

Cornell Law School First Amendment Clinic Summer Fellowships

The First Amendment Clinic at Cornell Law School invites applications for its 2026 Summer Fellowships. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

The First Amendment Clinic provides law students interested in freedom of speech, press, assembly and petition, with the opportunity to enrich their understanding of these vital rights by working on cutting-edge litigation, advocacy, and policy work. A key component of the Clinic's efforts will be to support journalists and media outlets in their critical work.

Summer fellows may undertake work involving the following: 1) Conducting intakes and vetting potential cases that could have significant impact on existing law; 2) Interviewing clients and supporting fact and expert witnesses; 3) Conducting in-depth offensive and defensive legal research; 4) Drafting and editing party and amicus briefs; 5) Conducting legislative and policy analysis; and 6) Working collaboratively in a team-based environment. Fellows will work under the direct supervision of clinical faculty members and supervising attorneys and will have significant responsibility for each case or project on which they work.

The Fellowship will run June 1 – July 31, 2026, with some flexibility as to start and end dates.

These are paid positions with a salary of \$16.85/hour. In-person and hybrid candidates residing in Ithaca, NY for the summer are preferred. Remote candidates will also be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the fellows attend schools that provide students with public interest fellowship funding, the fellows will be expected to use those funds to cover the costs of their summers. Students who are eligible for summer funding from their own sources and who need an early decision on their applications to qualify for outside support are encouraged to advise the Clinic of their situations and to request expedited review of their candidacies.

To Apply:

Interested students should email a cover letter, a resume, a writing sample stating the degree of review and editing it was given, transcript*, and contact information for two references to Cornell Law School HR – lawhr@cornell.edu. (**Transcripts, if not immediately available, can be sent after the initial application, but before the submission deadline.*)

The final deadline to submit application materials is February 27, 2026. Early applications are encouraged and offers will be made on a rolling basis.

About Us:

Founded in 1887, Cornell Law School is a top-tier law school. We offer a 3-year JD program for about 200 students per class, a one-year LLM program for about 90 students from countries throughout the world, and a doctoral (JSD) program for about 2-3 new students per year. Cornell Law School has 41 tenured and tenure-track faculty, including 20 with chaired faculty positions; and 15 clinical professors

in the legal research and writing program and in clinics at the local, national, and international level. Our faculty is consistently ranked among the top in the country for scholarly productivity and influence, and has pre-eminence in many areas, including quantitative and qualitative empirical legal studies, international and comparative law, and robust doctrinal scholarship in core fields. Our school is committed to being recognized as the leader among law schools at combining inspiring theoretical, doctrinal, and experiential teaching with cutting-edge scholarship in a supportive, intellectually rich community, so that our graduates can achieve excellence in all facets of the legal profession.

Cornell University is an innovative Ivy League university and a great place to work. Our inclusive community of scholars, students and staff impart an uncommon sense of larger purpose and contribute creative ideas to further the university's mission of teaching, discovery and engagement. With our main campus located in Ithaca, NY, Cornell's far-flung global presence includes the medical college's campuses on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Doha, Qatar, as well as the Cornell Tech campus located on Roosevelt Island in the heart of New York City. We offer a rich array of services, programs and benefits to help employees advance in their career and enhance the quality of personal life, including: employee wellness, workshops, childcare and adoption assistance, parental leave, flexible work options.

Cornell University's history of diversity and inclusion encourages all students, faculty and staff to support a diverse and inclusive university in which to work, study, teach, research and serve. No person shall be denied employment on the basis of any legally protected status or subjected to prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, ethnic or national origin, citizenship and immigration status, color, sex, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, age, creed, religion, actual or perceived disability (including persons associated with such a person), arrest and/or conviction record, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender expression and/or identity, an individual's genetic information, domestic violence victim status, familial status, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

Cornell University embraces diversity and seeks candidates who will contribute to a climate that supports students, faculty, and staff of all identities and backgrounds. We strongly encourage individuals from underrepresented and/or marginalized identities to apply. Qualified protected veterans as defined in the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRA) and qualified disabled individuals with disabilities under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act have rights in the application process and in employment under federal law. We also recognize a lawful preference in employment practices for Native Americans living on or near Indian reservations in accordance with applicable law.