Summer Public Interest and Public Service Fellowships

Information and Application

- Burdman, Steckley-Weitzel, Carroll-Simon; and Spruill Fellowships
- Horvitz Public Law Fellowships
- Dean’s Service Grants (2L’s only)

Note: Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) fellowships are administered through the PILF student group.

Burdman, Steckley-Weitzel, Carroll-Simon, and Spruill Fellowships

These Summer Fellowships are made possible through endowments to Duke Law School from: alumnus Richard Burdman ’56; former Associate Dean for External Relations Linda Steckley and her husband Pete Weitzel; alumni couple Candace Carroll ’74 and Len Simon ’73; and donations to honor Dean Carol Spruill. To qualify for these Fellowships, applicants must secure a summer position with a non-profit, NGO, or government organization in the US or abroad; clerkship positions are not eligible for these Fellowships. Open to 1Ls and 2Ls; full summer (10 weeks at 40 hours per week) and split summer arrangements are eligible. Successful applicants will have a demonstrated commitment to developing a career in the public interest. These are competitive Fellowships, with a preference for 2Ls.

Horvitz Public Law Fellowships

Funding for Horvitz Fellowships is made possible through a donation by alumnus Rick Horvitz ’78. These Fellowships are open to 1L and 2L students who secure summer positions related to public law, including positions with: State Attorneys General and Solicitor Generals; Department of Justice; other Federal positions where the work is related to Constitutional matters; federal executive branch office internships, including positions with the White House or Cabinet offices; and positions with organizations that work on issues of federalism, civil liberties, or other constitutional law-related issues. Summer judicial internships also qualify. Full summer (10 weeks at 40 hours per week) and split summer arrangements are eligible. Horvitz Fellowship applicants must describe how their summer experience will contribute to their understanding of the Constitutional framework. This is a competitive Fellowship, with a preference for 2L’s.

Dean’s Service Grants (2L’s only)

The Dean’s Service Grant guarantees $3000 in summer funding to 2L students who secure a qualifying public service position for the summer, including: local, state, or federal government; not-for-profit organizations or non-governmental organizations (including international); and summer judicial internships. Students must commit to at least 10 weeks at 40 hours per week in order to qualify for a full Grant; funding may be pro-rated for lesser commitments or split summers. Students must complete at least 10 hours of pro bono service within the school year prior to the application deadline (coordinated with and tracked by the PIPB Office). Students may seek additional funding (e.g., from employers directly, Equal Justice Works Summer Grants, Stanback Fellowships, PILF, etc.) up to a total amount of $5000 (i.e., up to $2000 in other funding) without a reduction in the Grant amount.
DEADLINE for all applications is 5pm on Thursday, March 18, 2010

Every application must include:

(1) Your name, class, phone number and email address.
(2) The name, address and phone number for your summer organization AND supervisor.
(3) An offer letter, or letter of confirmation from your summer organization.
(4) Your summer title, description of your anticipated summer duties/project, and your anticipated responsibilities (1-3 paragraphs). Please also note whether your commitment is full time (10 weeks at 40 hours per week), split summer, or some other length/amount of obligation.
(5) Statement of alternative sources of funding (such as personal, family, summer organization/employer, and any other fellowship or funding source), including amount.
(6) Statement of financial need, including college debt information and an estimate of post-grad law school debt.
(7) Resume.
(8) The following statement, typed at the end of your application, with your signature in hardcopy: “I certify that all of the information contained in this application is true and complete, to the best of my knowledge. I will notify the selection committee immediately if I receive any other monetary or in-kind support, whether from my employer or other sources.”

Burdman, Steckley-Weitzel, Carroll-Simon, and Spruill Fellowship applications also must include: a statement about your interest in and commitment to public interest law, and an explanation of how your summer experience will further your public interest career goals (about 1 page).

Horvitz Public Law Fellowship applications also must include: a statement about your interest in public law, and how your summer experience will further your understanding of the Constitutional framework (about 1 page).

Dean’s Service Grant applications also must include: a statement about your professional goals and expectations with regard to your summer experience and what you hope to get out of it, and a description of your pro bono activities during the 2009-2010 school year, including the number of pro bono hours completed (note: you must complete 10 hours of pro bono to qualify for the Dean’s Service Grant).

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The deadline for applications is 5pm on Thursday, March 18, 2010. Turn in your completed applications (with signed certification) to Laura Brockington in the Office of Public Interest and Pro Bono. A Selection Committee will review the applications and make its decisions by early April.

If you are selected to receive a Burdman, Steckley-Weitzel, Carroll-Simon, Spruill or Horvitz Fellowship, you will be required to submit a written evaluation of your experience at the end of the summer. In addition, you will be required to write a letter of thanks to the donor who funded your summer Fellowship (names and addresses will be provided to you for that purpose).

If you have any questions about these Duke Law summer public interest and public service fellowship opportunities, please see Dean Kim Bart in the Office of Public Interest and Pro Bono, or Stella Boswell, Public Interest Career Counselor in the Career and Professional Development Center.