

2009 Haywood Burns
Memorial Fellowships
for Social and
Economic Justice

National Lawyers Guild

Fellowship Descriptions and
Application Packet



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The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice 2009

The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice program has its roots in the National Lawyers Guild's established tradition of providing legal, political and educational support to the important progressive movements of the day. In the summer of 1964, the Guild, working with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, sent lawyers and law students south to provide legal support for the emerging civil rights movement in what became known as Mississippi Summer.

In late 1972, New York State indicted 62 prisoners who survived the police assault at the Attica Correctional Facility. None of the police officers was indicted despite detailed reports of excessive force. In 1973, the Summer Projects Committee was formed in part to respond to this situation. The Committee sent law students to assist with the defense of the Attica Brothers, to support the growing farmworker struggles in California, and to support Native American treaty rights in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the years, the Summer Projects program has expanded to place hundreds of students with public interest organizations that are struggling to protect and further the civil rights of oppressed people in the United States. Although providing legal work under the direction of their attorney-organizers is still important, the primary mission of the summer projects is to strengthen each student's long-term commitment to promote justice and equality. Fellows have worked with groups to provide legal, political, and educational support on a wide variety of issues, including voting rights; union democracy; workplace health and safety; Native American treaty rights; the death penalty and prison reform; Asian-American women seeking decent wages, conditions and housing; lesbian/gay/bisexual/trans rights; defense of protestors from police harassment and criminal sanctions; Central American refugees; international human rights; and illegal government spying.

In 1996 the program was renamed the Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice after the death of Haywood Burns, long-time radical lawyer and law professor and former president of the National Lawyers Guild, whose life and work created a legend to inspire generations to come.

Access to Justice Institute, Seattle University
School of Law
SEATTLE, WA

The Access to Justice Institute (ATJI) stands at the heart of Seattle University School of Law's social justice mission, serving as the bridge between academics and action. ATJI strives to inspire students toward a lifelong commitment to social justice and public service.

ATJI and the Institute for Indian Estate Planning and Probate (IIEPP), which is housed at SU, have partnered together to increase legal opportunities for law students while serving within and on behalf of Native American communities. The mission of IIEPP is to assist Indian people in making informed decisions about their property by: 1) establishing legal service projects that provide free and reduced cost estate planning services to individual tribal members; 2) providing training to tribal members, governmental officials and the legal community; and 3) serving as a clearinghouse for the latest information on the American Indian Probate Reform Act.

The Fellow will be placed within a Native American community and provide tribal members with community legal education and free estate planning. The student will work under attorney supervision and will have a week of intensive training on the American Indian Probate Reform Act, Federal Indian Law, document drafting and working within reservation communities.

The Fellow will work directly with clients under the supervision of experienced attorneys while providing will drafting and other estate planning services, such as durable powers of attorney and health care directives to tribal members. The student will also coordinate and provide community legal education for the Native American community on estate planning issues and potentially other relevant legal issues. Areas of law include Probate, Property, and Indian Law.

Students who are completing their second year are eligible to apply. The Fellow should have excellent research and writing skills and some experience with client interviewing and cross-cultural communication. It is strongly encouraged that the Fellow complete a Trusts and Estates course and preferably a Federal Indian Law course prior to their internship. Experience working within Native American communities is an added benefit. The Fellow will be expected to work full-time for 10 consecutive weeks between May and August 2009.

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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.
TOLEDO, OH

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) is a non-profit law firm headquartered in Toledo that serves low-income people in 32 urban and rural counties in northwest and west central Ohio and migrant farm-workers statewide. Established in 1969, ABLE and its affiliate, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) now serve over 15,000 low-income people annually. It is unique among legal services organizations nationally with regard to its specialization and expertise in impact litigation as well as individual representation.

ABLE has a long and successful history of sponsoring student interns, and has hosted a number of Fellows through the Haywood Burns program. These students have engaged in significant legal work activities including outreach, provision of information on legal rights and entitlements, legal research and writing, litigation preparation, and client intake. Recently, ALE has been developing impact litigation to address issues that are affecting low-income people locally and throughout the U.S. including predatory lending, environmental justice, and immigrant rights.

The Fellow will work in ABLE's Special Litigation and Support Unit (SLSU). This unit specializes in impact litigation that promotes systemic or institutional change benefiting large groups of low-income people. The Fellow will be assigned to work with an attorney in a specific substantive area. The specific area in which the Fellow would work can be worked out between ABLE and the candidate prior to the placement. Potential areas include: housing, mental health law, special education issues in the public school system, immigration law, health care rights, predatory lending, and environmental justice. The Fellow will have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities including client education, litigation assistance, and case research and development. The SLSU Managing Attorney will provide direct supervision to the Fellow, meeting with the Fellow on a regular basis to monitor progress. In addition, the Fellow will participate in bi-weekly meetings of the SLSU.

