

Texas Law Fellowships

Spring 2015 Application Info Packet

TLF Contacts

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TLF provides funding for law students who work for qualified public interest organizations over the summer. Funding for summer 2015 will be a **maximum of \$4,000**. Students must work **at least 10 weeks and 400 hours** to qualify for a fellowship. Fellows may split their summers between two qualifying organizations.

Qualifying Organizations:

- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profits
- Government agencies
- Some international organizations (contact Sidd or Matthew with questions)
- Congressional internships

Non-qualifying Organizations:

- Labor unions
- Lobbying entities
- Judicial internships
- Any internship for which you receive academic credit

How to apply for a fellowship:

In order to APPLY for a fellowship, you must have an offer for a 10-week summer internship or two 5-week summer internships from qualifying organizations.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 27th at 5:00 P.M.

Application Materials:

1. **Online Application** at www.texaslawfellowships.org
 - a. The description of what you will be doing over the summer is limited to **80 words**. If you are splitting your summer, dedicate about 40 words to each description.
 - b. Put a decent effort into writing this description because it will appear on the ballot for voting during pledge drive.
2. **Essay between 500–1,000 words** without identifiers describing your commitment to public service, how you plan to use your TLF Fellowship, the reason you selected your sponsoring organization, what you hope to gain from your time there, and anything else you think the selection committee should know.
3. **Resume** with your name, contact information, and GPA removed.
4. **A signed letter on letterhead from a supervisor at your organization stating:**
 - a. That the organization has a summer position available to you;

- b. The name of your supervising attorney;
- c. The type of legal work you will do over the summer;
Note: You must be assigned primarily legal work, not clerical or fundraising
- d. That they are unable to pay you, or if they are able to pay you, how much they will be paying you; and
- e. Verification of the organization's 501(c)(3) status, if the organization is a nonprofit.
Note: Government agencies and international organizations do not need to do this.
- f. **All electronic copies of your letter(s) must be uploaded with your application.** If you have an original copy of the letter and are unable to obtain an electronic copy, you must deliver the letter to the TLF mailbox at the Communications Center in the atrium. However, electronic copies are preferred. **Please make sure your name appears somewhere on the letter.**

If you have any problems or questions with the online application or any other questions, please e-mail Matthew Giardina at mlgiardina@me.com or Sidd Dadhich at sidd.dadhich@utexas.edu.

How fellowships are awarded:

TLF funds as many applicants as it can, which depends on how much money is raised for the year. In the past, TLF has funded between 15 and 45 students per year.

During Pledge Drive (March 30th to April 3rd), any individual who donates a minimum of \$25 may vote for **UP TO SIX** TLF applicants. Typically, most donations come from students, faculty, and law school staff. At the end of Pledge Drive, votes are tallied and the applicants with the most votes receive fellowships. Two-thirds of the fellowship recipients are determined by voting, and the final one-third is determined by a committee and will be based on merit.

Note: People outside of the law school community, such as family members, co-workers, and friends, can also pledge and vote using the TLF website.

Campaigning

You are **NOT** allowed to actively campaign for votes through mass e-mails to your classmates (sending emails to your family/friends is okay—spamming your classmates via Blackboard/Canvas is not), posters, etc. However, you are permitted to let people know through word of mouth that you have applied for a fellowship and to encourage them to make a pledge during pledge drive.

Alternative Funding

If a fellow receives an alternate source of funding in conjunction with a TLF, TLF will only provide the difference between that funding and \$7,000. If the alternative source is greater than \$7,000, the fellow will not receive any TLF funding. For example, if a fellow receives another source of funding in the amount of \$4,000, TLF will provide that fellow with \$3,000. On the

other hand, if the fellow does not have any alternative funding, he or she will receive the full \$4,000 fellowship. **TLF will not provide more than \$4,000 to each individual.**

Note: If you are receiving academic credit for your internship, you are not eligible for TLF funding.

Other things to keep in mind...

If you accept a job offer, you are highly discouraged from renegeing on your acceptance if you do not receive a TLF. Backing out of a job at the last minute is detrimental to employers and makes them wary of hiring future UT Law students. If you must back out, you should attempt to do so before the TLF deadline. If you do not end up receiving a fellowship, we encourage you to secure funding from other sources. For example, www.pslawnet.org has additional summer funding options. **However, you may tell employers upfront (in the interview) that you cannot accept the position if you do not get a TLF.**

IMPORTANT: Please do not assume that we will be able to fund everyone who applies. We cannot accurately predict how much money we will raise or how many students will apply. We highly recommend that you apply for other sources of funding.

Again, if you have any questions or problems with the online application, please e-mail Matthew Giardina at mlgiardina@me.com or Sidd Dadhich at sidd.dadhich@utexas.edu.