

“This fellowship has further ignited my desire to work in the area of public interest as a career. Although the job was both stressful and demanding, it was incredibly rewarding and gave me a sense of purpose and pride. Being able to put my legal skills to use to help such an under-represented population really solidified my desire to become an attorney. This fellowship showed me how much I can make a difference in people's lives and that I can perform life-changing services to people who might otherwise not have anyone else to turn to. After seeing how rewarding this work really is I am looking forward to the chance to use my law degree to help those who need it the most.”

*- Comment from a
2008 Summer Fellow*



Mission Statement

The mission of The Florida Bar Foundation, a philanthropic organization established in 1956 by Florida lawyers and the Supreme Court of Florida, is to provide greater access to justice. The Foundation accomplishes its mission primarily through the funding of programs that:

- expand and improve representation and advocacy on behalf of low-income persons in civil legal matters;
- improve the fair and effective administration of justice; and
- promote service to the public by members of the legal profession by making public service an integral component of the law school experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
The Florida Bar Foundation, including
Law School Programs,
Legal Assistance for the Poor Programs,
and
Donor Giving Opportunities:

Contact us **by mail** at:
The Florida Bar Foundation

250 South Orange Avenue
Suite 600P
P.O. Box 1553
Orlando, FL 32801

By **phone** at: 407-843-0045
Toll-Free: 800-541-2195 (FL only)

Or on **the Web** at:
www.flabarfndn.org



2009 Summer Legal Services Fellowship Program

www.flabarfndn.org

What is The Florida Bar Foundation?

The Florida Bar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity, and it is the only statewide organization that provides financial support for legal aid and promotes improvements in addressing the civil legal needs of the poor.

Today in Florida, thousands of low-income individuals and families are trying to deal with difficult legal programs alone. For them, access to justice is often elusive, or worse, unattainable. The legal problems faced by the poor are very real:

- The elderly widow who is losing her home because she is a victim of mortgage fraud;
- The disabled child who has been denied special education services at school;
- The laid-off worker who was denied unemployment compensation benefits.

Legal aid helps by removing barriers to stable and productive lives – and when the lives of poor people are improved, all Floridians benefit.

The Summer Fellowship Program

The Legal Services Summer Fellowship Program provides full-time employment to approximately 40 law students for 11 weeks during the summer at legal aid and legal services program offices in Florida. Fellows are supervised by legal aid staff attorneys and they gain first-hand experience on how lawyers make a difference in the lives of indigent clients by working on domestic violence, landlord-tenant, education, disability, immigration, and other types of cases.

Summer Fellowship stipends for the eleven-week period are \$5,500 for first-year law students; and \$7,000 for second-year law students.



Fellowship Purposes

1. To involve fellowship recipients in the provision of high-quality, significant civil legal assistance to the poor in critical areas of need.
2. To provide an in-depth educational experience in representing the poor and working with individual clients and client groups in civil matters.
3. To increase law student interest in and awareness of the legal problems of the poor and the challenges and satisfaction of representing the poor.
4. To promote commitment to pro bono representation of the poor.

Fellowship Term

The Summer Fellowship Program kicks off with a training and orientation seminar in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The 2009 summer training and orientation seminar will be held on **May 21 – 22, 2009**. Housing, meals, and reasonable travel expenses for the seminar will be provided. Fellows are scheduled to report to work at their legal aid program placement on the Monday following the training and orientation seminar.

Student Eligibility

First-year and second-year law students attending an accredited law school are eligible to apply, provided that they are in good standing at their law school. Minority students are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants should have a sincere and demonstrated interest in public service work, or in providing free legal assistance to the poor.

Selection Criteria

Among the factors to be considered in selections are: experience in working with the low-income community; academic achievement; writing skills; and their previous demonstrated commitment to and interest in public service or pro bono work. Law student applicants will be provided an opportunity to specify their program placement preference. Due to the necessity of insuring placement throughout Florida in a variety of

programs and sites, student flexibility in preference sites may be a factor in selection.

Application and Selection Process

Summer Fellowship applications will be available on-line at The Florida Bar Foundation website at **www.flabarfndn.org** after **November 15, 2008**. Summer Fellowship application information will be provided to Career Services offices at each of the law schools in Florida.

All applications must be submitted electronically on the application form located on the Foundation's website (**www.flabarfndn.org**) by **January 22, 2009**. Each applicant will be notified of receipt of their submitted application. Selection and notification to students will be completed by late **February 2009**.

For more information about the The Florida Bar Foundation's Summer Fellowship Program, e-mail Clara Bevington at cbevington@flabarfndn.org.

“I enjoyed the ability to jump right in and help. At legal aid, I was able to see projects through from start to finish, from meeting the clients, doing the research and drafting documents, to attending the final hearings.”

*- Comment from a
2008 Summer Fellow*