

2008 Haywood Burns
Memorial Fellowships
for Social and
Economic Justice

National Lawyers Guild

Fellowship Descriptions and
Application Packet



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The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice 2008

The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice has its roots in the National Lawyers Guild's established tradition of providing legal, political and educational support to the important progressive movements of the day. In the summer of 1964, the Guild, working with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, sent lawyers and law students south to provide legal support for the emerging civil rights movement in what became known as Mississippi Summer.

In late 1972, New York State indicted 62 prisoners who survived the police assault at the Attica Correctional Facility. None of the police officers was indicted despite detailed reports of excessive force. In 1973, the Summer Projects Committee was formed in part to respond to this situation. The Committee sent law students to assist with the defense of the Attica Brothers, to support the growing farmworker struggles in California, and to support Native American treaty rights in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the years, the Summer Projects program has expanded to place hundreds of students with public interest organizations that are struggling to protect and further the civil rights of oppressed people in the United States. Although providing legal work under the direction of their attorney-organizers is still important, the primary mission of the summer projects is to strengthen each student's long-term commitment to promote justice and equality. Fellows have worked with groups to provide legal, political, and educational support on a wide variety of issues, including voting rights; union democracy; workplace health and safety; Native American treaty rights; the death penalty and prison reform; Asian-American women seeking decent wages, conditions and housing; lesbian/gay/bisexual/trans rights; defense of protestors from police harassment and criminal sanctions; Central American refugees; International human rights; and illegal government spying.

In 1996 the program was renamed the Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice after the death of Haywood Burns, long-time radical lawyer and law professor and former president of the National Lawyers Guild, whose life and work created a legend to inspire generations to come.

Access to Justice Institute, Seattle University
School of Law
SEATTLE, WA

The work of the Access to Justice Institute reflects the mission of Seattle University School of Law: to lead its students toward lifetime service to justice for all. Since its founding in 2000, the Institute's goal has been to provide quality volunteer experience by placing law Fellows with legal service agencies in an effort to fulfill unmet legal needs. The Institute works toward shaping public policy, encouraging public service and promoting social justice.

The Haywood Burns Fellow will work on some of AtJI's in-house projects. Most likely, the Fellow will work on a collaborative effort between AtJI and the Institute for Indian Estate Planning and Probate (IIEPP), which is housed at Seattle University. The mission of IIEPP is to assist Indian people in making informed decisions about their property by: 1) establishing legal service projects that provide free and reduced cost estate planning services to individual tribal members; 2) providing training to tribal members, governmental officials and the legal community; and 3) serving as a clearinghouse for the latest information on the American Indian Probate Reform Act.

The Fellow should have excellent research and writing skills. The Fellow should also have some experience with client interviewing and cross-cultural communication. Completion of at least one relevant class course (i.e., probate, Indian law) and experience working with the Native American communities are a plus.

Contact:

Access to Justice Institute
Seattle University School of Law
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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.
(ABLE)
TOLEDO, OH

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) is a non-profit law firm headquartered in Toledo that serves low-income people in 32 urban and rural counties in northwest and west central Ohio and migrant farm-workers statewide. Established in 1969, ABLE and its affiliate, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) now serve over 15,000 low-income people annually. It is unique among legal services organizations nationally with regard to its specialization and expertise in impact litigation as well as individual representation.

ABLE has a long and successful history of sponsoring student interns, and has hosted a number of Fellows through the Haywood Burns program. These students have engaged in significant legal work activities including outreach, provision of information on legal rights and entitlements, legal research and writing, litigation preparation, and client intake. Recently, ALE has been developing impact litigation to address issues that are affecting low-income people locally and throughout the U.S. including predatory lending, environmental justice, and immigrant rights.

The Fellow will work in ABLE's Special Litigation and Support Unit (SLSU). This unit specializes in impact litigation that promotes systemic or institutional change benefiting large groups of low-income people. The Fellow will be assigned to work with an attorney in a specific substantive area. The specific area in which the Fellow would work can be worked out between ABLE and the candidate prior to the placement. Potential areas include: housing, mental health law, special education issues in the public school system, immigration law, health care rights, predatory lending, and environmental justice. The Fellow will have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities including client education, litigation assistance, and case research and development. The SLSU Managing Attorney will provide direct supervision to the Fellow. He will meet with the Fellow on a regular basis to monitor progress. In addition, the Fellow will participate in bi-weekly meetings of the SLSU.

Preferably, students will have completed two years of law school and will be available to work a Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule. Fluency in Spanish is very helpful.

Contact:

Cindy Hurst
Grants and Contracts Manager
ABLE
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Alternatives for Community and Environment BOSTON, MA

Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) builds the power of communities of color and lower income communities in New England to eradicate environmental racism and classism and achieve environmental justice. ACE believes that everyone has the right to a healthy environment and to be decision-makers in issues affecting local communities.

Systemic change means moving beyond solving problems one by one to eliminating the root causes of environmental injustice. ACE is anchoring a movement of people who have been excluded from decision-making to confront power directly and demand fundamental changes in the rules of the game in order to collectively achieve the right to a healthy environment.

