Summer Stipend Programs 2019

OSB Diversity & Inclusion Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Oregon State Bar is to serve justice by promoting respect for the rule of law, by improving the quality of legal services, and by increasing access to justice.

The Diversity & Inclusion Department serves the OSB's mission by striving to increase the diversity of the Oregon bench and bar to reflect the diversity of the people of Oregon, by educating attorneys about the cultural richness and diversity of the clients they serve, and by removing barriers to justice.

SUMMER STIPEND PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Oregon State Bar’s (OSB) Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Department, with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (ACDI), administers summer employment stipend programs for law school students who will help achieve the bar’s diversity mission. Two Summer Stipend awards are initially reserved for each of the three Oregon law schools, while the remaining are open to all continuing Oregon or out-of-state law students. The number of awards granted each year may vary, depending on the applicant pool, and available resources.

For participating students, the stipend programs offer opportunities to gain experience and build connections in the Oregon legal community. Former student participants have
reported enhanced professional skills through successful hands-on work experiences and networking opportunities. The programs offer participating supervisors the opportunity to work with committed students, and to learn first-hand about the diversity of talent available in Oregon’s growing legal community. Students selected to receive stipends will choose, depending on the type of summer employment opportunity they obtain, whether they wish to receive their stipend in the form of a Public Honors Fellowship or a Clerkship, as outlined below.

**Public Honors Fellowship Program**

The Public Honors Fellowship stipend allows continuing law students to explore summer legal opportunities with public employers and non-profit organizations in the state of Oregon, that would otherwise be unpaid. The Public Honors Fellowship award is $5,000, paid in three installments over the summer months. To qualify for the Public Honors Fellowship stipend, students must work for a public employer or 501(c)3 organization.

**Clerkship Stipend Program**

Work under the Clerkship Stipend program is not limited to public or non-profit employment. For students who receive a Clerkship Stipend, the D&I Department will contribute a $7.00 per hour stipend toward the student’s summer employment wages. Employers in the Clerkship Stipend Program must agree to at least match the $7.00 per hour stipend, for a total hourly wage of $14.00.

Prior to the student’s first day of employment, the employer submits a stipend agreement which the employer has signed. Thereafter, the employer can expect a stipend reimbursement within two weeks of submitting a signed timecard showing the hours for which the student worked. The maximum award for a Clerkship Stipend (not including a Justice Across Oregon Stipend) is $3,360. The employer is responsible for paying the student's wages for all hours worked regardless of whether the maximum stipend is reached.

**Justice Across Oregon Programs**

The Justice Across Oregon Stipend allows continuing law students to explore summer legal opportunities in less populated areas of the state. Summer Stipend recipients who accept positions in rural Oregon are eligible for an additional stipend to offset travel, housing, and other incidental costs associated with the summer employment. (“Rural Oregon” is defined as any geographic area in Oregon along the coast, east of the Cascade Mountains, or south of, and including, Cottage Grove, or otherwise located ten or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 people or more.) Rural employment can provide a new lens for viewing legal issues including workers’ rights, poverty, family law, immigration, and Indian Law.

**Justice Across Oregon Fellowship – Supplementary Award**

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The Justice Across Oregon award for fellowship recipients is an additional $3,360, paid together with the Public Honors Fellowship in three installments over the summer months. All other policies and requirements of the Public Honors Fellowship program still apply.

**Justice Across Oregon Clerkship – Supplementary Award**

The Justice Across Oregon award for clerkship recipients provides an additional $7.00 per hour contribution to the student’s hourly compensation (the employer contribution remains at $7.00, for a total of $21.00 an hour). The maximum total D&I award for a clerkship including the Justice Across Oregon stipend is $6,720.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

All law students who will continue to be enrolled in law school in the fall term are eligible. The Diversity & Inclusion Department and members of the ACDI will review all applications received by the deadline and their scores will determine the students initially offered awards. The application evaluations may also be used to offer stipends to additional students should initial recipients forfeit their awards in favor of other opportunities, or should additional funding become available. The Diversity & Inclusion Department and ACDI members will evaluate student applications based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the D&I Department’s mission (25)
- Intent/willingness to practice in Oregon (25)
- Financial need (20)
- Personal statement (clarity, persuasiveness, technical writing ability) (15)
  Note: The personal statement may also contribute to an applicant’s scores in other categories, to the extent that it addresses those factors.
- Community activities/involvement, employment/volunteer history. (15)

**Application Materials**

[2019 Summer Stipend Application including:](#)

1. Oregon State Bar Statement (500 words max): Where (geographically) do you see yourself practicing law? What benefits or barriers would contribute to your decision to work in Oregon?

You may wish to include why you chose to attend law school in Oregon, what would help you decide to practice in the state of Oregon if you are not committed to doing so, and/or how you would improve the quality of legal services or increase access to justice in Oregon.

2. A statement about your financial need.
3. Resume

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Your resume should include information about your employment history, extracurricular activities and community service.

4. Personal Statement (1000 words max)

**Option 1:** How has your background influenced your decision to become a lawyer, and how will it influence you throughout your legal professional career?

**Option 2:** Describe one of the greatest challenges that you have faced and how you met the challenge. How will that experience affect the decisions you will make as a legal professional?

