

Stanford Law School Postgraduate Public Interest Fellowships 2024-2025 Fellowship Application Procedure

Stanford Law School (SLS) offers postgraduate Public Interest Fellowships which enable 16 recipients to each work full-time for a year in a law-related endeavor designed to further the public interest. These include both general postgraduate SLS fellowships on any public interest issue and those targeting specific substantive areas (e.g., international, criminal defense, criminal justice, environmental law, education law, or youth law). There are slightly different eligibility requirements for each program, but there will be one joint application. Semi-finalists will be interviewed in early March, with interview slots available on Saturday, March 2 as well as some weekday afternoons (between 4-6 pm PST) during the week of March 4.

If feasible, hosting entities are asked to contribute toward the Fellow's salary should the designated amount for the Fellow's salary from the \$60,000 of funding provided by SLS be lower than a starting salary of an equally qualified staff attorney or other position. The host organization must also demonstrate its ability to support the Fellow (e.g., appropriate supervision, adequate office space, resources to support program expenses). Note that Stanford University entities (e.g., clinics, programs, and centers) are ineligible to host a Postgraduate Fellow.

Eligible organizations may engage in direct legal services, impact litigation, or policy advocacy, either domestically or abroad. Federal, state, and local governmental agencies may be potential hosts, but Fellows will face additional logistical hurdles because most government agencies cannot accept funds from SLS and hire the Fellows as employees. Applicants do not need to propose creation of a new project but should outline the responsibilities they anticipate undertaking if selected.

SLS makes no recommendations regarding specific fellowship host organizations and does not guarantee that placement will be feasible and/or permitted with all potential sponsors or in all foreign jurisdictions.

ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERAL POSTGRADUATE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP (10 available):

All members of the SLS JD Classes of 2021-2024 *who have not previously been awarded a postgraduate legal fellowship or government honors/new attorney program position* are eligible to apply for one of ten general SLS postgraduate public interest fellowships. Current students must be in good standing to be eligible.

These ten positions can be placements at any domestic non-profit organization (including labor unions), government agency, or international tax-exempt non-governmental organization that provides legal services for underrepresented communities or otherwise serves the public interest. Federal, state, and local government agencies or sub-divisions can host Fellows, although there may be additional logistical challenges when hosts cannot accept funds from Stanford. Clerkships with international courts are also eligible. Applicants seeking placements overseas must consult with Kevin Lo, public interest career counselor, no later than **December 13, 2023**.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR CIVITAS POSTGRADUATE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP
(1 available):**

A generous alumnus created the Civitas Postgraduate Public Interest Fellowship. All members of the SLS JD Classes of 2021-2024 *who have not previously been awarded a postgraduate legal fellowship or government honors/new attorney program position* are eligible to apply this cycle. Current students must be in good standing to be eligible.

This position is intended to support one alumnus/a to represent clients and advance issues that address the negative effects of the criminal justice system on under-served and indigent communities at a public defender office or non-profit organization in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CRIMINAL DEFENSE POSTGRADUATE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP (1 available):

The Stanford Law School Criminal Defense Fellowship will enable the recipient to work full-time for a year in a law-related endeavor designed to further the cause of criminal defense. All members of the SLS JD Classes of 2021-2024 *who have not previously been awarded a postgraduate fellowship or government honors/new attorney program position* are eligible to apply this cycle. Current students must be in good standing to be eligible.

The recipient must be sponsored by a nonprofit organization or governmental entity (including a public defender or similar office) that provides legal services relating to criminal defense in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY FOR DEANE F. JOHNSON POSTGRADUATE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP (2 available):

With deep gratitude to Deane F. Johnson, JD '42, a generous supporter of many initiatives at Stanford Law School who gave the largest gift in the history of the law school at the time, this fellowship supports two alumni to work in environmental, education, or youth law. All members of the SLS JD Classes of 2021-2024 *who have not previously been awarded a postgraduate legal fellowship or government honors/new attorney program position* are eligible to apply this cycle. Current students must be in good standing to be eligible.

ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP (2 available):

All members of the SLS JD or advanced degree classes of 2021-2024 *who have not previously been awarded a postgraduate legal fellowship or government honors/new attorney program position* are eligible to apply this cycle. Current students must be in good standing to be eligible.

Our program allows applicants to propose placements at any international or foreign non-governmental organization that advances the public interest in a post conflict or transitional society. Graduating students or alumni seeking clerkships with international tribunals are eligible to apply for this fellowship as well.

All applicants for this fellowship must consult with Kevin Lo, public interest career counselor, by **December 13, 2023** before preparing your application.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Each fellowship will include a grant of up to \$60,000 maximum. This is typically a salary of \$48,000 and the same benefits that the sponsoring organization would ordinarily provide to an employee at the Fellow's level of experience. SLS will reimburse the sponsor for up to \$12,000 in benefits (so a sponsor whose benefits package costs less will not receive the full \$60,000 grant unless the Fellow's salary is increased). A Fellow's salary may be adjusted upward due to statutorily defined minimum salaries for exempt employees, but the maximum grant from SLS will remain \$60,000. Grants will be made to the sponsoring organization if at all possible but may be made directly to the alumnus/a if the sponsoring organization cannot receive the grant. Moreover, SLS' Loan Repayment Assistance Program will provide additional funds directly to JD alumni to meet qualifying educational loan repayment obligations during the fellowship year.