Preferably, students will have completed two years of law school and will be available to work a Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule. Fluency in Spanish is very helpful.

Contact:

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Alternatives for Community and Environment BOSTON, MA

Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) builds the power of communities of color and lower income communities in New England to eradicate environmental racism and classism and achieve environmental justice. ACE believes that everyone has the right to a healthy environment and to be decision-makers in issues affecting local communities.

Systemic change means moving beyond solving problems one by one to eliminating the root causes of environmental injustice. ACE is anchoring a movement of people who have been excluded from decision-making to confront power directly and demand fundamental changes in the rules of the game, to collectively achieve the right to a healthy environment.

The Fellow will assist ACE's Legal Counsel on the cases and legal issues that require work during the summer. That may include advocacy on local development issues, locally undesirable land uses, and public transit issues. The Fellow should expect to perform legal and factual research and writing, interact with state and local government, and work with community residents.

Qualifications:

- Law student who has completed one or two years at an accredited law school
- Good legal research and writing skills
- Strong commitment to social/environmental justice and community empowerment
- Good active listener
- Organized
- Flexibility to work an occasional weeknight

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American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee WASHINGTON, DC

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which is non-sectarian and non-partisan, is the largest Arab-American grassroots organization in the United States. It was founded in 1980 by former Senator James Abourezk to defend the rights of Americans of Arab descent from discrimination, stereotyping and hate crimes.

Fellows are responsible for their own cases under the direct supervision of the ADC attorneys. Cases involve employment discrimination, immigration, airline discrimination, hate crimes, educational discrimination, public accommodation, housing, and freedom of speech.

Fellows also represent the organization at various meetings and conferences with civil rights and human rights organizations, as well as federal agencies and departments. In addition, ADC Fellows are required to write a fifteen page law review style paper related to the issues that ADC handles, and conduct a thirty-minute presentation of their paper. Fellows will also be responsible for preparing a memo and brief related to a fact pattern prepared by the Legal Department, and then argue for or against particular issues during the ADC Ibn Rushd Moot Court Competition held towards the end of the internship.

Fellows should have excellent legal research and writing skills and a strong commitment to diversity and civil rights.

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Appalachian Citizens Law Center
PRESTONBURG, KY

Now in its seventh year, the Appalachian Citizens Law Center is a non-profit which represents low income clients and groups in matters related to environmental damage from coal mining, and coal mine health and safety, including claims for black lung benefits. The staff consists of three attorneys and a part-time clerical person.

In the past, Fellows have helped to represent low-income individuals on environmental issues related to coal mining and in black lung benefits cases. They have worked with community groups and prepared comments on legislative and regulatory proposals related to coal mining and mountaintop removal mining. They have also participated in meetings on mine safety issues.

The ACLC office is located in Whitesburg, a small town near the Kentucky-Virginia state line. Whitesburg is home to Appalshop, a nationally recognized multi-media consortium and radio station. There is no public transportation, so summer interns must have their own vehicle.

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Asian Law Caucus
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Asian Law Caucus (ALC) is the nation's oldest legal and civil rights organization serving low-income Asian Pacific American communities. Founded in 1972, ALC defends and empowers the Asian Pacific American community through an integrated strategy of direct legal services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community building. Its program areas focus on housing, employment, immigration, and civil rights.

Fellows at ALC have the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of the Caucus' work. Fellows research and write legal memoranda, draft pleadings and briefs, and assist attorneys in other aspects of litigation, such as depositions, hearings, and trials. The Haywood Burns Fellow may even have the opportunity to represent clients at administrative hearings. On advocacy or press campaigns, Fellows assist attorneys in drafting testimony, formulating demands, and working with the community. The Fellow will work with legal staff to conduct community education and outreach at workshops and events.

ALC prefers to hire 2Ls, but will also consider 1Ls. ALC is looking for students with excellent research and writing skills, and a strong commitment to public interest work. Bilingual skills in an Asian language are preferred.

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Bill of Rights Defense Committee
NORTHAMPTON, MA

The Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC) formed in 2001, soon after the USA PATRIOT Act was passed, to channel people's fears about the effects of the USA PATRIOT Act, detentions, and other post-9/11 assaults on civil liberties into a nonpartisan national campaign composed of local and state-wide coalitions. Organizations and individuals use BORDC's direct organizing support, tools, and strategies to educate their communities and legislators about threats to civil liberties. For example, in one BORDC initiative, 406 communities and eight states, with a combined population of 85 million people, passed resolutions establishing themselves as "civil liberties safe zones."

The BORDC has no attorneys on its 5-person staff. Attorney supervision and legal review, feedback, and advice concerning the Fellow's work are provided as needed by attorneys who serve on the BORDC's board or advisory board.

The position requires familiarity with the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and the ability to determine whether laws and policies or their application are constitutional. Applicants should have excellent research and communication skills, including the ability to translate complex laws and policies for nonlawyers. Second-year applicants preferred; activist experience is helpful.

