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*The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association*

*Announces the*

**Michael Francis Lefkow Fellowship Program**

*at the*

**Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 26, 2009**

**Lefkow Fellowship Program History**

The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has endowed the **Michael Francis Lefkow Public Interest Fellowships** to create a fitting tribute to an outstanding lawyer and to establish a sustainable program to recognize judges, like his wife, the Honorable Joan Humphrey Lefkow of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, who have faced intimidation with courage and integrity. On February 28, 2005, Judge Lefkow returned home to find her husband and her mother, Donna Humphrey, shot and killed. A few weeks later, a troubled litigant disfigured by cancer, committed suicide leaving a detailed written account of the murders. His target was Judge Lefkow herself because of her decision to dismiss his malpractice case. Just a few weeks after these events, a white supremacist was sentenced to forty years in prison for solicitation to murder Judge Lefkow in a different matter.

Both Mike and Joan Lefkow graduated from Northwestern Law School. The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has established this fellowship in Michael Lefkow's honor to permit law students at Northwestern to undertake paid, public interest summer internships. Michael Lefkow represented the poor and vulnerable for his entire legal career. He died because his wife is a judge. The Lefkow Fellows at Northwestern Law School will undertake the direct representation of the poor and vulnerable as well as specific projects to promote a fair, impartial and independent judiciary.

## **FBA LEFKOW LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION (LAF) FELLOW**

The FBA LAF Lefkow Fellowship will provide a Northwestern student an opportunity to undertake direct representation of the poor and underserved in Chicago. During the first dozen years of his legal career, Michael Lefkow represented the indigent as an attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and went on to become the first director of the DuPage County Legal Assistance Foundation. Throughout his legal career, Michael Lefkow devoted himself to social justice issues and had the distinction of appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court twice, including in the celebrated case of *Townsend v. Swank*, which established the right of students receiving public aid to attend college rather than be limited to vocational training.

### **FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION**

The FBA Lefkow Fellow at LAF will be supervised by one or more experienced attorneys at a Legal Assistance Foundation office and will be given opportunities to engage in direct client contact, including intake interviews, investigations, assistance in drafting legal pleadings and briefs, discovery, legal research and if permissible and appropriate, appearances in court and administrative proceedings. There may also be opportunities for the student to participate in relevant community activities.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant work experience for local legal services offices, public interest organizations a plus.
2. Relevant substantive courses and/or clinic courses.
3. An interest in considering a career in legal services.
4. Commitment to community work as demonstrated by present and previous community involvement.
5. A preference will be given to second year students over first year students.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

This Program is open to first and second year law students. Submit the following materials to the Career Services Office by Monday January 26, 2009 at 5:00 p.m..

1. Resume.
2. Law school transcript.
3. Personal Statement: Explain the reason for your interest in the Lefkow Fellowship at LAF and the relevance of this position to your career goals. Feel free to include any additional information you think will assist the committee in evaluating your qualifications for this Fellowship

## **FELLOWSHIP DETAILS**

The Lefkow Fellow will work for a total of ten weeks and receive a stipend of \$5000.00.

*The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is grateful to the donors who have made the Lefkow Fellowships possible, including many lawyers, law firms, companies and judges. In particular we recognize our major donors including Kirkland & Ellis, Sidley & Austin, Latham & Watkins, Mayer Brown, McDermott, Will & Emery and Jenner & Block*