Clinical Teaching Fellowships in Media Law and Policy

The Institute for Public Representation invites applications for Clinical Teaching Fellowships in Media Law and Policy. The fellowships begin in August 2013 and run for two years. IPR Fellowships provide recent law school graduates the opportunity to take substantial responsibility on cutting edge cases, supervise and teach law students, and work closely with a faculty mentor.

What is the Institute for Public Representation?

The Institute for Public Representation (IPR) is a public interest law firm and law school clinic founded by Georgetown University Law Center in 1971. IPR practices in three areas of public interest law: media law and policy, civil rights, and environmental protection law. Each practice area has a faculty director and one or two graduate fellows who supervise a group of six students each semester.

What does IPR’s Media Law and Policy section do?

IPR’s media law and policy section provides pro bono legal representation to media reform organizations, civil rights groups, children’s advocates, consumer groups, and other non-profit organizations on matters related to media law and policy. Our practice is primarily before administrative agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Congress, and the federal appellate courts.

Our overall goal is to foster a media ecosystem that is responsive to the needs of the public, especially segments of the public that have been traditionally underserved. This goal can take many different forms. For example, it can mean ensuring that video on the Internet has captions for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; limiting “junk food” commercials on children’s television; increasing opportunities for women and minorities to own broadcast stations; and requiring television stations to disclose the details of time sold to political candidates. Because the media landscape is changing rapidly, the types of projects we work on change as well. Many of our cases involve whether and how to apply existing public interest policies to new forms of media and how to ensure that the public benefits from and avoids the risks presented by new technologies.
Here are some examples of recent projects:

- **Protecting children’s privacy online.** Working with a coalition of education, privacy, and public health advocates, IPR helped to pass a bill to protect children’s privacy known as the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) in 1998. The FTC adopted rules to implement this law. Recently, the FTC proposed to update its COPPA rules to take account of new types of marketing and information collection processes. IPR filed comments on these proposed changes on behalf of the Center for Digital Democracy, American Academy of Pediatrics, and others. Separately, IPR filed with the FTC requests for investigation of McDonalds and other companies for using viral marketing techniques that violate COPPA.

- **Reducing Childhood Obesity.** Marketing of foods of poor nutritional value to children is one of the factors contributing to the epidemic of childhood obesity. IPR works with members of the Food Marketing Working Group to adopt policies limiting advertising of unhealthy foods to children and teens. For example, we filed comments in an FTC proceeding on behalf of Children Now and other organizations concerning proposed voluntary guidelines for foods advertised to children. Separately, on behalf of the Center for Digital Democracy, we asked the FTC to investigate unfair and deceptive online practices used to market Doritos to teens.

- **Deceptive advertising.** Working with the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood, we have identified deceptive advertising practices and asked the FTC to investigate them. As a result of our request, the FTC recently filed a law suit against the company marketing sets of DVDs entitled “Your Baby Can Read,” for claiming that this product taught babies to read without adequate substantiation of that claim. A separate complaint, which remains pending, asked the FTC to investigate the child-oriented website Webkinz for deceptively telling parents that they could opt out of third party advertising on the site.

- **Public interest obligations of digital television stations.** Since 2000, IPR has worked with the Public Interest Public Airwave Coalition to ensure that as television stations transitioned from analog to digital, they improved their service to local communities. As a result of our advocacy, the FCC took an important step toward increasing station accountability this year. Specifically, the FCC is requiring television stations to make their “public inspection files” more readily available to the public by placing them in an online data base. Since this requirement has been challenged by the National Association of Broadcasters, we are writing a brief in support of the FCC that will be filed in the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

- **Media Ownership Limits.** The FCC has several rules limiting the number of broadcast stations and other media in the same community that can be
under common control. The FCC has to review these rules every four years. IPR filed comments on behalf of the Office of Communication, Inc. of the United Church of Christ, National Organization for Women, and other organizations in the FCC’s 2002, 2004, and 2010 reviews. IPR twice filed successful challenges to FCC decisions to relax its rules in the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In addition to advocating for maintaining ownership limits, IPR has helped community groups ensure that the rules are followed in specific communities. For example, we represented organizations opposing waivers of the newspaper-broadcast cross ownership rules requested by the Tribune Co. in five major markets. We also filed a complaint on behalf of the Media Council Hawaii against a company that obtained control over three television stations in Honolulu in violation of the FCC’s local television limits.