Fellow will:

- 1) Write action alerts, press releases, web pages, booklets and other literature on important civil liberties and related human rights issues to support the organization's grassroots campaigns, such as the People's Campaign for the Constitution (www.constitutioncampaign.org).
- 2) Analyze proposed legislation, new administration policies, court cases, and federal court rulings, and write articles on them for BORDC's monthly email newsletter.
- 3) Review stories of rights abuses submitted to the online Human Rights Abuse Database to ensure for relevance to post-9/11 laws and policies.
- 4) Research and write one or more white papers
- 5) Write information requests to federal agencies under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment
DELANO, CALIFORNIA

The Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment (CRPE) is an environmental justice advocacy organization based in Delano and San Francisco, California. Over our 19 year history, CRPE has represented low-income communities and communities of color across the United States fighting environmental hazards. We pioneered environmental justice law and continue to bring some of the most innovative litigation in the field. Our Delano office is the award-winning hub of our community-based, community-led style of advocacy.

CRPE is seeking smart, energetic, committed and politically active law students to join us for a summer of environmental justice work. Students will work on the Center's cutting edge environmental justice cases attacking climate change, dairy factories, dirty diesel, toxic waste dumps and more, using civil rights and environmental laws. Our interns will do legal research and writing, meet with our client groups, present testimony at public hearings, and work with our staff and clients to strategically attack the environmental hazards facing our client communities. The Delano intern will also work alongside our four community organizers to build community power and empower individual residents. This is an excellent opportunity to learn substantively about environmental justice and also practice community lawyering.

CRPE requires a 10-week commitment over the summer. Our ideal candidate is a Spanish-speaking second-year law student with environmental and social justice experience, but lack of one or more of these is not dispositive and we encourage all interested law students to apply.

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This Fellowship is Specially Funded by
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East Bay Community Law Center
BERKELEY, CA

The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is an independent non-profit founded by law students in 1988. It provides high quality free legal services to low-income residents of Alameda County and clinical legal education for law students. EBCLC is a multicultural organization valuing diversity of every sort. Fellows select one of five practice areas to work in for the summer:

In the **Income Support** practice, Fellows help families maximize the benefits of welfare (CalWORKs/TANF, General Assistance) laws, including cash aid and support for obtaining employment. Fellows interview and counsel clients, negotiate and represent clients at administrative hearings, conduct community outreach and education and work on welfare policy.

In the **Housing** practice, eviction defense is homelessness prevention. Fellows conduct tenants' workshops, interview and counsel clients, prepare pleadings, negotiate and (if certified) appear in court on their behalf, and participate in community education.

In the **Health Law** practice, Fellows provide assistance with disability benefits, financial and estate planning assistance, and other legal needs, for persons who are HIV positive, and for families referred by Children's Hospital.

The **Clean Slate** practice provides citation defense to people criminalized because of their homelessness. It also obtains dismissal of criminal convictions to assist people who are having trouble obtaining employment or housing because of their criminal records.

The **Community Economic Justice** practice looks for levers of economic power that will benefit the low-income community. Taking its direction from the community itself, it has held developers to their promises of low-income housing, helped develop banking resources, opened up hiring practices and employment opportunities, and assisted small businesses.

Fellows work 35 hours a week under the direct supervision of a staff attorney. EBCLC's mission to provide clinical legal education affords Fellows quality supervision.

Applicants must have completed at least one year of law school. Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Cambodian or other language skills are desirable.

Contact:

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Environmental Justice Committee of the
National Lawyers Guild
NEW YORK, NY

The Environmental Justice Committee (EJC) of the National Lawyers Guild is a network of law students, legal workers and attorneys dedicated to providing assistance to impoverished communities and communities of color which are exposed to the disproportionate impacts of environmental hazards.

The EJC is committed to challenging the inadequate responses of governmental bodies and mainstream environmental organizations in addressing existing environmental, public health and safety concerns in environmental justice communities.

Members of the EJC are currently engaged in connecting law students, legal workers, and attorneys in several projects which assist environmental justice communities through legal representation, lobbying, research, organizing, education and direct community action. Current projects include coordinating lawyers and students in program/position statements in global warming, myths of alternative fuels (nuclear and bio-fuels), privatization of public space and alliances with progressive organizations such as Physicians for Social Responsibility. In addition, we are developing a database and brief bank to provide lawyers with tools for working on environmental justice issues and expanding our website (http://www.ecojustice_nlg.org/).

The Fellow will work out of committee member Joel Kupferman's office, and will work on a number of projects that the committee is currently involved in. This committee is doing some of the most exciting and cutting edge work in the Guild.

Contact:

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Environmental Justice Committee of the NLG
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Farmworker Justice
WASHINGTON, DC

Farmworker Justice (FJ), a national advocacy group for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, seeks a Fellow to work on litigation, administrative advocacy and legislative lobbying regarding transnational workers in the United States. Much of FJ's work is focused on the intersection of immigration policy and labor law, but FJ also engages in advocacy on occupational safety and health.