The Fellow will assist ACE's Staff Attorney on the cases and legal issues that require work during the summer. That may include advocacy on local development issues, locally undesirable land uses, and public transit issues. The Fellow should expect to perform legal and factual research and writing, interact with state and local government, and work with community residents.

Qualifications:

- Law student who has completed one or two years at an accredited law school
- Good legal research and writing skills
- Strong commitment to social/environmental justice and community empowerment
- Good active listener
- Organized
- Flexibility to work an occasional weeknight

Contact:

Eugene B. Benson
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Boston, MA 02119
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American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee WASHINGTON, DC

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which is non-sectarian and non-partisan, is the largest Arab-American grassroots organization in the United States. It was founded in 1980 by former Senator James Abourezk to defend the rights of Americans of Arab descent from discrimination, stereotyping and hate crimes.

Fellows are responsible for their own cases under the direct supervision of the ADC attorneys. Cases involve employment discrimination, immigration, airline discrimination, hate crimes, educational discrimination, public accommodation, housing, and freedom of speech.

Fellows also represent the organization at various meetings and conferences with civil rights and human rights organizations, as well as federal agencies and departments. In addition, ADC Fellows are required to write a twenty-page law review style paper related to the issues that ADC handles, and conduct a thirty-minute presentation of their paper.

Fellows should have excellent legal research and writing skills and a strong commitment to diversity and civil rights.

Contact:

Legal Intern Coordinator
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
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Appalachian Citizens Law Center
PRESTONBURG, KY

The Appalachian Citizens Law Center is a non-profit law center, now in its sixth year, which represents low income clients and groups in matters related to environmental damage from coal mining, and coal mine health and safety, including claims for black lung benefits. The staff consists of three attorneys and a part-time clerical person.

Summer law interns in the past have helped to represent low-income individuals on environmental issues related to coal mining and in black lung benefits cases. They have worked with community groups and prepared comments on legislative and regulatory proposals related to coal mining and mountaintop removal mining. They have also participated in meetings on mine safety issues.

The ACLC office is located in Whitesburg, a small town near the Kentucky-Virginia state line. Whitesburg is home to Appalshop, a nationally recognized multi-media consortium and radio station. There is no public transportation, so summer interns must have their own vehicle.

Contact:

Wes Addington
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Asian Law Caucus
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Asian Law Caucus (ALC) is the nation's oldest legal and civil rights organization serving low-income Asian Pacific American communities. Founded in 1972, ALC defends and empowers the Asian Pacific American community through an integrated strategy of direct legal services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community building. Its program areas focus on housing, employment, immigration, and civil rights.

Fellows at ALC have the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of the Caucus' work. Fellows research and write legal memoranda, draft pleadings and briefs, and assist attorneys in other aspects of litigation, such as depositions, hearings, and trials. The Haywood Burns Fellow may even have the opportunity to represent clients at administrative hearings. On advocacy or press campaigns, Fellows assist attorneys in drafting testimony, formulating demands, and working with the community. The Fellow will work with legal staff to conduct community education and outreach at workshops and events.

ALC prefers to hire 2Ls, but will also consider 1Ls. ALC is looking for students with excellent research and writing skills, and a strong commitment to public interest work. Bilingual skills in an Asian language are preferred.

Contact:

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Asian Law Caucus
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San Francisco, CA 94103
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Fax: (415) 896-1702

Bill of Rights Defense Committee NORTHAMPTON, MA

The Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC) formed in 2001, soon after the USA PATRIOT Act was passed, to channel people's fears about the effects of the USA PATRIOT Act, detentions, and other assaults on civil liberties since September 11, 2001, into a nonpartisan national campaign composed of local and state-wide coalitions. Organizations and individuals use BORDC's direct organizing support, tools, and strategies to educate their communities and legislators about threats to civil liberties.

Hundreds of communities and four states have passed resolutions establishing themselves as "civil liberties safe zones," and hundreds more are in progress, making the movement to defend civil liberties one of the largest in US history.

The BORDC has no attorneys on its five-person staff. Attorney supervision and legal review, feedback, and advice concerning the Haywood Burns Fellow's work are provided as needed by attorneys within nationally recognized organizations who serve on the BORDC's board or advisory board.

BORDC's Haywood Burns Fellow should be familiar with the US Constitution and should have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Projects may include:

- Write articles for BORDC's monthly email newsletter, which is sent to more than 6,000 subscribers.
- Write action alerts, press releases, literature, and web pages on important civil liberties issues.
- Research and write one or more white papers on an underreported topic of importance to BORDC's constituencies.
- Research and draft memoranda, position papers, and press releases analyzing proposals and enactments of the Administration and Congress.
- Speak to the media

Contact:

Nancy Talanian, Director
Bill of Rights Defense Committee
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This Fellowship is Specially Funded by
a Bequest from Isabel Johnson Hiss

Disability Rights Advocates BERKELEY, CA

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) is a leading national, disability rights organization that defends and protects the civil rights of people with all types of disabilities in access to employment, education, transportation, health care and public accommodations. DRA was founded in 1993 by Sid Wolinsky, a well-known civil rights attorney. Today DRA has eight staff attorneys and two legal fellows who work on a caseload of about 70 cases.

