

# *Willamette University Public Interest Law Project*

## *2009 Summer Fellowship Application*

### **Fellowship Program**

The Willamette University Public Interest Law Project (WUPILP) is a student organization funded by Willamette University College of Law students, faculty, staff, Oregon's legal community, and many generous individuals. One of WUPILP's missions is to provide financial support to students who wish to clerk for public interest organizations. WUPILP provides financial support to selected students through the WUPILP Summer Fellowship Program. Each spring WUPILP holds its annual *Bid for Justice* auction to raise money for the WUPILP Summer Fellowship Program. In 2008, the auction raised enough money to fund 7 fellowships. The auction funded projects with such organizations as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Tel Aviv, Catholic Charities Immigration Services in Portland, and the Public Defender of Marion County.

### **Purpose**

Typically, public interest law organizations are under-funded and unable to employ law students as clerks. The purpose of the Summer Fellowship Program is to create clerking opportunities in the public interest field and to provide support to under-funded organizations.

### **WUPILP Selection Committee**

The WUPILP Selection Committee reviews all applications anonymously and selects which applicants will receive a fellowship. The committee has discretion to revoke all or part of any fellowship award at any time. The selection committee will be run with the guidance of the WUPILP Fellowship Chair.

### **Application Process**

1. Students should review the Summer Fellowship Requirements, Selection Criteria, and Application Instructs (see below).
2. Students must submit completed applications to Deborah Mosman in Career Services no later than 4 PM Monday April 6, 2009. Late applications will not be accepted.
3. The Selection Committee will convene and review applications after the WUPILP *Bid for Justice* Auction. The committee shall announce fellowship recipients before finals.
4. WUPILP may award three fellowships in the amount not to exceed **\$3,000**.

## **Summer Fellowship Program Requirements**

### **Good Standing/Enrolled for Fall Semester 2009**

An applicant must be a current first or second year law student at Willamette University College of Law. He or she must be in good academic standing. If awarded a fellowship, each recipient must submit a letter of good standing (obtained through Student Services) to the Fellowship Committee Chair before fellowship funds will be disbursed. Each applicant must be enrolled for fall semester 2009 at Willamette University College of Law.

### **Public Interest Work**

The work to be performed by the applicant must be public interest work. Public interest work is public service oriented work on behalf of individuals and causes not often served by the for-profit bar. Public interest work spans all political ideologies. It is pursued on the basis of individual or group concepts of justice, equity, and advancing the public good, rather than for purposes of commercial or personal gain.

### **Position Not Normally Paid/No Academic Credit Received**

The applicant must occupy a position in the host organization that has not been paid during the past 365 days. The applicant's position cannot displace another worker (whether volunteer or not) at the organization. The applicant may not seek academic credit in addition to fellowship money.

If the employing organization is able to procure partial funding for the position from other sources, the recipient agrees to reimburse WUPIP for the portion of his/her fellowship that is paid by the employer. Employer is allowed to pay for job expenses, but is not required to do so (travel, housing if out of state, etc.).

### **Law Related**

The majority of work performed by the applicant must be substantially related to the law. This however, does not mean that the agency selected need provide legal services. For example, an applicant could work for a homeless shelter as long as the work is legal in context. Another example might be an applicant drafting ordinances for a municipality.

### **Non-Discrimination**

The organization, and the work to be performed by the applicant, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, religion, or disability.

### **Minimum Work Requirements**

The applicant shall work a minimum of 300 hours during summer break. If the student works less than 300 hours, the student shall return a proportional amount of the fellowship money to WUPIP.

## Summer Fellowship Program Criteria

The WUPILP Selection Committee will make the final decisions based on the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the work to be performed by the applicant serves the public interest as defined above.
2. The personal statement of the applicant (see Part I).
3. The extent to which the experience will broaden the applicant's legal education.
4. The extent to which the organization as a whole serves the public interest as defined above.

## Application Instructions

1. Students and employers should read the Summer Fellowship Program Requirements and Summer Fellowship Program Criteria sections of this application packet before filing out the application.
2. **Applicants must type all student sections** (Student Information Page, and Part I) of the application materials. Handwritten application materials will not be considered.
3. Students are to complete the Student Information Page and Part I of the application only. **The only place the students name should appear is on the Student Information Page.**
4. Each application receives a number and the Student Information Page will be separated from the application before distribution to WUPILP Selection Committee members. **Any attempt by the applicant to provide additional information or in any other way reveal the identity of the applicant to the WUPILP Selection Committee may result in the committee withdrawing the application from consideration.**
5. An applicant's participation in WUPILP will be factored into the selection process.
6. Employers are to complete Part II of the application. There shall be **no reference to the students name anywhere in Part II** of the application. It is strongly suggested that Part II be typed.
7. Student applicants are to submit the completed Student Information Page, Part I, Part II to Deborah Mosman in Career Services by 4:00 PM, Monday April 6, 2009. No late application will be accepted. If an applicant is missing any of the above mentioned sections, the committee will not consider the application.
8. Please do not submit any other materials (letters of recommendation, transcripts, writing samples, etc.) with your application. The Selection Committee will discard any materials submitted other than the required sections.

## **Questions About the Application and Selection Process**

Questions related to the guidelines, requirements, and application procedures, as well as the general selection process or questions related to the eligibility of specific placements within specific organizations should be directed to:

**Angelica Hall, President WUPILP**  
amhall@willamette.edu