2017

RAPPAPORT FELLOWS PROGRAM

Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy

Boston College Law School
Overview

The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy galvanizes the region’s thought leaders and policy makers to bring significant issues of law and public policy to the forefront. By convening government officials, students, legislators, practitioners, academics, and members of the public, we provide opportunities for respectful discourse in an effort to trigger solutions to difficult societal problems.

To inspire future public policy leaders, the Center runs the Rappaport Fellows program which provides 12 law students with opportunities and funding to work on policy issues in a government agency during the summer.

Selected in a highly competitive process, law students from Boston College, Boston University, Harvard, New England, Northeastern, Suffolk, UMass, and Western New England University are eligible to apply. In addition to summer funding and mentoring, the Fellows Program includes weekly experiential learning opportunities designed to introduce Fellows to the breadth and depth of public policy in state and local government.
“I’ve been a fan of the Rappaport Fellowship program since it began. The Rappaport Fellows who have interned in our legal office over the years have made a significant contribution to our work while expanding their knowledge and skills. The Rappaport Center provides the Fellows with an extraordinary opportunity to be actively engaged in law and public policy and gives them great support for their service. It is an inspired and inspiring program!”

*Rhoda Schneider, General Counsel, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

**Summer Fellowship Program**

Rappaport Fellows are afforded experiences that connect the practical and intellectual elements of public policy, public service, and civic leadership. The program encompasses four major components:

1. Interning for 10 weeks in a state or local government office to work on public policy issues relevant to the Greater Boston region and Massachusetts

2. Engaging in weekly forums that provide a look at the myriad ways lawyers in the public sector make a difference

3. Connecting with mentors from the Rappaport Center community – seasoned lawyers, government officials, and civic leaders – who are paired with Fellows based on interests and internships

4. Completing a writing requirement that has multiple options, including a reflection of the Fellowship, a blog posting about one of the weekly forums, a work product from the summer, a research article, or an op-ed.

Fellows receive a $7,000 stipend for participating in the Program.
Internships

Fields in which internships may be obtained include:

- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Employment and Labor
- Energy
- Environment
- Health Care
- Mental Health
- Housing
- Pay Equity
- Transportation

Students who have already secured summer internships in eligible agencies are welcome to apply for the Rappaport Fellowship. The Center will assist students selected as Fellows find an appropriate summer placement. Prospective candidates should consult with their law school’s Career Services or Public Interest offices.

Examples of Past Internships

- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, Executive Office
- Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel
- Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
- Mayor’s Office, City of Boston
- Office of the Child Advocate
- Massachusetts State Treasurer’s Office
- State Senator’s Office

Mentors

Each Rappaport Fellow will be assigned two mentors selected on the basis of the Fellow’s interests and experiences. The mentors, well respected members of the legal community, are chosen from among our Advisory Board, prior Rappaport Fellows, and on occasion, outside practitioners.

“The Rappaport Fellowship is hands down one of the most worthwhile experiences you can have as a law student. The highlight of the program for me was the incredible mentorship opportunities that have helped define my career.”

Adam Korn, 3L, Suffolk Law School, 2015 Rappaport Fellow
Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Rappaport Fellows meet weekly during June and July to experience different areas where law and public policy converge. Senior attorneys, government officials, and community leaders often participate in the weekly programs to share their experiences, insights, and advice.

The Rappaport Center Fellows become part of an interdisciplinary community through a partnership with Harvard Kennedy School’s Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, which runs a similar Fellows program for graduate students in non-legal disciplines interested in public policy. During the summer, the two groups of Fellows frequently meet together for the weekly forums.

Examples of Past Experiential Learning Opportunities

- Big Dig Tunnel Tour
- The Supreme Judicial Court or Massachusetts Appeals Court in the John Adams Courthouse
- The Edward M. Kennedy Institute
- Codman Square Charter School Academy and Health Center
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- Fenway Park
- State Treasurer’s Office
Mandatory Events

Fellows are required to attend an orientation meeting (April), the opening reception (mid-May), the weekly experiential sessions, and the closing dinner (end of July). The experiential learning opportunities are generally scheduled for Wednesday afternoons in the summer from 3-5 p.m. Some programs are held at other times and occasionally require a half-day commitment. Unless circumstances require otherwise, Rappaport Fellows are typically permitted to leave work early in order to participate.

Dates will be finalized prior to the selection of finalists. Fellows are asked to be prepared to accommodate changes in the summer schedule.

Eligibility and Selection Process

Any law student who is a J.D. candidate in good standing at an eligible law school (Boston College, Boston University, Harvard, New England, Northeastern, Suffolk, UMass, and Western New England) and who is not in his or her final year of law school may apply for a Rappaport Fellowship. The selection process for Rappaport Fellows is competitive. We seek applicants with strong academic records, demonstrated commitment to public service as shown by past paid and/or volunteer work experiences as well as extracurricular activities, and potential for leadership.

Although we cannot guarantee that every law school will be represented in each selected class of Rappaport Fellows, we are committed to the fair and inclusive distribution of Fellowships among the eligible law schools. All applications are reviewed on a non-partisan basis. Finalists are invited for interviews.
“Boston is a small city consisting of a mosaic of cultures and neighborhoods. Sometimes due to economic, social, and cultural disparities the city seems much larger. The Rappaport Center through its Fellowship Program, seminars, and mentoring works on bridging the gap and making Boston a better city.”

Rodline Louijeune, 3L, Boston College Law School, 2016 Rappaport Fellow

APPLICATIONS

A complete application package includes each of the following:

• Resume (no more than two pages)

• A personal statement explaining your passion and commitment to public policy and why you believe you would be a stellar Rappaport Fellow. Personal statements should also include your public policy interest areas (if determined) and any placement you have already obtained or agencies where you have an interest in being placed. Statements should not exceed two double-spaced pages

• Names and contact information for three professional and/or academic references

• Law school transcript. Applicants should provide all law school grades available at the time the application is due and should update their application with any additional grades finalized after the application deadline. First-year law students must also submit their official undergraduate and transcript of other graduate studies, if applicable.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Complete packages can be emailed to Rappaport@bc.edu. Applications may also be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy
Boston College Law School
Barat House
885 Centre St.
Newton, MA 02459

Thank you for your interest in the Rappaport Fellows Program!
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