

# Public Interest Fellowships 101

## What is a Public Interest Fellowship?

Postgraduate public interest fellowships enable recent graduates to secure entry-level positions with nonprofit organizations, government entities, and educational institutions. A small number of traditional law firms offer public interest fellowships as well. Fellowships usually only last one to two years, as they are designed to give a recent law graduate or junior attorney experience in public interest practice and to help launch their career. Generally fellowships are either **organization-based**, funded by the organization for which the fellow is working, or **project-based**, funded by a third-party organization, allowing the fellow to work with a host organization, usually on a specifically designed project. These types of fellowships are a great way to get in the door at a public interest organization and help you build a network of public interest practitioners! Clinical teaching fellowships are another type, which are great options for students interested in public-interest lawyering and clinical teaching, though they tend to be awarded to graduates after they have had some practice experience.

## Are These Fellowships Hard to Obtain?

- They take a lot of careful diligence and time to complete. But, if you are willing to put in some hard work ahead of time, you put yourself in a good position to obtain a fellowship.
- Your GPA and grades matter for some fellowships, but not for all.
- What does matter is your commitment to the issue and the organization!

## What are the Deadlines for Common Fellowships?

- **Create Your Own/Project-Based Fellowships**
  - [Skadden Fellowship](#): Due September 14, 2020 (two-year fellowship)
  - [Equal Justice Works Fellowship](#): Due September 17, 2020 (two-year fellowship)
  - [Justice Catalyst](#): Resume/prospectus due October 13, full app due December 1 (one-year fellowship)
  - [Soros Justice Fellowship](#) (criminal justice reform): Likely due in November 2020 (18 mos.)
- **Organization-Based Fellowships:**
  - [Colorado Attorney General Fellowship](#): Due October 29, 2020 (one-year fellowship)
  - Colorado Attorney General Carr Appellate Fellowship: Information forthcoming; usually due Winter of 3L year (one-year fellowship)
  - [Colorado Civil Justice Corps](#): Work for CO nonprofit doing civil legal services for two years; Due Winter of 3L year to start in October (DU only) (two-year fellowship)
  - [Denver City Attorney Fellowship](#): Due Spring of 3L year to start in August/September (DU/CU only) (one year fellowship). Will apply through Symplicity.
  - [Immigrant Justice Corps](#): Apply and are placed at immigration nonprofit across the country; Due in October of 3L year, date not yet shared. (two-year fellowship)
  - Rural Colorado District Attorney Fellowship: Due January of 3L year to start in August (DU/CU only). Will apply through Symplicity. (one-year fellowship)

*Note: We focused mostly on Colorado here, but there are many other organization based fellowship across the country! Come talk to us about your subject matter/geographic interests so we can share other suggestions and visit the national fellowships calendar for many listings: <https://www.psjd.org/fellowship-calendar>*

- **Government Honors Programs**
  - [U.S. Department of Transportation Honors Program](#): Dates not shared yet, likely August 2020
  - [U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program](#): Due Early September 2020, dates not firm yet
  - [IRS Honors Program](#) (possible placement in Denver): Dates not shared yet, likely September 2020
  - [Presidential Management Fellows](#): Dates still TBD, Early Fall 2020
  - For other government opportunities, visit the Government Honors Program Handbook: <http://arizonahandbooks.com/u/denverlaw/> /Password: careersites (email CDO for an updated password if you can't log in)
- **Other Early Public Sector Job Applications**
  - [Office of the Colorado State Public Defender](#): Likely to start accepting applications in August 2020 (to start fall 2021)
  - [Air Force JAG](#): Next application round likely due August 2020
  - [Army JAG](#): Due October 1, 2020
  - [Navy JAG](#): May 29, 2020

## Where Can I Get More Information?

- Visit PSJD's fellowship section at [https://www.psjd.org/page.cfm?name=Postgraduate\\_Fellowships](https://www.psjd.org/page.cfm?name=Postgraduate_Fellowships) for more detailed information and search for fellowship jobs on PSJD's database, <https://www.psjd.org/search?searchTypeID=jobs>. This is likely the most comprehensive listing of all fellowships – project-based and organizational.
- View PSJD's fellowship calendar, which includes deadlines for most fellowships available across the country: <https://www.psjd.org/fellowship-calendar>.
- Read PSJD's Fellowship comparison guide: [https://www.psjd.org/Postgraduate\\_Fellowships\\_Comparison\\_Chart](https://www.psjd.org/Postgraduate_Fellowships_Comparison_Chart).
- Review Yale Law School's Fellowship Guide: [https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/departments/cdo/document/cdo\\_fellowships\\_i\\_public.pdf](https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/departments/cdo/document/cdo_fellowships_i_public.pdf)
- Make an appointment with the public service team in CDO (Elise Logemann, [elogemann@law.du.edu](mailto:elogemann@law.du.edu); Andrea Montague, [amontague@law.du.edu](mailto:amontague@law.du.edu); or Judy Stein, [jstein@law.du.edu](mailto:jstein@law.du.edu)) & talk with Prof. Alexi Freeman ([afreeman@law.du.edu](mailto:afreeman@law.du.edu)), Director of Externships and Public Interest Initiatives, to discuss opportunities that might be good for you and to connect you with former fellows.