

2010 Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Summer Fellowship:

Administered by Yale Law School and Harvard College

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Arthur Liman Public Interest Program supports the work of law students, law school graduates, and students from six universities, all of whom work to respond to problems of inequality and to improve access to justice.

In general, the Liman Summer Fellowship program supports work in the United States. On rare occasions, work that has both an international and domestic focus has been supported. On occasion, work with federal, state, or local government, which is targeted at particularly needy populations, has been supported. If you receive a Liman Fellowship, you should speak with your Liman program advisor at your school about placements. Placement decisions must be made in consultation with your advisor.

Summer Fellows have the opportunity to participate in the Liman Public Interest Law Colloquium, an annual event held at Yale Law School that brings together advocates, scholars, and students from across the country for a day-long discussion on public interest topics such as low-wage workers and workfare, the role of mass media in public interest advocacy, and policies of incarceration. Through their involvement with the Liman Program, Summer Fellows become part of a large network of public interest advocates.

The Liman Summer Fellowship Program is coordinated by the Arthur Liman Public Interest Program at Yale Law School. That program is named after Arthur Liman, a 1957 graduate of Yale Law School. Through his distinguished career, Liman demonstrated how dedicated lawyers in both private practice and public life can serve the needs of people and causes that might otherwise go unrepresented. The Liman Summer Fellowships are funded by the generous support of Arthur Liman's son, the filmmaker Doug Liman, the Liman Foundation, and other sources.

For more details about past Liman Fellows, please visit

<http://www.law.yale.edu/intellecualife/undergraduatesummerfellowship.htm>.

ELIGIBILITY

The Liman Fellowship program supports Harvard undergraduates who perform domestic summer internships in public interest law at a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Students who perform internships in the following fields are eligible for consideration:

- Client-oriented, direct service case work and litigation, both civil and criminal
- Enforcement work and other litigation for governmental agencies
- Alternative dispute resolution, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration
- Policy-making legislative and regulatory reform
- Policy-oriented class action and impact legislation

Public interest subject matter should address one or more of the following issues:

- Children's rights
- Immigrants' rights
- Workers' rights
- Prison conditions
- Human rights
- Voting rights
- Consumers' rights
- Low income housing
- Civil rights
- Educational adequacy
- Juvenile justice

Students must be Sophomores, Juniors, or Seniors in the fall semester following the internship.

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The internship must provide the student with a progression of learning experiences throughout the course of the summer. Interns should act as more than information gatherers or general office administrators; they should gain significant exposure to issues of law. The internship should develop the student's analytical thinking and research skills, and should leave the student with a richer understanding of how the legal system works.

A student must complete at least ten weeks in the internship between May 31, 2010 and September 1, 2010, priority will be given to full-time work. Following completion of the internship, the student will write a reflective paper that examines how the internship affected the student's understanding of public interest law and the student's future academic and career plans. The student will also reflect upon the internship at a campus discussion after completing the internship.

IDENTIFYING AN ORGANIZATION

All students must find a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization with whom to work. The best organizations are those that conduct work in which the student shares an interest and are concerned about the professional development of students. When talking to a future supervisor make sure that: a) there will be interesting and substantive work for you to do, b) you can picture yourself adapting to the organization's culture, and c) you will report to a supervisor who will provide you with guidance and support. Organizations can be identified by www.idealists.org, www.guidestar.org or through recommendations from former recipients, House pre-law tutors, counselors at OCS, and staff of The Center for Public Interest Careers among others. You are eligible to apply without an identified organization, but preference will be given to individuals who have made an effort to develop a relationship with an organization.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must be received by Amanda Sonis Glynn at Phillips Brooks House by 5pm on Friday, December 11, 2009. Applications may be submitted electronically to asglynn@fas.harvard.edu or physically to Phillips Brooks House, Room 303.

The Review Committee will evaluate applications with preference toward applications that:

1. Focus on public service work that has a clear and significant legal flavor. All else being equal, the more fully the internship engages the legal system, the more favorably the committee will view the application
2. Demonstrate the applicant has carefully researched the internship site
3. Demonstrate the applicant has thoughtfully considered how the internship would support the applicant's academic and career interests.

APPLICATION CONTENTS:

Applications must include:

1. A 3-5 page double spaced statement of purpose. This statement will describe:
 - A description of the mission and activities of the proposed internship organization
 - The role the applicant would play at the proposed internship site
 - What the applicant hopes to learn in this position
 - How the internship would support the applicant's academic and career interests
 - How this internship relates to the prior public service experience of the applicant
2. A budget including both income and expenses. Expenses should include relevant transportation, housing, food, fall tuition contribution, and other provisions during the course of the internship. Income would include any other grants, parental contribution or outside earnings.
3. The e-mail address for a reference who can comment on your interest in public interest law.
4. A letter of interest from the proposed internship site (**this does not need to be submitted with the rest of the application if the organization is unable to provide it in time; it will be required prior to receiving the award**)
5. A copy of your resume or CV

Following receipt of the application, the evaluation committee will interview finalists for the fellowship.

AWARDS

Following the review of written applications and one round of interviews, the evaluation committee will award fellowships. Students who are eligible for Federal Work-Study will be awarded an amount equal to their mandated cap. The committee will announce these awards in March, when final funding is confirmed.

DATES

Applications Due	December 11, 2009
Decisions Announced	Mid-February 2009
Liman Colloquium at Yale University	March 4-5, 2010
Funds Available for Distribution	May 2010

*For more information about the Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellowship,
contact Amanda Sonis Glynn at (617) 496-8622*