THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW
PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP

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 (Fellowship) was developed to encourage University of Baltimore law students to pursue careers in public interest after graduation. Through the Fellowship, a second year day or third year evening student (Fellow) will serve full-time as a summer law clerk, 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 upon the PIP’s satisfaction with the student’s performance as a summer law clerk. For the summer of 2011, the participating PIP is the Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland, Inc. (LAB). 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 below.

B. Who May Apply
Second year day and third year evening students attending the University of Baltimore School of Law who have a demonstrated commitment to working in the public interest sector upon graduation at the participating PIP 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 the PIP. The PIP will then select a Fellow from the group of finalists.

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

3. The 2011 Fellow will be selected in Spring 2011 to begin work in Summer 2011.

D. Fellowship 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 the 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.

3. The Fellow will identify jurisdictional and practice area preferences which the PIP will attempt to meet, based upon 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 and receives, and accepts, a firm offer of post-graduate employment from the assigned PIP 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).

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 including the Office of the Public Defender and/or the Office of the State’s Attorney (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 Fellowship and received and accepted a firm offer of post-graduate employment from the assigned PIP, 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. A Fellow who does 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. The Fellow is strongly encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding taxability of any loan forgiveness pursuant to the Fellowship.

E. How to Apply

Submit the following materials to the Law Career Development Office no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 14, 2011:

1. Completed University of Baltimore Public Interest Fellowship Application Form, including the signed and dated Certification page (form is attached).

2. Current resume.
3. Legal writing sample, such as an LARW memorandum or brief, a journal article, or a scholarly paper from a law class. Your name should appear on each page.

4. Current law school transcript. You may submit an unofficial copy in a legible format.

5. 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.

6. Personal statement of commitment to public interest of no more than 500 words:

   Describe your career goals as well as the relevance of the position at the Legal Aid Bureau 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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PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

SUMMER 2011 APPLICATION
DEADLINE: 4:00 P.M., JANUARY 14, 2011

Name: ___________________________________________  ___________________________________________
First                  Middle                  Last

Address: ___________________________________________
Street
City                  State                  Zip

Telephone: ___________________________________________
Home                  Work                  Cell

Email: ___________________________________________

Program: ___________________________________________
_________ full-time day   _________ part-time day   _________ evening

Anticipated Date of Graduation: _____________

Please attach your Personal Statement of no more than 500 words.

Describe your career goals, as well as the relevance of the position at the Legal Aid Bureau, 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 and/or application 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 2011 law clerk commitment as set forth above.

- I understand that I should consult with a tax professional regarding the potential tax consequences of receiving the stipend and/or loan.

Applicant’s Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________