

national lawyers guild

2010 Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships
for Social and Economic Justice

APPLICATION PACKET





Haywood Burns

Background and Application Guidelines

The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice 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 the 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 students to assist with the defense of the Attica Brothers, to support the growing farm-worker 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 working 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; the death penalty and prison reform; lesbian/gay/bisexual/trans rights; defense of protesters from police harassment and criminal sanctions; and International human rights.

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

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIPS

The Haywood Burns Fellowships are designed to encourage students to work in the National Lawyers Guild's tradition of area of "peoples" lawyering. The program exists to help students apply their talents and skills to find creative ways to use the law to advance justice. Burns Fellows provoke law students to challenge traditional notions of how one must practice law and to provide a summer experience that will enrich and challenge them.

Fellowships may be completed with any existing organization whose mission is to protect and further the civil rights and civil liberties of underserved individuals and groups. We encourage applicants to identify grassroots and non-traditional work opportunities for which there is a serious current societal need. The Haywood Burns Fellowships usually provide both a rigorous legal experience as well as a political one. At the back of this brochure we list names of some of the former Haywood Burns placements to give students an idea of the work we have funded in the past.

The kinds of grassroots programs that are exciting to us might include developing a clemency program for battered women incarcerated prior to the recognition of the battered woman's syndrome as a defense. A similar project in California has been very successful at filing habeas petitions. Another project might involve working on cases around sexual assault of female prisoners, or educating incarcerated minors with disabilities who are incarcerated.

Ideas specific to 2010 might include working with the group Move to Amend in responding to the recent Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* or with the Guild's own Sugar Law Center for Social and Economic Justice in Detroit which seeks to raise the bar for corporate conduct, binding corporations and government to their legal and moral responsibilities and ensuring enforcement of federal, state and local laws governing corporate behavior.

In 2010, we expect to award between five and ten Fellowships. We provide between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for a ten-week period and encourage students to find supplemental funding. In many cases, a sponsoring organization may be able to match part, or all, of the Guild's stipend.

A DIFFERENT FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

The Haywood Burns Fellowships program traditionally places 20 to 25 Fellows each summer. In 2010 we anticipate placing 5 to 10 Fellows in an attempt to provide more personalized attention to each student. Depending on the geographic location of the placements, we hope to introduce Fellows to Guild members working in a related area. We provide one year free membership in the NLG to all Fellows. As members of the Guild, Fellows can join one or more of our many issue-related listservs, receive our organizational publications and attend our annual convention at a discounted rate. Perhaps most important, membership in the Guild introduces students to a progressive community of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers working in the service of the people. Guild lawyers are at the forefront of legal challenges related to civil rights, military law, immigration law, environmental law, national and international human rights and many other areas.

THE PROCESS

Applicants should identify an organization for whom they would like to work and then submit a one- to two-page letter of support from the organization. The letter should include the following information:

1. Description of the legal work the Fellow will be responsible for
2. The need met by this fellowship
3. Name of supervising attorney who will have day-to-day contact with the Fellow and extent to which the attorney can mentor the Fellow
4. Guarantee all logistical needs (i.e. office spaces, supplies)
5. Amount of funding, if any, the sponsoring organization can provide

In addition, all prospective Fellows must complete and submit the application form and the required writing samples (see pages 4-5).

SELECTION CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

Projects will be evaluated on the basis of legal, political and geographical diversity, as well as the project's connections to the ongoing needs of the persons and communities served. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the student's and organization's commitment to social justice and on a balancing of legal, practical and political work and skills development. Reviewers will also take into consideration the need for the project and how the experience will further the Fellow's legal and career trajectory.

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 28, 2010.
APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MARCH 19, 2010.**

Application Form

INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill out Part 1. Print clearly or type. Answer Part 2 on a separate piece of paper. Attach sponsoring organization letter.

Mail one complete application to:
Jamie Munro
National Lawyers Guild National Office
132 Nassau St, Room 922
New York, NY 10038

The application must be received no later than February 28, 2010

Stipends range from \$1000-\$2000 per Fellowship for ten weeks of full time work, unless otherwise noted. 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 valid until what date? _____

Permanent Address (if different from Above) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

____ 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. Name of Project: _____
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: _____

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?

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 FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Please mail complete applications to:

Jamie Munro
National Lawyers Guild
132 Nassau Street, Rm. 922
New York, NY 10038

Applicants will be notified by March 19, 2010.

Examples of Previous Placements

In previous years, law students have completed Haywood Burns Fellowships at dozens of agencies. Below are some of the sponsoring organizations where Fellows have worked.

- Access to Justice Institute, Seattle University School of Law
- Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)
- Alternatives for Community and Environment
- American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
- Appalachian Citizens Law Center
- Asian Law Caucus
- Bill of Rights Defense Committee
- Cleveland Works
- Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
- Disability Rights Advocates
- East Bay Community Law Center
- Farmworker Justice
- Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Inc.
- Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Inc.
- Georgia Resource Center
- Make the Road by Walking
- Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services
- Midwest Environmental Advocates
- National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
- National Police Accountability Project
- National Whistleblowers Center
- Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
- New Jersey Farmworker and Low Wage Worker Employment Rights Project
- Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
- Southern Echo
- Sugar Law Center
- Sylvia Rivera Law Project

NLG MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Law Student Member _____ Renewal _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

School: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Areas of Interest in Law: _____

Suggested Dues for Law Students: \$15

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

national lawyers guild

132 Nassau St, Room 922

New York, NY 10038

national lawyers guild
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