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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 2023. Applicants should be law students graduating in the Spring of 2023 or current law clerks. Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to racial justice, public interest law, civil rights, and advancing the rights of 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, multilingual 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:

- Challenge racialized and exclusionary discipline in public schools, including virtual exclusion, failure to provide due process, failure to consider qualifying disabilities, and racist grooming policies, through direct representation and systemic advocacy
- Dismantle the policies and practices that lead to push out of Black and brown families, including parental exclusion, discriminatory fines and fees, and criminalization through truancy referrals
- Reduce education barriers and promote effective models for students who need mental health and behavioral health supports in schools, with a focus on Black girls
- Promote affirmative and safe schools for all students through direct representation and systemic advocacy on behalf of students experiencing bullying and harassment
- Promote inclusive early learning opportunities through direct representation and policy advocacy on behalf of young children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care experiencing push out
- Engage older youth, including youth who are unaccompanied homeless, undocumented, or pregnant/parenting, in meaningful educational opportunities that prepare them for college or career

Qualified applicants should have a J.D. and:

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

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 1, 2022.

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.