



**EQUAL  
JUSTICE  
WORKS**

# LAW STUDENT **RESOURCE GUIDE**

As of January 2024

## / 1L Guide

Welcome to the beginning of your legal journey! As a first year law student (1L), you are uniquely positioned to explore and channel your legal education towards causes that resonate with your commitment to social equity and community well-being. At Equal Justice Works, we believe that a community of lawyers committed to public service can fulfill our nation's promise of equal justice for all. While on this transformative journey, consider some of our programs and ways to stay connected!

### PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO YOU

#### Equal Justice Works Career Fair

Each fall, Equal Justice Works hosts its annual [Career Fair](#), the largest public interest legal career fair in the country, bringing together thousands of law students, recent graduates, public interest employers, law school faculty and staff, and public interest practitioners from across the United States and its territories for three days of prescheduled interviews and informal “table talk” discussions. The event is typically hosted virtually over three days in early October.

#### Equal Justice Works Public Interest Primer

The Public Interest Primer is a virtual event hosted in the spring before students embark on their public interest internships and Fellowships for the summer. This event is designed to help prepare law students for their summer internships by bringing together practitioners and experts from the legal field for interactive sessions on topics ranging from trauma-informed lawyering to issue spotting and case management. Students receive a certificate of completion at the end of the event.

#### Disaster Resilience Program

Equal Justice Works' Disaster Resilience Program is a national standing disaster response, recovery, and resilience program that prioritizes highly vulnerable communities and mobilizes public service lawyers and law students (Fellows) to provide free legal aid to help people and communities recover from and prepare for disasters. Fellows deliver direct legal services, inform people of their rights, and advance systemic change to ensure that legal assistance is equitably accessible in the aftermath of disasters, as well as strengthen and fortify legal protections that fail people during recovery. Each Student Fellow works 300 hours over the summer and earns a \$7,000 stipend for their work.

### **Rural Summer Legal Corps**

Rural Summer Legal Corps (RSLC) program is a collaboration between Equal Justice Works and Legal Services Corporation (LSC) that connects public interest law students with LSC-funded civil legal aid organizations nationwide to address the access-to-justice crisis for people living in rural areas. Rural communities in the U.S. and its territories face a shortage of lawyers, with a large population of the country being forced to travel hundreds of miles to find legal assistance. Fellows provide direct legal services and conduct client and witness interviews, engage in community outreach and education, and build capacity at one's host organization through resource development and training sessions. Each Student Fellow works 300 hours over the summer and earns a \$7,000 stipend for their work.

### **Crime Victims Advocacy Program**

Equal Justice Works' Crime Victim Advocacy Program increase access to legal aid for survivors of crime, especially in underserved black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities. CVAP law student fellows work collaboratively with public service lawyers to provide legal advice, referrals, and full representation for crime survivors on various civil legal issues arising from their victimization. Student fellows will also help enforce their clients' rights in criminal proceedings, engage in outreach and education activities, and build community partnerships for holistic services. Each Student Fellow works 300 hours over the summer and earns a \$7,000 stipend for their work.

### **Regional Public Interest Awards**

Each year, the Equal Justice Works National Advisory Committee presents eight law students throughout the country with a Regional Public Interest Award. Chosen for their innovation, impact, and commitment to public interest law, each of the students selected is recognized for providing extraordinary service through clinics, volunteer work, internships, and more. Winners receive \$250, a commemorative plaque, and are publicly recognized throughout the Equal Justice Works network.

### **National Advisory Committee**

The National Advisory Committee (NAC) is made up of eight law students and eight law school professionals who conduct outreach and provide feedback and advice on our programs and initiatives. NAC Members serve two-year staggered terms and new members are selected each spring. Students on this committee build relationships in the public interest community and share their voice to help Equal Justice Works further our mission.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

### Seek Guidance

Visit the career services office and/or public interest resource center at your law school to discuss your public service aspirations. They can provide valuable advice, share resources, and help you tailor your legal education to your career goals.

### Attend Public Service Events

Participate in workshops and guest lectures focused on public service. These events often feature experienced professionals sharing insights into their careers and subject matter expertise.

### Create a Public Service Portfolio

Capture your involvement in public service activities, pro bono work, and relevant coursework. A portfolio showcasing your commitment to social justice can be valuable when applying for internships, jobs, or fellowships.

### Check out Our Website

Visit [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org) to learn more about our organization, research past Fellows & projects.

## / 2L/3L Guide

Welcome 2Ls and 3Ls to the next chapter of your legal education journey! As seasoned law students, you have acquired a wealth of knowledge and honed your legal skills, and now is the time to consider the impact you could make in the public service sector. At Equal Justice Works, we create opportunities for lawyers to transform their passion for equal justice into a lifelong commitment to public service. As you embark on the journey beyond law school, consider some of our programs and ways to stay connected!

### PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO YOU

#### Design-Your-Own Fellowship Program

Each year, Equal Justice Works funds roughly 75-80 legal Fellowship projects designed by the candidates in partnership with a non-profit organization focused on developing innovative ways to address access to justice and enact social change. These projects are nationwide and are on a wide variety of issue areas including immigration, education, housing, veterans, etc. Applications open in May and close in September.

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## THINGS TO CONSIDER

### Attend Public Service Career Fairs

Attend career fairs, such as the Equal Justice Works Career Fair in October, specifically focused on public service and government opportunities. These events often feature employers seeking passionate individuals like you dedicated to making a difference.

### Build a Strong Legal Network

Actively network with professionals in the public service sector by attending networking events and joining professional organizations. Also, utilize the search function on [equaljusticeworks.org/fellows](https://equaljusticeworks.org/fellows) and connect with alumni on LinkedIn.

### Participate in Clinics and Externships

Enroll in clinical programs and externships that emphasize public service. These hands-on experiences provide hands on experience tackling real world legal challenges faced by underserved populations.

### Explore Fellowship Opportunities

Research fellowship programs like those offered by Equal Justice Works. Fellowships provide funding and support for aspiring public interest lawyers.

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Visit [equaljusticeworks.org](https://equaljusticeworks.org) to learn more about our organization, research past fellows & projects