FJ collaborates with most of the major farmworker advocacy organizations in the nation. Its board of directors includes representatives of the United Farm Workers, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, other unions, farmworker service agencies, and individual farmworker activists. FJ has a partnership with the National Council of La Raza. During its 25 years, FJ has gained significant respect for its efforts on behalf of farmworkers.

FJ's activities include litigation to enforce workers' rights, legislative lobbying to seek a legalization program to grant undocumented farmworkers the status of "immigrants" rather than "nonimmigrant" guestworker status, media work, training of legal staff and others, and education of workers about their rights.

Fellows will conduct legal research and prepare memos on a variety of issues as they develop and promote reforms to protect workers, expand their labor rights, and enforce the rights workers currently possess. Fellows generally enjoy the atmosphere of the office and the opportunity to be in the nation's capital. Another benefit is the opportunity to work on issues at the national level with relatively sophisticated personnel and strategies.

The Fellow should be a 2L and vitally interested in these issues that operate at the intersection of labor law and immigration policy. The Fellow will need to be highly skilled at research and writing.

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Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Inc.
ROCHESTER, NY

FLSNY is a law project that provides free legal services to seasonal and migrant farm workers throughout New York State. FLSNY represents workers' employment and civil rights (including race, national origin, gender, and disability discrimination), violation of workers' civil rights, violation of labor laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act, and violation of other state and federal employment laws. FLSNY, in partnership with other law firms, health providers and educators, manages a Domestic Violence Program that focuses on migrant and seasonal farm workers. Advocates conduct outreach to farm worker housing to provide legal education and present legal rights training to the community at large. FLSNY works closely with the Farmworker Women's Institute and CITA, an independent farm worker union.

Fellows conduct research, write memos, contribute to legal briefs, conduct outreach to farm labor camps, participate in the office's community legal education activities, assist in deposition preparation and the factual development of cases, meet with clients, draft correspondence and legal documents, attend depositions, hearings, and trials (if any), attend community meetings, and otherwise participate in the full range of the office's activities.

FLSNY seeks 1L and 2Ls with:

- 1) Strong academic background, excellent writing, legal research and oral advocacy skills combined with a political consciousness.
- 2) Spanish and/or Haitian Creole language ability is strongly preferred.
- 3) Preference will be given to students who have demonstrated interest in working with a diverse client community, in rural poverty law and for social justice.

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Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project FLORENCE, AZ

The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project is a non-profit, community based legal service organization that counsels and represents immigrant men, women and children detained in local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody in Arizona. Founded in 1989 by an NLG member, the Project provides a full range of services to people detained.

The Florence Project has a long-standing history with the Haywood Burns Fellowship program. The contributions of Haywood Burns Fellows to the Florence Project have been significant. In the past, Fellows have engaged in representing clients before the immigration judge, on appeals, and have spearheaded numerous advocacy projects.

During the Fellowship period, Fellows work directly with detained clients in immigration proceedings on a daily basis, under the supervision of a staff attorney. The Florence Project prepares a weeklong training for Fellows on the basics of immigration law and defense from removal as well as client interviewing and research skills. Fellows are also required to attend a weekly case review with their field team in order to review legal cases and issues and a bi-monthly review of legal issues with the entire legal staff. In addition to having periodic meetings with the Executive Director, Fellows are expected to create a regular check-in schedule with their supervising attorney.

The Fellow will learn about multiple areas of immigration law including asylum and protection under the United Nations Convention against Torture and the intersection of the criminal and immigration systems. Other components of the Fellowship include filling out applications for relief, client intake, possible representation in bond re-determination hearings, assisting in giving "know your rights" presentations, legal research, country conditions documentation and substantive writing projects. Fellows will have opportunities to develop skills at client interviewing, legal and factual research, and written and oral argument, while serving a particularly vulnerable population.

The Project seeks individuals with demonstrated commitment to immigration issues, human rights, criminal justice and public interest law and a strong academic background. Fluency in Spanish is essential and 2Ls are preferred.

Contact:

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Georgia Resource Center ATLANTA, GA

The Georgia Resource Center is seeking Fellows to assist with representation of those on Georgia's death row. There is a tremendous need for additional people to help with this work since the number of people on death row is steadily increasing and since Georgia is one of only two states that does not entitle those on death row to an attorney during state habeas corpus proceedings. The Resource Center, a non-profit organization with four full-time staff attorneys and three investigators, is the sole office in Georgia providing free representation to indigent death-sentenced prisoners. There are 135 Georgia death row inmates; virtually all of whom are indigent and cannot afford lawyers as they pursue critical post-conviction challenges to their death sentences.

