



**2018**

Rappaport  
Fellows  
Program

Rappaport Center  
for Law and Public Policy

# 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 state or local 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 are eligible to apply. In addition to summer funding, the Fellows Program includes weekly experiential learning opportunities designed to introduce Fellows to the breadth and depth of public policy in government.



Jerome Lyle and  
Phyllis Rappaport



2017 Rappaport Fellows touring the Haymarket Vent Building  
and volunteering at Rosie's Place

*“As a Rappaport Fellow, I interned at the Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel where I had the opportunity to experience first-hand how policy is made and changed. Through this experience during the Fellow outings, speaking with top policy leaders and judges in Boston, I have a more thorough understanding of the types of questions and decisions a government has to make to balance individual and societal interests while at the same time striving to achieve policy objectives to better a community. I feel incredibly fortunate to have spent the summer with Fellows who share my passion for using our law degrees to enact positive future change.”*

*-Amy-Lee Goodman, 2L, Boston College Law School, 2017 Rappaport Fellow*

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

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





# 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:

- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Committee for Public Counsel Services, Youth Advocacy Division
- Governor's Office of Legal Counsel
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Mayor's Office, City of Boston
- Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office
- State Senator's Office
- Massachusetts Health Connector Authority
- Boston Public Schools
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs

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## 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 on occasion, outside practitioners.

*"What I love most about the Rappaport Fellowship Program is the amount of time, energy, and resources that are invested into each of the Fellows. Rather than only providing us with funding for our summer internships, the program takes a more holistic approach towards leadership development by also helping us establish meaningful connections with community leaders and challenging us to tackle important local issues."*

*-Mario N. Paredes, 3L, Boston University Law School, 2017 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, 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 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:

- Haymarket Vent Building
- Supreme Judicial Court
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- Fenway Park
- State Treasurer's Office
- Rosie's Place
- Discovering Justice
- South Bay House of Correction
- State House



2017 Rappaport Center and Rappaport Institute Fellows meeting with Senators William N. Brownsberger and James B. Eldridge



# Mandatory Events

Fellows are required to attend an orientation meeting (April), the Opening Reception (May), the weekly experiential sessions, and the closing dinner (late July or early August). The experiential learning opportunities are generally scheduled for Wednesday afternoons 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.

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## 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. All applications are reviewed on a non-partisan basis. Finalists are invited for interviews.

*“My summer as a Rappaport Fellow was an even better experience than I had hoped it would be when I first applied. From the fun and informative weekly programming events throughout the Boston area to my incredible placement in the Massachusetts State Senate, I had a front-row seat to state and local government. I would highly recommend the Rappaport Fellowship to any law or public policy student who is interested in public service and improving one’s community.”*

-Micah Q. Jones, 2L, Northeastern University School of Law, 2017 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 an excellent 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 transcript. Applicants who have graduate degrees may submit their graduate transcript instead of their undergraduate transcript.

The deadline for applications is Friday, January 19, 2018 at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Complete packages can be emailed to [Rappaport@bc.edu](mailto: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!





**RAPPAPORT CENTER**  
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

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