

National Juvenile Defender Center Gault Fellowship Application 2016

Third year law students and recent law school graduates are invited to apply for a two-year juvenile indigent defense fellowship at National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) in Washington, D.C. starting in September 2016.

The Gault Fellowship is named for Gerald Gault, the juvenile petitioner in the seminal U.S. Supreme Court case *In re Gault*. The *Gault* decision extended to juveniles accused of crimes many of the same due process protections afforded adults—including the right to counsel. Mr. Gault is still active in the juvenile justice community and serves as an honorary board member of NJDC.

NJDC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. We provide support to public defenders, appointed counsel, law school clinical programs, and non-profit law centers to ensure quality representation in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas. NJDC also offers a wide range of integrated services to juvenile defenders, including training, technical assistance, advocacy, networking, collaboration, capacity building, and coordination. NJDC was created in the late '90s to respond to the critical need to build the capacity of the juvenile defense bar and to improve access to counsel and quality of representation for children in the justice system. NJDC gives juvenile defense attorneys a permanent and enhanced capacity to address practice issues, improve advocacy skills, build partnerships, exchange information, and participate in the national debate over juvenile crime.

Position Description: The Gault Fellow will perform extensive legal work for NJDC and assist with the provision of training and technical assistance to the juvenile defense community. The Fellow will work closely with juvenile defense attorneys nationwide, as well as with law schools, legal clinics, and nonprofit law centers to improve the access to counsel and quality of representation for all children. NJDC relies on the Gault Fellow as the go-to person for on-demand research. The Fellow will also collaborate in long-term projects to develop legal and policy initiative around a broad range of juvenile defense issues. This may include writing and research for reports, articles, issue briefs, and fact sheets to inform the field. The Fellow may also assist in the research, writing, and crafting of *amicus* briefs, engage in public speaking, or participate in juvenile defender training as needed. The Fellow is expected to proactively initiate projects to improve the provision of justice in the juvenile delinquency system. The Gault Fellow is also responsible for maintaining NJDC's social media/web presence and ensuring effective communication of key legal and policy developments to the field. This is a two-year internal fellowship; it is not a grant- or project-based fellowship and the hired candidate will be expected to commit to the full two-year term, ending in September 2018.

Qualifications: Applicants must have graduated from law school in 2015 or 2016. Applicants will be judged on the extent to which they possess the vision, drive, and skills required to create and sustain the work that furthers NJDC's mission. NJDC will consider the applicant's

competence, character, and commitment. Applicants must have excellent legal research, writing, analytic, and communication skills. Knowledge of juvenile delinquency law highly preferred, but an interest in juvenile rights, criminal law, and racial and social justice is essential. Applicants should possess a sense of humor, be hard-working, self-motivated, well-organized and have the proven ability to work with a wide range of people.

Salary and Benefits: Fellowship salary of \$45,000 and health benefits package, salary may increase in second year depending on performance and organizational funding.

Application Procedure: Applicants should send (1) a letter of interest, (2) resume, and (3) a one paragraph summary of the case *In re Gault* (no more than 250 words) to inquiries@njdc.info, with the subject line: "**Gault Fellow Application**". Deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2015**. All documents must be in .pdf format. No transcripts or grades, please.

Candidates who are selected for interviews will be notified. No telephone calls, please.

NJDC is an equal opportunity employer and will comply with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status or family responsibilities, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, matriculation or political affiliation, and any other basis protected by federal, state, or local laws.