The work to be done includes:

- investigating murder cases in various parts of Georgia
- interviewing jurors who have imposed the death penalty in its clients' cases
- researching issues to be raised in habeas corpus proceedings
- research and writing projects in the areas of constitutional law and criminal procedure
- field investigation including interviewing witnesses and procuring records and other evidence
- conducting client intake interviews
- visiting clients and friends of clients in preparation for mitigation arguments to be raised, and
- writing research memorandum and sections of briefs to be filed in state and federal court.

The Fellow will be intensively involved in all aspects of GRC work. GRC prefers a Fellow with two years of law school experience. GRC will attempt to assist Fellows in finding housing.

Contact:

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Staff Attorney
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Indian Law Resource Center
HELENA, MT

Founded in 1978, the Indian Law Resource Center is a non-profit law and advocacy organization established and directed by American Indians. We provide legal assistance to tribes and other indigenous peoples in the United States and in Central and South America who are working to protect their land, resources, human rights, environment, and cultural heritage. The Center seeks to overcome the devastating problems that threaten Native peoples by advancing the rule of law, by establishing national and international legal standards that uphold indigenous human rights and dignity, and by challenging the governments of the world to esteem equally all human beings.

The Center has a long and successful history of advocating both nationally and internationally for indigenous peoples. Past projects include participating in the drafting of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and winning major indigenous rights cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including *Dann v. United States*. Recently, the Center has been working on the American Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, advocating for the recognition and protection of Indian land rights in Guatemala, and devising an international human rights strategy to end violence against Native women.

The Fellowship will entail legal research and writing on major Indian rights issues related to current projects of the Indian Law Resource Center. Work assignments will focus on any of the following areas: international human rights law, federal Indian law, constitutional law, and environmental law. The Fellow will work closely with Center attorneys as they develop litigation and other advocacy strategies.

Preferably, students will have strong legal research and writing skills, have taken federal Indian law, and be available to work a Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule. Fluency in Spanish is also very helpful.

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Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute
BERKELEY, CA

Meiklejohn Institute is a center for human rights and peace law. It has helped train and has benefited from the work of over 400 Fellows since its founding in 1965.

Meiklejohn works on preparing materials useful to lawyers and activists on current issues. MCLI has always worked locally, at the state level, at the national level, and at the international level. Internationally, it works through active membership in the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, making presentations at UN international conferences such as in Durban at the World Conference Against Racism in 2001.

Fellows will work on the Human Rights Reporting Project, which prepares accurate, detailed reports of violations and enforcement of human rights laws in the U.S. for submission to the U.S. Department of State and to three U.N. committees that enforce the three human rights treaties the U.S. has ratified.

The U.S. Report to the U.N. Human Rights Committee is due Aug. 8, 2010, concerning enforcement and violations of all of the rights in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, so the Fellows will work with the Berkeley City Commission on Peace and Justice to prepare the City report, and with other NGOs to make accurate reports in many cities, counties, and states.

Fellows should be familiar with the U.S. Constitution; the United Nations Charter; the Nuremberg Principles; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.

Fellows should have completed one year of law school. Fellows should be skilled at internet research and research using government reports and recent court opinions. They should be able to write and talk to lawyers and activists now working on violations of human rights in order to get copies of their pleadings and flyers. They should have computer skills and public speaking skills. Fellows should enjoy working with other students, lawyers, and the office manager in a small office environment.

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Midwest Environmental Advocates MADISON, WI

Like other non-coastal areas of the United States, Wisconsin historically has had great difficulty attracting public interest environmental lawyers. As the last century ended, there were no Wisconsin non-profits staffed by lawyers who could go into court to protect the environment. To compound matters, Wisconsin's state agency responsible for protecting the environment, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), had become highly politicized and severely curtailed its efforts to enforce and implement existing environmental laws. Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) is Wisconsin's first and only non-profit environmental law center, dedicated to representing communities working for clean air, clean water, and clean government.

MEA's mission is to provide high quality legal services that support a diverse, grassroots social movement; build local leadership; and implement innovative solutions to environmental problems. Its mission is carried out by a small and dedicated staff, a cadre of law clerks, and a volunteer network of attorneys and experts.

MEA is not a typical law firm. Instead its lawyers:

- build local leaders and community groups,
- educate them about their legal rights,
- engage them in government decision making,
- train them in developing compelling media messages, and
- provide access to the courts.

These tools empower community groups to hold corporations and government agencies accountable. MEA works on legal issues that serve as a vehicle to train local leaders, build an active constituency that can be mobilized on legislative reforms, and yield precedent-setting litigation. This combination of strategies provides the foundation for long-term environmental change.

The Haywood Burns Fellow will work closely with MEA's attorneys in a number of areas. The Fellow will work on cases, communicate with the public, help create educational materials and engage in fieldwork and research.

