



Public Interest/Private Sector Joint Opportunities

This resource is designed to collect opportunities that bridge the public and private sectors. These include experiences during law school, such as split summers and law firm-sponsored pro bono opportunities, and after law school, such as law firm pro bono secondment-style programs and firm-sponsored postgraduate fellowships. Students who are interested in both the public and private sectors may find these experiences particularly relevant to their careers.

During Law School

Law Firm Pro Bono Programs¹

- The Columbia Law School [Simpson Thacher](#) Social Justice Fellowship provides an opportunity for Simpson Thacher summer associates to work at the firm for seven weeks and spend an additional four or more weeks working with a public interest organization engaged in social justice work. Fellows are paid by the firm while working at the public interest organization. Contact Assistant Director of Pro Bono and Summer Programs Marka Bellinfanti at mb4692@columbia.edu for more information.
- [Akin Gump's Pro Bono Scholars Program](#) lets students spend 1L summer doing pro bono work at a public interest organization before joining Akin Gump as summer associates after 2L year. The 1L Pro Bono Scholars are paid a regular summer associate salary and are eligible for a \$25,000 scholarship.
- [The Douglas Arant Public Interest Fellowship](#) allows Bradley Arant Boult Cummings summer associates to spend at least four weeks working with a public service organization of their choice.
- [Kramer Levin's Racial Justice Initiative Scholars Program](#) lets students participate in monthly clinics on combating racial injustice and inequality, held in the spring of 1L year. (Note: this program does not count toward Columbia's pro bono requirement.)
- [Latham & Watkins's Pathways Program](#) allows summer associates to engage in an enrichment component, spending time at a pro bono partner during the summer. 2L participants receive a salary from the firm and a \$50,000 scholarship.
- [Morgan Lewis's Community Experience](#) permits summer associates to spend the end of their summer at a public interest organization after completing eight weeks at the firm. Participants receive a stipend equal to the salary of a summer associate at the firm.
- [Munger Tolles & Olson's Jay Fujitani 1L Diversity Summer Program](#) permits summer associates to spend six weeks at the firm, followed by four weeks at a law-related nonprofit organization, while receiving a salary from the firm.
- [Paul Hastings](#) offers a limited number of 2Ls the ability to participate in a Public Interest Split Program.

¹ These programs may have individualized application processes. Some may require you to apply through EIP; others may have a separate process. Please consult firm websites.



After Law School

Law Firm Pro Bono Programs²

- [Cleary Gottlieb's fellowship program](#) places incoming associates at a public interest organization for a year while being paid by the firm before they start as an associate. [Cleary](#) also sponsors two public interest externship programs—on a rotating basis, firm associates are placed for four months in a full-time position at either MFY Legal Services Inc. or Lawyers Alliance for New York while receiving full salary and benefits from the firm.
- [Covington & Burling's Civil Legal Aid Rotation](#) assigns eight associates and two paralegals each year to work for six months at local legal services organizations Bread for the City, Children's Law Center, or the Neighborhood Legal Services Program.
- [Crowell & Moring's Loaned Lawyer Program](#) allows associates to spend six months working at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia.
- [Kramer Levin's Attorney Service Program](#) has staffed a full-time externship at South Brooklyn Legal Services since 1998. Firm attorneys rotate through this position, representing low-income tenants and providing counseling through a "hotline" and other informal means.
- [Orrick's Racial Justice Fellowship Program](#) embeds experienced Orrick lawyers with public interest organizations promoting racial justice. The firm has committed to funding five Orrick Justice Fellows annually for the next three years.
- [Simpson Thacher's fellowship programs](#) provide a variety of opportunities. Associates may seek a legal externship with the Economic Development Project at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A or undertake a year-long public service fellowship.
- [Skadden offers externship opportunities](#) for associates to work with the Legal Aid Society and the Lawyers Alliance for New York.

Law Firm-Sponsored Postgraduate Fellowships

- [The BLBG Public Interest Fellowship](#) provides a Columbia Law School 3L or recent graduate the opportunity to work in a litigation role at a public interest organization for two years while being paid by the firm, before joining the firm's world-class investor-side litigation practice. There is no requirement that the fellow join the firm, but it is strongly encouraged.
- Neufeld Scheck & Brustin LLP sponsors the [Cochran Fellowship](#), a two-year fellowship at the firm to introduce lawyers early in their careers to all aspects of complex civil rights litigation.
- [The Fried Frank Civil Rights Fellowship](#) provides an entry-level lawyer the opportunity to spend two years as a Fried Frank litigator and then two years as a staff attorney with either NAACP LDF

² Please note that inclusion of a firm on this list does not guarantee that the firm will meet the standards for Columbia Law School Summer Funding (CSF) or the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). There is no one set of criteria that defines firms that describe themselves as "public interest" or "civil rights" firms; you should research whether individual firms meet your personal criteria. Questions? Please contact CSFHelp@law.columbia.edu or LRAP@law.columbia.edu to discuss specific firm eligibility. Please contact Senior Graduate Adviser Tory Messina at tm2818@columbia.edu with any other questions about this list.



or MALDEF (the organization alternates year to year). At the end of their four-year commitment, fellows are encouraged to interview to return to Fried Frank or apply to continue at the relevant civil rights organization.

- Gibbons P.C. sponsors the [Gibbons Fellowship](#), a two-year fellowship at the firm to support public interest and constitutional law projects and litigation.
- [Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP](#) provides a two-year fellowship for young lawyers to work on public interest projects.
- [Kirkland & Ellis LLP's NYC Public Service Fellowship](#) provides one graduating Columbia J.D. student the opportunity for a year of postgraduate public service that meets serious human needs in New York City. There is no expectation that the fellow will join the firm after completing the fellowship.
- [The Norton Rose Fulbright Fellowship at The Door Legal Services Center](#) allows a fellow to work onsite with The Door Legal Services Center for a period of approximately 16 months. At the end of the fellowship, the fellow has the option to return to Norton Rose Fulbright as an associate.
- [The Social Justice Legal Foundation Hueston Hennigan Fellowship](#) enables one Columbia Law School 3L or recent graduate the opportunity to work for the Social Justice Legal Foundation for two years. Fellows work on cutting-edge public interest issues, receive top-caliber training in trial and appellate advocacy from the foundation's staff attorneys and private law firm mentors, and gain hands-on trial experience litigating impactful cases with the entrepreneurial spirit and resources of a top law firm. At the end of their two-year commitment, fellows can enter either the public or private sector, with the support of the foundation and firm.
- [The Skadden Foundation](#) provides two-year fellowships to recent law graduates to pursue the practice of public interest law on a full-time basis.