



CENTER ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Harvard Law School

Student Fellowship Program

Call for CLP Student Fellows (2026-2027)

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis

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 writing or multimedia (essays, blogs, podcasts, videos, etc.), 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) producing an independent, empirical research project on the legal profession with the goal of publication in a scholarly journal and/or the Center's digital magazine, *The Practice* or CLP's Insights blog; (2) creating short form written or video pieces and blog posts for the Center's various publications on a range of topics; and (3) acting as 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](https://clp.law.harvard.edu)) and via its digital magazine, *The Practice* (<https://clp.law.harvard.edu/knowledge-hub/magazine/>).

Eligibility

The student fellowship program is open to enrolled Harvard law students, including JDs, LL.Ms, and SJDs. Students enrolled in the JD program are not eligible for the formal fellowship program during their first semester as a 1L, but they may apply in their second semester. While the program is targeted primarily at HLS students, the Center will consider enrolled Harvard graduate students on a case-by-case basis. Unfortunately we cannot offer fellowships to students outside of Harvard University.

Duration

Student fellowships are for one academic year (2025-2026). However, we are open to alternative arrangements. 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 Project. Student fellows will conduct independent, empirical research on a topic of interest relating to the legal profession with the ultimate goal of producing a paper of publishable quality *or* four substantive blog posts (1500 words each) outlining the research, methodology, and findings. There are no set requirements for the topic other than it focuses on the structures, norms, and dynamics of the global legal profession. 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 on an ongoing basis through the academic year.

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 Writing. Student Fellows will be expected to contribute short pieces on the legal profession to the Center's digital publication, *The Practice*, and other communication mediums (e.g. [insights on CLP's website](#)). 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 500- 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 work—of whatever format—throughout the fellowship. We will work with fellows to determine a convenient schedule at the start of the fellowship. At a minimum, fellows can expect to contribute ~two pieces per semester. (For those interested and not doing the fellowship for credit, student fellows will have the option to produce more short form writing in lieu of a research paper.)

Workshops, Conferences, and Events. Student Fellows will be expected to join a monthly workshop (with lunch provided) with CLP staff and other fellows to share progress, brainstorm ideas, and provide peer guidance. Student Fellows will also have privileged access to Center workshops, reading groups, and other events, with the expectation that you attend when 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 or contribute by working with VIP panelists.

Mentorship. As is relevant to their project, members of the CLP network will provide substantive guidance on fellowship projects. Fellows will have the opportunity to provide guidance on what kind of mentorship will be most helpful for their project.

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. This stipend can be used to support research costs, such as transcription, materials, or any other item that may be required. 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 on a case-by-case basis.

To Apply

- Your curriculum vitae
- A written statement of approximately 500-1,000 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* to learn more about our work.

Please submit all applications to Dana Walters (dwalters@law.harvard.edu). Applications for the 2025-2026 academic year will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout spring and summer 2026. We are happy to answer any questions in advance of a formal application.