

# Project-Based Fellowships Check-in & Tips

August 6, 2025

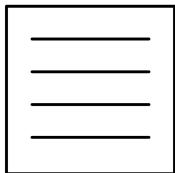
# We Will Cover...

1. Alumni Introductions!
2. Finalizing a Host
3. General Tips when applying for Project-Based Fellowships
4. Skadden, EJW, and Justice Catalyst Timeline & Tips
5. Other Fellowship Opportunities
6. Q & A with Alums

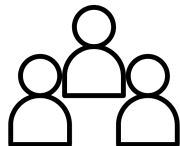
# Alumni Panel

- ★ Tori Larett, Class of 2019 (EJW 2019-2021)
- ★ Mia Stange, Class of 2024 (Skadden 2024-2026)

# General Application Tips



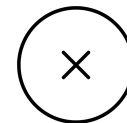
Craft a project **in partnership with your host**, utilizing their expertise and knowledge.



Have a **variety of people review your written proposal** for substantive and stylistic feedback.



Send your written proposal to **CDO for feedback**.  
(Send materials to CDO by Friday August 22 at noon!)



Before submitting, make sure your proposal is **completely error-free** from typos and grammar mistakes.



# Finalizing a Host

- Look for postings from orgs on b-Line and PSJD.org.
- Look at the list of organizations that have hosted fellowships in the past.
- If the org hasn't already posted for fellowship applications, GO AHEAD - try to schedule one-on-one meetings directly with attorneys working at those organizations to discuss possibility of partnering on a fellowship!
- Use existing contacts to connect with orgs. Your strongest network will be pre-existing contacts (clinic professors, research professors, previous supervisors, etc.).

# Skadden Timeline

- **September 19, 2025: Written application due.**
- **September:** Applicants notified if selected for interview
- **Late Sept - mid Oct:** Interviews will be conducted in person in the following cities: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, **Palo Alto**, and Washington DC.
- **End of Oct:** You will be notified if you are selected as a finalist.
- **November:** Final decisions made.

# Skadden Tips

- For Skadden, the project is first and foremost **about the clients**. Explain how your project will make a **significant impact on your clients' lives**. Skadden says they do not fund “policy first projects” although policy can be a part of a successful project.
- Work **must require a JD** and meet a compelling legal need.
- Host organizations must also submit a **host commitment letter** (which has unlimited word count!). Can use commitment letter to offer more context to your project, e.g., significance of your project, how it fits within org's work & broader mission, who will be supervising you, etc. Host org capacity and alignment matter!
- And if you haven't already - schedule a call with Interim Director Susan Butler Plum ([susan.plum@skadden.com](mailto:susan.plum@skadden.com))!

# Equal Justice Works Timeline

- **September 18, 2025: Written application due.**
- **Oct 2025:** EJW alumni review and score proposals.
- **Nov 2025 - April 2026:** Candidates picked to be interviewed and awarded fellowship on rolling basis.
- **April 2026:** final decisions are completed.

# Equal Justice Works Tips

- Don't neglect the **one-sentence project description** tagline – concisely describe what you hope to accomplish. Elevator pitch it!
- **Statement of need** - The key is to paint a picture of the particular problem in the specific community you wish to serve.
- Your **personal statement** should be as personal as you can make it - not just "I have skills," but "I am the right person to do this work from a personal understanding."

# Justice Catalyst - Quick Overview

- What is it?
  - One-year, potentially renewable, project-based fellowship.
  - More open to new organizations and really **creative, forward-thinking approaches** to address social problems.
  - Focus on “innovative, systemic **theory of social change**”
- Timeline
  - Prospectus (max 500 words): **Submissions open Sept. 1-30**
    - “Optional but highly recommended”
  - **Application Deadline: Dec. 1**
  - Final Decisions: March 2026
- NOTE: Justice Catalyst also runs the Jonathan W. Cuneo Cosal fellowship focused on plaintiff-side antitrust litigation.

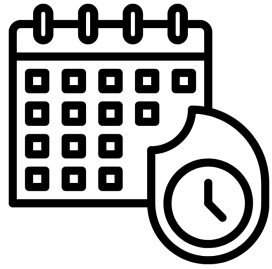
# Other Fellowship Opportunities

## Don't Forget These! And many others!

- Internally Funded Fellowships:
  - California Rural Legal Assistance - Rural Justice Fellowship
  - Social Justice and Impact Litigation Fellowship – Santa Clara County Counsel's Office
- Practice Area Fellowships
  - Immigrant Justice Corps (immigration)
  - Soros Justice Fellowships (criminal justice)
- Other externally funded fellowships
  - Berkeley Law Foundation
  - Columbia JD Pathways
- International Fellowships
  - Fulbright
  - International Court of Justice (ICJ) Fellowship

# Upcoming informational webinars

- EJW
  - In-depth information about starting your application and the application process- webinar recordings online
  - **August 14, 1 pm PT/4 pm ET:** 2026 Design Your Own Fellowships Application: Office Hours Round Two
- Justice Catalyst
  - **August 7, 9:30 am PT/12:30 pm ET:** webinar info session about the Justice Catalyst fellowship application process
- Skadden
  - None currently scheduled, but you are encouraged to reach out directly as we've mentioned



Send your written application materials to CDO for review by August 22 at 12 pm noon (returned by August 29).



# Q & A with our Alumni

★ **Tori Larett, Class of 2019 (EJW 2019-2021)**

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

★ **Mia Stange, Class of 2024 (Skadden 2024-2026)**

Brooklyn Defender Services (Immigration Unit)