

Postgraduate Legal Fellowship

The Education Law Center-PA seeks to sponsor applicants for postgraduate legal fellowships in our Philadelphia and Pittsburgh offices to start in the Fall of 2026. Applicants should be law students graduating in the Spring of 2026 or current law clerks and have a demonstrated commitment to racial justice, public interest law, civil rights, and advancing the rights of underserved populations.

ELC is a civil rights legal organization which seeks to ensure access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania. We pursue this mission through advocacy on behalf of underserved students—Black and brown children, children living in poverty, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, multilingual learners and immigrant children, LGBTQ students, and children experiencing homelessness.

ELC engages an array of strategies to fulfill our mission including policy advocacy, impact litigation, community engagement, and individual 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:

- Oppose discriminatory school policies targeting transgender and queer students, book bans, classroom censorship and hostile school environments (including due to peer harassment) through direct representation, local and state advocacy, systemic reform, and community organizing support
- Challenge discriminatory school rules and exclusionary discipline that reinforce racism, ableism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia (including virtual exclusion, expulsion, failure to provide due process, and failure to consider qualifying disabilities), through individual representation and systemic advocacy to promote restorative and non-punitive alternatives
- Dismantle the policies and practices that lead to push out of Black and Brown children and families, including, summary offenses, criminalization through truancy referral, caregiver exclusion, and/or discriminatory school-based fines and fees
- Reduce education barriers and promote effective and responsive models for students who need mental health and behavioral health supports in schools and/or other supportive measures in school, with a focus on Black girls and LGBTQ-identified young people
- Promote equal access to a quality education for students in foster care and juvenile justice systems through representation and systemic advocacy
- Protect the rights of immigrant students by challenging discriminatory practices and schools' failure to provide newly arrived immigrants and multilingual learners with effective language instruction as required by federal law, and promoting welcoming schools policies to mitigate any harm from ICE interaction with schools
- Ensure that students with chronic or acute illnesses have access to education by advocating for individual students and eliminating barriers created by ableist policies and practices

Qualified applicants should have a J.D., as well as: a commitment to racial and social justice; strong analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills; and 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 and specify to which office (Pittsburgh or Philadelphia) you are applying, if you have a preference. We will review applications on a rolling basis, and preference will be given to applications received by July 7, 2025.

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.