

THE SUPREME COURT FELLOWS PROGRAM

2014-2015





Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

To Prospective Candidates:

The Supreme Court Fellows Program has long offered mid-career professionals a unique opportunity to participate in court administration at the national level through one-year fellowships within the federal judiciary. This year, the program will also accept applications from recent law school graduates and doctoral degree recipients who are interested in participating in various facets of judicial administration. The program will hold special interest to individuals completing judicial clerkships who are considering a career in academia or public service.

The Supreme Court Fellows Commission will select four creative, talented, and energetic individuals for one-year placements at one of the four sponsoring components: the Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and the United States Sentencing Commission. The fellows will observe and contribute to the operation of the federal court system while pursuing practical scholarship relevant to the placement.

I encourage you to consider this exceptional opportunity to participate in judicial administration. The Supreme Court Fellows Program will enable you to deepen your understanding of the federal courts while engaging in rewarding public service.

Sincerely,

John G. Roberts, Jr.

THE SUPREME COURT FELLOWS PROGRAM

Each year, the Supreme Court Fellows Commission selects four talented individuals to engage for one year in the work of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, or the United States Sentencing Commission. The program provides fellows with practical exposure to judicial administration, policy development, and education. Through hands-on participation, fellows gain unique insight into the challenges of federal court management.

The Supreme Court Fellows Program has traditionally provided opportunities for mid-career professionals drawn from the fields of law and political science. This year, the Fellows Program will also offer those opportunities to recent law school graduates and doctoral degree recipients with exceptional records of achievement. We are especially interested in applicants who are completing a judicial clerkship and are interested in broadening their understanding of the judicial system through exposure to federal court administration. The fellowship experience will be especially valuable to people who are interested in pursuing an academic career or a career in public service. As described on the following page, we have designed four different fellowship options to provide a range of career development experiences.



The Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, completed in 1992, is home to the three agencies that support the work of the federal judiciary: the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and the U.S. Sentencing Commission. The three fellows assigned to these agencies have the opportunity to work in this remarkable building, named after the late Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall. It is located a few blocks from the Supreme Court, next to historic Union Station.

Fellowships

Each fellow will be based at a national institution of the federal judiciary and participate in a core administrative function.

Supreme Court of the United States

The Supreme Court is not only a vital component of American government, but also an international symbol of the rule of law that attracts scores of official foreign delegations each year. The fellow based at the Supreme Court will be assigned to the Office of the Counselor to the Chief Justice and have primary responsibility for briefing foreign jurists, court administrators, and other dignitaries on the operation, procedures, and history of the Court. The fellow will gain exposure to foreign legal systems, including those in developing nations, through direct contact with foreign judges and court officials. The fellow will also assist in the general activities of the Counselor's Office, which supports the Chief Justice in his administrative and policy functions as head of the judiciary. The focus of the fellowship, however, will be the international judicial visitors program. This fellowship is ideally suited for individuals who have an academic interest in foreign legal systems and wish to broaden their knowledge through dialogue and exchange with participants in those systems. The fellow assigned to the Supreme Court will be expected to produce an article for publication and make a presentation to United States judges on a topic of international or comparative law.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts provides program management, legal counsel, legislative services, and administrative support to the federal courts and their policy-making body, the Judicial Conference. The fellow placed at the Administrative Office will provide support to the Judicial Conference's Committee on Practice and Procedure. The fellow will assist the committee in the review and revision of the federal rules governing civil procedure, criminal procedure, and evidence. The fellow may also provide other support to the general operations of the Administrative Office. This fellowship, which provides a unique vantage point for observing how the federal rules are formulated, is designed for individuals who have an academic or practical interest in litigation and legal procedure. The fellow assigned to the Administrative Office will be expected to produce an article for publication and make a presentation to United States judges on a topic of legal practice or procedural reform.

