



OSLSA Thomas W. Weeks Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship

SUMMER 2021 APPLICATION:

Dear Law Student Fellowship Applicant:

The Ohio State Legal Services Association (OSLSA), comprised of the Ohio Poverty Law Center, the Southeastern Ohio Legal Services Association, and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, is pleased to make available the Thomas W. Weeks Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship. The Fellowship program enables students entering or enrolled in law school to receive funding to work during the Fall, Spring, and/or Summer for OSLSA. **We are currently accepting applications for the Summer 2021 term.**

The Weeks Fellows will be:

- Summer (May–August) – Full Time
 - Minimum hours worked for full-time fellowship: 400 over a period of at least 10 weeks
 - Funded: \$15/hr
- Summer Part-time
 - Minimum hours worked for part-time fellowship: 160 over a period of at least 10 weeks
 - Funded: \$15/hr

The program provides opportunities for law students to work in a legal services organization in order to develop their interests and skills in public interest law and is designed to foster diversity in Legal Aid programs.

To that end, OSLSA encourages students from diverse backgrounds to become Legal Aid lawyers and join Ohio Legal Aid organizations, with the goal that over time these organizations, including OSLSA, will better reflect the diversity of the population these organizations serve.

***Due to COVID-19, the Fellowship will be flexible with a remote internship for the Summer 2021.*

The Fellowship:

- A 10-week internship as a Weeks Fellow at OSLSLA with funding
 - Remote internships available for students attending school outside of central and southeastern Ohio
- Assignment of a mentor from OSLSA
 - This mentor will not only provide support and guidance within OSLSA, but will also support and create opportunities to engage with the greater legal community.

Selection Criteria:

- Background that is diverse or underrepresented (including but not limited to diversity arising from the applicant's sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, color, race, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status, marital status, mental or physical disability, or genetic information), as well as from students from backgrounds that may have presented obstacles to accessing the legal profession, such as family financial hardship while growing up, being the first in one's family to go to college, or geographical circumstances such as coming from a rural or inner-city background that limited social interaction with lawyers, or students who otherwise demonstrate a commitment to fostering diversity.
- Demonstrated or compelling financial need
- Be entering or enrolled in law school at the start of the Fellowship term.
- An interest in Legal Aid programs or public service. Interest is not limited to previous work or volunteering in the field.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to all law students attending an accredited school.

Thomas W. Weeks Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship

Summer 2021 Application

*Submit Your Completed Application by March 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM (EST) to:
employment@oslsa.org*

Personal Information

Name:

Telephone Number:

Address:

Email Address:

Ethnicity:

Law School/Graduation Year (if applicable):

Are you the first person in your immediate family to have attended college? Yes No

Are you the first person in your immediate family to have graduated from college? Yes
No

Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend graduate school? Yes No

Application Package:

- Resume
 - Please attach a copy of your resume with your application.
- Personal Statement
 - In 750 words or less, describe the obstacles you have overcome in pursuing your education, the qualities and talents you would bring to the legal profession, and why you should be selected as a fellow.
- Statement of economic need (not to exceed 250 words) stating your or your parents'/guardians' current financial situation and/ or your financial need.
- References (not limited to lawyers or previous employers)

*Application Packet Submission**

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

*e-signature accepted

Fellowship selections will be based on the application materials and may include personal telephonic or zoom interviews by members of the selection committee.

Complete application packets (as described above) must be received by Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm or earlier. Applications must be submitted by email. Applications will only be reviewed once the packet is deemed complete. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. OSLSA reserves the right to extend the deadline. Please note: All information provided will be kept confidential and may be subject to verification.

Fellowship Recipients

Before receiving fellowship funds, recipients will need to complete paperwork required for OSLSA. Fellowship funds will be disbursed biweekly, directly to the student, and will be dependent upon continued competition of hourly commitment. Students may apply for a fellowship more than once in a term year.

Questions: Please email Kayla Callahan, LASC Pro Bono Coordinator, at kcallahan@columbuslegalaid.org.