During the summer, the Fellows have a one-week formal training session and orientation provided by DRA's litigation director and other staff attorneys. The training includes basics on state and federal disability rights laws and a discussion of current lawsuits that the Fellow will be working on. Additional training sessions are provided throughout the summer on brief writing, taking and filing a deposition and appearing in court.

The Fellow is assigned a staff attorney as mentor for the ten weeks and is given guidance both by the mentor and other attorneys they work with. Fellows work directly with clients with disabilities conducting intakes in person or over the telephone. When there is a case which goes to trial over the summer, the Fellows are actively involved.

Currently DRA has several projects which will continue into the summer of 2008. The Haywood Burns Fellow will be working on one or more of the following: DRA's Health Care Access Project investigates complaints against health care providers that do not provide physical or communication access to health services. The Fellow would likely be working with clients on an aspect of this issue. Another issue is the juvenile justice system and incarcerated youth with disabilities. Fellows may also work on the Testing Access Project which focuses on students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities who are not fully accommodated on standardized tests.

The Fellow will be expected to have a demonstrated interest in public interest work as well as an interest in disability civil rights. DRA's work is demanding and the individual should have a strong academic record and excellent writing skills. DRA prefers 2Ls but 1Ls will be considered.

Contact:

Patricia Kirkpatrick
Disability Rights Advocates
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East Bay Community Law Center
BERKELEY, CA

The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is an independent non-profit founded by law students in 1988. It provides high quality free legal services to low-income residents of Alameda County and clinical legal education for law students. EBCLC is a multicultural organization valuing diversity of every sort. Fellows select one of five practice areas to work in for the summer:

In the Income Support practice, Fellows help families maximize the benefits of welfare (CalWORKs/TANF) laws, including cash aid and support for obtaining employment. Fellows interview and counsel clients, negotiate and represent clients at administrative hearings, conduct community outreach and education and work on welfare policy.

In the Housing practice, eviction defense is homelessness prevention. Fellows conduct tenants' workshops, interview and counsel clients, prepare pleadings, negotiate and (if certified) appear in court on their behalf, and participate in community education.

In the Health Law practice, Fellows provide assistance with disability benefits, financial and estate planning assistance, and other legal needs, for persons who are HIV positive, and for families with legal needs referred by Children's Hospital.

The Clean Slate practice provides citation defense to people criminalized because of their homelessness. It also obtains dismissal of criminal convictions to assist people who are having trouble obtaining employment or housing because of their criminal records.

The Community Economic Justice practice looks for levers of economic power that will benefit the low-income community. Taking its direction from the community itself, it has held developers to their promises of low-income housing, helped develop banking resources, opened up hiring practices and employment opportunities, and assisted small businesses.

Fellows in each area work for 35 hours a week under the direct supervision of a staff attorney. Its mission to provide clinical legal education affords Fellows quality supervision. The Haywood Burns Fellow must have completed at least one year of law school. Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Cambodian or other language skills are desirable.

Contact:

Ed Barnes, Esq.

East Bay Community Law Center

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Berkeley, CA 94705

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Environmental Justice Fellow
NEW YORK, NY

The Environmental Justice Committee (EJC) of the National Lawyers Guild is a network of law students, legal workers and attorneys dedicated to providing assistance to impoverished communities and communities of color which are exposed to the disproportionate impacts of environmental hazards.

The EJC is committed to challenging the inadequate responses of governmental bodies and mainstream environmental organizations in addressing existing environmental, public health and safety concerns in environmental justice communities.

Members of the EJC are currently engaged in connecting law students, legal workers, and attorneys in several projects which assist environmental justice communities through legal representation, lobbying, research, organizing, education and direct community action. Current projects include coordinating lawyers and students in the Gulf Region in response to Katrina and developing an expansive database to provide lawyers with tools for working on environmental justice issues.

The Fellow will work out of committee member Joel Kupferman's office, and will work on the number of projects that the committee is currently involved in. This committee is doing some of most exciting and cutting-edge work in the Guild.

Contact:

Joel Kupferman

Environmental Justice Committee of the NLG

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New York, NY 10013

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Farmworker Justice
WASHINGTON, DC

Farmworker Justice (FJ), a national advocacy group for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, seeks a Fellow to work on litigation, administrative advocacy and legislative lobbying regarding transnational workers in the United States. Much of FJ's work is focused on the intersection of immigration policy and labor law, but FJ also engages in advocacy on occupational safety and health.

FJ collaborates with most of the major farmworker advocacy organizations in the nation. Its board of directors includes representatives of the United Farm Workers, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, other unions, farmworker service agencies, and individual farmworker activists. FJ has a partnership with the National Council of La Raza. During its 25 years, FJ has gained significant respect for its efforts on behalf of farmworkers.

FJ's activities include litigation to enforce workers' rights, legislative lobbying to seek a legalization program to grant undocumented farmworkers the status of "immigrants" rather than "nonimmigrant" guestworker status, media work, training of legal staff and others, and education of workers about their rights.

