



The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Announces the

Michael Francis Lefkow Fellowship Program

National Immigrant Justice Center
208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1818
Chicago, IL 60604
www.immigrantjustice.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

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 FELLOWSHIP

This Lefkow Fellowship will provide a Northwestern student an opportunity to work in furtherance of a justice system that applies to all individuals, including noncitizens. The importance of an impartial, independent judiciary is particularly appropriate for the Lefkow Fellow. Underscoring the importance for Congressional leadership to protect the judiciary and to promote respect for the independence of the judicial branch, Judge Lefkow testified in Congress just a few months after the murders. "This is the reason American judges are invited by developing democracies throughout the world to help establish an independent judiciary. Our system is the role model for the world. Without fearless judges, where are we as a nation?" She asked the senators "to publicly and persistently repudiate gratuitous attacks on the judiciary," and to "help in tempering the tone of the debates that concern the independence of the judiciary," because "[i]n this age of mass communication, harsh rhetoric is truly dangerous." Finally, she said that "even though we cannot prove a cause and effect relationship between rhetorical attacks on judges and violent acts of vengeance by a particular litigant, fostering disrespect for judges can only encourage those that are on the edge, or the fringe, to exact revenge on a judge who ruled against them."

The Lefkow Fellowship will be held this year in Chicago, Illinois at Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), the national office of a non-governmental organization dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. NIJC provides direct legal services to and advocates for immigrant women, men, and children through policy reform, impact litigation, and public education. With a staff of experienced lawyers and a pro bono network of 1,000 attorneys nationwide, NIJC is unique in blending individual client advocacy with broad-based systemic change that ensures a justice system that applies to all individuals regardless of their immigration status.

FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

The principal project of the Lefkow Fellow will be promoting access to justice for immigrants through assistance in providing legal representation to indigent immigrants and advancing reform of the immigration court system. During the summer of 2012, the Lefkow Fellow may engage in the following activities:

- Assist in preparing and presenting cases in immigration court
- Research current issues in the adjudication of cases in the immigration courts
- Draft and edit recommendations to address those issues

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Academic excellence and outstanding writing skills.
2. Self-starter and ability to manage multiple projects.
3. Experience in advocacy, such as individual advocacy, drafting letters to Congress or policy makers and letters to the editor or op-eds; planning briefings; writing talking points and short memoranda in support of policy changes; securing meetings with public officials and decision-makers; compiling distribution lists and reaching out to potential allies; tracking legislative, regulatory and news developments and planning responses and next steps; coordinating a convening to discuss strategies for implementation of reform.
4. Strong organizational skills
5. Ability to work in teams – keeping people informed, soliciting and incorporating advice, valuing and recognizing contributions etc.
6. Digital fluency a plus – especially the ability to prepare briefing materials or presentations in a visually compelling manner.
7. Mature demeanor, appropriate representative of organization to judges, legislative staff, coalition partners, pro bono counsel.

HOW TO APPLY

This Program is open to First and Second year law students. Submit the following materials to the Career Services Office by 5:00 on Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

1. Resume.
2. Law school transcript.
3. Writing sample
4. Two references
5. Personal Statement: Explain the reason for your interest in the Lefkow Fellowship at the National Immigrant Justice Center. Describe the relevance of this position to your career goals. Include any additional information you think will assist the committee in evaluating your qualifications for this Fellowship.

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

During the course of the summer, the Lefkow Fellow will have opportunities to assist in representing non-citizens in immigration court and to work on NIJC policy initiatives. The Lefkow Fellow will work for ten weeks and will be paid a \$5000.00.

All applicants will be interviewed by Professor Len Rubinowitz and Professor Cindy Wilson the week of February 6. Finalists for the fellowship will be interviewed by a committee of the Federal Bar Association on February 14 from 4:30 to 6:30, in the chambers of Judge Matthew Kennelly, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Applicants must be available to interview on that date and time.

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