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**PALS 2014 Summer Civil Rights Fellowship Program**

The Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program, Inc. (PALS) Civil Rights Fellowship Program is designed to provide exceptional candidates that are committed to pursuing a career in public interest with aunique summer opportunity to work at one of three premier civil rights organizations. Through its generous donors, PALS aims to support law students of color that are interested in becoming part of the next generation of civil rights attorneys by enabling them to have an invaluable summer professional experience while assisting to defer their summer expenses with a $5000 stipend.

**What is the PALS Civil Rights Fellowship Program?**

The PALS Civil Rights Fellowship Program will place three deserving law students of color with leadership potential, a commitment to social justice work and excellent legal, written, research and communications skills in a ten-week summer fellowship at one of the following civil rights organizations:

**Asian American Legal Defense Fund,**

**LatinoJustice PRLDEF**

**NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.**

The PALS Fellows will be supervised by attorneys at the Civil Rights Organization they are placed at and each PALS Fellow can be responsible for legal research, memorandum writing, factual investigation, development of educational and outreach material and discovery review. PALS Fellows may also have the opportunity to participate in client interviews and accompany lawyers to court hearings. During the summer, the Asian American Legal Defense Fund, LatinoJustice PRLDEF and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc**.** jointly host a series of weekly brown bag lectures on a range of public interest topics for the benefit of their summer interns. Each PALS Fellow will also have the benefit of attending these lectures. Split summers will be considered on a case by case basis, where students only work as a PALS Fellow for five weeks.

**Who should apply?**

Full-time matriculated law students of color considering career paths in civil rights are encouraged to apply. Although second year law students are preferred, exceptional first year students will also be considered. Additionally, only law students attending one of the thirteen New York City metropolitan area schools PALS serves are able to apply. These schools are Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Columbia University School of Law, CUNY School of Law, Fordham University School of Law, Hofstra University School of Law, New York Law School, New York University School of Law, Pace University School of Law, Rutgers University School of Law (Newark), Seton Hall University School of Law, St. John's University School of Law and Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.

**How do I apply?**

Applicants must fill out the attached application and provide the additional requested supporting documents.

**What is included in the fellowship?**

Recipients will be granted a $5,000 stipend to help defray their living expenses. Each PALS Fellow will have a designated PALS Summer Mentor and will participate in specific required events with the other Fellows and their Summer Mentors. At the conclusion of the program, the PALS Fellows will be asked to provide insights and a brief presentation on their experience to the larger PALS community. Furthermore, the Fellows training will also be supplemented by PALS, networking, professional development and skills training workshops. The summer fellowships are not expected to lead to an offer for full time employment.

**Eligibility and Qualifications**

* To apply for the fellowship, you must be a law student of color
* A first or second-year law student matriculated at any of the thirteen law schools PALS serves
* Have a strong commitment to excellence, personal and professional growth
* Possess outstanding academic performance and leadership capabilities in extracurricular activities
* Exhibit superior legal analysis, research and communication skills
* Be a team player and individual contributor
* Demonstrated passion to advocating for social, racial, economic or civil rights.

The deadline to apply is Sunday December 1, 2013 at 11:59 pm EST. **However applications will be reviewed and decided on a rolling basis and students are encouraged to apply early.** Please see the application attached.

Should you have any questions about the fellowship, please email the Executive Director of PALS, Paula Brown Donaldson, Esq. at executivedirector@palsprogram.org

**Fellowship Sponsors**

The PALS 2013 Summer Civil Rights Fellowship Program stipends are made possible by the generosity of **Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP**, **Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP** and **Sidley Austin LLP**.

**About PALS**

PALS is dedicated to enhancing the skills and careers of minority law students and early career attorneys. PALS does this by offering customized mentoring, educational and professional development opportunities. PALS provides resources to augment the law school and employer training of, respectively, minority law students and beginning lawyers, and will continue to offer its services free of charge.

 For further information, visit our website at [www.palsprogram.org](http://www.palsprogram.org)

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**Application Cover Sheet**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Law School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Expected Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**GPA/ Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Please mark your preferred placement with an X. If there is more than one organization of interest, please rank your top two preferences.

\_\_\_**Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund**

\_\_\_**LatinoJustice PRLDEF**

\_\_\_**NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.**

**PALS Participation:**

Are you a member of PALS?\_\_\_\_\_

List any PALS events in which you have participated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**How to Apply:** Students interested in applying for the PALS Summer Civil Rights Fellowship must forward their applications to Paula Brown Donaldson, Esq., at executivedirector@palsprogram.org by Sunday, December 1st, 2013. **Applications submitted after this date, or formatted incorrectly, will not be considered.** To be formatted correctly, each application must be submitted as one PDF document with the applicant’s name as the title of the file and include in the following order:

* Application cover sheet
* Law school transcript
* Cover letter indicating:
* Why you think you are a good match for the program
* Two of the following:
	+ Elaborate on your professional goals and how this civil rights fellowship will assist you in preparing for these goals.
	+ Describe your most significant past or present contribution to a community or to society at large.
	+ Discuss what life experience or reason motivates you to pursue a career in civil rights.
* Resume (include any foreign language skills)
* Letter of recommendation (optional)

Students selected for interviews will be asked to submit a writing sample and three references.