Public Interest Fellows

Georgetown Law established the Public Interest Fellows (PIF) Program in 2010 to provide enhanced academic, career, and community support to students committed to pursuing public interest legal careers. The Office of Public Interest and Community Service (OPICS) administers the program with oversight from the Faculty-Student Public Interest Committee. We invite you to become part of the eighth class of Public Interest Fellows, and join a student and alumni cohort of over 400!

Key features of the Fellows Program include:

- **Public interest curriculum concentration** – Fellows pursue a specialized academic track, which is designed to be broad enough to allow for the study of a wide range of public interest issues. Each Fellow agrees to: 1) successfully complete at least one clinic, externship, or experiential learning class; 2) earn at least 15 upperclass credits from the public interest curriculum cluster; including at least one course in statutory and regulatory interpretation and 3) satisfy the upperclass writing requirement through a paper on a public interest topic.

- **Specialized Career Development and Commitment** – Public Interest Fellows are each assigned an alumni mentor, enjoy informal faculty advising through a Faculty Tea series, and receive specialized career counseling from OPICS. Fellows agree to spend at least one summer interning with a public interest or government employer and fulfill the Pro Bono Pledge. In addition, first-year Fellows attend a peer-led discussion series that explores a range of curricular, career, and financial issues dealing with the transition to law school. Upperclass Fellows serve as informal mentors to first-year Fellows and participate in a number of “Give Back” programs.

- **Public Interest Community Building** – Fellows immediately become part of a community of similarly-committed students. OPICS hosts a variety of programs, such as a PIF Orientation, to help establish that sense of community and encourage Fellows to provide support and guidance to each other. In addition, Fellows are expected to help enhance the overall public interest student community at Georgetown by, for example, becoming leaders in public interest student groups, helping promote the Pro Bono Pledge, and/or creating new pro bono or public interest projects.

- **Special Recognition at Graduation** - Public Interest Fellows who successfully complete all program requirements receive recognition at commencement and certificates signed by the Dean at graduation.

To learn more, email Katie Dilks, Associate Director of Public Interest Programs & New Initiatives, at skd9@georgetown.edu
Interested applicants should submit the following by Friday, August 4th:

- Resume;
- Two one-page essays, no more than 400 words each. For the first essay, pick one aspect of the program and explain why you find it compelling and how it will help further your public interest goals. For the second essay, please describe one or more experiences that highlight your personal commitment to public interest, and why you are excited about building upon that commitment with the Public Interest Fellows program; and
- One letter of recommendation from a person who can speak to your public interest commitment. The letter should specifically address why you are a good candidate for this program, and can be sent as part of the application package or separately by the recommender.

Applications should be sent by email to opics@law.georgetown.edu. Please include Public Interest Fellows Program Application in the subject line.

If you have questions, or would like to speak to a current Public Interest Fellow about the program, please email Katie Dilks, Associate Director for Public Interest Programs & New Initiatives, at skd9@georgetown.edu.