

**Kimball R. and Karen Gatsis Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship**  
**2007 Application Guidelines**

Through the generous gift of Kimball and Karen Anderson, The Chicago Bar Foundation (“CBF”) awards public interest law fellowships to provide loan repayment assistance for outstanding recent law school graduates who are either presently working or who have accepted an offer to work for CBF-funded public interest law organizations. The CBF first awarded the fellowship in 2003. The CBF now awards a single \$50,000 fellowship each year to an individual who demonstrates the following: (1) a commitment to public interest work (2) academic achievement in law school, and (3) outstanding character and integrity.

The CBF awards fellowship funds in ten (10) installments of \$5,000 over five years, contingent upon continued compliance with the terms of the fellowship. Each award is a forgivable loan that the CBF will forgive upon continued compliance with the terms of the fellowship. Under current tax laws, the CBF believes fellowship funds should be tax-free income for the recipient to the maximum extent permitted by law.\*

**Criteria for Eligibility**

Fellowship applicants must have educational debt of at least \$50,000 (a significant portion of which must be law school debt) and must have graduated from law school on or after May 2002, or anticipate graduation in spring 2007. Applicants must currently work for a CBF-funded organization or have accepted an offer to work for a CBF-funded organization. Award recipients must make a five-year commitment to work full-time at a CBF-funded organization beginning with the date of the fellowship award.

**Application Method**

Applicants should submit the following materials for consideration by the selection committee:

- Completed application form including required attachments (see the end of this document)
- Cover letter
- Resume
- Letter or letters of reference (at least one, no more than three)
- Brief essay, no longer than three pages, explaining the applicant’s commitment to public interest law, his or her role at the CBF-funded organization, and the impact of the applicant’s work at that organization. Applicants may also include any information they feel is relevant to the committee’s decision, such as information about the applicant’s financial need or particular circumstances.

**Complete applications are due by May 1, 2007** to: Anderson Fellowship Selection Committee, attn: Dina Merrell, Associate Director, The Chicago Bar Foundation, 321 S. Plymouth Court, Suite 3B, Chicago, IL 60604. **Applicants are encouraged to also submit electronically their completed application form and brief essay by emailing them to [dmerrell@chicagobar.org](mailto:dmerrell@chicagobar.org).**

*\*The CBF intends that the loans issued pursuant to the Fellowship are tax-free to recipients upon their forgiveness by the CBF. We believe in good faith that our forgiveness of loans issued as part of the Fellowship Program will not create taxable income to loan recipients under the Internal Revenue Code based on the exemption in 26 U.S.C. 108(f). However, each recipient ultimately is responsible for determining his or her own federal tax income liability and to make any required disclosures to the IRS and other taxing bodies.*

### **Selection Method**

A selection committee made up of representatives of the Chicago legal community will review complete applications. Applicants should be aware of factors the committee will likely consider when reviewing application materials.

- (1) Commitment to public interest work:
  - Public interest work experience including employment and internships
  - Participation in groups that support public interest activities
  - Pro bono activities and other volunteer experience
- (2) Academic achievement in law school, which may include:
  - Grades and class rank
  - Participation in law review or moot court
  - Academic honors and awards
  - Academic based scholarship awards
- (3) Outstanding character and integrity
  - Qualities observed and noted in letters of reference
  - Special awards or recognition for such qualities

The Selection Committee may choose to grant a limited number of personal interviews. The final award decision will be announced at the CBF's annual Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon held on July 9, 2007.

### **Recipient Participation**

The fellowship recipient is honored for his/her dedication to public interest law, academic achievement and outstanding character and integrity. The recipient of the fellowship should continue to demonstrate the positive qualities that led to his or her selection from a field of qualified applicants.

Recipients are a part of the Chicago legal aid and public interest law community and should seek ways to contribute to that community. At a minimum, recipients should be 1) members of the Chicago Bar Association (recipients will receive complimentary CBA membership), 2) participate in the CBA's Legal Aid Committee and 3) register and regularly use [www.IllinoisLegalAdvocate.org](http://www.IllinoisLegalAdvocate.org). Recipients also should consider mentoring a public interest-minded law student.

Fellowship recipients may be asked to submit proof to the CBF of financial circumstances or payment of loans to lenders. Recipients must responsibly manage their loan repayment and when appropriate, seek options such as consolidation of loans to maintain a lower interest rate on outstanding debt.

Fellowship recipients are expected to work for a CBF-funded organization for the entire time that they receive fellowship funds. Recipients who leave their CBF-funded organization are subject to forfeiture of their award unless they move on to another CBF-funded legal aid or public interest law organization within a reasonable time. Absent exceptional circumstances, recipients who do not remain employed by a CBF-funded organization are expected to repay the CBF their outstanding loan balance, as it will not be forgiven. If changes in the employment circumstances

of the fellowship recipient arise (such as temporary or permanent leave from the organization), the recipient must immediately inform the CBF of the change in circumstances.

