

## **Applying for the Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellowship**

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellowship provides three graduating JD students with the opportunity to spend one year working with an innovative human rights organization. Fellows will be selected to work with [Human Rights First](#), [Make the Road NY](#), and [NYU Stern's Center for Business and Human Rights](#), **beginning in September 2018**. Applicants are encouraged to apply to as many of the organizations that interest them. Applications are due **Saturday, November 4, 2017**.

### **Application Requirements**

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- 1) **a short personal statement** (500 words maximum) describing the applicant's relevant experience, interest in the work of the organization, and future aspirations;
- 2) **two letters of recommendation**, including one letter from a current or former professor or other person associated with NYU School of Law and one letter from a supervisor or employer familiar with the applicant's human rights work or recent work experience;
- 3) **a résumé**;
- 4) **law school transcript**.

### **Application Deadlines and Instructions**

Applications are due Saturday, November 4 to be considered for a fellowship beginning in the fall of the subsequent year. There is no advantage to applying early. Applicants are encouraged to apply to as many of the organizations that interest them. If applicants apply to more than one organization, a separate personal statement will be required for each organization, and the applicant should rank the organizations in order of their preference. Finalists will be notified by November 11, and interviews will be conducted by a selection panel soon after. Applicants should also be available for screening interviews with host organizations in mid-to-late November. Once offers are made, the applicants will be asked to decide within three business days whether or not they wish to accept the fellowship.

Submit all materials by e-mail to [pilc.info@nyu.edu](mailto:pilc.info@nyu.edu). Recommenders may email letters directly to this email address, or mail them to:

New York, NY 10012  
Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellowship Selection Committee  
Public Interest Law Center  
NYU School of Law  
245 Sullivan Street  
New York, NY 10012

## **Qualifications**

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellowship Selection Committee will review applications and select finalists to be interviewed by the organizations. Factors the committee will consider include:

- a) the applicant's human rights experience (in law school courses, extracurricular activities, summer jobs, and full-time work);
  - b) the applicant's leadership capabilities and likely future commitment to human rights work; and
  - c) the applicant's interest in and commitment to the organization's work.
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### About This Year's Partner Organizations

#### **Human Rights First**

Human Rights First is an “independent advocacy and action organization, based in New York City, Washington D.C., Houston and Los Angeles, that challenges America to live up to its ideals.” Human Rights First believes “American leadership is essential in the global struggle for human rights, and presses the U.S. government and private companies to respect human rights and the rule of law. (...) Whether in the protection of refugees, combating torture and other national security issues, or working to advance a U.S. foreign policy rooted in a strong commitment to human rights, Human Rights First focuses not on making a point, but on making a difference. For almost 40 years, Human Rights First has built bipartisan coalitions and teamed up with frontline activists and lawyers to tackle global challenges that demand American leadership.”

#### *Sample Fellow Work:*

- Conduct legal and policy research on a range of issues such as corporate law, criminal law, international law and legislative proposals
- Co-author advocacy reports (for e.g. on hate crime and domestic trafficking)
- Map current legislative proposals on a range of issues, for e.g. on hate crime and develop a legislative strategy for the organization
- Develop an online and print case resource on domestic human trafficking
- Partner with communications team to develop advocacy tools
- Create an interactive website on “Understanding Modern Slavery”
- Author blogs
- Oversee hiring and supervision of summer legal interns

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#### **Make The Road New York**

For the last 20 years, Make the Road New York (MRNY), based in Brooklyn and active in Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island, has worked to build, “the power of Latino and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice through organizing, policy innovation, transformative

education, and survival services.” MRNY’s model embraces a community-driven approach and integrates “multi-issue, multi-generational organizing on workers’ rights, tenant rights, LGBTQ justice, youth power and policing, public schools and education justice, immigration justice, and climate – with an array of wraparound services that create a space of safety and support for entire families.”

MRNY applicants should have interest in working with low-income immigrant communities and experience in immigration, employment or housing legal services. The candidate would investigate individual cases of discrimination, file complaints with the Human Rights Commission, and represent clients on associated immigration, employment or housing cases. **Spanish proficiency is required** and ideally candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to working with communities MRNY serves, including immigrant workers, survivors of violence, youth and the LGBTQ community.

*Sample Fellow Work:*

- Provide direct legal support to ongoing cases (legal research, drafting, and representation)
  - Conduct legal research and policy support on campaigns involving immigrant rights, civic participation, worker rights, police accountability and anti-LGBT bias
  - Design and deliver legal literacy trainings to community members on a range of human rights issues
  - Provide legal support to community members filing pro se complaints at NYC administrative bodies
  - Develop a legal strategy to utilize the NYC Human Rights Commission to protect rights of community members through the U Visa certification process
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**The Stern Center for Business and Human Rights at the NYU Stern School of Business**

The Stern Center for Business and Human Rights at the NYU Stern School of Business challenges and empowers companies to make practical progress on human rights. It is the first human rights center at a business school. The Center takes a sector-by-sector approach working with business leaders and other stakeholders to develop clear industry human rights standards and metrics. Current projects include labor and factor safety issues in apparel supply chains, the flow of migrant workers from South Asia to the Gulf in the construction industry, examining the role of companies in the proliferation of extremist content and political propaganda online, and advocating for performance based metrics evaluating human rights in global supply chains. The 2018 fellow would support these cutting-edge initiatives under the supervision of the Center’s Director and Institute Advisory Board Member, Mike Posner and newly appointed Deputy Director, Paul Barrett.

*Sample Fellow Work:*

- Conduct research and gather information for the Center’s reports and industry assessments, including best practices in multi-stakeholder initiatives
- Engage in cutting-edge research on the intersection between corporations, governments and civil society on human rights issues

- Assist in the convening of stakeholder engagements and advocating for implementation of the Center's recommendations