NAPABA LAW FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY LAW FELLOWSHIP
at the
National Asian Pacific American Bar
Association (NAPABA)
Washington, DC

2022-2024
Guide For Candidates
IMPORTANT DEADLINES

June 2022  The 2022-2024 application is available

July 31, 2022  Application due

August 2022  Interviews begin for selected candidates

Late August 2022  Fellowship awarded

September 2022  Community Law Fellow begins service

TERMS OF A FELLOWSHIP

The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellow placement at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is a two-year fellowship program in Washington, DC designed for a recent law school graduate who is interested in pursuing a career in public interest law and policy.

The Community Law Fellow will directly support NAPABA’s advocacy and policy program with a focus on supporting and leading initiatives within our anti-hate project. The Community Law Fellow will take a leadership role in our hate crimes reporting program and referral program, conduct outreach and educational presentations, maintain, and develop relationships with key stakeholders, and engage in other analysis and advocacy as needed. The Fellow will also support other NAPABA community engagement programs, educational programs, and legislative advocacy. The Fellow will work under the supervision of NAPABA’s Policy Director.

The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellowship Program provides funds directly to NAPABA for the Fellowship, including a salary of $45,000 per year with a $10,000 payment to the Fellow upon completion of the Fellowship. NAPABA will supplement the salary with an additional $15,000 per year, in addition to the funding provided by the NAPABA Law Foundation. The total compensation will be $60,000 per year and a $10,000 payment to the Fellow upon completion of the Fellowship. NAPABA shall be the employer of the Fellow and will be responsible for providing health and fringe benefits.

HOW TO APPLY

- All applications are due online by July 31, 2022
OVERVIEW

The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellowship Program was launched in 2004 to address the need for attorneys working on behalf of the Asian Pacific American populations. Recognizing that many obstacles prevent committed attorneys from practicing public interest law, including the shortage of entry-level jobs, the NLF Community Law Fellowship provides an opportunity for a new attorney to gain substantive experience at a nonprofit national or community-based organization during the two-year Fellowship period.

The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellowship Program seeks to develop the public interest law leaders of the future, whether they continue to work in the nonprofit arena or become pro bono advocates in the private bar. The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellowship Program was established by a generous gift from Paul W. Lee of Goodwin Procter LLP to The NAPABA Law Foundation. Today, the NAPABA Law Foundation makes available and funds two Community Law Fellows. The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellowship Program is currently funded through the generous gifts of NAPABA members and Friends of NLF. The Program is administered through the NAPABA Law Foundation, which is a charitable organization that awards scholarships, internships and fellowships, runs the Thomas Tang National Moot Court Competition and presents other educational programs to advance issues important to the Asian Pacific American community.

FELLOWSHIP CANDIDATE

• Candidates must be a recent law school graduate (2020 - 22 graduating year), or a recent judicial clerk or non-public interest fellow (departed service in 2020 or later) with a demonstrated commitment to public interest law and Asian Pacific American issues.

• The placement is at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association in Washington DC. It is a full-time position. Candidates cannot be a current full-time employee with the same organization though may have had a prior internship with NAPABA. Furthermore, because it is intended that the candidate focus his or her efforts on the Fellowship and its attendant commitments, the candidate may not seek other full or part-time employment with any other employer once the Fellowship is received and may not engage in other employment during the Fellowship period.

• NAPABA agrees to employ the Community Law Fellow during the two-year Fellowship term if awarded. They must also provide him/her with supervision, training, employee health and fringe benefits, a workspace, and the materials that he/she will need to complete a designated project during the Fellowship.
FELLOWSHIP CANDIDATE EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The Candidate’s demonstrated or stated commitment to public interest law generally, and specifically to the Asian Pacific American community or the selected project area in which s/he is planning to work.

- The Candidate’s professional, volunteer and/or subject matter expertise indicating that s/he possesses the relevant skills and initiative to make the selected project a success.

- The Candidate’s demonstrated or potential for leadership.

- The Candidate’s commitment and ability to fulfill the two-year term required by the program.

- The NAPABA Law Foundation Community Law Fellowship Program strongly encourages applications from Candidates reflecting diverse cultural and experiential backgrounds, people with disabilities, people of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, work experiences, national origins, sexual orientations, and ages.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I pick a different host organization?
A: No. The host organization for this Fellowship is NAPABA.

Q: Does the Fellow need to be Asian Pacific American?
A: No. The NAPABA Law Foundation strongly encourages applications from Candidates reflecting diverse cultural and experiential backgrounds, people with disabilities, and of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, work experiences, national origins, sexual orientations, and ages.

Q: Do I need to be a member of the bar to begin my Fellowship?
A: No. But the Candidate must have already applied and taken the bar examination prior to the start of the Fellowship.

Q: Can I send the letters of recommendation under separate cover?
A: Yes, letters of recommendation may be sent directly from the recommender or under separate cover from the Candidate. However, all letters of recommendation should be received by July 31, 2022 for full consideration.

Q: Is the September 2022 start date flexible?
A: Preference will be given to candidates who are able to start in September. Earlier/later start dates might be possible for certain applicants (e.g., judicial clerks, fellows, recent law grads) provided that the total Fellowship does not exceed 24 months.