



PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA

AFFILIATED WITH THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW

Deferred Associates Fellowship

The Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia is grateful to the firms around the country that are turning a difficult economic necessity into a benefit for those who are most in need. Those firms are offering their entering lawyers the opportunity to work in the public interest for a year prior to commencing practice at the firm. The Law Center is offering a fellowship opportunity open to recent law school graduates whose start dates have been deferred by their firms and whose fellowship compensation while at the Law Center will be paid by those firms.

The Law Center opened its doors in 1969 as the Philadelphia affiliate of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, an organization established at the behest of President Kennedy to bring the powerful force of pro bono legal representation to the civil rights struggle then raging in the streets. The Law Center was incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization in 1974 by leaders of the Philadelphia legal community to ensure the continuation of an effective systemic focus on civil rights issues by a full-time, dedicated staff of attorneys. Today the Law Center remains committed to advancing the Constitutional promise of equal citizenship to all persons, irrespective of race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender or poverty. We use public education, continuing education of our clients and client organizations, research, negotiation and, when necessary, the courts to achieve systemic reforms that advance the central goals of self-advocacy, social justice and equal protection of the law for all members of society.

We currently have an active docket of cases, many of which are class actions, in the areas of children's healthcare, voting rights, housing discrimination, environmental health and justice, community services for people with developmental disabilities and mental illness, race and disability discrimination in employment and educational placement, and cases under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Each of these cases requires the full range of litigation tasks:

- preparing and responding to written discovery
- document review
- depositions
- experts
- writing briefs
- oral arguments
- participation in hearings, motions and trial.



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Unlike litigation at a large firm, these cases give new lawyers immediate substantive experience. One of our lawyers, for example, has in her first year of practice had primary responsibility over the Law Center's representation of a petitioner in an administrative hearing, including the opening and closing arguments, direct and cross-examinations, expert testimony, and submission of documents into evidence.

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