

**FALL 2016 SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY  
NOTICE TO LAW STUDENTS LAW CLERKS  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION  
Disability Rights Program, SF**

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Whether it's ending mass incarceration, achieving full equality for the LGBT community, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age, or preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach. With more than a million members, activists, and supporters, the ACLU is a nationwide organization that fights tirelessly in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C., for the principle that every individual's rights must be protected equally under the law, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability or national origin.

The **Disability Rights Program in the Equality Center** of the ACLU's National Office in New York City and San Francisco seeks applicants for **2016 Legal Fellows** (with application deadlines in the Fall of 2015).

**OVERVIEW:**

The ACLU has a long history of defending the rights of people with disabilities. It played a major role in securing passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, has battled discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS, and has stood up for the voting rights of persons with disabilities in the ongoing debate over electoral reform. It has fought to obtain adequate health care and access to services for prisoners with disabilities across the country and is now addressing fundamental civil rights issues in education, voting, criminal justice, and guardianship.

**FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW:**

The Disability Rights Program seeks members of the Class of 2016, current judicial law clerks, or other eligible applicants to sponsor for fellowships. The ACLU has hosted fellows funded by Skadden, Equal Justice Works, Open Society Foundations, and the Ford Foundation as well as other organizations and schools.

**Legal Fellows** work full-time with the staff of the Disability Rights Program. While we are interested in any project or proposal that addresses core civil liberties of people with disabilities, we are particularly interested in potential fellows with interest and experience in the following civil rights issues of concern for persons with disabilities: opposing unnecessary guardianship; ending unnecessary physical restraint and seclusion in schools; advancing the needs and rights of individuals involved with the criminal justice system; and dismantling barriers to voting.

## **DESIRED EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Graduation from an ABA-accredited law school prior to starting the fellowship.
- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Ability to work independently and manage a varied and demanding workload.
- Demonstrated commitment to civil rights and disability rights issues.
- Interest in and experience with legislative and advocacy approaches to social change a plus.
- Knowledge of disability rights laws and personal experience with disability preferred.

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

Individuals interested in receiving sponsorship from the Disability Rights Program of the ACLU should send a letter of interest describing potential projects, a resume, an unofficial transcript, the names and phone numbers of 2 – 3 legal references and a legal writing sample (no more than five pages) to:

[mazhar@aclu.org](mailto:mazhar@aclu.org) –

Please Reference: ***2016 Legal Fellowship – Equality Center- Disability in the subject line***

or mail to:

**American Civil Liberties Union**  
***RE: 2016 Legal Fellowship – Equality Center- Disability***  
39 Drumm Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

*Please indicate in your cover letter where you learned of this opportunity.*

**Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Applications will be accepted until August 10th.** However, we will review applications as they arrive, conduct regular interviews, and decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

This job description provides a general but not comprehensive list of the essential responsibilities and qualifications required. It does not represent a contract of employment. The ACLU reserves the right to change the description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.

**The ACLU is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. The ACLU encourages applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, and veteran status.**

**The ACLU undertakes affirmative action strategies in its recruitment and employment efforts to assure that persons with disabilities have full opportunities for employment in all positions.**

**We encourage applicants with disabilities who may need accommodations in the application process to contact: [hrjobsincl@aclu.org](mailto:hrjobsincl@aclu.org). Correspondence sent to this email address that is not related to requests for accommodations will not be reviewed. Applicants should follow the instructions above regarding how to apply.**

The ACLU comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are national organizations with the same overall mission, and share office space and employees. The ACLU has two separate corporate entities in order to do a broad range of work to protect civil liberties. This job posting refers collectively to the two organizations under the name “ACLU.”