



2012 SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

Q: WHAT IS THE NKU CHASE SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?

The NKU Chase Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program was established in 2006 by the law school with the generous support of the Honorable S. Arthur and Louise Spiegel, Chase students, faculty and friends. The Chase Public Interest Group (CPIG) assists in raising funds to support the fellowship program each year through an auction and with other fundraising events. The summer 2012 fellowships will also be supported by a generous gift from the Bench and Bar Fund, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky.

The goal of the Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program is to provide Chase students with modest funding for unpaid public interest law positions during the summer months. Public interest firms and non-profit organizations are typically unable to pay legal interns, requiring students to seek alternative funding for these positions. These opportunities allow students to gain valuable practical legal experience in an area of interest while contributing needed legal services to the community. Students who have been funded through the summer fellowship program in the past have received grants ranging from \$2,500- \$3,000. The amount each funded student will receive for summer 2012 will depend on several factors, including the number of hours committed, the location of the position, other funding available to the student, and the amount of available program funds. To be eligible for funding, a full-time student must commit a minimum of 350 hours to the public interest position. Part-time students who are employed full-time may propose to commit a lesser number of hours and receive a smaller fellowship award.

Q: WHAT PUBLIC INTEREST OPPORTUNITIES QUALIFY?

Opportunities that will receive preference for funding involve law-related work at public interest, pro bono, or other non-profit organizations that help those traditionally underserved or denied access to justice. Opportunities may be local, nationwide, or international.

Opportunities with governmental agencies or courts will be considered for funding only if they involve services that will benefit those traditionally underserved or denied access to justice. Students should consult with Lisa Moore, Career Development Director, at 859-572-5354 or moorell@nku.edu, if unsure if a particular opportunity qualifies.

Q: WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Chase students who meet the following eligibility requirements may apply:

- 1) Student will not graduate in May 2012;
- 2) Student will have successfully completed a minimum of 30 credit hours toward graduation at the beginning of the summer fellowship;
- 3) Student will be in good academic standing at the time of application, with a cumulative GPA of 2.2 or above.
- 4) Student has not previously received a Chase Summer Public Interest Fellowship award.

Although membership in the Chase Public Interest Group (CPIG) is not a requirement to apply, preference may be given to students who are active members of CPIG.

Q: HOW DO I FIND A PUBLIC INTEREST SUMMER OPPORTUNITY?

Consult the resources available in the Career Development collection in the law library, such as the Comprehensive Fellowship Guide, which contains information about diverse fellowship opportunities throughout the country. Review the student pro bono opportunities listed on the Chase Pro Bono Service Program website, and consider contacting the organizations listed there to ascertain their potential interest in hosting you as a summer fellow. After reviewing those resources, students are highly encouraged to consult with Lisa Moore for additional guidance and assistance in identifying summer opportunities.

Q: WHAT IS THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS?

The priority deadline for applications is **5:00 p.m., Monday, March 19, 2012**. Students who apply by that deadline will be notified within 2-3 weeks as to whether they are funded, not funded, or deferred for consideration pending the submittal and review of additional information requested by the committee. Applications received after the March 19th deadline will be considered if fellowship funds remain available.

Seven copies of the application and supporting documents should be submitted to Bonnie Osborne in the Student Services Suite (Room 314).

To apply, complete the application form and attach your resume, a letter from the organization offering you an unpaid summer fellowship opportunity, and your Summer Public Interest Fellowship proposal. Your proposal should be 1-2 typed pages and must include: a description of your interest in public service and public interest law; a description of your summer placement and the project you will be working on; and a description of how the summer fellowship will advance your educational and professional goals, while also serving a community need.

The number of students funded will depend on the availability of funds and the number of worthy applications received. In making the selections for grant awards, the Summer Fellowship committee may invite students to interview. The Summer Fellowship Committee currently consists of Professor Amy Halbrook; Professor Jennifer Jolly-Ryan; Associate Dean Molly Tami; Gerard St. Amand, NKU Vice President, University Advancement; Becky Fitzsimmons, Career Development Coordinator; and CPIG Board Member Jesse Bowman. Lisa Moore, Career Development Director, will serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee.

Q: WHAT ARE MY OBLIGATIONS IF I RECEIVE FUNDING?

Full-time students who are awarded a summer fellowship must serve a minimum of 350 hours during the summer. (Part-time students working full-time may be approved for a lesser number of hours and smaller award.) Students will be required to submit a final evaluation of their summer public interest experience to the Career Development Office at the end of the summer and will make a presentation about the experience at a CPIG sponsored event. **In addition, each recipient will be required to assume a leadership role in future CPIG fundraising efforts.**

Students will be required to sign a fellowship agreement which will detail all responsibilities of fellowship recipients.