FELLOWS PROGRAM

In October 2000, the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation created the Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy. Each year, the Rappaport Fellows Program brings together a cadre of highly qualified law students from Boston-area law schools who demonstrate exceptional commitment to public service and an interest in law and public policy issues affecting the Greater Boston region.

Twelve fellows are selected from J.D. candidates attending any of seven Greater Boston law schools: Boston College Law School, Boston University School of Law, Harvard Law School, New England Law | Boston, Northeastern University School of Law, Suffolk University Law School, and UMass School of Law. The fellowship funds students to engage in a ten-week paid summer internship, and also includes a weekly summer seminar series and mentoring opportunities designed to enhance the fellow’s understanding of public policy and public service.

Fellowship Description

The Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy is built around a series of experiences and activities that blend the practical and intellectual elements of public policy, public service, and civic leadership. For the selected Rappaport Fellows, the program encompasses three major components:

1. Working in summer legal internships with state or local government offices emphasizing in public policy and issues relevant to the Greater Boston region;
2. Engaging in a weekly seminar series and other activities designed to immerse the fellows in issues of law, public policy, and public service relevant to Greater Boston; and
3. Participating in an individually matched mentoring program with seasoned lawyers, government officials, and civic leaders.

Summer Internship

Each Rappaport Fellow will complete a paid ten-week summer internship with a Boston-area government employer that focuses on urban policy issues. A qualifying internship includes:

1. Placement in a state or local government office;
2. Public policy research (e.g., doing original research towards potential policy initiatives), development (e.g., legislative or regulatory drafting), implementation (e.g., implementing new laws, regulations or policies), and/or analysis (e.g., evaluating existing law and public policy); and

3. Work on issues relevant to the Greater Boston region.

Fellows will receive a $7,000 stipend for participating in the Program. This includes a $600/week payment for the ten-week internship, as well as a final $1,000 payment upon completion of a writing requirement and a program evaluation.

Internships will be limited to state or local government except where a non-profit placement provides an extraordinary opportunity exceeding in quality government placements in a particular policy area (subject to approval by the Rappaport Foundation).

Fields in which internships may be done include, but are not limited to:

- Civil rights
- Employment and labor
- Criminal Justice
- Energy
- Economic development
- Environment
- Education
- Government Reform
- Housing
- Land use & urban development
- Energy
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Environment
- Land use & urban development
- Education
- Government Reform
- Transportation

It is not necessary to secure an internship prior to applying for a Rappaport Fellowship, although applicants are encouraged to be aware of potential placements that fit their interests and are otherwise eligible. The Rappaport Foundation will assist fellows in obtaining placements, when necessary. Prospective candidates should also consult with their career development and public interest offices.

Examples of past internships are:

- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Division of Capital Asset Management
- Executive Office for Administration and Finance
- Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
- Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel
- MassDOT
- MassHousing
- MassPort
- Mayor’s Office, City of Boston
- Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General
- Office of the Child Advocate
Educational and Enrichment Activities

The Rappaport Fellows meet weekly during June and July for discussions on topics related to public service, civic leadership, and urban law and policy in the Greater Boston region. Senior attorneys, government officials, and community leaders often participate to share their experiences, insights, and advice.

The Rappaport Fellows become part of an interdisciplinary community through a partnership with Harvard Kennedy School's Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, which runs a similar fellowship program for graduate students interested in public policy. During the summer, the two groups of fellows participate in several joint seminar sessions and field trips.

The program also offers occasional social gatherings and educational programs to which all former Rappaport Fellows are invited.

The fellowship continues in a variety of ways after the summer, providing a strong sense of ongoing community among past Rappaport Fellowship recipients. Former fellows are called upon to help select and train new fellows and are invited to receptions and events for new fellows as well as other events.

Mentors

Each Rappaport Fellow is matched with a mentor selected on the basis of the student's professional interests or other areas of commonality. The mentors are well known members of the legal community in Boston, and can serve as lifelong advisers and advocates for fellows.

Eligibility and Application Information

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, and UMass) and who is not in his/her final year of law school may apply for a Rappaport Fellowship. Students must remain in academic good standing during the duration of the fellowship. The selection process for Rappaport Fellows is a competitive one. We seek applicants with strong academic records, demonstrated commitment to public service as shown by past paid and volunteer work experiences and extracurricular activities, and demonstrated capacity for leadership. We particularly welcome applications from students with diverse backgrounds. Applicants will be evaluated on a non-partisan basis.

Most first-year law students selected as fellows earned academic honors in college and held internships or even full-time positions in the public or non-profit sectors before coming to law school. Second-year law students who join the program have strong
academic records in law school, and many have experience on scholarly law journals and honors moot court programs.

Although we cannot guarantee that every law school will be represented in each class of Rappaport Fellows, we are committed to the fair and inclusive distribution of the fellowships among the seven eligible law schools.

Each Rappaport Fellow is required to sign a release authorizing their law school to provide subsequent employer and contact information to the Rappaport Foundation.

**Participation in Summer Seminars and Other Fellowship Related Events**

**Fellows must be able to attend and participate in the summer seminar series and other enrichment activities.**

Summer seminars are generally scheduled for Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Some sessions are held at lunchtime and field trips occasionally require a half day commitment.

Fellows are also required to attend a welcoming reception in May and a final celebratory dinner in August.

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

**Applications**

A complete application package includes each of the following:

- Resume (no more than 2 pages);
- Personal statement explaining your interest in public policy and why you should be selected for the Rappaport Fellowship. Personal statement should also include your public policy interest areas, any placement already obtained, and agencies where you have an interest in being placed. Statements should not exceed 2 double-spaced pages; (uploaded to MLSC Symplicity as a “Cover Letter”)
- Two professional and/or academic references (not letters) with phone numbers; (uploaded to MLSC Symplicity as “Other Documents”)
- Law school transcript. First year applicants should provide all law school grades available at the time the application is due, and should update their application with any additional grades that become available after the application deadline by emailing rappaport.fellowships@bc.edu; and
- First year law students should also submit their official undergraduate transcript. (uploaded to MLSC Symplicity as “Other Documents”)
Students may apply through MLSC Symplicity beginning Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at noon EST. The deadline for applications is Friday, January 23, 2015 at 5:00 PM EST.

Symplicity site:  https://law-massconsortia-csm.symplicity.com/students
OCI Session:  2015 Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy
Date and Time Opening:  Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 12:00 noon EST
Date and Time Closing:  Friday, January 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. EST

Questions may be directed to Michelle Grossfield, Associate Director of Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs, at rappaport.fellowships@bc.edu.

Thank you for your interest in the Rappaport Fellows Program in Law & Public Policy.