



RAPPAPORT FELLOWS PROGRAM



RAPPAPORT CENTER
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY
BOSTON COLLEGE | LAW

Overview

Jerome Lyle and Phyllis Rappaport



The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy brings together state, local, and national thought leaders and policy makers to address significant issues of law and public policy. By convening government officials, legislators, practitioners, academics, students, and

members of the public, we provide opportunities for respectful discourse on pressing social issues. To inspire future public policy leaders, the Center also runs the Rappaport Fellows program which provides 12 law students from law schools throughout Massachusetts with opportunities and funding to work on law and policy issues in a state or local government agency during the summer.

Visit bc.edu/rappaport to learn more about what we do.



2022 Rappaport Fellows with Phyllis Rappaport, Rappaport Faculty Director Daniel Kanstroom, and Rappaport Executive Director Elisabeth J. Medvedow.

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 five major components:

1. Interning for 10 weeks in a state or local government office working on law and public policy issues relevant to the Greater Boston region and Massachusetts.
2. Participating in weekly forums that offer a look at the myriad ways lawyers, public officials, and practitioners engage in public sector work and public/private partnerships to make a difference.
3. Connecting with mentors from the Rappaport Center community—Rappaport Center Advisory Board members, prior Fellows, government officials, and civic leaders – who are paired with Fellows based on interests and experiences.
4. Completing the program final evaluation.
5. Contributing a blog post during the summer.

Fellows receive a \$10,000 stipend (taxable) distributed throughout the summer.

Additional Funding Opportunity: the 2023 Rappaport Fellows will have an opportunity to apply for grant funding to write a 20-25 page research paper on an interesting or unresolved question of law and public policy related to Fellowship work. This will be a competitive application process. Fellows whose papers are accepted and completed satisfactorily will receive a \$2,000 grant, in addition to the stipend.

“In conjunction with my summer placement, my time as a Fellow has been incredibly informative and illuminating. Getting to dive deep into government work in my internship, while also seeing different forms of public service during our outings, opened my eyes to how many ways there are to use my legal training.”

Ivy Miller, Northeastern University School of Law,
2022 Rappaport Fellow

Internships

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

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

Examples of Past Internships:

- Governor's Office of Legal Counsel
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
- Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office
- Mayor's Office, City of Boston
- Mayor's Office, Immigrant Advancement
- State Senators' Offices

Mentors

Each Rappaport Fellow receives 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 outside practitioners.

*The 2022 Rappaport Fellows
with David Friedman, Executive Vice
President of Legal and Government
Affairs for the Boston Red Sox.*



Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Rappaport Fellows meet weekly during June and July to experience different areas where law and public policy converge. Senior attorneys, judges, 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 non-law students 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:

Meetings with:

- Massachusetts Governor at the State House
- Mayor of Boston at City Hall
- Massachusetts Attorney General
- U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts
- Chief Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- General Manager, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

I found I was challenged to think more critically and deeply about the work I was doing and the impact it could have. The opportunity to discuss my work and that of the other Fellows was an incredible way to broaden my own perspective and understanding how entities in local government work together!

**Devyn Parry, Northeastern University School of Law,
2022 Rappaport Fellow**

The Rappaport Fellowship is groundbreaking for its emphasis on state and local government. As attention shifts from DC to state capitals, Fellows leave the program incredibly adept at navigating the political and governmental landscape.

**Hacıbey (Haci) Catalbasoglu, Boston University School of Law (now, NYU School of Law),
2022 Rappaport Fellow**

Mandatory Events

Fellows are required to attend an orientation meeting (April), the Welcome Reception (May), the weekly experiential sessions, and the Final Celebration of Fellows dinner (late July or early August). The experiential learning opportunities are generally scheduled for Thursday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. Some programs are held at other times and occasionally require a half-day commitment. 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 their 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 the 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 professional or volunteer 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. Finalists are invited for interviews.



2022 Rappaport Fellows with Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Kimberly Budd

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 an excellent Rappaport Fellow. Personal statements should also include your public policy interest areas (if determined) and any summer 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 current contact information for two 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 undergraduate transcript. Applicants who have graduate degrees may submit their graduate transcript instead of their undergraduate transcript. Unofficial transcripts are accepted.

Applications are due January 19, 2023.

To apply, complete the online application: tinyurl.com/rappaportApp23

*Only applications submitted through the online system will be considered.

Thank you for your interest in the Rappaport Fellows Program!

“I met the most amazing law students by participating in this program. Each one of them was so unique, passionate, and intelligent. They inspired me to take charge of my future legal career and I cannot wait to follow their careers and watch them all do amazing things!”

Andrea Millard, Suffolk University Law School,
2022 Rappaport Fellow

“The Rappaport Fellowship was on my radar even before I applied to law school, and still the program exceeded my expectations. Every component of the program – the cohort, internship placements in state and local government, weekly outings, and mentorship – is thoughtfully designed to create an engaging 10-week deep dive into Massachusetts state and local government law and public policy.”

Kaitlin “Kadie” Martin, Boston College Law School,
2019 Rappaport Fellow

The Rappaport Fellowship enriched my law school experience, further deepening my commitment to public service, and relationships with other law students across the region and increasing my efficacy in the profession. Thank you for investing in the next generation of public interest leaders in the law so that they have hands-on learning to thrive.

Samantha Perlman, Boston College Law School,
2022 Rappaport Fellow



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