



## Fellowships

Founded in 1876, The Legal Aid Society is the nation's oldest and largest provider of free legal services for low-income families and individuals. Legal Aid's staff of lawyers, paralegals, investigators, social workers, and support personnel provide comprehensive legal services in New York City's five boroughs in more than 300,000 cases and legal matters annually. The Society's major areas of legal practice are the **Civil Practice**, which handles housing, income support, family law, immigration, and general civil matters; the **Criminal Practice**, which serves as the City's principal public defender for criminal prosecutions at the trial and appellate levels, and also in post-conviction and parole revocation proceedings; and the **Juvenile Rights Practice**, in which lawyers serve as attorneys for children in child protective and delinquency proceedings in family court.

In addition to our legal assistance for individual clients, all of the Society's Practices include specialized units which provide backup assistance to staff and other advocates and bring affirmative law reform litigation on behalf of the Society's clients. More than 2 million families and individuals benefit from the Society's law reform cases which have resulted in landmark rulings with a Statewide and national impact. For details on all units and Practices please visit our website at <http://www.legal-aid.org/en/home.aspx> and click on "What We Do."

Each year, The Legal Aid Society sponsors candidates for the Public Service Fellowships such as the Skadden, Equal Justice Works, and Soros Fellowships. Graduates from Yale will also be considered for Liman Fellowships and Columbia and NYU students are also eligible for Kirkland & Ellis Fellowships. The Society will consider sponsoring candidates for other Fellowships for which they may be eligible.

### Application Process:

The Legal Aid Society looks for applicants with a demonstrated commitment to providing high quality legal services for low-income families and individuals. We believe that quality representation also includes a staff that reflects the diversity of the clients we serve. Annually, The Legal Aid Society receives hundreds of applications for a limited number of positions. **Application by email is required and will be responded to promptly. Applications must be submitted by July 8, 2011.**

### How to Apply:

Email a resume and cover letter, fellowship proposal, law school transcript, list of references and writing sample to our Fellowship Coordinator Jennifer Lewis at [fellowships@legal-aid.org](mailto:fellowships@legal-aid.org). In the subject line of the email, please write the name of the Practice Area to which you would like to apply (Civil, Criminal, or Juvenile Rights).

### Additional information about The Legal Aid Society :

The Legal Aid Society, the nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit legal services organization, is more than a law firm for low-income clients. It is an indispensable component of the legal, social, and economic fabric of New York City – passionately advocating for low-income individuals and families across a variety of civil, criminal and juvenile rights matters, while also fighting for legal reform.

The Legal Aid Society has performed this role in City, State and federal courts since 1876. It does so by capitalizing on the diverse expertise, experience, and capabilities of 900 of the brightest legal minds. These 900 Legal Aid Society lawyers work with 600 social workers, investigators, paralegals and support and administrative staff. Through a network of borough, neighborhood, and courthouse offices in 30 locations in New York City, the Society provides comprehensive legal services in all five boroughs of New York City for clients who cannot afford to pay for private counsel.

The Society's legal program operates three major practices – Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Rights – and receives volunteer help from law firms, corporate law departments and expert consultants that is coordinated by the Society's Pro Bono program. Annually, the Society handles some 300,000 cases and legal matters for clients. The Legal Aid Society takes on more cases for more clients than any other legal services organization in the United States. And it brings a depth and breadth of perspective that is unmatched in the legal profession.

The Legal Aid Society's unique value is an ability to go beyond any one case to create more equitable outcomes for individuals and broader, more powerful systemic change for society as a whole. In addition to the annual caseload of 300,000 individual cases and legal matters, the Society's law reform work benefits some 2 million low income families and individuals in New York City and the landmark rulings in many of these cases have a Statewide and national impact. Current law reform cases include federal and State court matters involving: housing and homelessness; mental and physical disabilities; health care access; public benefits and employment; domestic violence and family law; immigration; elder law; child welfare and foster care; juvenile justice; prisoners' rights; prison discharge planning, parole, and community re-entry; and criminal justice. Altogether, the Society has an active current docket of some 40 law reform matters.

Society staff members represent clients at literally every level of the State and federal trial and appellate courts as well as in City, State and federal administrative proceedings. Based on the Society's expertise, staff is frequently asked to testify before federal, State, and City Council legislative committees, comment on administrative regulations and procedures, and speak on behalf of clients and various issues in the media. The Society also operates extensive "Know Your Rights" community outreach programs for clients and community-based organizations as well as Continuing Legal Education programs for Society staff, pro bono volunteers, and the legal community in general. More than 1,000 volunteers from leading law firms and corporate law departments participate each year in the Society's pro bono program to further leverage resources.

Government funds the constitutionally mandated representation of clients that the Society's Criminal Practice and Juvenile Rights Practice provide. Aside from targeted government funding for special Civil programs, the Civil Practice is largely dependant on private funding for client services. Leading major law firms in New York City are Sustaining Law Firms that contribute funding according to the number of lawyers in their New York offices and this annual level of law firm support is essential to enable the Civil Practice to provide legal assistance to clients.

**The Legal Aid Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer – Women, People of Color, Gays and Lesbians, Transgender People, Veterans and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.**