Federal Judicial Center

The Federal Judicial Center is the education and research agency for the federal judiciary. It provides orientation and continuing education for all federal judges, as well as management and supervisory education for the court staff. The fellow serving at the Federal Judicial Center will support the Center's research and educational activities, including its international training programs. The Center's projects span a broad range of topics, including practice-oriented legal education on specific subjects, such as patent law, scientific evidence, or arbitration, and empirically based studies in judicial reform. This fellowship does not focus on a discrete subject matter, such as comparative, procedural, or criminal law. It is fashioned for individuals who have a broad interest in legal pedagogy or practical programs for legal reform. The fellow assigned to the Federal Judicial Center will be expected to produce a work of scholarship for publication and make a presentation to United States judges on a topic relating to the education or research programs of the Center for that year.

United States Sentencing Commission

The United States Sentencing Commission engages in policy analysis of crime and punishment at the national level and uses the results in the development of federal sentencing guidelines. The fellow serving at the Sentencing Commission will participate in professional teams conducting policy, legal, and social science research on the cutting edge of criminal sentencing reform. The breadth of the Commission's work and its relatively small size provide the fellow with both a wide-ranging exposure to criminal law and opportunities for active participation in addressing sentencing issues. This fellowship will interest individuals with an academic or practice-oriented interest in criminal law. The fellow assigned to the Sentencing Commission will be expected to produce a work of scholarship for publication and make a presentation to United States judges on a topic of criminal or sentencing law.

Activities and Opportunities

The fellows will have substantive duties and responsibilities relevant to their placement, but they will also engage in a variety of special activities that broaden the fellowship experience. In the fall, the fellows attend the Supreme Court Preview sponsored by William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia. Throughout the fellowship, fellows are invited to attend special luncheon seminars sponsored by the Counselor to the Chief Justice. Past luncheon speakers have included the Solicitor General, Legal Adviser to the State Department, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and White House Counsel.

Fellows are invited to Supreme Court Historical Society events, including Courtroom lectures with distinguished speakers, and have the chance to interact with other fellowship programs, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, American Political Science Association, and White House Fellows Programs. The Supreme Court Fellows Program Alumni Association hosts various events for the current fellows including the Association's annual meeting and panel discussion, which features prominent speakers from the judiciary, academia, and the media.

Although the program offers a wide range of scheduled events, fellows are encouraged to maximize the experience by taking advantage of all our Nation's Capital has to offer. In the spirit of fellowship, participants collaborate with one another and seek out educational and cultural events tailored to their own interests. Those activities have ranged from lectures at the National Archives to performances at the Kennedy Center. Participants typically find that the fellowship experience creates bonds and professional friendships that continue throughout their careers.



*Supreme Court Fellows Program Alumni Association members at the 2013 annual meeting
(Photo by Steve Petteway, collection of the Supreme Court of the United States)*

Selection Process

The Supreme Court Fellows Commission selects the fellows through a process that includes review of submitted materials and interviews of the finalists. The Commission, which consists of a panel of distinguished judges, lawyers, and professors selected by the Chief Justice, seeks outstanding applicants who are personable, discreet, trustworthy, and committed to serving the federal judiciary.

As a prestigious national program, the Supreme Court Fellowship has attracted first-rate candidates for more than 40 years. The process is highly competitive. This year, the process will include recent law school graduates and doctoral degree recipients. We are particularly interested in those candidates who are completing a judicial clerkship, are interested in pursuing an academic career or a career in public service, and wish to deepen their knowledge of the federal judicial system.

The fellows must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. They will be expected to perform well in demanding office environments that reward initiative, collegiality, discretion, and sound judgment. Ideal candidates are highly motivated and creative. Applicants must have a J.D. or other post-graduate degree to be eligible for consideration.

Applications must include the following:

1. a candidate information form;
2. a résumé highlighting academic, professional, and personal achievements;
3. an original research proposal on a legal topic of scholarly interest;
4. two candidate evaluations mailed directly to the Supreme Court Fellows Program

Finalists' Selection

The Commission's review of applications begins promptly after the filing deadline. In early January, the Commission will select a small group of finalists for interviews in Washington, D.C., on February 27-28, 2014. The Commission conducts the interviews in conjunction with the Supreme Court Fellows Program Alumni Association's annual dinner. The finalists will be invited to attend the dinner and a panel discussion sponsored by the Alumni Association. The program will pay the finalists' travel expenses in accordance with federal allowances. The finalists will be contacted on selection decisions within one to two weeks after the interviews.