The CBF may ask fellowship recipients to offer feedback about the application process and participation in the fellowship award program.

Fellowship recipients must agree to the terms of the fellowship when they are selected for the award.

### **The Chicago Bar Foundation Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship**

Through a generous *cy pres* award from a case involving the Sun-Times, The Chicago Bar Foundation (“CBF”) awards public interest law fellowships to provide loan repayment assistance for outstanding recent law school graduates who are either presently working or who have accepted an offer to work for CBF-funded public interest law organizations. Beginning in 2007, the CBF each year will award five fellowships of up to \$50,000 per fellowship to individual legal aid or public interest law attorneys who meet the eligibility criteria set forth below and demonstrate the following: (1) a commitment to public interest work (2) academic achievement in law school, and (3) outstanding character and integrity.

Fellowship funds will be awarded in ten (10) installments of up to \$5,000 over five years, contingent upon continued compliance with the terms of the fellowship. The award is a forgivable loan that the CBF will forgive upon continued compliance with the terms of the fellowship. Under current tax laws, the CBF believes fellowship funds should be tax-free income for the recipient to the maximum extent permitted by law.\*

Fellowship applicants must have educational debt of at least \$40,000 and must have graduated from law school on or after May 1995, or anticipate graduation in spring 2007. In order to be eligible to apply for the fellowship, an attorney must work for a legal aid organization serving Cook County that has received an organizational support grant from the CBF for at least three years. One fellowship each year may be awarded to legal aid attorneys who serve Illinois residents outside of Cook County. Applicants must currently work for a CBF-funded organization or other qualifying legal aid organization or have accepted an offer to work for a CBF-funded organization or other qualifying legal aid organization. Award recipients must make a five-year commitment to work full-time at a CBF-funded organization (or, for recipients outside of Cook County, for another qualifying legal aid organization) beginning with the date of the fellowship award.

**Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship applicants may also be considered for the Chicago Bar Foundation Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship. In order to be considered for this Fellowship Program, please indicate your preference in the designated space on the Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship application form. *Please note that while an applicant may be considered for both fellowships, a recipient of the Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship is not eligible to receive the CBF Chicago Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship, and vice versa.* CBF Sun-Times Fellowship Program guidelines are available at [www.chicagobarfoundation.org](http://www.chicagobarfoundation.org).**

**The CBF Kimball R. and Karen Gatsis Anderson  
Public Interest Law Fellowship  
Application Form**

All Fellowship applicants must complete this form and certify below that the information provided is true and complete.

**I. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Applicant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. APPLICANT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

**Name of CBF-funded legal aid or public interest law organization where you are employed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please list the date you began your employment at the organization identified above:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name, telephone number and email address of your supervisor:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please identify the major practice area in which you are engaged (e.g. family law) and if applicable, the name of the specific project for which you work (e.g. the Domestic Violence Project of Chicago Legal Aid):**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**III. LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Name of law school from which you graduated:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of law school graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA earned at time of law school graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Please list the current total amount of educational debt (including undergraduate, law school and other graduate school loans):

\_\_\_\_\_

How much of the total education debt above did you borrow to finance (list dollar amounts):

your undergraduate education: \_\_\_\_\_

your law school education: \_\_\_\_\_

any other graduate degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What is your monthly student loan payment obligation? \_\_\_\_\_

How much of the amount above is attributed to law school debt? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current monthly salary? \_\_\_\_\_ Gross \_\_\_\_\_ Net

Are you eligible to receive other loan repayment assistance? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please identify the source and status of each pending loan repayment assistance application(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving any loan repayment assistance and/or other debt aid that helps you defray the costs of your student loans? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please explain below and identify all sources and amounts of assistance:

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**V. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

Please include the following documents with your application packet:

- \*Cover letter
- \*Recent pay stub or letter from employer confirming anticipated employment
- \*Current resume
- \*Law school transcript
- \*Recent summary statements from all student loan lenders

**VI. THE CHICAGO BAR FOUNDATION SUN-TIMES PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

I would like to also be considered for The Chicago Bar Foundation Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship Program. I understand that while I may be considered for both fellowships, a recipient of the Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship is not eligible to receive the CBF Chicago Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship and vice versa.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**VII. CERTIFICATION**

All the information on this Application Form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

**Applicant's Signature:**

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions when completing this form, please contact Dina Merrell at the Chicago Bar Foundation at 312/554-1206 or [dmerrell@chicagobar.org](mailto:dmerrell@chicagobar.org).