The Selection Committee will include members of the faculty and alumni who previously served as SLS Fellows. Selection will occur by the end of March 2023, if not earlier.

In reviewing each application, the committee will consider several factors, including:

- the applicant's commitment to a career in public interest law,
- the applicant's capacity to maximize the fellowship opportunity,
- the applicant's contributions to the public interest community at SLS,
- the potential impact of the applicant's work, and
- the capacity of the sponsoring organization to provide meaningful supervision to the Fellow.

In evaluating these factors, the committee will look to the application and accompanying essays, law school record, recommendations, and organizational letter of support. All letters of recommendation and support should be specific to your candidacy for this fellowship. All information provided will be used only for the purpose of considering your candidacy for the Stanford Law School Public Interest Fellowship program.

The fellowship will last for one year, beginning in or after September 2024, with flexibility for later start dates. SLS cannot process fellowship payments before September due to our fiscal calendar.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants who wish to be considered for the 2024-2025 cycle must electronically submit a complete application by **12 noon Pacific Standard Time (PST)** on Monday, **February 5, 2024**. The selection committee will interview finalists in early March and make a final decision by the end of March, if not earlier.

All applicants must submit the following:

- Resume or CV
- Completed application form
- Unofficial law school transcript
- At least two (2) letters of recommendation
- Commitment letter from the proposed sponsoring organization
- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status qualifying letter or equivalent tax-exempt status documentation for international or other domestic organizations (e.g., labor unions)¹

Please submit **one PDF file** with all application materials (other than letters of recommendation). Name the file with your last name first (e.g., Wang_Anna_SLS Fellowship) and upload it to <https://www.dropbox.com/request/u7SOsxy14HtzU19veMcD>. Your recommenders may upload their letters as **PDF attachments** to <https://www.dropbox.com/request/GKIN9xv1A7joIJhsjnas>. If you have any questions regarding the fellowship, please contact Shannon Al-Wakeel at swakeel@law.stanford.edu.

¹ Note that applicants hoping to work with government agencies do not need to submit this documentation.

II) SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:

Organization: _____

Organization Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Name and Title of Supervising Attorney: _____

Please provide a brief statement of the work you anticipate doing, which will appear on our website if you are selected as a Fellow. Note that we ask for a more detailed description in the “Essays” section. (Limited to 250 characters, including spaces.)

III) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Please provide the following information about your two recommenders. Stanford will only use the letters and statements of recommendation for the purpose for which they were intended.

1) Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

2) Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

IV) OTHER INFORMATION:

Have you applied for any other fellowships or grants for the upcoming year? If yes, please describe any such awards you have received, including the amount of the award and the name of the granting organization. If you have not yet heard the results of an application, please indicate when you anticipate a response.

V) ESSAYS:

Please answer the following three prompts and attach them separately to the application.

a. Please describe your anticipated work. What need, legal right(s), and/or client constituency will you address? What other work is being done or has been done in this field? How would your fellowship increase the organization's capacity to address this need, legal right(s), and/or client constituency? (Limited to 1000 words.)

b. Personal essay. Please provide any other information you believe is relevant to your application. Helpful information may include a description of your previous public interest experience and why you are motivated to become a public interest lawyer. You could also include information about how this fellowship fits into your current overall career goals. (Limited to 500 words.)

c. How have you contributed to the SLS public interest community? (Limited to 500 words.)

VI) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS and GENERAL FELLOWSHIPS with OVERSEAS PLACEMENTS

a. Please describe how you will ensure you are complying with relevant employment and tax laws in the country where you will be based.

b. Please describe how you will obtain the appropriate visa status and work authorization to work in the foreign country where you will be based.

VI) Signature

I hereby certify that the information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsified statements on this application shall be considered sufficient cause for disqualification from fellowship consideration. I authorize the Levin Center to share my application and relevant student education records with members of the official Selection Committee, which is composed of faculty, staff, and alumni who have a legitimate educational interest in this information. I agree to inform the Selection Committee of any pertinent changes to my application or status (to include grant money I receive from other sources) after I submit this application.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students have the right to review education records concerning them. Students do not have the right to inspect confidential letters and statements of recommendation, if they have waived the right to review and inspect those documents. I hereby waive my right to inspect letters and statements of recommendation that are submitted for the SLS Fellowship. I understand that, by waiving my right to see confidential letters of recommendation or nomination, these will be withheld from me. If I revoke this waiver in writing, confidential letters of recommendation or nomination associated with this fellowship will be withdrawn and returned to the letter writer, and I will not be permitted to inspect them. Stanford will only use the letters and statements of recommendation for the purpose for which they were intended.

Applicant's Signature

Date