

## **What is the Helaine Barnett<sup>1</sup> Fellowship at the Legal Services Corporation and how do I apply?**

The New York University (NYU) School of Law is excited to announce the continuation of the Helaine Barnett Summer Fellowship Program for a law student at the NYU School of Law to work with the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) at its office in Washington, DC.

LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal assistance for the nation's poor. Established by Congress in 1974 and funded by Congress each year, LSC operates as a private, non-profit organization to promote equal access to justice and to ensure the provision of high quality legal assistance to low-income Americans.

The Fellow will receive \$8,500 for a 10-week internship at LSC. The Fellow will participate in two visits to LSC funded programs: a program quality visit and a compliance visit. This will include working on the preparation for each visit, accompanying LSC teams on the visit and working on the report of the visit. The Fellow will also work in the Office of Legal Affairs doing research and writing assignments, which could include proposed rule-making, and work in the Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs accompanying LSC staff on visits with Congressional staff in support of LSC's appropriation. The Fellow will also have a two-week rotation to provide direct legal services at the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, the LSC funded legal services program in Washington D.C. The specific assignments will be tailored to the individual strengths and interests of the Fellow.

The purpose of the Fellowship is to provide the selected student with an understanding of the need to establish equal access to justice through exposure to the work of LSC, the primary federal funder for civil legal services. The Fellowship also provides opportunities to understand LSC's role of oversight and its importance in ensuring the delivery of high quality legal services to eligible clients, as well as exposure to policy-making at the national level. An additional purpose of the Fellowship is to mentor qualified and committed law students from NYU School of Law who are interested in pursuing a career in civil legal services to the poor.

For additional information about the experience of prior Helaine Barnett Fellows, please see the PILC Intern Reports available [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Helaine M. Barnett, a 1964 graduate of the NYU Law School, was appointed President of the Legal Services Corporation in January 2004 and retired after six years. Under Barnett's leadership, among her accomplishments, LSC enhanced the quality of legal services provided by LSC programs, revised its Performance Criteria, issued the groundbreaking Justice Gap Report documenting the unmet civil legal needs of low-income Americans and instituted a Pilot Loan Repayment Assistance Program. Before joining LSC, Barnett devoted her entire 37-year professional career to providing legal services to the indigent with The Legal Aid Society in New York City and headed the Society's multi-office Civil Division from 1994 until 2003. Since retiring as President of LSC, she has taught a seminar at NYU Law School on Access to the Civil Justice System and by appointment of the Chief Judge of the State of New York is Chair of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice.

First and second year law students are eligible to apply. Applications are due on **Sunday, January 12, 2020**. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and list of three references to Helaine Barnett at [helainebarnett@aol.com](mailto:helainebarnett@aol.com).