Fair and Just Prosecution Summer Fellows Program
An Opportunity to Shape New Thinking in Criminal Justice
and Help Promote a New Vision for the 21st Century Prosecutor

What Is the Fair and Just Prosecution Summer Fellows Program?

Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP), a nonprofit bringing together and supporting newly-elected reform-minded prosecutors committed to promoting a fairer and more equitable justice system, is pleased to launch its Summer Fellows Program. The Program will place rising 2L and 3L “FJP Fellows” in summer clerkship positions in the offices of some of the most inspiring elected prosecutors around the country.

Fellows, who will be part of a cohort of accomplished law students around the nation interested in criminal justice reform, will have a unique opportunity to receive hands-on experience working on criminal cases and other assignments typical of internships in prosecutor’s offices, while also undertaking a policy reform project on an issue of interest to that office. Participating students, who will receive a summer stipend, will benefit from access to the resources, network, and activities of FJP, including engagement with leading thinkers and advocates nationwide.

Participating offices may include (but are not limited to):

- District Attorney, Brooklyn, NY
- District Attorney, Denver, CO
- District Attorney, Houston, TX
- State Attorney, Jacksonville, FL
- District Attorney, San Francisco, CA
- District Attorney, San Joaquin County, CA
- Prosecuting Attorney, Seattle, WA
- State Attorney, Tampa, FL
- Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

An Opportune Moment

Great strides have been made over the past few years in promoting justice system reforms that recognize that prior “tough on crime” and incarceration-driven practices have not always resulted in safer or healthier communities. New thinking has started to permeate justice system agencies and has prompted proactive and prevention-oriented strategies.

Against that backdrop, local elections in November of 2016 ushered in a new generation of reform-minded prosecutor leaders committed to changing their office culture and promoting a less punitive approach to addressing crime. Newly elected DAs in geographic areas ranging from urban areas such as Brooklyn and Houston to smaller rural communities are pushing back against the “law and order/tough on crime” rhetoric of past decades and elevating a national conversation around the importance of a fair, equitable and right-sized justice system.

FJP has brought together these newly-elected reform-minded prosecutors as part of a network of leaders committed to promoting a justice system grounded in fairness, equity, compassion, and fiscal responsibility. FJP assists and reinforces these individuals and the new approaches to prosecution that they exemplify. As these leaders innovate and model new justice system strategies, FJP highlights their
successes and promotes their accomplishments, thereby propelling broader changes in the field and underscoring the vitally important leadership role of prosecutors in advancing fair and just practices and promoting safer and healthier communities.

_The Benefits of the FJP Summer Fellows Program_

The FJP Summer Fellows Program will help redefine what it means to be a prosecutor. The Program is designed for students interested in exploring careers in criminal justice who have a passion for justice, fairness, and reform; who recognize the central role that the prosecutor’s office has in shaping our criminal justice priorities; and who are interested in influencing this new thinking. Participating students will work in offices led by reform-minded prosecutors and where there exist opportunities to affect long-term change. Fellows will also receive a stipend in the amount of $750. Subject to an office’s job openings, it is anticipated that Fellows who satisfactorily complete the Program will be offered a full-time, entry-level position after graduation with the office at which the Fellow interned.

_What Will an FJP Summer Fellow Do?_

FJP Summer Fellows will participate in a variety of activities during their summer placements, including assisting with intake and trial preparation, sitting in on witness interviews, assisting with discovery and filings, conducting legal research and writing, and conferencing with supervisors on cases, depending on the needs of the office. Eligible students in certain offices may argue motions in court and handle evidentiary hearings.

FJP Fellows will also participate in regular FJP calls during the summer that will include discussions with elected leaders and other Fellows in the FJP network and an exchange of ideas, innovations and ways to overcome systemic challenges. FJP Summer Fellows will also undertake a policy reform project over the course of their summers. Students may have the opportunity to continue their research into the fall term, possibly for credit on an independent-study basis, and with FJP’s guidance. Potential areas of focus for policy reform projects include but are not limited to:

- The need for investing in prevention rather than punishment;
- The importance of conviction integrity review, transparency, and accountability;
- Fortifying public trust and enhancing community outreach and engagement;
- Rethinking the handling of low level drug and other offenses and diverting appropriate individuals from the justice system;
- Investing in reentry approaches and ameliorating the collateral consequences of convictions;
- Developing data-driven practices and changing how success is measured in prosecutors’ offices;
- Supporting struggling families and at-risk youth; and
- Rethinking application of the death penalty and juvenile life without parole sentencing.

_How Do I Apply?_

To apply, please submit a resume, along with a cover letter describing your interest in criminal justice reform and your geographic and/or office preferences, to FJPFellow@fairandjustprosecution.org.

Applications from 2Ls will be considered on a rolling basis, ideally by November 15, 2017. 2Ls may be permitted to split their summers between the Fellows Program and another summer position. Applications from 1Ls will accepted after December 1, 2017, ideally by January 5, 2018.

FJP values diversity, and students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

For more information on FJP, visit www.fairandjustprosecution.org or contact FJPFellow@fairandjustprosecution.org.