Human Rights Program

Harvard Law School

###### HRP

**Henigson Human Rights Fellowship**

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2016-2017

Henigson Fellowship is due March 21, 2016.

**Description**  
The Human Rights Program is currently accepting applications for Henigson Human Rights Fellowships for 2016-2017. This year, HRP will award two to three fellowships: to graduating LL.M.s, J.D.s or recent alumni currently holding clerkships or fellowships in public interest fields.

The Henigson Fellowships were made possible by a generous gift to HRP from Robert ’55 and Phyllis Henigson. The Fellowships are awarded annually to present HLS students or recent graduates with a demonstrated commitment to international human rights and an interest in exploring a career – as an academic, activist, official or practitioner – in which human rights concerns will play a significant role.

Henigson Fellows spend ten to twelve months working with a nongovernmental human rights organization in the developing world. Each full fellowship carries stipend of $27,000 and $1,500 toward international health insurance.

**El****igibility**  
For current and former J.D. students: 3Ls expecting to receive the J.D. degree in June 2016, as well as recent J.D. graduates who (i) currently clerk for a judge; (ii) are engaged in full-time public interest work; or (iii) were active in human rights or public interest work while students at HLS.

For LL.M. students: Students who expect to receive the LL.M. degree in 2016, and who come from and will return to a country other than the United States.

Applications should be submitted to HRP by **March 21, 2016**. Interviews may be required for finalists. The Faculty Committee awarding the fellowships is not required to award any fellowships in the absence of sufficiently qualified applicants.

**Application**  
A complete application will consist of the following:

1. Curriculum vitae, including information about classes, work and extracurricular activities in public interest and human rights inside and outside HLS.
2. A personal statement (500 words maximum) about the applicant’s relevant experience, interest, and future aspirations with respect to public interest and human rights work. The statement should include a discussion of the place of the fellowship in the applicant’s career plans.
3. A project description (see below for project requirements) including:
   1. a description of the sponsoring organization and of its work in the local and international context;
   2. a discussion of the student’s project and its relation to the work of the organization; and
   3. an estimated budget (to demonstrate feasibility).
4. A letter and supporting material from the sponsoring organization (or related organizations) detailing their purpose, function and their particular interest in the work of the applicant.
5. Two or three letters of recommendation, including at least one from a HLS professor.
6. HLS transcript.

**Fellowship Selection Process**

The Human Rights Program will oversee the administration of the fellowships. HRP will advise students preparing applications on the substance of their proposal – whether particular sponsoring groups qualify, whether a student can work out arrangements to work with related NGOs on a single project, and so on. The Program may seek to supplement the application with information from the applicant or other informed sources.

**Additional Information**

Particular weight will be given to:

1. The applicant’s relevant experience, including academic experience, extracurricular activities, and work experience that evidence a high capacity for and commitment to human rights work and the proposed project;
2. The merit and feasibility of the applicant’s project, including the capacity of the proposed organization or organizations to host the applicant and make valuable use of his or her work;
3. The relevance of the project for the career plans of the applicant.

**Purpose of the Fellowship**

The Henigson Human Rights Fellowships are for HLS students with a demonstrated commitment to international human rights and an interest in working in the field. They are intended to enable students to make a valuable contribution to human rights during the year of the fellowship and to help students to build human rights work into their careers, whether those careers are in academic life, in governmental or intergovernmental organizations, as activists, or as legal practitioners.

The fellowships are not intended to permit research at an academic or other institution. They contemplate a fellow’s active participation in the work of nongovernmental human rights organizations.

**Project Requirements**

Applicants must have a sponsoring organization (or organizations related through a single project) in the developing world. Consistent with the longstanding practice of HRP in summer internships and clinical projects, the organizations must be engaged in “human rights” activism, broadly defined. In most cases, these nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) will be involved in human rights education, monitoring, reporting, litigation, grassroots mobilization, or advocacy – for example, organizations involved in human rights work in general or in specific areas of the human rights movement such as women’s rights, children’s rights, labor rights, refugees, and so on. Most of these organizations would identify themselves as part of the broader, universal human rights movement, relying on the norms found in United Nations and regional treaties and declarations. The fellowship is not intended to support extensive research within an NGO that is removed from such other basic activities.

However, qualifying NGOs may also include organizations working to embrace new and interdisciplinary directions in the rights movement – for example, organizations involved in economic development, humanitarian relief, health or environmental activism that are pursuing a rights-based approach to advocacy. The determination of qualified organizations will be made by HRP on a case-by-case basis. Not every organization involved in environmental protection, economic development, public health, conflict resolution or peace studies, for example, would qualify as a human rights organization. The Committee may, in rare special circumstances, accept a proposal for work within a governmental or intergovernmental human rights organization.

HRP will consider applications that link NGOs in the developing world with NGOs in developed countries, so long as the focus of the work and the bulk of the time will be spent in the developing country.

We encourage students to think creatively about the organizations to which they would like to apply and to discuss potential sponsoring organizations with Mindy Jane Roseman early in the planning process.

**Qualified Locations**

Fellowships will be awarded only for projects that are located in the developing world of low or middle-income countries. This obviously excludes organizations in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States, Western Europe and other similar countries. However, HRP will consider applications that link work in the developing world with organizations in one of those countries, and which require the fellow to spend a minor portion of the fellowship period there. Determination whether a location qualifies will be made by HRP.

Fellowships for projects in a candidate’s home country are discouraged.

**Project Details**

Applicants should contact organizations as early as possible to determine their needs and the capacity of the applicant to fill them. Projects should be as detailed as possible. However, many smaller NGOs will not be able to predict their exact needs long in advance. The informed commitment of the NGO to work closely with the applicant and devote institutional resources to the project is as important as the substantive detail of the project itself.

**Funding Amounts and Restrictions**

Fellowship awards are made without regard to financial need. The amount of the fellowship will be $27,000 for the fellowship period.

Fellows may supplement the fellowship from other grants and awards up to a limit of $18,000. HRP may reduce the amount of its grant to correspond to other grants in excess of that amount. Fellows are required to keep HRP informed of funding.

**Deferral**  
Third year students with clerkships or other fellowships for 2016-2017 may apply in their graduation year and defer the Henigson fellowship until completion of the clerkship or other fellowship. HRP recognizes that students planning to defer may not be in a position to provide the same detail about projects as other applicants. Moreover, HRP recognizes that students holding the fellowship and a clerkship may have to renegotiate certain terms of their project with the sponsoring organization during their clerkship year. No other grounds for deferral will be accepted, barring unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.

[To Apply](http://hrp.law.harvard.edu/fellowships/post-graduate-fellowships/), please visit the Human Rights Program website.

**For More Information**  
For more information on the Henigson Human Rights Fellowships, please visit the Human Rights Program [website](http://hrp.law.harvard.edu/fellowships/post-graduate-fellowships/) or contact:  
  
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