



BAY AREA LEGAL AID 2016-2018 FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Organization: Bay Area Legal Aid's (BayLegal) mission is to provide high quality legal assistance regardless of a client's location, language, or disability. We are the largest provider of free civil legal services to low-income residents of the San Francisco Bay Area with regional offices in seven counties. Our services include advice, referrals, limited scope assistance, extended representation, public policy and impact advocacy, trainings, and community education. From Napa Valley to Silicon Valley, BayLegal ensures fairness in the civil justice system for the most vulnerable members of our community. We help our clients protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. BayLegal's 100+ staff members provide wraparound legal services in housing preservation, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, economic security, consumer protection, and healthcare access. Many of our programs focus on highly vulnerable populations, including youth, immigrants experiencing violence, veterans, and the reentry population. BayLegal has successfully sponsored numerous Skadden, Equal Justice Works, Shartsis Friese, and Borchard fellowships.

Fellowships: BayLegal invites rising third year law students and recent law school graduates to propose innovative fellowship projects for submission to Equal Justice Works, Skadden, Soros Justice Fellowship Program, and/or similar programs for 2016-2018. Project ideas should relate to one or more of BayLegal's substantive priority or project areas. Candidates may create their own proposal related to one or more of these areas, where fellows will be expected to develop substantive area expertise, provide direct representation to clients and work on innovative solutions including writs and appeals. BayLegal will also gladly assist candidates to design a project consistent with the candidate's own interests and the needs of our community. Please contact fellows@baylegal.org if you have questions about designing a project.

Some project topics of particular interest this year include:

- Children and youth issues
- Veterans issues – women veterans, LGBTQ veterans
- Food insecurity – access to sustainable public benefits and effective advocacy
- Prisoner re-entry – family reunification, benefits, etc.
- Legal services to domestic violence survivors – innovative models for comprehensive legal services

Factors that will be utilized in evaluating candidates for sponsorship include:

- Potential for fellowship funding
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law
- Knowledge of, or strong interest in, the relevant issues presented in the fellowship proposal
- Connection to, familiarity with, or experience working on social justice issues with: low-income, diverse, and LEP communities
- Fluency in a non-English language spoken by BayLegal clients
- Excellent oral, writing, and legal research skills
- Anticipated or current California Bar membership

Interested applicants should email the following materials to Protima Pandey at fellows@baylegal.org on or before July 1, 2016: cover letter, resume, one-page summary of your proposal or a statement concerning the priority area in which you would like to develop a project, list of three references, and a short writing sample.

Bay Area Legal Aid thrives on our diversity and we are proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to building a culturally diverse workplace and strongly encourage women, persons of color, LGBTQ individuals, veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons from other underrepresented groups to apply. For more information, please visit www.baylegal.org/employment-opportunities.