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Mumia Abu-Jamal Defense Team SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Mumia Abu-Jamal is the most influential and best-known death row prisoner in the world today. As a radio journalist in Philadelphia, he won a Major Armstrong Award for radio journalism, and was named one of Philadelphia's "people to watch" in 1981 by Philadelphia Magazine. A vocal critic of police violence against the minority communities of Philadelphia, he was the subject of FBI and Philadelphia police surveillance beginning when he was 15 years old.

In December 1981, Mumia was shot by a Philadelphia police officer when he intervened in a traffic stop where the officer was beating his brother with a flashlight. The police officer was also shot and killed. Several witnesses have testified that a man other than Mumia was the shooter, and the dead officer was holding the driver's license application of another man. But it was Mumia that the police wanted to charge with the shooting.

Mumia's trial was fraught with numerous and flagrant constitutional violations. He was barred from most of his own trial for protesting an unprepared court-appointed attorney who was later disbarred. Eleven peremptory challenges were used to knock almost all Blacks off the jury. A court reporter has testified that she overheard the trial judge saying, "I'm going to help 'em fry the nigger." Vital evidence was withheld from the defense, and police were unable to establish that the fatal bullet came from Mumia's gun. In 1998, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (with five of seven justices endorsed for election by the Fraternal Order of Police) ruled against a new trial for Mumia. This took place in the wake of massive police scandals in Philadelphia, where more than 300 sentences had been reversed because they were originally obtained on the basis of police frame-ups.

The Fellow will conduct legal research and writing for Mumia's defense team, working in lead counsel Robert R. Bryan's office. This is a rare opportunity to work with one of the country's most respected capital defense attorneys on a case of great magnitude.

Guild member Robert R. Bryan of San Francisco heads Mumia's legal team.

Contact:

Mumia Abu-Jamal Defense Team
Law Offices of Robert R. Bryan
2088 Union Street, Suite 4
San Francisco, California 94123-4124
Tel: 415-292-2400
Fax: 415-292-4076

National Immigration Project of the National
Lawyers Guild
BOSTON, MA

The National Immigration Project is a membership organization of lawyers, law students, legal workers, and community advocates working to defend the rights of all immigrants in the United States, regardless of legal status. It promotes justice and equality of treatment in all areas of immigration law, the criminal justice system and social policy related to immigration.

Today, the National Immigration Project's work is focused on helping attorneys, service workers, and community leaders understand the practical consequences of punitive immigration laws and post 9/11 "security" policies so that they can better defend the rights of their clients and communities. The Project works with national partners to educate criminal defense attorneys, public defenders, legal workers, advocates, immigration attorneys, judges, and others on the immigration consequences of criminal conduct. It provides pro bono assistance to attorneys who are defending immigrant detainees and organizes national advocacy campaigns to protect the rights of immigrant survivors of domestic violence. It also coordinates public education campaigns on immigration enforcement practices and provides technical assistance to case workers and attorneys who are helping HIV positive non-citizens to file for legal residency and access affordable health care.

The Fellow will support the Project's existing programmatic work on due process issues for noncitizens, the immigration consequences of criminal convictions, the rights of immigration survivors of domestic violence and non-citizens living with HIV, and immigration enforcement. The Fellow may develop training materials, provide technical assistance, and participate in national advocacy campaigns.

The Fellow must have taken an immigration law class. The Fellow will preferably be a 2L or 3L, ideally one with experience in immigration law. The Fellow should also have excellent communication, email, Internet research, and word processing skills, familiarity with Microsoft Access, a demonstrable interest in grassroots activism and some prior history of involvement in immigrant rights advocacy.

Contact:

Ellen Kemp
National Immigration Project of the NLG
14 Beacon Street, Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108
Tel: 617-227-9727 ext. 4
Fax: 617-227-5495
Email: ellen@nationalimmigrationproject.org
Web: nationalimmigrationproject.org

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the
Public Interest
LINCOLN, NE

The Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest is a non-profit, non-partisan law project that works to address systemic issues facing low-income Nebraskans and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency. Organized by leaders from law, business, academia, and civic organizations, Nebraska Appleseed fills a major gap in the justice system—a means to address problems at their roots. Nebraska Appleseed focuses on advancing policies and practices that: promote self-sufficiency for Nebraska's working poor families; promote the integration and participation of immigrant populations in communities across Nebraska; provide safe and adequate child welfare services to children who need protection; provide quality affordable health care to all Nebraskans; increase low-income people's access to the legal system and support democracy by removing barriers to low-income people's participation in the electoral and public policy decision-making processes.

As part of its mission, Nebraska Appleseed seeks to mentor future public interest lawyers by exposing them to a wide range of public interest work. The Fellow will provide litigation and public policy support to four staff attorneys. The Fellow should have strong legal research and writing skills, good verbal and written communications skills, show an interest in helping underserved populations and have a desire to work in the field of public interest law.