In order to speak to the D&I mission, consider discussing in your personal statement any of the following:

- If you have experienced a history of barriers to advancement, personal experiences of discrimination/prejudice, or extraordinary financial obligations other than personal debt;
- If you have a demonstrated interest in increasing access to justice;
- How you can contribute to the bar's historically or currently underrepresented membership.

5. A professional or character reference.

**Public Records Law Notice**

The Oregon State Bar is subject to the State Public Records Law. Public records are generally subject to public inspection through the Public Records Law which contains a number of exemptions including one for personal information. Should anyone seek to examine your application under the Public Records Law, the bar will invoke the personal privacy exemption except for the following information: your name, and your list of references. The State Attorney General has authority to review the decisions of the state bar in this area and public records disputes can reach the courts. The bar reserves the right to respond as it deems appropriate to any requests to inspect D&I Department records, including your application. The state bar will abide by all final court decisions concerning the public records status of D&I records.

**Application Deadline**

The application deadline for 2019 Summer Stipend programs is January 15, 2019. A timely application will have been submitted via the online application by 11:59PM on the deadline date. If you are unable to apply using the online application system, please contact Lucy Taylor at ltaylor@osbar.org or 503-431-6338 to discuss alternative options.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Securing Positions**

Award recipients are responsible for securing their own summer employment, after they have been notified of their award. Students are provided a catalog of participating employers, from which to begin their job search; this is not an exhaustive list of
potential employers. Summer Stipend recipients can choose prospective employers from the catalog or may solicit employers not included in the catalog. If the employer is not in the catalog, the students must inform D&I staff to determine the employer’s eligibility to participate. Eligible employers must offer the student practical experience in a legal setting, as well as appropriate supervision and feedback; the student’s supervisor must be an attorney, and the position should be in Oregon.

The goal of the program is to help facilitate legal experience and connections for students in the Oregon legal community. As such, students will not be eligible to receive a Clerkship Stipend if they obtain a position that would otherwise be funded at $14.00 per hour or more without the contribution from D&I; and students will not be eligible to receive a Public Honors award for a paid position. The D&I Department shall have discretion to review this on a case-by-case basis for situations such as a firm being able to hire an additional clerk or making an offer of longer-term employment to the student due to the funding assistance provided by D&I.

For Public Honors Fellowships, the employer must be a 501(c)3 or public entity and the position should be unpaid. For Clerkships, the employer must be willing to match the $7.00 stipend for a total hourly rate of $14.00. Research positions in law schools are generally not acceptable stipend placements. Exceptions to eligibility are subject to D&I staff review. Students must find employment by the deadline, or request a limited extension. Forfeited stipends may be awarded to alternates.

All law students are encouraged to work closely with their respective law school’s career services departments, mentors, etc., to develop and improve hiring skills. Besides interviewing skills, telephone etiquette, appropriate dress, etc., skills should also include a protocol to handle multiple offers of employment.

Employers interested in hiring Summer Stipend recipients will hold the responsibility of vetting the students to determine if they are eligible and qualified for the position offered, as they would with any candidate for employment. The employer is responsible for complying with all state and federal laws, including worker’s compensation insurance, reporting taxable income, etc., related to the student’s employment. The Oregon State Bar does not employ the recipients and does not supervise any recipient’s placement.

The Oregon State Bar makes no commitment or guarantee that any amounts paid to or for the benefit of a recipient will be excludable from the recipient’s gross income for federal or state income tax purposes, or that any other federal or state tax treatment will apply to or be available to any recipient. It shall be the obligation of the recipient to determine whether any payment is excludable from the recipient’s gross income for federal and state income tax purposes.

**Full Participation Expectation Policy**

The D&I Department expects that a recipient of an award will fully participate in all aspects of the component program. For the purposes of Summer Stipends, full
participation shall be defined as at least 280 hours of work over the course of the summer, unless a prearranged exception is made based on extenuating circumstances (disability, childcare, etc.) For a student interested in participating in the Fellowship program but unable to participate in the full 280 hours, a partial fellowship may be offered. In addition to the student recipient agreeing to full participation, the student’s employer will also need to agree in advance that they will be able to provide the student with that amount of work over the course of the summer. If the recipient knows at the time of the award that they cannot fully participate in the component or circumstances occur to prevent completion of participation, the recipient must contact D&I staff immediately. If there is a determination that the original recipient cannot fully participate in the component and the award is withdrawn, the award may be transferred to the next alternate in line.

The stipend does not extend into the academic year.

**Clerkship Matching funds – Employer’s Inability to Match**

Occasionally, a stipend recipient may wish to clerk for an employer who cannot meet the $7.00 per hour matching requirement – e.g. a county court, a practitioner operating on a contingency basis, a non-profit employer, etc. Under those circumstances, a student may request that the D&I Department increase the stipend amount. D&I staff will consider the request on a case-by-case basis and may increase the stipend amount if the D&I Department can fund the increase. Although the D&I Department may, at its sole discretion, decide to increase its reimbursement to the employer for the student’s wages beyond $7.00 per hour, the employer will remain responsible for meeting all obligations of federal and state law related to the student’s employment, including the payment of Oregon’s minimum wage, and all appropriate payroll withholdings.

**2019 Summer Stipend Programs Timeline**

- Application deadline: **January 15, 2019**
- D&I Dept. notifies recipient: **January 31st, 2019**
- Deadline to secure employment: **April 1, 2019, unless extension granted**
- Stipends awarded to alternates: **Rolling basis**

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