

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Recent Law-School Graduates and Third-Year Law Students

ACLU Drug Law Reform Project - Santa Cruz, California

The Drug Law Reform Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) invites applications for two one-year Fellowship opportunities to begin September 2007. Fellows are selected annually from third-year law students or recent graduates and serve for one-year with a possible one-year extension.

America's foremost advocate of civil rights, the ACLU is a nonpartisan organization founded in 1920. With national headquarters in New York and Washington and 53 affiliates throughout the country, the ACLU is widely regarded as one of the nation's premier public interest law firms.

DRUG LAW REFORM PROJECT:

Founded in 1998, the Drug Law Reform Project is a division of the national ACLU. Our goal is to end punitive drug policies that cause the widespread violation of constitutional and human rights, as well as unprecedented levels of incarceration.

The Project plays a unique role as the only national litigation program addressing the broad range of civil rights and civil liberties violations arising from America's drug policies. We have two programs that focus on central aspects of the war on drugs: (1) racial disparities in drug enforcement and incarceration, and (2) punishment of non-violent marijuana users. The Project also works on other areas of drug policy that inflict serious harms on individuals and communities.

The Project brings "impact" lawsuits throughout the country. We are currently litigating constitutional and statutory claims in federal courts, state courts and administrative agencies concerning the following issues, among others:

- * U.S. Attorney's Office's selective enforcement of drug laws against South Asian convenience store owners in Georgia;
- * U.S. Department of Education's refusal to distribute college loans to students with a drug conviction;
- * U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's obstruction of FDA-approved medical marijuana research;
- * U.S. Sentencing Commission's sentencing disparities for individuals convicted of possessing crack and powder cocaine;

- * California's refusal to grant parole to certain prisoners based on their having used controlled substances prior to their incarceration;

- * Alaska legislature's disregard of State Supreme Court precedent protecting Alaskans' fundamental privacy rights by enacting statute that allows law enforcement officers to enter homes based on suspicion of possessing small amounts of marijuana;

- * Bridgeport (CT) Police Department's harassment of injection drug users who seek sterile injection equipment to avoid contracting HIV and Hepatitis C; and

- * San Diego County's refusal to implement California's statutory scheme for allowing sick people access to medical marijuana upon doctor's recommendation.

Project attorneys have argued cases in the United States Supreme Court, numerous courts of appeals, and trial courts throughout the country. For more information, please visit www.aclu.org/drugpolicy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Fellows will assist in all aspects of Project's litigation docket. May include full panoply of appellate and district-court litigation including:

- * Drafting briefs and motions in Supreme Court, courts of appeals and trial courts;

- * Conducting discovery;

- * Participating at oral arguments and hearings;

- * Speaking with the press;

- * Talking with clients;

- * Preparing expert and percipient witnesses for courtroom testimony; and

- * Devising new cases to add to Project's docket.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Judicial law clerks, other recent law-school graduates and third-year law students welcome to apply if possessing:

- * Self-motivation;

- * Commitment to civil liberties issues;
- * Excellent research and writing skills; and
- * Willingness and ability to travel.

COMPENSATION:

The ACLU offers a generous and comprehensive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with experience and within parameters of the ACLU compensation scale.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you have a passion for public interest issues, current resume, transcript, the names and phone numbers of at least two references and a legal writing sample by email to hrjobs@aclu.org - reference: [DPLP-02, DPLP-13] in subject line - or by mail to:

Adam B. Wolf
ACLU Drug Law Reform Project
RE: [DPLP-02, DPLP-13]
1101 Pacific Ave., Suite 333
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Applications must be submitted no later than October 1, 2006 for Fellowship beginning September 2007. Please indicate in your cover letter where you found this opportunity posted.

The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

The ACLU comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are national organizations with the same overall mission, and share office space and employees. The ACLU has two separate corporate entities in order to do a broad range of work to protect civil liberties. This job posting refers collectively to the two organizations under the name "ACLU."