The Fellow will conduct research and draft legal memos, assist in drafting pleadings, help with client intake, assist with public policy work including researching and tracking state and federal legislation, and participate in the Nebraska Appleseed's legal team, in which all the attorneys review the docket, brainstorm, and collaborate on legal work. The Fellow will have an opportunity to be exposed to both state and federal court civil litigation, and in some cases class actions, on issues including constitutional law, administrative law, and civil rights law.

Contact:

Rebecca L. Gould, Executive Director,
941 O Street, Suite 920
Lincoln, NE 68508
Tel: (402) 438-8853 ext. 102
Fax: (402) 438-0263
Email: bgould@neappleseed.org
Web: neappleseed.org

New Jersey Farmworker Project and Low
Wage Worker Employment Rights Project
BRIDGETON, NJ

The Farmworker Project and Low Wage Worker Employment Rights Project of Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc. represents farmworkers and low wage workers statewide in New Jersey. Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc. (LSNJ) is the support center and lead organization for legal services in New Jersey. Through broad based advocacy approaches of individual litigation, impact litigation, policy advocacy and community legal education, LSNJ is a crucial force in advocating for improved working and living conditions for farmworkers and low wage workers in New Jersey. Efforts include federal litigation for workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, evening outreach and community legal education to migrant labor camps and worker communities.

The Farmworker Project and the Low Wage Worker Employment Rights Project has priority work in areas of wages, employment conditions, retaliation and discrimination, health and safety, benefits and housing.

The Fellow's work will consist of client outreach, client interviews, legal research and writing, community legal education, and related advocacy. It is anticipated that the Fellow will spend one-third of his or her time on client outreach, interviewing, advocacy, and community legal education, one-third of the time on complaint and litigation related writing, and the remaining time on legal and factual research on cases. The Fellow will be supervised by the attorneys of the Projects. It would be very useful for the Fellow to be fluent in Spanish and to have a vehicle available to conduct outreach to farmworkers in the labor camps and other worker areas.

Contact:

Keith Talbot
Senior Attorney
Farmworker Project
71 East Commerce Street
2nd and 3rd Floors
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Sugar Law Center
DETROIT, MI

Founded in 1991 as a project of the National Lawyers Guild, the Detroit-based Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice is a nonprofit, public-interest organization that works nationally to enforce the rights of working people and their communities. Our work helps people receive the pay, benefits and opportunities they have rightfully earned. We have gained national recognition for representing workers in mass layoffs who did not receive the notice required by the federal WARN Act. We have supported grassroots campaigns for a living wage, represented minority communities battling local pollution, and continually pressed for corporate and government accountability. Our purpose as an organization is to advocate for social and economic justice, by helping people obtain equitable compensation—whether income, assets, or community services—for the labor they contribute to society.

Sugar Law's Fair Employment Practices project provides legal and technical assistance to workers around the country. The guarantee of a decent standard of living is a fundamental component for any model of an Economic Bill of Rights for this country. With that underlying premise, Sugar Law works with labor and community activists and with a network of attorneys around the country to realize workers' rights to fair pay and decent working conditions. Sugar Law projects also include efforts to enforce and strengthen the federal Workers' Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and in support of the Living Wage movement.

The Haywood Burns Fellow will be exposed to and obtain experience in intake and analysis of client issues, litigation and advocacy, with a focus on weaving this work into grassroots organizing efforts. The majority of the work will involve client interviews, legal research and writing.

The Fellow will work with experienced attorneys in a small, friendly and supportive work environment. Fellows should be interested in economic rights and have strong research and writing skills. Fellows will need a car. Assistance in finding housing will be available if needed.

Contact:

Tova Perlmutter, Executive Director
Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
2727 Second Avenue, Suite 327
Detroit, MI 48201
Tel: 313-962-6540
Fax: 313-962-4492
Email: mail@sugarlaw.org
Web: www.sugarlaw.org

Transgender Law Center SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Transgender Law Center (TLC) is a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. We connect transgender people and their families to technically sound and culturally competent legal services, increase acceptance and enforcement of laws and policies that support California's transgender communities and work to change laws and systems that fail to incorporate the needs and experiences of transgender people. TLC utilizes direct legal services, public policy advocacy, and educational opportunities to advance the rights and safety of diverse transgender communities. TLC uses the term "transgender" to represent all of the innumerable genders and forms of gender expression that fall within and outside of stereotypical gender norms. TLC also understands, acknowledges, and resists non-gender based oppressions which limit a person's ability to live in peace.

The Fellow will work with TLC's Community Legal Services Program (CLSP). CLSP serves approximately 1000 clients/year. We provide a wide range of legal services to transgender individuals and their families throughout California, including advice and counsel, as well as in-depth advocacy and direct representation on a case-by-case basis. CLSP also provides technical assistance to attorneys across the country. Under the supervision of the staff attorney, the Fellow will have the opportunity to grapple with a diversity of legal issues and engage in a variety of tasks. Transgender legal issues include discrimination employment, housing and public accommodations, immigration, family law, access to health care, as well as others. The Fellow will have the opportunity provide direct legal services, perform legal research and writing, and assist with TLC's weekly Community Legal Services Clinic on Thursday evenings. Our weekly Community Legal Services Clinic gives transgender community members an opportunity to schedule a 30 min. in-person appointment for legal advice. The staff attorney will meet with the Fellow on a regular basis to provide comprehensive supervision. The Fellow will also participate in weekly TLC staff meetings.

