THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW
PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Furthering and Supporting Commitment to Public Interest Law in the Twenty-First Century

A. Introduction

The University of Baltimore School of Law Public Interest Fellowship (hereinafter “the Fellowship”) was developed to encourage University of Baltimore law students to pursue careers in public interest after graduation. Through the program, second-year day or third-year evening students (hereinafter “Fellows”) will serve full-time as summer law clerks, remunerated with a School of Law grant of $4,000, at one of the Public Interest Partners (PIP) participating in the program, for the summer prior to their final year in law school. At the time a Fellow is selected by a PIP, the Fellow will be given a tentative offer of permanent post-graduate employment with the assigned PIP, contingent on the PIP’s satisfaction with the students’ performance as a summer law clerk. For the summer of 2009, participating PIPs include The Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland, Inc. (LAB) and the Office of the Public Defender of Maryland (OPD). In recognition of the financial sacrifices that such careers often entail, upon the Fellow’s receipt and acceptance of a firm offer of post-graduate employment from the assigned PIP, the School of Law will provide successful applicants with full remission of tuition and fees for their final year of law school at the University of Baltimore in the form of a forgivable loan, as defined in paragraph D7, below.

B. Who May Apply

1. Second-year day and third-year evening students attending the University of Baltimore School of Law who are committed to working in the public interest upon graduation at one of the participating PIPs may apply for the Fellowship.

C. Selection Process

1. The School of Law will solicit and review applications for the Fellowship and recommend finalists to each of the PIPs. Each PIP will then select a Fellow from the group of finalists.

2. Selection of each Fellow will be based on demonstrated commitment to the public interest and a record of achievement. Financial need may also be considered in the selection process.

3. The 2009 Fellows will be selected in spring 2009 to begin work in summer 2009.

D. Fellowship Process/Policies and Guidelines

1. Each Fellow will serve as a full-time (40 hours per week) law clerk for 10 weeks at the participating PIP during the summer prior to their final year of law school. At the time a Fellow is selected by a PIP, the Fellow will receive a tentative offer of permanent post-
graduate employment contingent on the Fellow’s satisfactory performance as a summer law clerk.

2. The Fellow will be provided by the School of Law with a $4,000 stipend for their summer work if they fulfill the summer work requirements of the program, as defined in paragraph D1, above.

3. The Fellow will identify jurisdictional and practice area preferences, which the PIP will attempt to meet based on the PIP’s staffing needs.

4. If the Fellow performs as a summer law clerk to the satisfaction of the assigned PIP, the Fellow’s tentative offer of employment will be replaced with a firm offer of permanent post-graduate employment from the assigned PIP.

5. The School of Law will provide each Fellow who meets the summer work requirements of the program (see paragraph D1, above) and receives and accepts a firm offer of post-graduate employment from the assigned PIP (see paragraph D4, above) with full remission of tuition and fees for their final year of law school at the University of Baltimore in the form of a forgivable loan (“Forgivable Loan”), as defined in paragraph D7, below.

6. The Fellowship requires that the Fellow will work at the PIP for at least three years after graduation from law school. Upon completion of the three years at the PIP organization or a comparable 501(c)(3) public interest organization that provides legal services to a low-income population or the Office of the Public Defender (hereinafter “Comparable Organization”), the Forgivable Loan from the School of Law to the Fellow will be forgiven.

7. At the time the Fellow has met the summer work requirements of the program (see paragraph D1, above) and received and accepted a firm offer of post-graduate employment from the assigned PIP (see paragraph D4, above), the Fellow and the School of Law will execute a promissory note for the Forgivable Loan. The Forgivable Loan will require that the Fellow work for at least three years at the PIP, or a Comparable Organization. At the end of the three-year period, the loan covering the Fellow’s final year of tuition and fees will be forgiven. Fellows who do not fulfill the requirements of the Forgivable Loan will repay the University of Baltimore School of Law the amount of the loan, as follows: If the Fellow does not work for at least a year at the PIP or a Comparable Organization, the entire loan must be repaid, plus interest based on the interest rate established for Stafford loans as of the date that the Forgivable Loan is executed by the Fellow and the School. If the Fellow works for at least one year but less than three years at the PIP or Comparable Organization, the Forgivable Loan will be forgiven on a pro-rata basis, as described in the Forgivable Loan document.

8. Fellows are strongly encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding taxability of any loan forgiveness pursuant to the Program.

E. How to Apply

Submit the following materials to the Center for Professional Development no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2009:

1. Completed University of Baltimore Public Interest Fellowship Application Form, including the signed and dated Certification page (form is attached).
2. Current resume.
3. Personal statement of commitment to public interest of no more than 1000 words: Describe your career goals as well as the relevance of the position at the Legal Aid Bureau and/or the Office of the Public Defender to those goals. Also describe your commitment to public interest law. Please include how previous and/or current personal, educational and public interest experiences (employment, government service, community and extra-curricular activities) reflect your commitment. Feel free to include any additional information you think will assist the committee in evaluating your commitment to public interest law.

4. A legal writing sample, such as an LARW memorandum or brief, a journal article, or a scholarly paper from a law class.

5. A current law school transcript. You may use an unofficial copy.

6. A copy of your most current FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) form, OR, if you have not submitted a FAFSA form, a copy of your most recent Federal Income Tax Return.
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Summer 2009 Application

DEADLINE: 4:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009
(PLEASE PRINT NEATLY OR TYPE)

Full Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________

First Name: ____________________________ Middle: __________ Last: __________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Street: __________________________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Telephone: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Home: __________ Work: __________ Cellular: __________

Email: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Program: __________full-time day __________part-time day __________evening

Anticipated Date of Graduation: ________________

Please indicate below to which of the participating Public Interest Partners you are applying:

_____Legal Aid Bureau (LAB) only

_____Office of the Public Defender (OPD) only

_____Please consider me for either the LAB or the OPD

Please attach your Personal Statement of no more than 1000 words.

Describe your career goals as well as the relevance of the position at the Legal Aid Bureau and/or the Office of the Public Defender to those goals. Also describe your commitment to public interest law. Please include how previous and/or current personal, educational and public interest experiences (employment, government service, community and extra-curricular activities) reflect your commitment. Feel free to include any additional information you think will assist the committee in evaluating your commitment to public interest law.

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CERTIFICATION

- I agree to notify immediately the University of Baltimore School of Law Public Interest Fellowship Committee of any changes to my contact information.
- I certify that all the information submitted on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that failure to provide all requested information in compliance with program guidelines and deadlines will result in my ineligibility to receive benefits under this program.
- I understand that before my loan is forgiven, I must submit a post-application form certifying my fulfillment of the three-year commitment to the Public Interest Partner, or Comparable Organization.
- I acknowledge that I have read the University of Baltimore Public Interest Fellowship Policies and Guidelines and agree that any assistance that I receive is subject to, and governed by, these Policies and Guidelines. I understand that these Policies and Guidelines may be modified in the future by the University of Baltimore School of Law Public Interest Fellowship Committee.
- I understand that if I am selected and accept the Public Interest Fellowship, I am obligated to fulfill the summer 2009 law clerk commitment as set forth above.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Applicant’s Signature                                      Date