

2017-2018 Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellowship

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellowship will provide 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 [Namati](#), [the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), and NYU's [U.S.-Asia Law Institute](#) beginning in September 2017.

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following materials **by Friday, November 4, 2016**:

- 1) **a short personal statement** (500 words maximum) describing the applicant's relevant experience, interest in the work of the organization(s), 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.**

Application Deadlines and Instructions

Applications are due by Friday, November 4, 2016, to be considered for a fellowship beginning in the fall of 2017. There is no advantage to applying early. Applicants are encouraged to apply to as many of the three organizations that interest them. Finalists will be notified on or about November 11, 2016, and interviews will be conducted by a selection panel during the week of November 14, 2016. Applicants should also be available for screening interviews with host organizations in the weeks that follow. Once offers are made, we will ask applicants 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. If necessary, recommenders are permitted to email letters directly to this email address.

Application letters should include the following address in the header:

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.

Participating Organizations

Below are descriptions of this year's organizations and fellowship projects.

Namati is building a robust, evidence-based global movement for legal empowerment. Namati works in three ways:

- 1) **Grassroots Innovation** - in which Namati and its partners have deployed grassroots advocates to work with over 40,000 clients in eight countries to take on some of the greatest challenges of our times: protecting community lands, enforcing environmental law, and securing basic rights to healthcare and citizenship;
- 2) **Research and Advocacy** - in which Namati tracks data on every case and uses that information to advocate for systemic changes, like better policies for land governance in Liberia, environmental regulation in India, and healthcare delivery in Mozambique; and
- 3) **Convening of a Global Legal Empowerment Network** in which a network of over 800 groups from 150 countries learn from one another to bring justice to communities in every part of the world.

Namati was recently recognized with the prestigious Skoll Award in 2016.

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellow will be based in Namati's Washington D.C. office, and work alongside the CEO and the Global Programs team to generate comparative learning across Namati, and to build high level insights about best practices in legal empowerment. Their responsibilities will include:

- Assisting the CEO and Global Programs team with handling tough cases, identifying and documenting innovation, and assessing new opportunities;
 - Supporting Namati leadership members in researching and writing publications, including academic articles, columns in the popular press, and resources for practitioners;
 - Providing other support to the Global Programs team in line with priority projects for the organization.
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The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum inspires citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. The Museum's work on genocide and related crimes against humanity is conducted by the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. Its goal is to make the prevention of genocide a core foreign policy priority for leaders around the world through a multipronged program of research, education, and public outreach. The Center works to equip decision makers, starting with officials in the United States but also extending to other governments, with the knowledge, tools, and institutional support required to prevent—or, if necessary, halt—genocide and related crimes against humanity.

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellow, working alongside attorneys and advocacy specialists, will work closely on the Center's justice initiative which seeks to address mass atrocities through accountability mechanisms. Their responsibilities will include:

- Drafting briefing memos for senior fellows on prevention of genocide in advance of international convening;
- Conducting legal research on issues such as genocide and crimes against humanity;
- Drafting op-ed pieces and blogs;
- Reviewing human rights reports to gain knowledge on political considerations essential to advocating within the UN bodies and structures.

The U.S.-Asia Law Institute (USALI) of NYU Law seeks to promote the rule of law and human rights in Asia, including both domestic and international law. The Institute serves as a resource and partner to various Asian countries as they develop their legal systems. Under the direction of Jerome Cohen and Ira Belkin, USALI is one of America's preeminent research centers for the study of law in Mainland China and Taiwan and works to improve popular, professional and scholarly understanding at home and abroad through its publications and exchanges concerning comparative and international law. Current program areas include:

- 1) Professional Responsibility for Chinese Criminal Defense Lawyers, a project which catalyzes exchange with Chinese scholars and legal professionals on the question of the professional ethics obligations of lawyers, especially criminal defense lawyers; and
- 2) Building Sustainable Communities of Public Interest Lawyers to Protect the Rights of Vulnerable Groups, a project which seeks to build and strengthen sustainable communities of public interest advocates focused on using the law to solve specific social problems relating to land rights, labor rights, and the right to be free from discrimination in employment based on gender, disability, and sexual orientation.

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellow will fully participate in the law reform projects in China which cover human rights, criminal justice, and public interest law as it relates to labor, anti-discrimination, property, and the environment. Their responsibilities include:

- Conducting groundbreaking research to support the Institute's program areas;
- Arranging high level exchanges between U.S., Chinese and other international experts;

- Working closely with preeminent visiting scholars from Asia on joint projects between USALI and the scholars;
- Analyzing Chinese laws and legal systems.

Fluency in English and an Asian language, preferably Chinese, is highly preferred but not required.