



Legal Fellowship Program

Seeking Candidates to Sponsor for Fall 2024

The National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) seeks motivated rising third year law students and recent law graduates with a record of commitment to social justice, and excellent writing, legal research and communication skills, to sponsor for Legal Fellowships beginning in the Fall of 2024, including Skadden, Equal Justice Works, Justice Catalyst, and any other relevant fellowships.

NCLEJ advances racial and economic justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities across the country, using groundbreaking impact litigation, policy advocacy, and support for grassroots organizing. NCLEJ works to build systems that provide economic security and full participation in society to all. Our current advocacy focuses on: (1) safeguarding access to government benefits; (2) advancing the rights of lower wage workers, including through the Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR) model of the Fair Food Program; (3) combatting abusive debt collection and wealth extraction; and (4) advocating for disability justice. We litigate extensively in federal and state courts across the country, typically as lead counsel in class actions, and we partner with grassroots and community-based organizations, other legal organizations, and the private bar.

Fellowship Description: Fellows will join with staff attorneys to support new and ongoing impact litigation and class actions, policy analysis, and advocacy. Previous fellows have had the opportunity to develop facts and research for new litigation; participate in discovery matters in pending litigation; conduct legal and policy research on a variety of issues; participate in settlement negotiations; draft legal briefs; and collaborate with grassroots and community-based organizations across the country.

For applicants seeking project-based fellowships, NCLEJ will work closely with selected applicants to develop project proposals and will provide support throughout the fellowship funding application cycle. Although NCLEJ welcomes new proposals for fellowship projects that fit within NCLEJ's mission and areas of work, a project proposal is not required to apply for sponsorship. Some potential fellowship project areas may include:

- Legal representation and support for First Amendment-protected protest activities, including providing legal advice to grassroots movement organizations, challenging overly restrictive ordinances that limit free speech, and advocacy in support of the Campaign for Fair Food, aimed at bringing large food retailers into the Fair Food Program as a way to create market-backed enforcement of workers' rights in supply chains.
- Advocacy for the adoption of Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR) programs in public procurement policies to ensure government spending power is utilized to create enforceable protections for workers in large supply chains.
- Supporting the domestic and international expansion of the Fair Food Program protections to include additional buyers, growers, and farmworkers.

Qualifications: Applicants must be recent graduates, current judicial law clerks, or forthcoming graduates (by Spring/Summer 2024) of an accredited school of law. Excellent writing and research skills are essential. Applicants must have experience and/or a demonstrated commitment to social justice.

NCLEJ is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. We strongly encourage people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and people from other historically disenfranchised communities to apply. NCLEJ does not discriminate because of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital or parental status, citizenship, disability, veteran status, record of arrest or conviction, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

NCLEJ makes every effort to assure that its recruitment and employment provide all qualified individuals, including individuals with disabilities, with full opportunities for fellowships and employment in all positions.

Salary: NCLEJ's current salary scale calls for a law graduate to receive \$70,584 annually.

Benefits: NCLEJ has a generous benefits package including health, dental, and vision insurance; 15-24 vacation days and 10-15 sick days per year (based on length of service); 13 paid holidays per year; an FSA plan for medical, childcare, and transit expenses; an Employee Assistance Program; and contributions to individuals' 403(b) plans.

Vaccination Requirement: To help ensure that NCLEJ continues to operate in the safest manner possible, NCLEJ requires all employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Requests for medical and/or religious exemptions from the vaccination requirement will be considered on an individual basis, to the extent required by law.

How to apply: Please submit **(1)** a cover letter setting out why you believe you would be a strong fellowship candidate for sponsorship by NCLEJ and possible projects (whether fully formed or just preliminary ideas) you are interested in, **(2)** a resume, **(3)** a writing sample, and **(4)** three references. Send these materials by e-mail to fellowship@nclej.org. Applications will be accepted until **July 14, 2023**. We will contact you if we wish to schedule an interview.

NCLEJ is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities. If you are a qualified individual with a disability and need assistance applying, please contact Leah Lotto at 212-633-6967 or lotto@nclej.org. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.