



GEORGETOWN LAW  
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

**CIVIL RIGHTS/GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST LAW**

**GRADUATE FELLOW/STAFF ATTORNEY  
POSITION (2014 - 2016)**

The Institute for Public Representation (IPR) invites applications for a two-year graduate fellow/staff attorney position to start in August 2014 in its Civil Rights/General Public Interest section.

*What is IPR?*

IPR is a public interest law firm and law school clinic founded by Georgetown University Law Center in 1971. IPR serves as counsel for groups and individuals who are unable to obtain effective legal representation on issues of broad public importance. IPR's work is currently focused in three areas: civil rights/general public interest law, environmental law, and communications law and policy. IPR provides third-year law students an opportunity to develop a wide range of lawyering skills by working on real cases under the supervision of faculty members and fellows (also referred to as staff attorneys).

There are five fellow positions at IPR, and we are now recruiting for two of these two-year positions for the 2014-2016 term, one in the civil rights/general public interest law area and one in the environmental law area. There will be a separate announcement for the environmental law position.

*IPR's Civil Rights/General Public Interest practice*

The faculty member responsible for the civil rights/general public interest litigation docket is Visiting Professor Brian Wolfman. Professor Wolfman has nearly 30 years of experience handling complex federal litigation. He spent 20 years at Public Citizen Litigation Group, including five years as its director, and he litigated for five years in a rural legal services program in Arkansas. Along with one fellow, he supervises six students each semester who work on cases full-time.

IPR's work in civil rights/general public interest law focuses on traditional civil rights litigation, as well as other public interest litigation, including cases involving civil liberties, health and safety, consumer protection, access to government records, and government accountability. The nature of IPR's work varies from year to year depending on client needs, attorney interest,

and resources. Because IPR conducts a clinical legal education program for eighteen Georgetown law students each semester—six of whom work in the civil rights/general public interest part of IPR—another key factor in selecting projects is their suitability for clinical teaching. Additional information about IPR’s projects is available on our [website](#). In particular, applicants should review our most recent [annual report](#).

Illustrative pending and recently concluded cases include the following:

**Civil rights/civil liberties:**

*Brooks v. Grundmann*, No. 12-1571 (D.C. Cir.) (Title VII hostile-work-environment and retaliation appeal)

*Freeman v. Dal-Tile*, No. 13-1481 (4th Cir.) (Title VII hostile-work-environment, constructive discharge, and retaliation appeal)

*Hairston v. Vance-Cooks*, No. 13-5038 (D.C. Cir.) (Title VII race discrimination appeal on behalf of African-American employee of the Government Printing Office)

*Batson v. Branch Banking & Trust Co.*, No. 11-1690 (D. Md.) (Title VII religious discrimination and failure-to-accommodate action by Saturday sabbatarian who was fired by bank because she would not work on Saturdays)

*Eley v. Boarman*, No. 09-2158 (D.D.C.) (Title VII race discrimination action on behalf of African-American employee of the Government Printing Office)

*Warner v. Boarman*, No. 10-1306 (D.D.C.) (Title VII sex discrimination action on behalf of female employee of the Government Printing Office)

**Open government:**

*McBurney v. Young*, 133 S. Ct. 1709 (2013) (constitutional challenge to the provision of Virginia’s Freedom of Information Act limiting access to documents to Virginia citizens)

*Bloche v. Department of Defense*, No. 07-2050 (D.D.C.) (representing bioethics experts in federal Freedom of Information Act action seeking government documents about the role of medical professionals in the interrogation of “War on Terror” detainees)

*Public Citizen v. U.S. Office of Special Counsel*, No. 09-1957 (D.D.C.) (favorable settlement in federal Freedom of Information Act action seeking documents about whether the government funded Karl Rove’s political activities while he served as a White House advisor)

*Benavides v. Bureau of Prisons*, No. 09-2026 (D.D.C.) (represented inmate seeking audio recordings of conversations between the inmate and his attorney under the federal Freedom of Information Act)

*Southern Migrant Legal Services v. Kentucky Education & Workforce Development Cabinet*, 2010 WL 4316924 (Ky. Cir. Ct. 2010) (successful challenge on behalf of organization that

provides legal services to migrant workers to Kentucky state regulation that prohibited the release of migrant worker program documents)

