

## Millstein Government Service Fellowship 2026

Columbia Law School seeks applications for the 2026 Millstein Government Service Fellowship. This annual fellowship was established by Jim Millstein '82, chief restructuring officer in the U.S. Department of Treasury during the financial crisis of 2008, and his father, Ira Millstein '49, founder of the Systemic Risk Council, a private sector initiative to ensure that legislators and regulators remain vigilant in addressing the underlying causes of the crisis.

The fellowship will provide a stipend to a recent J.D. graduate of Columbia Law School who seeks to begin his or her career in federal government service.<sup>1</sup> Applications are due on November 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

### Fellowship Mission and Terms

The fellowship will be awarded to an applicant who demonstrates a deep commitment to public service and an ability to contribute to the public sector within the federal government.

The Millstein Government Service Fellowship was established to ensure that talented graduates have a path to employment within the federal government so that they can have an impact on the critical issues of the day.

One Millstein Government Service Fellowship will be awarded in the academic year 2025-2026. The fellowship is available to: (1) members of Columbia's J.D. Class of 2025 (graduating October 2025, February 2026, or May 2026) or (2) graduates from previous J.D. classes who are currently state or federal judicial clerks and for whom the clerkship is their first postgraduate position.

The fellowship must commence within five months of graduation or of completion of a clerkship. The fellowship will be awarded for a one-year term and carries a stipend of \$60,000 a year. Additionally, the fellowship provides a stipend for health insurance and, potentially, other fringe benefit to which the fellow may be entitled—up to \$15,000. However, the benefits available and the mechanism by which students receive them will vary based upon an individual's specific placement because different placements have different policies that affect the provision of fringe benefits, including health insurance. **To the extent this issue is material to your decision to accept the fellowship, please be sure to discuss the issue with Alex Hogan, Columbia Law School's director of government programs.**

Please note that this opportunity is not available to students completing a law degree other than a J.D.

### Qualifying Placements

The Millstein Government Service Fellowship shall be awarded to an eligible graduate who has secured a volunteer position in which he or she will provide substantive legal assistance in either the executive

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<sup>1</sup> The Millstein Government Service Fellowship is only open to Columbia Law School graduates.

or legislative branches of the federal government. Notably, the Millstein Government Service Fellowship is not limited to a graduate seeking to pursue work in any specific topic area, but is broadly open to those who seek to work within the executive or legislative branches.<sup>2</sup>

Please note that some placements—particularly executive agencies—have additional requirements in order to accept a placement. **To the extent you are considering an executive agency, be sure to discuss these additional requirements with Alex Hogan, director of government programs.**

Prospective applicants must meet with Alex Hogan early in the development of their fellowship proposal to, among other things, identify appropriate placements.

Applications must include a list of the applicant's top three preferred volunteer placements. Alex Hogan will work with the fellowship recipient to secure an appropriate desired placement. In evaluating the proposal, the Millstein Government Service Fellowship selection committee will consider the appropriateness of these choices to the applicant's long-term career goals and the mission of the fellowship.

## Application and Selection Procedure

The deadline to apply is November 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Application instructions can be found on the next page.

A committee consisting of the dean for the Office of Public Interest/Public Service Law and Careers, a Columbia Law School faculty member, and a Columbia Law School graduate who is or has been a federal government lawyer will select the fellow. The director of government programs and Jim Millstein will serve as ex-officio members. A fellow and an alternative recipient will be selected by the end of January 2026.

## Fellowship Contacts

For questions about substantive issues, such as fellowship criteria:

Alexander Hogan\*  
Director of Government Programs  
[ajh2149@columbia.edu](mailto:ajh2149@columbia.edu)

For questions about submitting your materials:

Rebecca Hinde  
Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships  
[rh2523@columbia.edu](mailto:rh2523@columbia.edu)

\*Appointments with Alex Hogan should be made through Symplicity.

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<sup>2</sup> The Millstein Financial Regulation Fellowship is a separate fellowship that offers a one-year placement to Columbia Law School J.D. graduates specifically interested in the area of financial regulation. For more information about the Millstein Financial Regulation Fellowship, please visit [law.columbia.edu/careers/public-interest/postgraduate-fellowships/columbia-fellowships](https://law.columbia.edu/careers/public-interest/postgraduate-fellowships/columbia-fellowships).

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## Application Instructions

Please submit the following documents at [cglink.me/2it/s77558](https://cglink.me/2it/s77558). All documents should be uploaded as PDFs. **Applications are due on November 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.** Please contact Rebecca Hinde if you have questions with respect to submitting your materials.

1. Your resume.
2. A personal statement (two single-spaced pages maximum) explaining your interest in the Millstein Government Service Fellowship and why you should be selected. The statement should reference your relevant experience and future aspirations with respect to government practice. The statement should also include a discussion of how the fellowship fits into your career plans. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON EACH PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT.
3. A list of your top three preferred placements. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON THIS DOCUMENT.
4. Unofficial law school transcript.
5. Two letters of recommendation, preferably one from a law school faculty member and one from a supervisor at a place of employment within the legal field. If the recommenders would prefer, they may email their letters to [rh2523@columbia.edu](mailto:rh2523@columbia.edu) no later than the deadline for the rest of the application.
6. Identification of two persons (in addition to those who wrote your letters of recommendation) who would serve as references, with their titles, affiliations, and contact information. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON THIS DOCUMENT.

If your recommenders will be submitting their letters directly, you must provide each recommender's name and email address and the date by which they will submit their letter.