Fellows will conduct legal research and prepare memos on a variety of issues as they develop and promote reforms to protect workers, expand their labor rights, and enforce the rights workers currently possess. Fellows generally enjoy the atmosphere of the office and the opportunity to be in the nation's capital. Another benefit is the opportunity to work on issues at the national level with relatively sophisticated personnel and strategies.

The Fellow should be a 2L and vitally interested in these issues that operate at the intersection of labor law and immigration policy. The Fellow will need to be highly skilled at research and writing.

Contact:

Virginia Ruiz
Staff Attorney
Farmworker Justice
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Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Inc.
ROCHESTER, NY

FLSNY is a law project that provides free legal services to seasonal and migrant farm workers throughout New York State. FLSNY represents workers' employment and civil rights (including race, national origin, gender, and disability discrimination), violation of workers' civil rights, violation of labor laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act, and violation of other state and federal employment laws. FLSNY, in partnership with other law firms, health providers and educators, manages a Domestic Violence Program that focuses on migrant and seasonal farm workers. Advocates conduct outreach to farm worker housing to provide legal education and present legal rights training to the community at large. FLSNY works closely with the Farmworker Women's Institute and CITA, an independent farm worker union.

Fellows conduct research, write memos, contribute to legal briefs, conduct outreach to farm labor camps, participate in the office's community legal education activities, assist in deposition preparation and the factual development of cases, meet with clients, draft correspondence and legal documents, attend depositions, hearings, and trials (if any), attend community meetings, and otherwise participate in the full range of the office's activities.

FLSNY seeks 1L and 2Ls with:

- 1) Strong academic background, excellent writing, legal research and oral advocacy skills combined with a political consciousness.
- 2) Spanish and/or Haitian Creole language ability is strongly preferred.
- 3) Preference will be given to students who have demonstrated interest in working with a diverse client community, in rural poverty law and for social justice.

Contact:

Lewis Papenfuse
Director
Farmworker Legal Services of New York
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Fax: (585) 325-7614
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Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project FLORENCE, AZ

The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project is a non-profit, community based legal service organization that counsels and represents immigrant men, women and children detained in local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. Founded in 1989 by an NLG member, the Project provides a full range of services to people detained.

The Florence Project has a long-standing history with the Haywood Burns Fellowship program. The contributions of Haywood Burns Fellows to the Florence Project have been significant. In the past, Fellows have engaged in representing clients in appeals and before the immigration judge and have spearheaded numerous advocacy projects.

During the Fellowship period, Fellows work directly with detained clients in immigration proceedings on a daily basis, under the supervision of a staff attorney. The Florence Project prepares a weeklong training for Fellows on the basics of immigration law and defense from removal as well as client interviewing and research skills. Fellows are also required to attend a bimonthly case review with their field team in order to review legal cases and issues. In addition to having periodic meetings with the Executive Director, Fellows are expected to create a regular check-in schedule with their supervising attorney.

The Fellow will learn about multiple areas of immigration law including asylum and protection under the United Nations Convention against Torture and the intersection of the criminal and immigration systems. Other components of the Fellowship include filling out applications for relief, client intake, representation in bond re-determination hearings, legal research, country conditions documentation and substantive writing projects. A Fellow will have opportunities to build skills at client interviewing, legal and factual research, and written and oral argument, while serving a particularly vulnerable population.

The Project seeks individuals with demonstrated commitment to immigration issues, human rights, and public interest law and a strong academic background. Fluency in Spanish is essential and 2Ls are preferred.

Contact:

Victoria Lopez
Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
P.O. Box 654, 300 S. Main Street
Florence, AZ 85232
Tel: (520) 868-0191 ext 108
Fax: (520) 868-0192
Email: firrp@primenet.com

Georgia Resource Center ATLANTA, GA

The Georgia Resource Center is seeking Fellows to assist with representation of those on Georgia's death row. There is a tremendous need for additional people to help with this work since the number of people on death row is steadily increasing and since Georgia is one of only two states that does not entitle those on death row to an attorney during state habeas corpus proceedings. The Resource Center, a non-profit organization with four full-time staff attorneys and three investigators, is the sole office in Georgia providing free representation to indigent death-sentenced prisoners. There are 135 Georgia death row inmates; virtually all of whom are indigent and cannot afford lawyers as they pursue critical post-conviction challenges to their death sentences.

The work to be done includes:

- investigating murder cases in various parts of Georgia
- interviewing jurors who have imposed the death penalty in its clients' cases
- researching issues to be raised in habeas corpus proceedings
- research and writing projects in the areas of constitutional law and criminal procedure
- field investigation including interviewing witnesses and procuring records and other evidence
- conducting client intake interviews
- visiting clients and friends of clients in preparation for mitigation arguments to be raised, and
- writing research memorandum and sections of briefs to be filed in state and federal court.

The Fellow will be intensively involved in all aspects of GRC work. GRC prefers a Fellow with two years of law school experience. GRC will attempt to assist Fellows in finding housing.

