

Support the Santa Clara Law Post-Bar Public Defender Fellowship Program

Overview

In order to support Santa Clara Law graduates pursuing careers in criminal defense and to strengthen our law school's commitment to public service, we have created the Post-Bar Public Defender Fellowship Program. This initiative will provide financial support to recent graduates who have secured a post-bar law clerk position with a public defender's office. Additionally, the fellowship will bridge the ever-growing financial gap between bar study and full-time employment, enabling more graduates to enter and remain in public defense careers.

Purpose

Public defenders' offices across the country depend on aspiring attorneys who are committed to serving marginalized and underrepresented individuals. However, the period between law school graduation and bar licensure can be financially challenging, especially for students entering public interest careers where early compensation may be limited or delayed.

Many of our graduates receive offers for post-bar clerkships with public defenders' offices, competitive opportunities that often lead to staff attorney positions. Yet, these clerkships frequently offer modest or no compensation or begin after bar results, creating a significant financial barrier for students who want to pursue careers in public defense.

This fellowship will allow our talented graduates to accept these opportunities without being deterred by undue financial hardship.

Your Impact: Menu of Giving Options

ANNUAL CASH GIFTS (IMMEDIATE IMPACT)		ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP (PERPETUAL SUPPORT)	
<u>GIFT AMOUNT</u>	<u>IMPACT</u>	<u>GIFT AMOUNT</u>	<u>IMPACT</u>
\$10,000	One student per year	\$225,000	One student in perpetuity
\$20,000	Two students per year	\$450,000	Two students in perpetuity

Award Amount: \$10,000 per fellow

Duration: 12 weeks



Santa Clara
School of Law

Student Highlight



“My name is Danielle Caballero, and I am a third year at Santa Clara Law. Throughout my law school career, I have interned at a public defense office, and this fortified my life-long desire to be an advocate for my community. I came into law school with the goal of becoming a public defender, and I am saddened that, as my law school journey comes to an end, the post-bar situation for students seeking public defense has taken a hit in funding. Being able to receive funding during my post-bar would help alleviate the financial toll that an unpaid position will cause. I am from Sonoma County and will be relocating to Santa Clara County for work. The relocation and the law school costs will have a significant financial impact, and I will need to find funding to pay for my living necessities.”

Eligibility

Student Eligibility	Number of Fellowships: 2
<p>All graduating students who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have secured a post-bar law clerk or comparable pre-licensure position with a public defender’s office, and 2. Intend to pursue a career in criminal defense or public interest law 	<p>Selection Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications reviewed by a faculty/staff committee; criteria include commitment to public defense, demonstrated need, and impact potential.
<p>Your Support Will</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove financial barriers for graduates entering public defense. • Increase the number of well-trained, passionate advocates serving low-income communities. • Strengthen relationships between the law school and public defenders’ offices. • Support diversity, equity, and justice within the criminal legal system. • Elevate the law school’s profile as an institution committed to public service and systemic change. 	



**Santa Clara
School of Law**

Give Now

Scan the QR code to donate to the Post-Bar Public Defender Fellowship or click [here](#).

If you would like to give to the Post-Bar Public Defender Fellowship by check, please note "Post-Bar Public Defender Fellowship" on the memo line and mail the check to the following address:

Law Advancement, Alumni Relations, and Communications
Santa Clara University School of Law
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053

For More Information Please Contact:

Cheryl Caligaris
Assistant Dean for Advancement
ccaligaris2@scu.edu
408.554.5496



Santa Clara
School of Law