



Harold Oaklander Public Interest Summer Fellowships

To Advance Justice and Public Policy Against Persistent Unemployment
An Expanding International, Multi-Sector Crisis

Information for Non-Profit Employer Hosts

1. Background

Cornell Law School has secured an endowment to support up to eight summer fellowships for students to work with non-profit organizations dedicated to assisting the unemployed and under-employed. We are seeking non-profits who would like to host one or more Cornell Law fellows for summer 2015.

2. Fellowship Term

Eight weeks during the general time period of mid-May to mid-August. Exact dates to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

3. Fellowship Details

- a. The bulk of the Fellows' summers will be spent assisting Host attorneys with legal work relating to unemployment issues – research, writing, client counseling, and the like.
- b. Fellows will begin their internship with a one-day orientation at the One-Stop Job Center. A representative from the Host office will be encouraged to attend as well.
- c. In addition, Fellows will be available throughout the summer to participate in special DOL events, exposing themselves, one day at a time, to peak experiences, face-to-face with the unemployment systems primary actors. Examples include:
 1. A lay-off is announced and the DOL dispatches a Rapid Response team of specialists to the plant or office to be impacted by a mass dismissal. The intern is invited to shadow the team on their first day, meeting with employer and workers slated to be laid off. The fellow will gather data as the event progresses, so as to enable a report for later delivery, including an opinion on the event's potential unanticipated consequences;
 2. Attend and report on one of the One-Stop's weekly meetings at which the newly unemployed are introduced to the services available and are invited to raise questions;
 3. Visit a local employer to interview, and report on how a significant workforce redundancy problem was solved to the benefit of both employer and threatened employees. This employer applied to the DOL, and was approved, to use the new Federal Work Sharing Program. Thus, a layoff was avoided and unemployment was prevented thanks to an uncommon application of social entrepreneurship.
- d. During the course of the summer, Fellows will develop their major written report on an unemployment-related topic of their choosing. This 15 to 20 page "primary report" will be inspired by and influenced by the legal service work they do, or by one particular special event their state DOL invited them to participate in. In addition to the above report, fellows are requested to assemble a 4 to 5 page "event report" on each of the other special events not otherwise covered.

- e. Fellows' draft field research reports will be presented at a final debriefing dinner meeting held early in the following fall semester at Cornell Law School. The above-mentioned "event reports" may also be presented, time permitting. The debriefing will conclude with remarks from attending Cornell faculty. Selected field research projects will be archived in the Law School Library.

4. Selection Process

Students will receive information about the Fellowship program early in the spring semester. They will be instructed to select a Host or Hosts to which they wish to apply and to submit their applications materials to the Office of Public Service. The Office of Public Service will forward applications to the relevant Hosts, which will be responsible for conducting interviews and selecting fellows. An on-campus orientation session in the late spring will prelude the fellows' field assignments. The history of the unemployment system of the U.S. will be briefly sketched out by selected Cornell faculty and other speakers as available. Information also will be provided on the recommended style of the research reports, both the major project report and the lesser special event reports.

5. Payment

The Employer Host will not be responsible for any wages paid to the Fellow. The Fellow will be paid through the Cornell University payroll system at a rate of \$15.63/hour. The Fellow's maximum earnings are \$5,000.

6. Keeping Track of Hours

The Fellow will be responsible for entering his or her hours in Cornell's on-line payroll system. The Office of Public Service will communicate with the Fellow's supervisor, via email, every two weeks to verify the Fellow's hours (a University auditing requirement).

7. Federal Work-Study Component

Because Federal Work-Study funds are utilized for a portion of the intern's \$5,000 wages, Cornell is required to enter into a Work-Study contract with each Employer Host. This is typical practice – Cornell enters into Work-Study contracts with 80-90 non-profits and government agencies each summer as part of our broader Public Interest Fellowship program. The Office of Public Service will provide you with the contract and answer any questions you may have.