Contact:

Kimmy Sharkey
Fellow Coordinator/Supervisor
Georgia Resource Center
303 Elizabeth Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
Tel: 404-222-9202
Fax: 404-222-9212

Make the Road by Walking BROOKLYN, NY

Make the Road by Walking was founded in 1997 in a Bushwick church basement by local residents to address the potentially devastating effects of welfare reform on America's poor and immigrant communities. Make the Road by Walking initially focused exclusively on organizing immigrant welfare recipients, but soon expanded its focus to combat the systemic economic and political marginalization of Bushwick residents. More important, Make the Road galvanized Bushwick's untapped commitment to democratic participation and resistance to oppression. Make the Road by Walking's low-income members pay dues to support the organization and vote to elect their board of directors, who constitute the majority of voting seats on its board.

The Legal Department at Make the Road New York works to facilitate and strengthen their organizing work through the provision of legal support services to its members and campaigns. They provide legal representation and education to individuals who are active in Make the Road's organizing work; and conduct strategic litigation as a part of the organizing campaigns.

Make the Road seeks a Fellow willing to work in a number of work areas, as they relate to the organization's membership. These include: employment and labor, public benefits and SSI (disability), LGBTQ legal services, health care and health insurance, housing (landlord-tenant), public education and the rights of parents/students in the NYC public school system, policy and legislative work. Make the Road is committed to providing a compelling learning experience for the Fellow and will custom design the internship with a primary focus that meets the Fellow's particular interests. Legal interns at Make the Road do much more than research and writing.

Persons of color and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals are encouraged to apply. We prioritize building a safe space to enable every employee and member to participate fully in our work. The ability to speak Spanish is a plus but is not required.

Contact:

Chase Madar, Staff Attorney
Make the Road New York
301 Grove Street
Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY 11237
Tel: 718-418-7690, ext. 209
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Email: chase@maketheroad.org

Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute BERKELEY, CA

Meiklejohn Institute is a center for human rights and peace law. It has helped train and has benefited from the work of over 400 Fellows since its founding in 1965.

Meiklejohn works on preparing materials useful to lawyers and activists on current issues, beginning with the peace movement, civil rights movement, and student movements of the 1960s. MCLI has always worked locally, at the state level, at the national level, and at the international level. Internationally, it works through active membership in the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, making presentations at UN International conferences (as in Beijing on Status of Women in 1995 and in Durban in the World Conference Against Racism in 2001).

Fellows will work on the Human Rights Reporting Project, which prepares accurate, detailed reports of violations and enforcement of human rights laws in the US for submission to the US Department of State and to three UN committees that enforce the three human rights treaties the US has ratified.

Fellows should be familiar with the US Constitution, the UN Charter, the Nuremberg Principles, the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture, and the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Fellows should have completed one year of law school. Fellows should be skilled at internet research and research using government reports and recent court opinions. They should be able to write and talk to lawyers and activists now working on violations of human rights in order to get copies of their pleadings and flyers. They should have computer skills and public speaking skills. Fellows should enjoy working with other students, lawyers, and the office manager in a small office environment.

Contact:

Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute
PO Box 673
Berkeley, CA 94701-0673
Tel: 510-848-0599
Fax: 510-848-6008
Email: afg@mcli.org
Web: mcli.org

Midwest Environmental Advocates MADISON, WI

Like other non-coastal areas of the United States, Wisconsin historically has had great difficulty attracting public interest environmental lawyers. As the last century ended, there were no Wisconsin non-profits staffed by lawyers who could go into court to protect the environment. To compound matters, Wisconsin's state agency responsible for protecting the environment, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), had become highly politicized and severely curtailed its efforts to enforce and implement existing environmental laws. Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) is Wisconsin's first and only non-profit environmental law center, dedicated to representing communities working for clean air, clean water, and clean government.

MEA's mission is to provide high quality legal services that support a diverse, grassroots social movement; build local leadership; and implement innovative solutions to environmental problems. Its mission is carried out by a small and dedicated staff, a cadre of law clerks, and a volunteer network of attorneys and experts.

MEA is not a typical law firm. Instead its lawyers:

- build local leaders and community groups,
- educate them about their legal rights,
- engage them in government decision making,
- train them in developing compelling media messages, and
- provide access to the courts.

These tools empower community groups to hold corporations and government agencies accountable. MEA works on legal issues that serve as a vehicle to train local leaders, build an active constituency that can be mobilized on legislative reforms, and yield precedent-setting litigation. This combination of strategies provides the foundation for long-term environmental change.

The Haywood Burns Fellow will work closely with MEA's attorneys in a number of areas. The Fellow will work on cases, help create educational materials and engage in fieldwork and research.

Contact:

Melissa K. Scanlan
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Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703
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Email: advocate@midwestadvocates.org

Mumia Abu-Jamal Defense Team SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row for 25 years and is the most influential and best-known death row prisoner in the world today. As a radio journalist in Philadelphia, he won a Major Armstrong Award for radio journalism, and was named one of Philadelphia's "people to watch" in 1981 by Philadelphia Magazine. A vocal critic of police violence against the minority communities of Philadelphia, he was the subject of FBI and Philadelphia police surveillance beginning when he was 15 years old.

