

Legal Fellowship Description

The [Education Law Center](#) (ELC) invites rising third-year law students with a deep commitment to fighting for justice and equality to apply for a sponsorship opportunity to work with us as a public interest legal fellow. Our fellows gain practical experience defending and expanding education rights and racial equity by working on lawsuits, advocating for clients, and engaging with our policy and communications teams on advancing legislation and public education. We will work with successful applicants to develop a project proposal for specific funding organizations, including the Skadden Fellowship Foundation, Equal Justice Works and Justice Catalyst, as well as individual law school programs. We will help tailor a project to both address an important education rights issue and develop the fellow's skills as a lawyer.

Founded in 1973, ELC pursues educational justice and equity to ensure that all students receive a high-quality public education. ELC focuses on state policies and practices that affect the learning and well-being of every student, particularly those facing disadvantages. ELC employs multiple strategies in its work, combining litigation and legal assistance, rigorous research, policy advocacy, communications, strategic partnerships and public engagement. The systemic inequities ELC has tackled over the years include inadequate school funding and staff, a lack of high quality preschool, deplorable school building conditions, deficits in bilingual and special education, overly harsh and discriminatory discipline policies and ensuring students are protected from bullying and harassment.

In addition to our work in our home base in New Jersey, ELC advocates for education equity and racial justice in states across the country. We work with broader state advocacy campaigns to address and remedy entrenched inequities and disparities. As a result, ELC has unique and unmatched expertise not only in education law and policy, but also in adding a crucial legal dimension to state-based advocacy for school funding reform and resource equity.

We are looking for fellowship candidates who embody the mission and values of ELC's work and someone who is committed to serving our client communities. We offer the unique opportunity to be involved in groundbreaking high impact litigation and policy advocacy. Candidates with a deep passion and commitment to dedicating their legal careers to underserved communities and to racial and social justice are highly encouraged to apply.

The fellow will be a full-time employee of ELC with a salary of \$75,000, even if the funding from the external fellowship does not match. The position includes comprehensive benefits and generous leave time.

To Apply

To apply, email a resume, writing sample, law school transcript, and a cover letter that details specific areas of interest to Theresa Luhm at tluhm@edlawcenter.org. We invite applicants to include in their cover letter information about how their background and/or experiences could contribute to the diversity, cultural vitality, and perspective of our staff and advocacy work. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

ELC is committed to attracting, developing, and retaining exceptional people, and to creating a work environment that is dynamic, rewarding, and respectful toward all employees. ELC is an equal opportunity employer that respects the full spectrum of races, ethnicities, national origins, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, beliefs, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and levels of physical ability. ELC encourages persons of color, women, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, and members of other underrepresented communities to apply.