during a lunch workshop during the Spring semester. The Center will advise Student Fellows on possible publication options, including in *The Practice*.

Note: Papers written in connection with the fellowship can be used to satisfy HLS's 3L written work requirement, LLM papers, or other optional writing credit by prior arrangement with and final approval of a faculty advisor who has agreed to supervise such writing. However, as noted below, papers that receive credit are not eligible for a fellowship stipend. You may be eligible, however, for reimbursable research support.

“Short Form” Thought Leadership. Student Fellows will be expected to contribute short form pieces on the legal profession to the Center's digital publication, *The Practice*, and other communication mediums (e.g. blog posts, social media). Topics will be a collaboration between Student Fellows and the Center and will cover a wide range of topics on the profession. The pieces will vary in length, but will typically be no more than 1,000 words. There may also be opportunities for non-written, multimedia contributions (e.g., videos, podcasts). Student Fellows will be responsible for producing short form thought leadership—of whatever format—throughout the fellowship. We will work with fellows to determine a convenient schedule at the start of the fellowship.

Workshops, Conferences, and Events. Student Fellows have privileged access to Center workshops, reading groups, and other events, with the expectation that you attend as many as feasible. For instance, the Center regularly hosts reading groups around our institutional research projects where academics from around the world present papers. The Center also hosts a Student Speaker's Series throughout the year in which we invite senior lawyers and other thought leaders (e.g., law firm managing partners, general counsel, academics) to offer their perspectives on the profession. These often include small lunches, and we ask that Student Fellows join us when possible. Finally, Student Fellows will be invited to larger public events that the Center hosts throughout the year, with the expectation that they report on such events for our various publications and social media platforms.

Resources

In addition to direct mentorship from the Center and its affiliates and a formal designation (e.g., on our website; for your CV), Student Fellows will be awarded a \$1,500 stipend at the end of the program once all requirements are met (including the research paper project). Please note, HLS *does not* allow students to receive both academic credit and a stipend for research papers. In such cases,

Student Fellows must choose *either* academic credit *or* the stipend. Should a Student Fellow elect to receive academic credit for their research paper, the stipend will be reduced 50%, applicable only to the other responsibilities pertaining to the student fellowship. It is permissible for Student Fellows receiving credit for a research paper to request reasonable, reimbursable research costs associated with their projects (e.g. interview costs). All decisions will be made in consultation with the Center.

To Apply

- Your curriculum vitae
- A written statement of approximately 1,000-1,200 words that includes:
 - A proposal describing the research project that you intend to pursue during the Student Fellowship. This is not intended to be final and is simply meant to be a first step in your thinking about your research project.
 - A statement on what interests you most about the legal profession, and how the Center's mission and a CLP Student Fellowship correspond with and further your own professional goals
- Again, we encourage applicants to look at the Center's website as well as our digital publication, *The Practice* (which is available to all Harvard affiliates free of charge) to learn more about our work.

Please submit all applications to Bryon Fong (bfong@law.harvard.edu) by October 15, 2021. We are happy to answer any questions in advance of a formal application.