



## Fair and Just Prosecution Summer Fellows Program

### *An Opportunity to Inspire the Next Generation of Reform-Minded Prosecutors*

#### *What Is the Fair and Just Prosecution Summer Fellows Program?*

Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP), a nonprofit bringing together and supporting elected reform-minded prosecutors committed to promoting a fairer and more equitable justice system, is looking for passionate students to participate in its **Summer Fellows Program**. The program places rising 2L and 3L students in summer internship positions in the offices of some of the most inspiring elected prosecutors across the country.

Summer Fellows, who will be part of a diverse cohort of accomplished law students interested in criminal justice reform, will have a unique opportunity to receive hands-on experience working on criminal cases and other assignments typical of internships in prosecutor's offices, while also undertaking a policy reform project on an issue of interest to that office. Participating students, who will receive a generous summer stipend, will benefit from access to the resources, network, and activities of FJP, including engagement with leading thinkers and advocates nationwide through virtual programming calls throughout the summer.

**Participating offices** may include (but are not limited to)<sup>1</sup>:

- Albemarle County (VA) Commonwealth's Attorney
- Boulder County (CO) District Attorney
- Chittenden County (VT) State's Attorney
- Columbia County (NY) District Attorney
- Dallas County (TX) District Attorney
- DeKalb County (GA) District Attorney
- Durham County (NC) District Attorney
- Fairfax County (VA) Commonwealth's Attorney
- Hennepin County (MN) County Attorney
- King County (WA) Prosecuting Attorney
- Manhattan (NY) District Attorney
- Norfolk (VA) Commonwealth's Attorney
- Philadelphia (PA) District Attorney
- Pima County (AZ) County Attorney
- Polk County (IA) District Attorney
- Ramsey County (MN) County Attorney
- Shelby County (TN) District Attorney
- Washington, D.C. Attorney General
- Washtenaw County (MI) Prosecuting Attorney
- Winnebago County (WI) District Attorney

#### *An Opportune Moment*

Great strides have been made over the past few years in promoting criminal justice reforms that recognize that prior "tough on crime" and incarceration-driven practices don't produce safer or healthier communities. [New thinking](#) has started to permeate the justice system and has prompted proactive and prevention-oriented strategies. Against that backdrop, [a new generation](#) of reform-minded state and local elected prosecutors has come into office who are committed to changing their office culture and promoting a less punitive approach to addressing crime. Elected DAs in geographic areas ranging from Seattle, Manhattan, and Philadelphia, to smaller rural communities, are pushing back against the "law and order/tough on crime" rhetoric of past decades and elevating a national conversation around the importance of a fair, equitable, and right-sized justice system. FJP brings together these reform-minded and innovative elected prosecutors as part of a network of leaders committed to promoting a justice system grounded in fairness, equity, compassion, and fiscal responsibility.

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<sup>1</sup> The following list of offices is not exhaustive, please reach out to us if you have a question regarding a jurisdiction/geographical area where you are interested in working.

### *The Benefits of the FJP Summer Fellows Program*

**The FJP Summer Fellows Program aims to redefine what it means to be a prosecutor.** The Program is designed for students interested in exploring careers in criminal justice reform who have a passion for justice and fairness; who can bring to a prosecutor's office greater diversity of thought, background, and experience; who recognize the central role that the prosecutor has in shaping our criminal justice priorities; and who are interested in influencing this new thinking. Participating students will work in offices led by reform-minded prosecutors, where there exist opportunities to affect long-term change. Summer Fellows will also receive a \$5,000 stipend to provide financial support during the summer.

### *What Will an FJP Summer Fellow Do?*

FJP Summer Fellows will participate in a variety of activities during their placements, including assisting with intake and trial preparation, sitting in on witness interviews, assisting with discovery and filings, conducting legal research and writing, and conferencing with supervisors on cases, depending on the needs of the office. Eligible students in certain offices may argue motions in court and handle evidentiary hearings. Summer Fellows will regularly engage with one another and with elected leaders in the FJP network to discuss critical issues in criminal justice reform and will also undertake a policy reform project during their summer. Potential areas of focus for policy reform projects include but are not limited to:

- The importance of conviction integrity and sentencing review, transparency, and accountability;
- Fortifying public trust and enhancing community outreach and engagement;
- Applying a harm reduction lens to drug policy;
- Addressing police misconduct and racial injustice;
- Investing in reentry approaches and ameliorating the collateral consequences of convictions;
- Developing data-driven practices and changing how success is measured in prosecutors' offices; and
- Rethinking the application of the death penalty and juvenile life without parole sentencing.

### *District Attorney / Public Defender or Advocacy Organization Summer Split*

FJP is pleased to offer interested students the opportunity to pursue a split summer, in which they may spend half the summer in a prosecutor's office through FJP and the other half at a public defender's (PD) office, advocacy organization, or other similar placement on their own initiative. Through this format, students may gain invaluable experience working with other stakeholders in the criminal legal system. Interested students should note that not every DA's office that FJP works with is open to a split summer. Additionally, FJP does not typically assist in placing students in the PD offices or advocacy organizations, so students interested in either of these options are encouraged to apply to PD offices and/or advocacy organizations in parallel with the FJP process. Students must commit a minimum of ten weeks in order to split their summer.

### *How Do I Apply?*

To apply submit a resume; a cover letter describing your interest in criminal justice reform, how you learned about the program, any geographic or office preferences (ideally, providing multiple options), and whether you are interested in the split opportunity; a law school transcript (1Ls without fall grades may instead submit an undergraduate transcript); and a brief (5 to 10 page) writing sample to

[SummerFellows@fairandjustprosecution.org](mailto:SummerFellows@fairandjustprosecution.org). Please inform us of any time exigencies when/if they arise.

**Applications from 2Ls will be considered on a rolling basis, with interested students ideally applying by December 19, 2025. Interested 1L students should ideally apply by January 23, 2026.**

***FJP strongly values diversity, and students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply, especially those with direct experience with the criminal legal system.***