



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Criminal Justice Section

Legal Education Police Practices Consortium

Fellowship Program Fall 2023

[The ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium](#) (LEPPC) has been formed to contribute to the national effort to examine and address legal issues in policing and public safety, including conduct, oversight, and the evolving nature of police work. The Consortium leverages the ABA's expertise in developing model police practices and that of participating ABA-accredited law schools to collaborate on projects to develop and implement better police practices throughout the United States.

Drawing on the geographic diversity of the ABA and member schools, the Consortium will advance the widespread adoption of model police practices and initiate other projects designed to support effective policing, promote racial equity in the criminal justice system, and eliminate tactics that are racially motivated or have a disparate impact based on race.

Each law school participating in the Consortium is invited to put forward student(s) for consideration in the Fall 2023 fellowship. The work of past fellows is outlined below, and will inform the work of the next cohort:

- conduct a police organizational survey to determine local policing contacts and their chain of command and local agencies (to include government and non-governmental agencies, non-profits, civil society organizations, and faith-based institutions) currently working with and/or on policing issues
- obtain training and internal affairs manuals and determine with what regularity these policies and practices are reviewed and updated
- propose outreach and partnership with a local civil rights/legal aid organization OR policing agency/oversight body, in support of their ongoing work and research needs

Each member law school will be responsible for credit and compensation, as appropriate. Assignments will be undertaken under the guidance of a designated member of the law school faculty and the ABA LEPPC Director.

Essential Fellowship Functions and Responsibilities:

- Undertake research & work independently
- Work with the ABA LEPPC Director and faculty supervisor to compile and elevate findings
- Participate in weekly virtual meetings with other Consortium Fellows & the ABA LEPPC Director or willingness to view the recording of meetings later (meetings will be held on alternating Tuesdays from 12:00-1:30 pm ET and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 pm, starting

September 12 and concluding Thursday, December 14. A working calendar of class dates and speakers is available [here](#)

- Determine opportunities for implementation of existing ABA policing policies into local policing policies/training
- Assist in relevant content creation and dissemination (e.g., webinars, podcasts, magazine articles) to further the goals of the Consortium

Required Education, Qualifications, Experience:

- Associated with a Consortium-member law school for the 2023-2024 academic year
 - o As an enrolled student or postgraduate fellow
- Interest in quantitative and qualitative data collection as it relates to policing practices
- Ability to think creatively and collaboratively on pressing issues
- Ability to work independently and remotely
- Willingness to move up/move back to allow for other voices to be heard, promoting an inclusive, respectful, and productive work environment
- Demonstrated ability to work productively and respectfully with stakeholders and others from a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives
- Demonstrated written and interpersonal communication skills
- Fellows will commit approximately (but no more than) 10 hours a week throughout the academic year to the Consortium
- Compensation and/or credit for participation in the Fellowship program will be at the discretion of the individual law school dean

Interested students may apply directly to the Consortium Director by sending a CV and letter of intent by Friday, July 21. The letter of intent should explain your interest in the fellowship and one thing you hope to accomplish through your work this semester/academic year. Emails should be sent to LEPPC@americanbar.org with subject line: Fall 2024 Consortium Fellowship Application (*law school name*). The proposed faculty advisor on campus **must** be CC'd.

Students who participated in past iterations of the fellowship are welcome to re-apply.

Applications received after July 21 will not be considered for the Fall 2023 class.

Where appropriate and feasible, students are encouraged to commit to involvement in both the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 classes. The Spring 2024 class will run from January-April.

For questions about the fellowship program, please contact Consortium Director Jessalyn Brogan Walker (she/her) at Jessalyn.walker@americanbar.org.

Should a school choose to identify their own fellow, please have them enroll here: <https://forms.gle/jLteupcTneHnRZKK6>. Alternatively, schools may post this announcement and invite students to apply directly through the Consortium. *Omit this section if choosing to post.*

Proposed work plan

Month	Activities/Assignments
May, June, July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium schools identify and enroll fellows
August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2023 Fellowship participants announced
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboarding of Fellows: virtual training/orientation, introduce research assignments • Attend weekly meetings with Fellows and ABA LEPPC Director
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research assignments • Attend weekly meetings with Fellows and ABA LEPPC Director • Submit a proposed research plan
November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued research • Attend weekly meetings with Fellows and ABA LEPPC Director
December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research assignments & summaries due • Attend weekly meetings with Fellows and ABA LEPPC Director
<p>Schools are encouraged to identify students who can commit to involvement in the fellowship for the entirety of the 2023/24 academic year. Students participating in the fellowship for the full year will be required to plan and execute a podcast or webinar OR propose a journal/magazine article on their identified theme, in coordination with other fellows.</p>	

Students are welcome to identify their own research themes based on their existing knowledge and interest areas, or based on recommendations from their advisors.

For schools unclear on what to research, Seth Stoughton and the team at the Excellence in Policing Project have identified the following research themes to support their ongoing work in the field:

- State law surveys on:
 - State search and seizure law that is more restrictive (protective) than the Fourth Amendment;

- Minimum requirements for officer certification;
- Minimum academy training requirements, including length, mode of delivery, and subject matters;
- In-service (continuing professional education) requirements;
- Summaries of existing academic research on:
 - The relationship between traffic enforcement and traffic safety;
 - Different models of civilian advisory/oversight boards;
- Agency policies and/or training (ideally from a selection of agencies, like the largest 3 in every state) on:
 - Use of profanity by officers;
 - Officers' private social media use (that is, not on behalf of the agency) and related disciplinary procedures;
 - Use of force review boards/processes;
 - Canine apprehension;
 - Response to being spat on by community members;
 - No knock and dynamic entry, including specific risk assessment metrics;
 - Eyewitness identification
 - Promotion/promotional processes to special investigation units
 - Part-time and job-sharing options for officers
 - Pregnancy and nursing policies