



JOHN PAUL STEVENS FOUNDATION

Thank you for advancing a legacy of justice!

Mission & Purpose

The John Paul Stevens Foundation seeks to build a more just and equitable society. As a living tribute to Justice John Paul Stevens, the Foundation works to protect and promote democracy and the rule of law, access to justice, and equality by supporting law students, lawyers, and others working in the public interest.

The Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Program provides financial support, professional development, and networking opportunities to law students working in otherwise unpaid summer public interest law internships.

1,250+ FELLOWS

since 1997

73%

working in public interest
and social justice careers

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The Stevens Fellowship allows me to pursue meaningful public interest work and reinforces my commitment to public service. The law can be a powerful tool for justice and I want to dedicate my life to making sure it works for everyone, not just those who can afford it.

- Taylor Russ, 2025 Stevens Fellow
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

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2025 Stevens Fellows

In 2025, with the support of Justice Stevens' former law clerks and other generous donors, the John Paul Stevens Foundation supported 158 Stevens Fellows selected by 38 law schools and 3 nonprofits working on substantive issues that were of great importance to Justice Stevens.

During their summers, the 2025 Stevens Fellows worked at more than 135 different public interest agencies in 25 different states and Washington D.C., collectively doing over 50,000 hours of public interest legal work.

Last year, the Foundation celebrated the selection of the 1,000th Stevens Fellow, a milestone moment in the program's nearly 30-year history. There are now over 1,250 Alumni of the Stevens Fellowship, and 73% of the Fellows who have graduated from law school are working in public interest careers.

MESSAGES FROM 2025 STEVENS FELLOWS

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My brother's experience with the justice system shaped my commitment to criminal defense and wrongful conviction work. The Stevens Fellowship is helping turn that commitment into a career advocating for those who have been wrongfully convicted or face systemic barriers to fair representation.



Ada Cruz
University of Florida Levin College of Law
Northern California Innocence Project

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Jessica Cordeiro
Fordham University School of Law
New York Legal Assistance Group -
LGBTQ Law Project

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Thanks to the Stevens Fellowship, I am able to assist members of the LGBTQ community, an opportunity that was only possible because of the Fellowship. This internship will help me become a better advocate, and future attorney, for my community.

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The Stevens Fellowship makes it possible for me to pursue my passion for social justice and public interest law—work I could not otherwise afford to do. This support allows me to build critical advocacy skills while uplifting marginalized communities, and brings me one step closer to my dream career working on strategic litigation that challenges systemic injustice and drives structural change to advance equity.



Marcella Weiss
Seattle University School of Law
Unemployment Law Project

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