

2016-2017 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 Human Rights First, NYU's Global Justice Clinic and Just Security beginning in September 2016. In future years, fellows will have the opportunity to work with additional organizations, including the Center for Business and Human Rights and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following materials **by Friday, November 6, 2015**:

- 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 or three 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 6, 2015, to be considered for a fellowship beginning in the fall of 2016. There is no advantage to applying early. Applicants are encouraged to apply to as many of the three organizations that interest them.

Note: separate personal statements may be submitted by candidates applying to more than one organization.

Submit all materials by e-mail to masiyiwa@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 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.

The **Global Justice Clinic** at NYU School of Law provides high quality, professional human rights lawyering services to individual clients and non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, partnering with groups based in the United States and abroad, as well as undertaking its own projects where independence is a strategic benefit. Serving as legal advisers, counsel, or advocacy partners, Clinic students work side-by-side with human rights activists from around the world. Working on cases and projects that involve cross-border human rights violations, the deleterious impacts of extraterritorial activities by state and non-state actors, and emerging problems that require close collaboration between actors at the local and international levels, students engage in human rights advocacy in domestic and international settings.

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellow will work as a staff attorney/research fellow with the Clinic. The incumbent will spend about half of his/her time working on Global Justice Clinic cases and projects and half of his/her time on project development and management. This is not a classroom teaching position, though students will play a role in reviewing student work product. The Fellow will work closely with Clinic Director Professor Margaret Satterthwaite, and will enjoy mentorship in human rights lawyering, program management, and applied research. S/he will also work closely with relevant administrators, student research assistants, and interns. The Fellow may have a role representing GJC and the Institute at public events.

Evidence of the following will be especially helpful:

- Working knowledge or fluency in a language other than English
- In-depth knowledge of international human rights law, mechanisms, and debates
- Desire to puzzle through difficult strategic, ethical, and/or legal challenges related to human rights, social justice, or inequality
- Ability to conduct multifaceted work with multi-national and/or multi-lingual teams
- Capacity to work in high-pressure, low-resource, time-stressed environments
- Aptitude for developing and implementing research projects
- Ability to effectively work with interns and administrative personnel
- Outstanding research and writing skills
- Exceptional organizational and project management abilities
- Desire to develop a career devoted to human rights or social justice—as a practicing lawyer or advocate or as a clinical scholar
- Plans to take the New York Bar exam during summer 2016

Human Rights First is an advocacy and action organization challenging the United States to be a global leader on international human rights. Although the organization has not yet identified its core priority areas of work for 2016, we anticipate that the 2016-2017 Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellow will support the work of the organization in one of the following priority areas: **combating human trafficking, countering extremism in Europe, the protection and rights of refugees, LGBT rights, or national security policy impacting human rights.**

Depending on the area of work, the major duties and responsibilities will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Conduct legal research and analysis on policy that impacts human rights – includes desk research, interviews, and fact finding trips, designed to help achieve the organization's advocacy objectives
- Analyze laws, policies and practices of the U.S. and other governments as well as inter-governmental organizations affecting human rights, and draft specific and practical recommendations to improve the promotion and protection of rights
- Draft policy or advocacy documents, including reports, web site content, fact sheets, issue briefs, and letters
- Provide advocacy support by researching advocacy targets, analyzing current or proposed legislation and regulations, and attending coalition meetings, events, and congressional hearings on behalf of Human Rights First
- Develop and regularly update U.S. policy recommendations and policy briefs on relevant issues, as assigned, with support from the Government Advocacy Department
- Participate in and generate ideas for Human Rights First events, including the Annual Summit
- Support campaigns or other initiatives to achieve objectives, as assigned

Applicants should specify if they have a particular area of interest and why.

Launched in 2013, **Just Security** has established itself as a leading digital outlet for ideas that shape policy on the most important security and human rights issues in the world.

Our editorial board and roster of guest authors are made up of voices with high-level government experience, prominent academics, outstanding civil society attorneys, and thought leaders from across the globe. Since its launch, Just Security has become a must read among national security policymakers in Washington, where it helps drive the conversation from Capitol Hill and the White House to the State Department and the Pentagon.

The Masiyiwa-Bernstein Fellow will have the opportunity to help *Just Security* build on its first two years of success and work with our expert authors to research and produce articles for the site. Fellows will also have the chance to publish their own work on topics they plan to center their careers on.

A Fellow can expect to do everything from providing editorial feedback on articles to helping enhance the website by curating its static content and recurring features, as well as helping produce multimedia content. The Fellow will also assist with the planning and execution of events.

In addition to assisting *Just Security*'s editorial board and staff, Fellows will be encouraged to conduct their own research that may become articles on topics where they have expertise. They will receive significant feedback on their work from our roster of top-level legal experts. *Just Security*'s previous fellows, for example, have covered everything from proposed authorizations for military force against the Islamic State, to US compliance with the Convention Against Torture, to surveillance reform.

Just Security is a startup-like outlet with the backing of New York University School of Law and leading philanthropic foundations. We're a relatively small team so flexibility, a strong interest in national security, and a collegial yet entrepreneurial attitude are critical to success in this position.

This is a tremendous opportunity for an applicant with a serious desire to be part of an organization that uses digital media to shape law and policy at the intersection of national security, civil liberties, human rights, and international law.