In December 1981, Mumia was shot by a Philadelphia police officer when he intervened in a traffic stop where the officer was beating his brother with a flashlight. The police officer was also shot and killed. Several witnesses have testified that a man other than Mumia was the shooter, and the dead officer was holding the driver's license application of another man. But it was Mumia that the police wanted to charge with the shooting.

Mumia's trial was fraught with numerous and flagrant constitutional violations. He was barred from most of his own trial for protesting an unprepared court-appointed attorney who was later disbarred. Eleven peremptory challenges were used to knock almost all Blacks off the jury. A court reporter has testified that she overheard the trial judge saying, "I'm going to help 'em fry the nigger." Vital evidence was withheld from the defense, and police were unable to establish that the fatal bullet came from Mumia's gun. In 1998, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (with five of seven justices endorsed for election by the Fraternal Order of Police) ruled against a new trial for Mumia. This took place in the wake of massive police scandals in Philadelphia, where more than 300 sentences had been reversed because they were originally obtained on the basis of police frame-ups.

The Fellow will conduct legal research and writing for Mumia's defense team, working in lead counsel Robert R. Bryan's office. This is a rare opportunity to work with one of the country's most respected capital defense attorneys on a case of great magnitude.

Guild member Robert R. Bryan of San Francisco heads Mumia's legal team.

Contact:

Mumia Abu-Jamal Defense Team
Law Offices of Robert R. Bryan
2088 Union Street, Suite 4
San Francisco, California 94123-4124
Tel: (415) 292-2400
Fax: (415) 292-4076

National Immigration Project of the National
Lawyers Guild
BOSTON, MA

The National Immigration Project is a membership organization of lawyers, law students, legal workers, and community advocates working to defend the rights of all immigrants in the United States, regardless of legal status. It promotes justice and equality of treatment in all areas of immigration law, the criminal justice system and social policy related to immigration.

Today, the National Immigration Project's work is focused on helping attorneys, service workers, and community leaders understand the practical consequences of punitive immigration laws and post 9/11 "security" policies, so that they can better defend the rights of their clients and communities. The Project works with national partners to educate criminal defense attorneys, public defenders, legal workers, advocates, immigration attorneys, judges, and others on the immigration consequences of criminal conduct. It provides pro bono assistance to attorneys who are defending immigrant detainees. It organizes national advocacy campaigns to protect the rights of immigrant survivors of domestic violence. It also coordinates public education campaigns on immigration enforcement practices and provides technical assistance to case workers and attorneys who are helping HIV positive non-citizens to file for legal residency and access affordable health care.

The Fellow will support the Project's existing programmatic work on due process issues for noncitizens, the immigration consequences of criminal convictions, the rights of immigration survivors of domestic violence, and immigration enforcement. The Fellow may develop training materials, provide technical assistance, and participate in national advocacy campaigns.

The Fellow will preferably be a 2L or 3L, ideally one with experience in immigration law. The Fellow should also have excellent communication, email, Internet research, and word processing skills, familiarity with Microsoft Access, a demonstrable interest in grassroots activism and some prior history of involvement in immigrant rights advocacy.

Contact:

Ellen Kemp
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers
Guild
14 Beacon Street, Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108
Tel: 617-227-9727 ext. 4
Fax: 617-227-5495
Email: ellen@nationalimmigrationproject.org
Web: nationalimmigrationproject.org

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the
Public Interest
LINCOLN, NE

The Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest is a non-profit, non-partisan law project that works to address systemic issues facing low-income Nebraskans and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency. Organized by leaders from law, business, academia, and civic organizations, Nebraska Appleseed fills a major gap in the justice system—a means to address problems at their roots. Nebraska Appleseed focuses on advancing policies and practices that promote self-sufficiency for Nebraska's working poor families, promote the integration and participation of immigrant populations in communities across Nebraska, provide safe and adequate child welfare services to children who need protection, provide quality affordable health care to all Nebraskans, increase low-income people's access to the legal system, and support democracy by removing barriers to low-income people's participation in the electoral and public policy decision-making processes.

As part of its mission, Nebraska Appleseed seeks to mentor future public interest lawyers by exposing them to a wide range of public interest work. The Fellow will provide litigation and public policy support to four staff attorneys. The Fellow should have strong legal research and writing skills, good verbal and written communications skills, show an interest in helping underserved populations and have a desire to work in the field of public interest law.

The Fellow will conduct research and draft legal memos, assist in drafting pleadings, help with client intake, assist with public policy work including researching and tracking state and federal legislation, and participate in the Nebraska Appleseed's legal team, in which all the attorneys review the docket, brainstorm, and collaborate on legal work. The Fellow will have an opportunity to be exposed to both state and federal court civil litigation, and in some cases class actions, on issues including constitutional law, administrative law, and civil rights law.

