

RUTGERS-CAMDEN LAW SCHOOL CAREER PLANNING OFFICE BLOG

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

3Ls: Philly CCP Judicial Fellows Program Accepting Apps; 88% of fellows left their fellowship for a paid position



The prestigious **Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judicial Fellows Program** is now accepting applications from **second semester 3Ls**. (Note that positions will not begin until after graduation/taking the bar. For application information go to <http://www.courts.phila.gov/jfp/>. Make sure to indicate that you are a graduating 3L in your application materials.)

The Program was established in recognition that many exceptional graduates from Philadelphia area law schools were seeking professional development opportunities due to the shortage of paid positions in the current difficult legal economy. The First Judicial District saw an opportunity to give recent graduates professional experience and to provide Philadelphia judges with additional legal talent on their staff to facilitate the Court's commitment to prompt and fair resolution of cases notwithstanding the Court's high volume caseload.

The Judicial Fellowship Program aims to provide high caliber law graduates with substantive experience in the law, and to support the Court in carrying out key functions. Fellows volunteer their time, have the same responsibilities as regular paid judicial law clerks, and gain the benefit of training by judges in the Philadelphia courts. Judicial fellows' service helps our high volume court system maintain its superior

quality of service to the Philadelphia community. Judges help judicial fellows by mentoring and providing legal experience that will enhance their competitiveness for paid employment as new lawyers.

Statistics For First Year of Program (February 2011 through February 2012)

The statistics from the first year of the Judicial Fellowship Program show amazing success: **88% of the fellows left their fellowship for a paid position.**

Total number of judicial fellows: 30

Active judicial fellows: 6

Total number of participating judges: 38

Total number of judicial fellowship positions: 44

Total number of participating law schools: 7

Post Fellowship Employment For the First Year of the Program

Fellows who left fellowship having obtained paid employment during fellowship: 21

Percentage of fellows who left fellowship having obtained paid employment: 88% (21/24)

Positions

Law Firm: 6

Judicial Clerkship: 5

Government: 5

Other: 5

No Job upon Departure: 3*

No Information Available: 0

Total: 24

*One judicial fellow left to become a full-time parent

Comments from former judicial fellows about their experience:

"The Judicial Fellowship Program definitely turned my life around and helped me in every aspect of my job search...I do not think I could have had a better experience.... [My judge] kept me involved in court proceedings and made sure I was busy the days I came into the office.... The program is great and it helped me get the job I start in January."

(Fellow found a paid position)

"My experience proved to be an invaluable transition between law school and full time employment. ... This program is the only of its kind in the country and I think gives essential support, piece of mind, and training to recent graduates beginning their legal careers in a difficult economic climate. I am proud to have participated in the program...."

(Fellow found a paid position)

"The Judicial Fellowship Program is a wonderful program that gives recent law graduates practical, real-life law experience while allowing them to search for a full time position as an attorney. It has allowed me to keep my research and writing skills honed during a period when I would have been otherwise unemployed. It is a very important tool to be active in the law field while seeking employment."

(Fellow found a paid position)

"I got an opportunity to develop much-needed skills for a challenging job market. ... The courtroom and writing experience gave me an advantage because I learned what potential employers wanted to hear in interviews, in that I knew the requirements of a prosecutor/district attorney, their role, and how to interact with various judges... [My current employer] has repeatedly told me since hiring me that he was very impressed with how hard I worked by working for free. He also said he was very impressed with everything I got to do in the Fellowship. This experience and my persistent hounding of him to see if there were openings got me a great job."

(Fellow found a paid position)