*Southern Migrant Legal Services v. Range*, No. 10-406 (S.D. Miss.) (representing organization that provides legal services to migrant workers in challenge to Mississippi statute that prohibits the release of migrant worker program documents)

**Other public interest issues:**

*Elgin v. Dep't of the Treasury*, 132 S. Ct. 2126 (2012) (represented former federal agency employees seeking Supreme Court review on question whether federal district courts have jurisdiction to hear constitutional challenges to agencies' adverse employment actions)

*Klier v. Atochem N. Am.*, 658 F.3d 468 (5th Cir. 2011) (represented class member objecting to the district court's *cy pres* distribution of unclaimed class-action settlement funds; resulting in distributions on remand to class as a whole)

*Day v. Persels & Associates, LLC*, No. 12-11887 (11th Cir.) (representing amicus in support of a class action objector challenging approval of class settlement)

*U.S. Airways, Inc. v. McCutchen*, 133 S. Ct. 1537 (2013) (represented amicus in support of an accident victim who challenged his health insurance plan's claim to his entire personal-injury settlement)

*What do the Graduate Fellows/Staff Attorneys do?*

Fellows are responsible for day-to-day supervision of the students and work closely with the students on improving their lawyering skills, especially legal writing. In the civil rights/general public interest section, the fellow has principal responsibility for about half of the docket and supervises all facets of the litigation. Much of the fellow's time is spent guiding students in legal and factual research, reviewing student drafts, making suggestions for improvement, and preparing the students for oral presentations. In recent years, fellows have worked on all phases of litigation, including taking depositions, handling evidentiary hearings, and briefing cases before federal district courts, courts of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Fellows also play a key role in case development and in planning other IPR activities.

As noted, six students are assigned to IPR's civil rights/general public interest section. They work full time at IPR and receive credit for nearly an entire semester of law school. In addition to their case work, the students participate in case rounds and seminars dealing with litigation practice and substantive law. Fellows teach some of the seminars.

Past fellows have emphasized that the IPR experience is unique in several respects:

First, the fellows work on interesting, often cutting-edge litigation. In light of our broad agenda, we have leeway to develop cases that present unique educational opportunities for students and fellows and have a significant impact on the law.

Second, fellows assume substantial responsibility and generally play a more important role

in the decision making process than do their contemporaries in other types of law practice. They work on a variety of cases in different stages of the litigation process and gain a broad understanding of how litigation works, from interviewing a potential client through appealing to the Supreme Court. Fellows also work closely with other IPR fellows and other public interest organizations, meeting other lawyers involved in public interest law and seeing how their organizations function.

Third, fellows work closely with a full-time faculty member who has substantial litigation experience and expertise. As part of the Georgetown Law community, fellows are encouraged to attend seminars, workshops, and programs both on and off campus. Georgetown provides substantial support and guidance for fellows interested in pursuing academic scholarship or careers.

### *Pay and other benefits*

The annual stipend for the position will be approximately \$53,000, plus an opportunity to participate in group health insurance and other benefits, including unlimited free access to a state-of-the-art, on-site fitness center. The fellowship will start in August 2014 and end in August 2016. Fellows are awarded an L.L.M. in Advocacy at the completion of the fellowship. Fellows are considered full-time students and may qualify for deferment of student loans.

### *What qualifications are we looking for?*

Typically, IPR fellows have had substantial experience as practicing lawyers. On occasion, we have hired recent law school graduates or graduates just completing a judicial clerkship. We are looking for applicants who demonstrate

- a commitment to public interest law
- excellent writing and communication skills
- an interest in clinical legal education
- experience or strong interest in litigation

Fellows must be admitted to the District of Columbia Bar or take immediate steps to apply for membership (through examination or reciprocity) after being accepted for the position.

### *How to apply*

Applicants should submit

- a résumé
- a law school transcript
- a list of references, including contact information
- a recent legal writing sample of any length that represents the applicant's most challenging legal work (The writing sample should not be a collaborative work or a piece significantly edited by someone else.)
- a brief statement (no longer than one page, single-spaced) explaining the applicant's interest in the position

Send your application materials in a PDF file attached to an email to IPR's Administrator, Niko Perazich, at [nwp2@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:nwp2@law.georgetown.edu).

We will consider applications on a rolling basis, and the position will remain open until filled. We will select candidates to be interviewed at our office. Although IPR will not pay candidates' travel expenses, we will try to arrange interviews at a time convenient for the candidate.