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Postgraduate Legal Fellowship, Philadelphia

The Education Law Center seeks to sponsor applicants for postgraduate legal fellowships to start in the Fall of 2021. Applicants should be law students graduating in the Spring of 2021 or current law clerks. Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law, ideally with experience working with underserved populations.

The Education Law Center’s mission is to ensure access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania. We pursue this mission through advocacy on behalf of the most underserved students — children living in poverty, children of color, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, English Learners and immigrant children, LGBTQ students, and children experiencing homelessness. ELC has three priority program areas which often intersect: ensuring equal access to school, advocating for fair school funding, and dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

ELC engages an array of strategies to fulfill our mission including policy advocacy, impact litigation, community engagement, and direct representation. Our work includes direct client contact, case development, formal representation in state and federal court, and advocacy with local school districts and state legislative and administrative bodies.

Scope and responsibilities of the fellowship will vary depending on the project and sponsor/funder priorities. Potential projects under consideration include the following:

- Reducing education barriers and promoting effective models for students who need mental health and behavioral health supports in schools
- Promoting equity and reducing barriers in non-traditional/alternative educational settings
- Reducing education barriers facing students involved in the juvenile justice or foster care systems
- Reducing barriers preventing parents participating equally in school communities and educational planning for their children
- Engaging in research and advocacy to promote equity in public charter schools

All ELC attorneys, including fellows, participate to some degree in the work of the office, including supporting ELC’s direct representation work through handling intake calls with clients and supporting ELC’s litigation and policy advocacy through legal research and writing.

Qualified applicants should have a J.D. and:

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills
- Strong legal research and writing skills
- Commitment to social justice

Interested candidates should send application materials (cover letter, resume, law school transcript, list of references, and writing sample) to [Melissia McKittrick](#). Please add “Postgraduate Legal Fellowship” to the subject line. We will review applications on a rolling basis, and preference will be given to applications received by July 17, 2020.

The Education Law Center values diversity and an inclusive culture. ELC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance.

Ensuring that all of Pennsylvania’s children have equal access to a quality public education.