



The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions



Program overview

What can I expect to learn from this fellowship? How will it help my legal career?

The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellowship provides early-career attorneys with the opportunity to build their policy and advocacy, litigation, and research skills, with a specific focus on education equity. The fellow will also learn about the legislative process and work with key policymakers and advocates in the five southern states – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi – that are a special focus of the fellowship.

What will the fellow focus on?

The current work of the fellowship revolves around advancing education equity, with a primary focus on strengthening public education by opposing school privatization and classroom censorship. Refinements may be made in response to organizational needs and real-world developments.

How is the litigation work of the fellowship structured?

The fellow participates in impact litigation under the mentorship of the legal department at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The fellow regularly attends SPLC strategy calls and departmental meetings, and their litigation work is supervised by SPLC attorneys. Constitutional challenges to school voucher programs and classroom censorship laws are a current focus of the fellow's work.

Eligibility and Application

Who is eligible to apply?

The fellowship is open to third-year law students and those who graduated in or after 2022 who have a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher. Candidates with lower grade-point averages who otherwise have exceedingly strong applications may be granted consideration on a case-by-case basis.

Does the fellow have to pass the Georgia bar exam?

While passing the bar exam is required for eligibility, candidates are not required to pass the Georgia bar specifically. The fellow must pass the bar exam in any of the 17 states in SEF's primary region: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

What format should I use for my application's supporting documents that I send?

Your resume, law school transcripts, writing sample, and letters of recommendation should be submitted as PDFs.

Other than law professors, who can provide letters of recommendation? Other individuals who may serve as references include previous employers; previous supervisors at volunteer, fellowship, or internship programs; and practicing attorneys and judges. At least one letter of recommendation must be written by an applicant's law professor.



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Fellowship details

What is the duration of the fellowship?

The Lynn Walker Huntley Social Justice Fellow has a two-year tenure. Candidates are expected to commit to the full two years from September 2024 to August 2026.

Where will the fellowship take place?

Fellows must be based in Atlanta for the duration of their fellowship. If based outside the area, candidates are expected to commit to relocating. Fellows will work at least part-time at the SEF office, but a hybrid schedule with some remote work is negotiable.

How much travel will this fellowship involve?

Exact travel needs are difficult to predict, but candidates should anticipate some travel, including occasional overnight commitments. All fellowship travel expenses will be covered or reimbursed.

What are the program's regular work hours?

Fellows will typically be expected to maintain a 40-hour, Monday-through-Friday work week. However, occasional evening, and weekend work will also be required in response to time-sensitive tasks, busy periods, and special events.

Who will supervise the fellow?

The Southern Education Foundation's director of public policy and advocacy will directly supervise the fellow. The fellow will also interface with SEF's president and CEO and receive mentorship from the Children's Rights practice group at SPLC.

As a fellow, will I be eligible for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program?

The fellow may be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness but should review the program's eligibility guidelines on the U.S. Department of Education's [website](#).