



THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

875 Concourse Parkway South, Suite 195
Maitland, Florida 32751
407/960-7000 ** 800/541-2195

COMMUNITY BASED CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES GRANT PROGRAMS

2020 CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES SUMMER FELLOWSHIP INITIATIVE GRANT DESCRIPTION

I. Overview

An essential component of the Florida Bar Foundation’s mission is to “promote service to the public by members of the legal profession by making public service an integral component of the law school experience.” In furtherance of this, the Foundation created the Civil Legal Services Summer Fellowship Grant Program. This program offers Florida law students the opportunity to gain valuable legal service experience at a Florida non-profit legal service organization for an 11-week full-time paid summer fellowship. The fellowship stipend will be paid to the host organization, to be distributed to the fellow according to the regular employment practices of the organization. The organization and the summer fellow will be matched using the preferences outlined by each in their application.

Fellowship Purposes

- To involve fellowship recipients in the provision of high-quality, significant civil legal assistance to low-income Floridians, the indigent, and the working poor in critical areas of need.
- To provide an in-depth educational experience in representing low-income Floridians and working with individual clients and client groups in civil matters.
- To increase law student interest in and awareness of the legal problems of low-income Floridians, and the challenges and satisfaction of representing those who need it most.
- To promote commitment to pro bono representation of low-income Floridians.

Community Economic Development Focus

As this program is funded by the Bank of America settlement funds, proposed fellowship projects must focus on community economic development.

Community economic development funds must be used for civil legal services that revitalize or stabilize low and moderate-income communities and that address neighborhood blight resulting from problems facing communities including unemployment, poverty, job loss, environmental degradation, and loss of community control.

Here are some (not exhaustive) examples of projects related to community economic development: housing law, consumer law, public benefits, tax law, representation of low-income entrepreneurs or small business owners located in struggling neighborhoods, immigration law, work with incarcerated persons, domestic violence victim representation in family court, and veterans representation.

Eligibility for Organizations:

In order to be eligible for this grant program, the prospective host organization must:

- Be a non-profit entity, tax-exempt and qualified to receive charitable donations within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code;
- Operate within the State of Florida;
- Have a primary purpose of providing legal services to low-income Floridians;
- Offer opportunities for the summer fellow to gain practical legal experience such as having client contact, drafting legal documents, attending court or administrative hearings, and conducting community education; and
- Have the ability to host a summer fellow from May 2020 to August 2020 and provide supervision, a workspace, technology, and other resources necessary for the student to be successful.

Eligibility for Law Students

In order to be eligible for this grant program, the prospective student summer fellow must:

- Be a rising second- or third-year law student at an accredited Florida law school;
- Have a competitive GPA and resume;
- Have a strong interest in public service work; and
- Be available to participate in-person in the mandatory orientation scheduled for May 18-19th in Orlando, Florida.

Fellowship Stipend

Foundation sponsored summer fellows will receive a financial stipend during the 11-week fellowship. The stipend will be disbursed to the host organization, who will then pay the summer fellow along according to their regular employment practices. The foundation will provide the host organization with funding to cover the cost of payroll taxes for the fellow, with the understanding that the organization will not deduct these taxes from the student's stipend.

- For rising 2L's, the stipend amount is \$6,500.00; and
- For rising 3L's, the stipend amount is \$8,250.00

Fellowship Term

- The Fellowship commences with a two-day mandatory orientation for students from May 18 to 19th in Orlando. Students will begin their 11-week fellowship at their host legal service organization the following Monday, May 25, 2020. The Fellowship will end on August 7, 2020.

Deadline and Submission

- Summer Fellow applications will be available on the online platform JotForm. Host organization applications will be available on January 15, 2020. Student Applications will be available on February 3, 2020.
- Host organization applications are due to the Florida Bar Foundation by 11:59pm EST on January 31, 2020. Student Applications are due back to the Foundation by 11:59pm EST on February 19, 2020. Decisions about host organization placement will be made by March 27, 2020.

Questions

- For any questions, please feel free to contact the Grants Program Director Kate York at kyork@thefloridabarfoundation.org or Grants Administrator Andrea Horne at ahorne@flabarfndn.org.