



TRIAL ADVOCACY | WSAJ

Summer Fellowship Program

PROGRAM:

The Washington State Association for Justice (“WSAJ”) has established a Fellowship Program to introduce a diverse group of law students to the plaintiffs’ bar generally, and to WSAJ specifically. The Fellowship Program (the “Program”) will allow selected students to observe the work of trial attorneys as part of a twelve week mentoring program during the summer. Fellows will gain exposure to the work of trial attorneys by “shadowing” three mentor law firms during the summer. Fellows will attend depositions, hearings, settlement proceedings, and possibly even trial with their mentors. They will also have the opportunity to work on short-duration projects, including a writing assignment.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Program is open to law students who (1) have completed their second year (or equivalent) of law school; (2) exhibit a diversity of traits and attributes in age, race, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic factors or national origin or demonstrate a commitment to fostering such diversity within the legal community; (3) demonstrate a strong interest in and/or commitment to representing plaintiffs in civil actions; and (4) demonstrate a commitment to social justice.

The Fellows will be selected for interviews based on information provided in the written application materials, as well as past work experience and relevant coursework. Applicants selected for consideration based on the written materials will then be personally interviewed by members of WSAJ. The Fellows will be selected following the interviews.

DETAILS:

The program will run May 20—August 9 for Seattle and Gonzaga University students; June 10—August 30 for University of Washington students. Fellows will be asked to commit to a minimum of 40 hours per week. They will be given a stipend of \$10,000 for the 12-week program. Fellows will be assigned to three Mentor Firms, spending four weeks with each. The firms will vary by practice areas and size, but all represent plaintiffs in civil actions. Practice areas include personal injury, employment, civil rights, workers comp, product liability, medical malpractice and consumer law. Fellows will primarily “shadow” senior attorneys at the Mentor Firms, and secondarily assist with projects within the Mentor Firm. The goal is to provide Fellows with the opportunity to observe a number of different trial lawyers during different aspects of litigation, including conducting depositions, attending hearings, meeting with clients, or trial. Mentors will ensure that the Fellows are primarily engaged in observing a variety of tasks confronting trial lawyers in advocating on behalf of clients. At the end of the Program, Fellows will be required to complete a written evaluation and an exit interview.

Apply online at www.washingtonjustice.org/fellowship

Please contact Raphaela Weissman at (206) 464-1011 or raphaela@washingtonjustice.org with any questions.

