Bread for the City
2021-2023 Fellowship Solicitation

Bread for the City Legal Clinic seeks law students entering their last year or recent law graduates to sponsor as an Equal Justice Works, Skadden, or other fellowship candidate for the fall 2020 application process (fellowship to begin in fall 2021).

Background

Since its inception in 1974, Bread for the City has been at the forefront of serving D.C. residents living with low-income. Bread for the City operates out of two locations in the District of Columbia—one in NW and one in SE—providing a range of high quality and free direct services to our clients. Our mission is to assist residents living with low income to develop their power to determine the future of their own communities. We provide food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services to reduce the burden of poverty. We seek justice through community organizing and public advocacy, and work to uproot racism, a major cause of poverty.

Bread for the City endeavors to treat all clients with dignity and respect. Our Legal Clinic consists of attorneys representing clients in landlord-tenant disputes, public benefits cases, civil protection order, child custody, divorce, and immigration matters. The Legal Clinic also maintains a Community Lawyering Project that uses legal advocacy and organizing to assist D.C. residents in achieving solutions to community-identified issues, particularly in the area of safe and affordable housing.

Fellowship Job Description

Bread for the City is seeking a fellowship applicant to expand its provision of legal services in one of two areas: (1) public benefits; or (2) community lawyering. Bread for the City Legal Clinic's Public Benefits Team focuses on assisting clients who have encountered problems with their DC Department of Human Services (DHS) benefits, including food stamps/SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and DC Healthcare Alliance. Many of our cases are resolved through informal communication with DHS, but some cases may proceed to a fair hearing before the DC Office of Administrative Hearings. We have recently expanded our practice to help people retain their Medicaid or Elderly and Persons With Disability (EPD) Waiver home health aide hours, bringing challenges against the DC Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) at the Office of Administrative Hearings. A public benefits fellowship candidate should be positioned to expand Bread’s capacity to do outreach and education around public benefits issues, reaching potential clients in the community in order to best serve our client population.

The Community Lawyering Project (CLP) works primarily in Wards 7 and 8 to assist individual clients and groups of clients through advocacy and representation that focuses primarily on developing, preserving, and increasing access to affordable housing units in the face of redevelopment, gentrification, and discrimination. We seek to do this work in collaboration with community members – as defined by geography and/or identity – in coalition with other legal services organizations and advocacy groups in a way that is strategic, while still being responsive to a community’s vision and the political landscape. Bread for the City is looking to expand our work specifically in the area of public housing redevelopment and privatization.
We invite law students beginning their last year, recent law school graduates, and those with judicial clerkships to propose an innovative fellowship project for submission to the Skadden Fellowship Foundation, Equal Justice Works, Open Society Foundation, and/or similar programs that outlines a strategy to address either the community lawyering or public benefits needs of D.C. residents.

Bread interviews fellowship applicants to evaluate if your interests, background, and proposal are a match to our program’s needs. If selected, Bread will work very closely with you to design the final project proposal to match your interests with the needs of our clinic and the target community with the requirements of the funder.

**Qualifications**

Selection criteria that will be considered in evaluating candidates for sponsorship include:
- Demonstrated commitment to working for low-income and underserved populations;
- Experience working as a member of a team and/or on larger coalitions;
- Excellence in oral, written, and legal research skills;
- Knowledge of or strong interest in the subject-matter of the proposed fellowship;
- Anticipated or current District of Columbia Bar membership or anticipated or current membership to the Bar of another state or territory of the Unites States eligible for admission to the D.C. Bar without examination;
- Spanish, Amharic, or other foreign language fluency preferred.

**Salary**

Salary will be based on fellowship award amount.

**Application Instructions**

Please submit via email only: 1) a resume; 2) a brief one-to-two page project proposal that identifies how you would address the legal and organizing goals listed above and explains why you are qualified to carry out the proposed project; 3) an unofficial transcript; and 4) the names and contact information for two legal references to escheick@breadforthecity.org. Include in the email subject line: “2020 Legal Fellowship Proposal.”

For consideration for fellowships that begin in 2020, applications will be accepted until **Friday, July 24, 2020**.

Candidates may email any questions about the fellowship application process to Erin Scheick, at escheick@breadforthecity.org.

*Bread for the City is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, family responsibility, physical or mental disability, medical condition, status as a veteran, or any other category protected by applicable federal, state, or local law, except where a bona fide occupational qualification applies.*