Contact:

Rebecca L. Gould, Executive Director,
941 O Street, Suite 920
Lincoln, NE 68508
Tel: (402) 438-8853 ext. 102
Fax: (402) 438-0263
Email: bgould@neappleseed.org
Web: neappleseed.org

New Jersey Farmworker Project and Low Wage Worker Employment Rights Project
BRIDGETON, NJ

The Farmworker Project and Low Wage Worker Employment Rights Project of Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc. represents farmworkers and low wage workers statewide in New Jersey. Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc. (LSNJ) is the support center and lead organization for legal services in New Jersey. Through broad based advocacy approaches of individual litigation, impact litigation, policy advocacy and community legal education, LSNJ is a crucial force in advocating for improved working and living conditions for farmworkers and low wage workers in New Jersey. Efforts include federal litigation for workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, evening outreach and community legal education to migrant labor camps and worker communities.

The Farmworker Project and the Low Wage Worker Employment Rights Project has priority work in areas of wages, employment conditions, retaliation and discrimination, health and safety, benefits and housing.

The Fellow's work will consist of client outreach, client interviews, legal research and writing, community legal education, and related advocacy. It is anticipated that the Fellow will spend one-third of his or her time on client outreach, interviewing, advocacy, and community legal education, one-third of the time on complaint and litigation related writing, and the remaining time on legal and factual research on cases. The Fellow will be supervised by the attorneys of the Projects. It would be very useful for the Fellow to be fluent in Spanish and to have a vehicle available to conduct outreach to farmworkers in the labor camps and other worker areas.

Contact:

Keith Talbot
Senior Attorney
Farmworker Project
71 East Commerce Street
2nd and 3rd Floors
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
WOODBURN, OR

PCUN is Oregon's farmworker union dedicated to improving the working and living conditions in farm labor by empowering farmworkers to understand and take action against poverty, systematic exploitation and all of its effects. Central to its work is the struggle to transform the agricultural labor system to one based on fairness and respect.

In 2005, PCUN received an FCC license which makes possible fulfilling a long-held dream of attaining mass communications with its community base by building its own noncommercial, low-power, FM radio station, KPCN-LP, 96.3 FM. It will begin broadcasting at least 48 hours weekly of locally produced, volunteer driven programming in mid-November.

KPCN-LP will broadcast voices never heard on commercial Spanish-language radio or by a mass audience, including youth, indigenous people (speaking dialects such as Mixteco, Triqui and Pur'epecha), women, workers, plus progressive leaders from Latino communities around the corner and around Latin America. Much of the programming will be developed by PCUN and its eight sister organizations. Together, its organizations reach and engage an astounding variety of people and entities. The list of programmatic areas is similarly comprehensive: housing, emergency aid, child care and pre-school, police abuse and discrimination, government and corporate accountability, workplace power and security, adult education, public school curricula, economic self-help, public awareness and understanding of farmworkers and immigrants, public policy analysis and advocacy, litigation, immigration casework, cultural activities, documentation and archiving, coalition and alliance building.

Work will be primarily in three areas. First the Fellow will develop a basic bi-lingual legal outline for KPCN-LP programmers on legal rights and responsibilities, adapting existing materials from other community radio stations. Second, the Fellow will conduct trainings using training outlines s/he develops. Third—time permitting—the Fellow will research, obtain, adapt and/or develop programming segments on legal rights in areas critical to the farmworker and Latino immigrant communities. Necessary skills include writing, critical thinking, support for and some understanding of the movement, bilingual language skills (Spanish/English), willingness to take direction from people of color, and effective communications.

Contact:

Larry Kleinman, PCUN Secretary-Treasurer
300 Young St.
Woodburn, OR 97071
Tel: 503-781-1132
Fax: 503-982-1031
Email: larrykleinman@pcun.org
Web: pcun.org

Sugar Law Center
DETROIT, MI

The Guild Law Center (GLC) is a national, non-profit public interest law center founded in 1990 on the principle that economic justice and civil rights are inseparable.

The Center's Wages & Hours Project provides legal and technical assistance to workers around the country. The guarantee of a decent standard of living is a fundamental component for any model of an Economic Bill of Rights for this country. With that underlying premise, the GLC works with labor/community/faith based coalitions and with a network of attorneys around the country to assist in ensuring that workers receive pay for the hours they work. In addition to the Wages & Hours Project, the Center is also engaged in projects to advance Workers' Rights as Human Rights, to enforce the Workers' Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and in support of the Living Wage movement.

The Haywood Burns Fellow will be exposed to and obtain experience in litigation, advocacy, public education and policy development, with a focus on weaving this work into grassroots organizing efforts. The majority of the work will involve legal research and writing in each of the organization's project areas, and in particular, the Wages & Hours and Workers' Rights as Human Rights projects.

The Fellow will work with experienced attorneys in a small, friendly and supportive work environment. Fellows should be interested in economic rights and have strong research and writing skills. Fellows will need a car. Assistance in finding housing with local Guild members will be available if needed.

Contact:

Tova Perlmutter, Executive Director
Guild Law Center
2727 Second Avenue, Suite 327
Detroit, MI 48201
Tel: 313-962-6540
Fax: 313-962-4492
Email: mail@sugarlaw.org
Web: www.sugarlaw.org

Sylvia Rivera Law Project
NEW YORK, NY

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP is a collectively-run organization that provides free legal services, advocates for policy reform, supports community organizing efforts, brings precedent-setting law suits, and educates the public to achieve its mission. SRLP is founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably intertwined with racial, social and economic justice. Therefore, SRLP seeks to increase the political voice and visibility of low-income people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming.

