

Fellowship Details

The Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA) Fran Kandel Public Interest Fellowship enables law students to work with an organization or individually to develop and implement a project in the field of public interest law, in the spirit of Fran Kandel.¹ The WLALA Foundation is a non-profit charitable corporation created to increase the utility of the law as an instrument of social justice. Since 1985, the WLALA Foundation has awarded over 30 law student grants totaling over \$145,000.

The WLALA Kandel Fellowship is designed to fund particular projects with a tangible outcome. While not intended for purely academic research, the fellowship can support an internship with a project component. Strong preference is given to applicants who have the support of a sponsoring organization and who have arranged for an organization or suitable individual to supervise their project. Each Kandel Fellow may receive up to \$5,000 as a stipend. Fellows may also accept school or other public interest funding.

The purpose of the WLALA Kandel Fellowship is to:

- Provide help to the disadvantaged by funding original projects that will directly benefit the under-represented in the greater Los Angeles area;
- Educate and expose law students to legal concerns affecting the disadvantaged; and,
- Encourage the legal community's involvement in public interest law by funding students who show the capability of and commitment to assisting those in need.

Examples of Past Projects

WLALA awarded three Kandel Fellowships in 2019. The fellowship projects included a Know Your Lactation Rights project resulting in model advocacy and policy letters that individuals can use to validate their rights, a training manual for new healthcare advocates to use in the Health Consumer Alliance, and a brochure informing immigrants about public benefits they are eligible for depending on their immigration status. The Fellows externed at the ACLU, National Health Law Program and the LA Center for Law and Justice. You can view these and other previous projects at www.wlala.org/page/89.

¹ Fran Kandel, the founder of the WLALA grant program in 1985, is remembered as animated, generous, loving, honest, indomitable, celebrating of diversity, brilliant, and for her love of "humanity in general and people in particular." Fran graduated with highest honors from Tufts University in 1954 and earned a Master's Degree from Columbia University. She taught social studies to troubled teenage girls in Los Angeles. After raising her children, she attended UCLA School of Law. She then served as an attorney for the California Court of Appeals for 12 years and the California Appellate Project for 5 years. Among other honors, Fran was WLALA's President (1989-1990), a two-time Pro Bono Service Awardee for work with Salvadoran refugees at El Rescate, the 1994 New Volunteer of the Year Awardee from the Harriett Buhai Center, and the 1999 WLALA Distinguished Service Award recipient. Fran chaired the Prisoners Committee of the State Bar Legal Services Section, where she also served for 20 years, and actively promoted justice as a trustee, governor, or member of various other Bar committees and legal associations. She believed and proved that one person's life can make the world better.

Who May Apply

The Kandel Fellowship is intended for current first and second year law students seeking funding for summer 2020. Law school graduates seeking funding for post-graduation fellowships are not eligible to apply.

Completion Requirements

Completion requires recipients to (1) present the finished project three times to different groups that would most benefit from the information provided; and/or (2) present the finished project one or two times to different relevant groups and prepare an article to be published in the WLALA newsletter and/or other relevant journal, newsletter, or publication describing the completed project.

Application Instructions

To apply, please send a resume and responses to the essay topics below. Please type your essays, single-spaced, on separate pages. Put your name and the essay letter at the top of each page. Devoting no more than 500 words to each, please discuss:

- A. Your specific proposal**, including: (i) the goals and intended tangible results; (ii) the target population and what need(s) the proposal will meet; (iii) if you will be working under an organization's auspices, information about the organization and contact information for the supervising person; (iv) the activities that will accomplish the proposal's objective; (v) what makes your proposal worthy of funding; (vi) information about similar materials currently available in the greater Los Angeles area and how your proposal's intended tangible results differ; and (vii) a proposed project timeline and the ability to timely complete it no later than August 31, 2020.
- B. Your background** - personal, educational, and professional - Discuss experiences that you believe demonstrate your commitment to the public interest; indicate what you expect to learn from your project and how it ties in with your career goals. Include any other information you believe makes you and your project appropriate for a WLALA Fran Kandel Public Interest Fellowship.
- C. (Optional) Budget** – In addition to the up to \$5,000 stipend for you, funds may be requested for costs of your project. Previous costs have been awarded for amounts ranging \$500 to \$1,000. Provide a specific breakdown and explanation of each expense you intend to incur (i.e., printing, video production).

Submit applications by email to nramirez@lacourt.org and sarah.quist@usdoj.gov with subject line "WLALA Kandel Fellow Application." **Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2020.** Finalists will be requested to provide the name, address, and telephone number for one academic reference and one work reference.