2018 Post-Graduate Fellowship Opportunities: Advancing Justice through Community Lawyering in New York City

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a non-profit civil rights legal organization, is accepting applications from candidates for post-graduate fellowship opportunities in its Health Justice, Disability Justice, and Environmental Justice programs. The Fellow would begin in the fall of 2018.

NYLPI pioneered the practice of community lawyering in New York City, working on the premise that every New Yorker has the basic civil right to thrive. With every case and campaign, we partner with members of marginalized communities on advocacy that is ambitious, participatory, and dynamic.

Our activism focuses on issues of racial equality and disability rights. Our Health Justice Program represents immigrant and detained individuals with serious health care needs; eliminates systemic and institutional barriers that limit universal access to health care; and addresses the social determinants of health so that all New Yorkers can live a healthy life. Our Disability Justice Program defends and promotes the civil rights of people with disabilities in all aspects of life, including housing, education, transportation, and criminal justice, and ensures that people with disabilities are able to live independently and with dignity in the community. Our Environmental Justice Program works in partnership with community groups and city-wide coalitions to eliminate the unfair burden of environmental hazards borne by low-income communities and communities of color, and to create a more equitable and sustainable city. We address issues such as the overburdening of low-income communities of color with garbage facilities and the presence of dangerous toxins in public schools. NYLPI’s renowned Pro Bono Clearinghouse connects community organizations throughout NYC with pro bono attorneys from the City’s largest law firms, and creates pro bono partnerships that expand the reach and impact of our advocacy.

About the Fellowship and the Application Process: NYLPI seeks highly accomplished, progressive, community-minded candidates with excellent research and writing skills to advance the goals of our programs.

Public interest fellowship programs such as Equal Justice Works and the Skadden Fellowship Foundation provide two-year fellowships to graduating law students, outgoing judicial clerks and, in the case of Equal Justice Works, experienced attorneys who are motivated to work at a public interest law office. The fellowship programs are competitive and applicants need time to develop project proposals and complete applications. NYLPI thus strongly encourages all interested applicants to apply to NYLPI as early as possible. Candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, most recent transcript (official or unofficial) and three references, including daytime telephone numbers, to Fabian Gomez at fellowships@nylpi.org as soon as possible but no later than 5pm on July 24, 2017. Candidates should also complete the following online form when they submit their applications: Click here for form or go to http://goo.gl/forms/QbC5S5lPKQAEjddE3.

Candidates with fellowship project ideas are encouraged to discuss them in the cover letter, but it is not necessary to have a developed project proposal in order to apply. NYLPI has successfully sponsored numerous fellows in the past and works closely with candidates to craft effective proposals and prepare for fellowship interviews. Please note: only 3Ls graduating in 2018 or outgoing judicial clerks are eligible to apply for Skadden Fellowships. Equal Justice Works will also consider experienced attorneys. Applications will be reviewed by NYLPI on a rolling basis.

NYLPI is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and actively recruits people of color, individuals with disabilities, LGBT people, people who have grown up in poverty, and former recipients of public assistance. We are committed to advancing social equality and civil rights in our advocacy, and we value the dynamism and perspective that staff diversity brings to the work and culture of the office.