The Haywood Burns/Racial Justice Fellow will work on a range of issues affecting low-income transgender, intersex, and gender nonconforming people of color, including prisoners' rights, name changes and identity documentation, discrimination in sex-segregated facilities, immigration, Medicaid, and more. The Fellow will have his own caseload and the opportunity to work on his clients' cases in depth through conducting intake interviews, drafting pleadings in clients' cases, advocating with government agencies and other entities, connecting clients with resources, and educating clients about their rights. The Fellow will also assist with legal research and writing and factual development for impact litigation. The Fellow may participate in public education and community organizing support such as preparing "know your rights" materials and doing legal observation at actions.

Fluency in Spanish is preferred. People of color, trans people, and people with intersex conditions are strongly encouraged to apply.

Contact:

Gabriel Arkles
Equal Justice Works Fellow
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
322 8th Ave., 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
Tel: 212-337-8550
Fax: 212-337-1972
Email: gabriel@srlp.org
Web: srlp.org

Student Created Projects

In a strategy to increase student participation in the Haywood Burns Fellowships, in 2003 we introduced a new program involving two student-initiated projects.

Students must submit a proposal with an agency willing to match our \$1000 donation (for a total stipend of \$2000). The agency must be willing to supervise the student, provide all logistical needs (i.e. office space, supplies and so on) and perform all payroll-related paperwork. The proposal should include a letter from the agency to this effect, as well as details on who in the agency will supervise the Fellow, what work the Fellow will be doing, and the contact for the project.

The Fellow must still complete and submit the application form and the required writing samples.

Projects will be picked based on political and geographical diversity basis, as well as the Projects' connections to the ongoing struggles of disenfranchised people, and diversity criteria around race, sexuality, gender, class and disability.

Contact:

Ian Brannigan
Membership Coordinator
National Lawyers Guild
132 Nassau St, Suite 922
New York, NY 10038
Tel: 212-679-5100, x14
Fax: 212-679-2811
Email: membership@nlg.org
web: nlg.org

APPLICATION FORM

Instructions:

Fill out Part 1. Print clearly or type.

Answer Part 2 on a separate piece of paper.

Mail one complete application to each project to which you are applying, and a copy of each application to:

Ian Brannigan
National Lawyers Guild, National Office
132 Nassau St, Room 922
New York, NY 10038

The application must be received no later than January 15, 2008

The Stipend is \$2000 per Fellowship for ten weeks of full time work, unless otherwise noted. (The NLG Pays \$1000 and the agency pays \$1000.) Students are encouraged to pursue matching public interest grants or course credit to supplement this stipend.

PART 1

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address and phone are good through what date? _____

Permanent Address (if different from Above)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

____ Law Student Year: _____ Law School: _____
____ Legal Worker Where: _____
____ College Student Year: _____ School: _____

Optional Information: (some may be for purposes of affirmative action):

Age: _____ Gender: _____ Underepresented Community: _____

Disability: _____ Sexuality _____

1. What Project are you applying to: _____

2. Languages other than English? _____ Fluency Level: _____

3. Will you have use of a car this summer? Yes__ No__

4. Other skills (i.e. computer skills, typing, Lexis/Westlaw Training)

5. Dates available to work: From _____ To: _____

6. Are you a member of the NLG? Yes__ No__ Which Chapter:

7. Have you participated in any NLG events, committees or projects? Yes__ No__

8. Legal, political or educational organizations you are or have been active in: _____

9. List the name, address and phone number of TWO references:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

10. Special needs including housing:

11. How did you hear about this project? Where did you obtain this brochure?

PART 2- SHORT ESSAYS

Please answer the following essay questions clearly and concisely. Limit your answers to a total of five double spaced pages.

A. EXPERIENCE: What kinds of legal, political, educational and work experience have you had which are relevant and directly applicable to this Project?

B. REASONS FOR APPLYING: What are your reasons for applying? Describe your knowledge of the issues of concern to the projects that you have chosen.

C. GOALS AND PLANS: What do you expect to gain from this Fellowship? What types of legal and political work do you hope to do in the future? How do you see this internship helping you in your goals?

D. WORKPLACE STRUCTURE: What kind of work structure are you most comfortable with? Do you prefer to work alone or in a group? What degree of supervision do you prefer? Have you ever worked in a collective work structure?

E. FOLLOW-UP WORK: Will you share your summer experience and skills with others? How can you carry the work of the project back to your community and/or law school?

APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2008

Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice

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NLG MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Law Student Member ___ Renewal ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

School: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Areas of Interest in law: _____

Suggested Dues Schedule: Law Students: \$15

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD, NATIONAL OFFICE
132 NASSAU ST, #922, NEW YORK, NY 10038

National Lawyers Guild National Office
132 Nassau St, Suite 922, New York, NY 10038
tel: (212) 679-5100 fax: (212) 679-2811
membership@nlg.org
nlg.org