

# The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship



## Advancing Racial Justice in the South Through Advocacy, Research, and Impact Litigation

The **Southern Education Foundation (SEF)** and the **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)** invite qualified candidates to apply for the **Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship**. The two-year fellowship helps early-career attorneys develop the skills and experiences needed to advance racial justice in education.

The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellow works with a focus on keeping public funds in public schools and advocating for truth in curriculum. As part of SEF's Public Policy and Advocacy team, the fellow develops and implements strategies that advance education justice policies at the local, state, and federal levels. They also participate in impact litigation under the mentorship of SPLC's legal department and conduct advocacy trainings for SEF staff and other interested parties.

The fellow's state advocacy work will be centered on Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. They also gain experience on a broad array of education equity issues, emphasizing constructive solutions that ensure all students have the resources needed to learn, grow, and thrive.

During their two-year tenure, the fellow focuses on:

**Advocacy:** Writing policy briefs and materials, drafting strategic messaging and legislative testimony to advance equity goals, working with legislators, and collaborating with partner organizations and coalitions

**Research:** Making recommendations on legal and policy developments in education justice across the K-12 and post-secondary spectrum

**Impact litigation:** Assisting with legal research and motions, coordinating amicus brief efforts, and planning community events and outreach

**Training:** Conducting equity and civil rights trainings for staff and community partners

At the conclusion of the fellowship, each fellow produces a report or project describing progress made on a key education civil rights issue as a result of their contributions.

Qualified candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to SEF's mission, education justice, racial equity, and civil rights, and liberties for all.

Applicants must earn or have earned a J.D. between May 2022 and May 2024. Fellows will be based in Atlanta and earn an annual salary of \$90,000.

Applications will be accepted in September 2023 for the fellowship beginning in September 2024.



**"I am proud to be part of so many successful efforts to defend public education. I will never forget the thrill of speaking against censorship with members of a historically Black congregation in Albany, GA, or presenting on attacks on education to Democratic staffers of the Senate HELP Committee."**

*Harry Chiu  
Inaugural Fellow*



For more information or to apply, visit [southerneducation.org/lwh-fellowship](https://southerneducation.org/lwh-fellowship).

# The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship



The Southern Education Foundation (SEF) is proud to partner with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as we work to advance racial justice in education and support students of color and students from low-income families in the South.

## Pursuing the Future

Developing new legal talent in the civil rights arena is critical, particularly in the South, where education funding and access to opportunity are a constant struggle for Black and brown students and students from low-income families. Per-pupil expenditures are lower in the South compared to other regions of the country. Schools attended by the majority of underserved students are poorly resourced and there are ongoing efforts to direct scant public education funds to private schools through tax credits and vouchers. The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship supports a pipeline of new leaders to ensure justice in education for children in the South.

Founded in 1867 to build the first schools for Black students in the South, SEF today draws on its history, expertise, and record of service to push for greater opportunities for all students, with an emphasis on students of color and those from low-income families. SPLC, founded in 1971, works in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.



**“We need all big minds and hearts engaged in the search for constructive solutions. The greatest failing is indifference to the problem.”**

*Lynn Walker Huntley*

## Honoring a Trailblazer

Bound by our unwavering pursuit of justice in the South, SEF and SPLC recognize the rich legacy of Lynn Walker Huntley, the trailblazing lawyer and civil rights advocate who served as SEF’s first female president from 2002 until her retirement in 2010. Walker Huntley worked on the NAACP Legal Defense Fund landmark *Furman v. Georgia* case and served as the first Black woman to lead the Special Litigation Section in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

A joint project of SEF and SPLC, the Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship is a two-year program designed to help early-career attorneys develop the skills and experience they need to advance racial justice in education through impact litigation and state and federal advocacy. By reflecting Walker Huntley’s commitment to education justice, this fellowship provides strategic support for the larger civil rights community and carries forth that mission into the future.

**“Lynn Walker Huntley’s vision, tenacity, and humanity showed all of us working at the Legal Defense Fund how to advocate for clients. She made sure that the journey to assure quality education without regard to race, wealth, or zip code was generational work.”**

*Deval Patrick  
Former Governor of Massachusetts*



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