Preference will begin to students who have completed two years of law school. The Fellow should expect to work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 – 5:00, and Thursday from 12:00 -8:00. The ability to speak Spanish is highly desirable. We strongly encourage people of color and members of the transgender community to apply.

Contact:

Ben Lunine
Staff Attorney
Transgender Law Center
870 Market St., Ste. 823
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel: (415) 865-0184
Fax: (877) 847-1279

Student Created Projects

In 2003, we introduced two student-initiated projects in order to increase student participation in the Haywood Burns Fellowships.

Students must submit a proposal with an agency willing to match our \$1000 donation (for a total stipend of \$2000). The agency must be willing to supervise the student, provide all logistical needs (i.e. office space, supplies and so on) and perform all payroll-related paperwork. The proposal should include a letter from the agency to this effect, as well as details on who in the agency will supervise the Fellow, what work the Fellow will be doing, and the contact for the project.

The Fellow must still complete and submit the application form and the required writing samples.

Projects will be picked based on political and geographical diversity basis, as well as the Projects' connections to the ongoing struggles of disenfranchised people, and diversity criteria around race, sexuality, gender, class and disability.

Contact:

National Lawyers Guild
132 Nassau St, Rm 922
New York, NY 10038
Tel: 212-679-5100, x14
Fax: 212-679-2811
Email: membership@nlg.org
web: nlg.org

**Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships
for Social and Economic Justice**

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APPLICATION FORM

Instructions:

Fill out Part 1. Print clearly or type.

Answer Part 2 on a separate piece of paper.

Mail one complete application to each project to which you are applying, and a copy of each application to:

Haywood Burns Fellowship Program
National Lawyers Guild, National Office
132 Nassau St, Room 922
New York, NY 10038

The application must be received no later than January 16, 2009

The stipend is \$2000 per Fellowship for ten weeks of full-time work, unless otherwise noted. (The NLG Pays \$1000 and the agency pays \$1000.) Students are encouraged to pursue matching public interest grants or course credit to supplement this stipend.

PART 1

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address and phone are good through what date? _____

Permanent Address (if different from above)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Law Student Year: _____ Law School: _____

Legal Worker Where: _____

College Student Year: _____ School: _____

Optional Information: (some may be for purposes of affirmative action):

Age: _____ Gender: _____ Underepresented Community: _____

Disability: _____ Sexuality _____

1. What Project are you applying to: _____

2. Languages other than English? _____ Fluency Level: _____

3. Will you have use of a car this summer? Yes__ No__

4. Other skills (i.e. computer skills, typing, Lexis/Westlaw Training)

5. Dates available to work: From _____ To: _____

6. Are you a member of the NLG? Yes__ No__ Which Chapter: _____

7. Have you participated in any NLG events, committees or projects? Yes__ No__

8. Legal, political or educational organizations you are or have been active in: _____

9. List the name, address and phone number of two references:

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

10. Special needs including housing:

11. How did you hear about this project? Where did you obtain this brochure?

PART 2- SHORT ESSAYS

Please answer the following essay questions clearly and concisely. Limit your answers to a total of three double-spaced pages.

A. EXPERIENCE: What kinds of legal, political, educational and work experience have you had which are relevant and directly applicable to this project?

B. REASONS FOR APPLYING: What are your reasons for applying? Describe your knowledge of the issues of concern to the projects that you have chosen.

C. GOALS AND PLANS: What do you expect to gain from this Fellowship? What types of legal and political work do you hope to do in the future? How do you see this internship helping you in your goals?

D. WORKPLACE STRUCTURE: What kind of work structure are you most comfortable with? Do you prefer to work alone or in a group? What degree of supervision do you prefer? Have you ever worked in a collective work structure?

E. FOLLOW-UP WORK: Will you share your summer experience and skills with others? How can you carry the work of the project back to your community and/or law school?

APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 16, 2009

NLG MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

New Law Student Member ___ Renewal___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

School: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

___ YES, add me to the Guild's listserv, NLG-Announcements

___ YES, add me to the NLG student listserv (law students only)

___ YES, I am interested in being a member of the United People of Color Caucus

PAYMENT:

Suggested Dues for Law Students: \$15

___ Check Enclosed (make checks payable to National Lawyers Guild)

Credit Card:

___ Visa ___ Mastercard

Card number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____

National Lawyers Guild National Office
132 Nassau St, Suite 922, New York, NY 10038
tel: (212) 679-5100 fax: (212) 679-2811
membership@nlg.org
nlg.org