

Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Program

About the Fellowships

The Stevens Fellowship program is a partnership between Washington University School of Law and the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation to support law students working in public interest positions over the summer. This year, six Washington University 2L students will be selected for Stevens Fellowships, and will receive summer stipends of \$6,000 each.

The Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship program honors the legacy of Justice John Paul Stevens, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1975 until his retirement in 2010. Justice Stevens devoted his career to promoting the common good and the ideal of equal justice under law. Former law clerks of Justice Stevens created the fellowship program in 1997 to honor his life and legacy by supporting law students who share his commitment to the public interest. Since its inception, the Fellowship program has supported over 630 Stevens Fellows across the country, 74% of whom go on to work in public interest and social justice positions.

Eligibility

J.D. students enrolled as 2Ls who will be working in a full-time, public interest legal internship with a governmental agency or a nonprofit organization for a minimum of ten (10) weeks during the summer of 2022 are eligible to apply. The Foundation requires that Stevens Fellowships shall not be awarded to students working as judicial externs. Students working at international organizations and at public interest organizations or agencies outside of the United States are eligible.

Students must have secured a placement by the time the application is due. The selection committee is looking for distinguished students with a passion, commitment, background, and dedication to public interest law, social justice work, and/or public service. Applicants must clearly demonstrate this commitment in their application materials.

Fellowship Cohort & Requirements

During the summer, the six Stevens Fellowship recipients will be part of a national cohort of Stevens Fellows from 30 law schools from around the country. All Stevens Fellows will have access to online trainings, convenings with the cohort of 2022 Stevens Fellows, and gatherings with former Stevens Fellows working in the public interest and attorneys who clerked for Justice Stevens during his time on the U.S. Supreme Court.

During the summer, Stevens Fellows will work with the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation to amplify their work and the work of their public interest employer, including through social media posts and other communications efforts. At the end of the summer, Fellowship recipients will write a brief description of their summer, including information about the type of work performed and the ways in which it helped the employer. This description will be shared with the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation, which will then share it with the network of former clerks for Justice Stevens and other funders and supporters of the Stevens Fellowships.

Application

For summer 2022, students can apply for the Stevens Fellowship through the WashULaw Summer Public Interest Funding Program (SPIP) Application. The WashULaw SPIP Application requires that you submit:

- Your resume;
- Three short essay statements describing (1) the nature of the work of the organization with which you will be working and what sort of work you expect to do; (2) the reason for your interest in your organization's work, including how the position advances your future career goals; and (3) your past public interest/volunteer experience and/or desire to serve as a public interest attorney;
- A statement explaining your special circumstances and/or financial need; and
- A statement setting forth any additional funding you will receive this summer from any outside organization or any amount of funding from any employer.

In addition, applicants for the Stevens Fellowship must submit:

- A letter from the public interest employer confirming a summer job offer with the organization for at least ten weeks. (This letter need not be included with the initial application, but must be provided before the grant money is distributed.)

Questions

Please contact Alison Smith at smith.alison@wustl.edu.

About the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation

Honoring Justice Stevens' lifelong dedication to improving the justice system, the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation invests in the next generation of lawyers by providing Fellowships to students at participating law schools who work in public interest summer internships. A group of Justice Stevens' former law clerks established the Foundation in 2010 as Justice Stevens retired from the Supreme Court to provide a formal home for the Stevens Fellowship Program. Over time, the program has expanded to 30 law schools, and Justice Stevens was actively engaged in the mission and work of the Foundation until his death in 2019. For more information about the Foundation, please see www.JPSFoundation.org.