**Meltzer Fellowships**

**through the Sheller Center for Social Justice**

Thanks to a generous gift to the Sheller Center for Social Justice, we are able to offer stipends for student projects focused on social justice, to be conducted during the current academic year. The application process for these stipends is open to any interested law student. Applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed on a rolling basis. Additional fellowships may be available for summer 2023; if so, an announcement will be made in the spring.

We seek proposals for projects that would serve unmet needs of indigent or otherwise vulnerable populations. These novel projects will implicate systemic change and will take their direction from impacted communities. These projects could take a variety of forms, from policy interventions to advocacy campaigns to the creation of ongoing service opportunities. Projects will serve communities in Pennsylvania.

Students can work individually or as a team. Those who are interested in creating a Meltzer Project should submit a grant application that includes:

* A description of the proposed project (at least two pages long):
  + Explain the need for the project: what is the problem and why is this intervention an appropriate solution;
  + Describe the community to be served and their interest in this intervention;
  + Detail the applicant’s relevant experience, including work with the relevant community;
  + Specify how the project will engage/seek feedback from the relevant community;
  + Provide details about the project, including a description of the final deliverable;
  + Set deadlines for submission of a final project proposal, a mid-term report, and the final deliverable.
* The name of an organization(s) with which the students will collaborate on the project. This could be a policy, advocacy, community, or legal services organization. Provide the name and contact information for an individual at the organization(s).
* A resume for each student participating in the project.

This funding can be used to support an internship with an organization. It will, however, only be awarded to those students proposing the completion of a novel project rather than supporting day-to-day operations of the organization. All applications are welcome, but we especially favor projects that the student has had some role or expects to have some role in designing.

This funding is intended to support legal work, and not non-legal projects (such as organizing or social work.)

We suggest that students review the [Mission, Vision, and Values](https://www2.law.temple.edu/csj/mission-vision-and-values/) of the Sheller Center for Social Justice to ensure that proposals are aligned with the Center’s approach.

Stipends will be awarded based on your estimate of the amount of time you will devote to the project:

$1,000 (for approximately 50 hours work)

$2,000 (for approximately 100 hours work)

$3,000 (for approximately 150 hours work)

An additional amount may be awarded for project expenses. Please specify in the project description what your anticipated costs are and how they relate to the project. Expenses that come to more than 25% of the stipend sought are generally not approved in the absence of unusual circumstances.

In addition to mid-term and final reporting requirements, grant recipients will be required to make themselves available to give a live presentation to the law school community on their project.

These factors will be assessed in reviewing applications:

* The positive impact on the relevant community, and the potential for systemic change
* The level of community participation in the project and its design
* The level of unmet needs
* The added value of the project, in that it does not replicate existing efforts or projects
* The level of collaboration with other organizations working on the problem
* Whether the project is one for which students can take primary responsibility, both in initiating and conducting the work
* The feasibility of the project within the projected timeline
* Preference will be given to students who are proposing their first project (although we will consider new and different projects by former Meltzer recipients)
* Some preference may be given to proposals that involve collaboration with people from other disciplines (including, but not limited to, with other departments at Temple University)

Examples of potential projects include:

* A student or team could work with a grass-roots organization (e.g., a neighborhood- or city-based group concerned with criminal justice; a parent group concerned with public education; a group concerned with workers’ or immigrants’ rights) to develop a proposal for policy, regulatory or legislative change on a subject of concern to its members. The project might (or might not) include collaboration with a student or professional from another field (such as social work, public health, or sociology).
* Similarly, a student or team could work with a legal services organization to lay the groundwork for systemic litigation on behalf of an underserved group.
* A student or team of students could work with a legal services organization to develop an idea as to how that organization might expand direct services, which might be provided in innovative ways.

We welcome questions about potential projects and/or the application process: Prof. Jennifer Lee [jenniferjlee@temple.edu](mailto:jenniferjlee@temple.edu); Prof. Jaya Ramji-Nogales [jayarn@temple.edu](mailto:jayarn@temple.edu); Prof. Len Rieser [lrieser@temple.edu](mailto:lrieser@temple.edu); or Prof. Shanda Sibley [shanda.sibley@temple.edu](mailto:shanda.sibley@temple.edu).

Please submit applications to [sheller@temple.edu](mailto:sheller@temple.edu).