



**NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS
2017-18 WESTWOOD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Fellowship Description

Since 1964, Neighborhood Legal Services Program for the District of Columbia (“NLSP”) has provided free legal services in civil cases to indigent residents of the District of Columbia. The law firm of Covington & Burling LLP (“Covington”) funds annual Fellowships for graduates of Washington, D.C. law schools and the University of Maryland’s School of Law to work as NLSP staff attorneys. The Westwood Fellowship Program was established and named in honor of the Firm’s former partner, Howard Westwood, who helped found and preserve NLSP and legal services programs nationally. Each graduate awarded a Westwood Fellowship must commit to serve as an NLSP staff attorney for at least one year, with an option to apply for renewal of the Fellowship at the end of the first year. Covington provides funding through NLSP to cover salaries and other benefits for Fellowship recipients, as described below.

All third-year students attending accredited law schools in the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland’s School of Law, as well as lawyers who have received a J.D. degree from those schools within the preceding two years are eligible to apply for this Fellowship. The criteria for selection as a Westwood Fellow include: (1) a commitment to serving the indigent; (2) strong academic performance; (3) clinical or other relevant experience; and (4) an interest in practicing in the District of Columbia.

Reasons For The Program

The Fellowship expands Covington’s long-standing relationship with NLSP. In 1969, Covington decided to make a formal commitment to help meet the enormous unmet need for civil legal assistance among DC’s poor by sending two of its lawyers and support staff members to work at NLSP’s neighborhood offices on a full-time basis for six-month shifts. Started in 1991, The Westwood Fellowship Program adds another dimension to that 48 year relationship. It helps ameliorate a shortage of funding and staff for NLSP, and offers an opportunity for local law school graduates to dedicate their talents and energies to providing legal services to the poor.

Applicant Qualifications

This coming year, NLSP will have an opening for one Westwood Fellow, who will start in the fall of 2017. All third-year students at the accredited law schools in the District of Columbia (American, Catholic, UDC’s David A. Clarke School of Law, George Washington, Georgetown and Howard) and the University of Maryland’s School of Law are eligible to apply for this Fellowship. Lawyers who have graduated from those schools within the preceding two years are also eligible. Recipients of a Westwood Fellowship will be eligible to reapply for a second year. Renewal eligibility is conditional upon membership in a State Bar and at least a pending application to the DC Bar.



Salary and Benefits

Westwood Fellows are currently paid \$45,500 for law school graduates. They receive all employment benefits available to NLSP staff attorneys. The Fellowship will reimburse Fellows for expenses incurred in taking the bar examination and a DC bar review course in preparation for the bar examination. Reimbursement is not retroactive and is not available to candidates who are already licensed in any jurisdiction. Recipients of the Westwood Fellowships are employees of NLSP, not Covington.

How to Apply

Those interested in applying for a Covington & Burling LLP Westwood Fellowship should complete the application form and email it to the address indicated on the form. **Applications must be e-mailed by 5:00 pm on March 3, 2017.** Copies of the application form may be obtained from the Career Development Office at the above-listed law schools, as well as from NLSP's website: www.nlsp.org.

Primary selection criteria include:

1. The applicant's commitment to serving the poor;
2. The applicant's academic record;
3. Any prior experience the applicant may have in public service work, including participation in a law school clinical program;
4. The applicant's interest in practicing law in the District of Columbia; and
5. Up to three letters of recommendation from law school professors, judges, practicing lawyers or others in a position to comment on the applicant's aptitude for a position at NLSP; and
6. A relevant and substantive writing sample of the applicant's original work product of no more than 5 pages in length.

Renewal of the Fellowship for a second year will be based on the Fellow's job performance.

Any questions concerning the Westwood Fellowship Program should be directed to Frank Natale, NLSP Director of Litigation and Advocacy, by phone or email.

Application Contact Information

Frank Natale, Director of Litigation and Advocacy

Email: fnatale@nlsp.org **Phone:** 202-832-NLSP (6577)

Fax: 202-832-1984



- Please Attach:**
- (1) A Brief (one page or less) Statement indicating Why You Are Applying for the Westwood Fellowship
 - (2) A Copy of Your Résumé
 - (3) A Copy of Your Law School Transcript (all years)
 - (4) No More Than Three Letters of Recommendation
 - (5) Writing Sample (10-page max.)

Please send your application to:

Frank Natale, Director of Litigation and Advocacy
FNatale@nlsp.org
Neighborhood Legal Services Program
680 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002