- **Amicus Briefs in the Supreme Court.** IPR filed *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics in both the Fox I and Fox II cases, which addressed the FCC policy prohibiting the broadcast of “fleeting expletives.” Our briefs urged the Court to decide the case narrowly – which it did – and argued that the V-Chip and rating did not provide an effective alternative means of protecting children from inappropriate broadcasts.

- **Accessible Telecommunications for People with Disabilities.** We work closely with Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. to expand and improve upon closed captioning of video programming. For example, we filed comments addressing FCC proposals for implementing the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. We also advocated before the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress to ensure that Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) does not interfere with the development of closed captioning and other accessibility technology.

- **Low Power FM Stations.** We represent Prometheus Radio Project, an organization that has been advocating for the licensing of additional small noncommercial radio stations to serve underserved communities. We filed comments on the proposed criteria for licensing such stations. We expect that the application process will start sometime next year.

More information about IPR’s media law and policy section is available at our website, [http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/clinical-programs/our-clinics/ipr/index.cfm](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/clinical-programs/our-clinics/ipr/index.cfm) and blog.

**What do the Fellows do?**

The Fellows work closely with Professor Angela Campbell to determine which projects to undertake and to supervise the law students working on those projects. The Fellows work with the students on improving their lawyering skills, especially legal writing. They guide students in conducting legal and factual
research, review student drafts, make suggestions for improvement, and help students prepare for oral presentations. The Fellows also have opportunities to engage in their own oral and written advocacy.

The Fellowships offer valuable experience for both recent law school graduates and those with clerkship or other work experience who are interested in public interest practice. The Fellows work on complex and cutting-edge cases, many of which involve First Amendment challenges or other constitutional issues. They assume a great deal of responsibility at an early stage of their careers for these cases. They work directly with client organizations and coalitions to develop strategy. They meet with Commissioners, agency staff, Congressional staff, and other policy makers. They get to experience first-hand the interplay between Congress, federal agencies, and federal courts.

Applicants interested in clinic teaching also gain valuable teaching experience. They receive training in clinical teaching and spend much of their time teaching students in a one-on-one setting. They take an active role in planning and teaching the classroom components of the clinic. As part of the Georgetown Law community, Fellows also have opportunities to attend conferences and workshops and to get to know other faculty and graduate fellows.

The annual stipend for the position will be at least $53,500, plus an opportunity to participate in group health insurance and other benefits, including unlimited free access to a state-of-art, on-site fitness center. The fellowship will start in August 2013 and end in August 2015. Georgetown University Law Center awards an LL.M in Advocacy to each fellow upon completion of their two-year term.

What qualifications are we looking for?

IPR seeks applicants with the following characteristics:

- A demonstrated interest and experience in media law, telecommunications, privacy, freedom of speech, or related fields;
- Strong analytical and communication skills, both oral and written;
- A commitment to serving the public interest; and
- Experience teaching or supervising legal work and an interest in teaching law students in a clinical setting.

Graduate fellows must be members of the D.C. Bar or take steps to apply for membership in the D.C. Bar (through examination or reciprocity) upon being accepted for the position.
How to apply?

Persons interested in applying should submit:

- Resume;
- Law school transcript;
- Two letters of recommendation from law school teachers or attorneys who are familiar with the candidate’s work;
- A personal statement (not longer than two pages, double-spaced) setting forth the reasons for seeking the fellowship position; and
- A writing sample.

We would prefer to receive your application materials in a PDF file attached to an email. Please send your application emails to nwp2@law.georgetown.edu. If you would like to send your application materials via mail, applications should be postmarked no later than December 3, 2012, and should be sent to:

Niko Perazich
Institute for Public Representation
Georgetown Law
600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Fellowship Program-Media Law and Policy

After reviewing the applications, we will invite a small number of candidates for interviews at our office. While IPR cannot pay candidates’ travel expenses, we will try to arrange interviews at a time convenient for candidates’ schedules.