

In 2002 Hofstra University established an unprecedented fellowship program for students engaged in advocacy on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The program demonstrates Hofstra's commitment to equality and support for LGBT individuals.

Hofstra Law School Fellowship

The Law School's participation in the Hofstra University LGBT fellowship program includes the Fellowship for Advocacy for the Equality of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People. Each year, the Law School awards fellowships to as many as three (3) incoming J.D. students with a history of advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community.

Fellowships are awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community. The fellowship is open to persons of all sexual orientations in recognition of the diversity of individuals who may ally themselves with sexual equality, and underscores the importance of alliances between the LGBT community and the community at large.

Fellowship Program Overview

- A tuition fellowship of up to \$20,000 for each year of law school.
- Up to two \$5,000 summer stipends to cover living expenses during summer externships related to LGBT advocacy.
- A comprehensive course of study devoted to equality, including courses in Sexuality and the Law, Sex Discrimination and Jurisprudence, and an independent study and tutorial designed to address issues of particular concern to the LGBT community.
- Experience in legal advocacy for the LGBT community through the Law School's externship program, which places students with nonprofit organizations, including those devoted to legal advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community.
- Participation in a mentoring program with LeGal, the Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association of Greater New York, representing one of the most diverse legal practice communities in the United States inclusive of LGBT individuals.

Selection Process

Fellowship recipients are selected on the basis of demonstrated academic ability and experience with advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community prior to law school, which may include political activity, aid to LGBT social support networks, participation in events that promote the visibility of LGBT people, and other forms of charitable or philanthropic activity. Consideration will also be given to an applicant's plans for advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community that make use of a law degree.

Applications received by Friday, February 2, 2007, will be given first consideration. Applications submitted after February 2 are encouraged and will be considered throughout the enrollment process. Application materials should be sent to:

Deborah Martin, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management
Hofstra University School of Law
121 Hofstra University, Suite 250
Hempstead, NY 11549-1210
E-mail: lawadmissions@hofstra.edu
www.law.hofstra.edu

Advocacy for the Equality of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People (LGBT) Fellowship Application

Deadline: Friday, February 2, 2007

Name: _____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

A COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST ALSO INCLUDE:

- 1) **Official undergraduate transcript** (The Selection Committee will not accept transcripts submitted through LSDAS.)
- 2) A copy of your **résumé**.
- 3) **Essay**. Please discuss, in no more than three pages, the factors that have most significantly influenced your interest in advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community and any other factors you consider germane to the Selection Committee's consideration of your qualifications for the Fellowship. Please note that your entire admissions application will be submitted to the Selection Committee.
- 4) **Two letters of recommendation** from individuals who can assess your potential for success as an LGBT Scholar (The Selection Committee will not use recommendations submitted as a part of your application to Hofstra Law School.)

Please indicate the names of the individuals who are writing letters of recommendation on your behalf:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Institution/Company: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Institution/Company: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

(Please complete reverse side.)

Certification

I hereby apply for a Fellowship for Advocacy for the Equality of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People from Hofstra University School of Law, and hereby grant permission for the Selection Committee to review any and all materials contained in my admissions file and to contact the previously listed references for any additional information. I certify that all information contained in this application is true and complete, and I understand that it is my responsibility to inform the Law School of any changes to this information.

I understand that the Fellowship is contingent upon matriculation at Hofstra University School of Law. The scholarship is awarded for one year, but is renewable annually based on satisfactory academic performance.

I understand that upon graduation, fellows are expected to use their specialized training to represent the legal interests of the LGBT community for at least three years. If a graduate is unwilling or unable to meet this expectation, he or she has an obligation to reimburse Hofstra for all fellowship support so that these monies can be reinvested in future fellows.

Signature

Date



HOFSTRA
UNIVERSITY™

SCHOOL OF LAW

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The need for law-trained advocates for the LGBT community is substantial:

- Massachusetts recognizes same sex marriage. The Federal Government does not require other states to honor same sex marriages performed in Massachusetts.
- Lesbian and gay families are taxed for health benefits provided to domestic partners, while married heterosexual families are not.
- Discrimination in employment and housing on the basis of sexuality is legal in 33 states and on the basis of gender identity in 42 states. The federal government provides no civil rights protections for LGBT people in employment and housing.
- Six states prohibit gay men, lesbians, or same-sex couples to adopt. Three states prohibit gay and lesbian individuals and/or same-sex couples from serving as foster parents. In many other states LGBT individuals are routinely denied custody and adoption rights.
- Since it began to track hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation bias in 1992, the FBI has consistently ranked anti-gay violence as the third most frequent form of bias-motivated crime.
- 40 states do not have hate crime legislation that include sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Between 1994 and 2005 the U.S. military discharged over 10,000 people as a result of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a number that is more than two full brigades and one-third of the 30,000 new recruits the military claims it needs to fight the war on terrorism.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVOCACY FOR THE EQUALITY OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PEOPLE



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