Duration

The Supreme Court Fellowship is a one-year appointment, beginning in August or September; the exact duration is subject to mutual agreement between each fellow and the program's executive director.

Compensation

Supreme Court Fellows become employees of the federal court system and receive salaries equivalent to the GS – 12/1 of the government pay scale (currently \$74,872). Fellows are eligible for health, life insurance, and other benefits programs offered to federal employees.



*Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. with the 2013 Supreme Court Fellows Commission
(Photo by Steve Petteway, collection of the Supreme Court of the United States)*

How to Apply

The 2014-2015 Supreme Court Fellowship application deadline is **Friday, November 15, 2013**.

Applications may be submitted online at www.supremecourt.gov/fellows or mailed to:

Supreme Court Fellows Program
Room 5
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, DC 20543

For questions regarding the application process, please call
202-479-3415 or email fellowsprogram@supremecourt.gov.

The Supreme Court Fellows Program

Application



Instructions

Type all responses and answer all questions fully. Do not include supplementary material (such as books you have written); it will not be reviewed if sent. Do not mail your application in a binder or package it in any elaborate way. Use a paper clip or binder clip to hold the pages together. Applicants will be notified when their complete application has been received.

Mail your application to:

Supreme Court Fellows Program
Room 5
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, DC 20543

For more details or to submit your application online, please visit the Fellows Program website at www.supremecourt.gov/fellows. Applications must be postmarked or submitted online by the **November 15, 2013, deadline.**

1. Candidate Information

Name:

Last First Initial

Other names used

Occupation/Profession:

Your Home Address:

City State Zip

Telephone:

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Home Work

()

Fax

Email: _____

Employer's Name:

Employer's Address:

City State Zip

Your current Rank, Title, or Status:

How did you hear about the Supreme Court
Fellows Program?

Please answer the following questions and explain on a separate sheet of paper details and resolution of any question answered "yes."

• Have you ever worked for or are you now working for the federal government, or are you being paid by federal funds? (Include active duty military service.)

Yes No

• Have you ever been discharged from the armed forces under other than honorable conditions?

Yes No

• Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?

Yes No

• Have you ever been charged with a felony?

Yes No

• Have you ever been charged with a violation of any firearms or explosives laws?

Yes No

• Have you ever failed to meet a court-ordered child support payment?

Yes No

• Are you delinquent on any federal debt?

Yes No

• Have you ever been suspended, disciplined, or barred from any occupation or practice by any regulatory agency, professional association, or organization because of your conduct?

Yes No

2. Certification

I certify that all of the statements in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith.

Signature

Date

3. Investigation

I know and understand that any or all items contained herein may be reviewed by representatives of the Supreme Court Fellows Commission, including former Supreme Court Fellows, and if I become a finalist, am subject to investigation or verification by duly accredited investigators of the federal government.

Signature

Date

4. Résumé

Please attach a résumé that includes the following:

- Career and Employment History
- Educational Background
- Professional Activities
- Volunteer Activities

5. Research Proposal

Please attach an original research proposal on a legal topic of scholarly interest, limited to 1,000 words. The proposal should indicate which of the four sponsoring offices would be the appropriate venue to conduct your research. We will evaluate your proposal as indicative of your professional interests and your potential for producing useful scholarship during the fellowship. Although the topic you choose should reflect your primary interests, it will not determine your placement among the four offices or prevent you from being considered by all four of the sponsoring offices.

6. References

Please reproduce the Candidate Evaluation form on the last page of this application and give it to two persons who will provide references on your behalf. References should have direct knowledge of your qualifications and character. Each reference should send the evaluation directly to the program. Letters of recommendation may follow the application but must be postmarked by November 30, 2013. Your application cannot be considered without these references.

In the spaces below, list the names and contact information for your references:

No. 1

City *State* *Zip*

No. 2

City *State* *Zip*



The Supreme Court Fellows Program

Candidate Evaluation

To: _____

Individual completing evaluation

From: The Supreme Court Fellows Commission:

Subject: _____

Applicant's Name

The Supreme Court Fellows Commission will select four individuals to serve as the 2014-2015 Supreme Court Fellows. The selected individuals will come to Washington, D.C., from across the nation to work for one year as paid, full-time employees of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and the United States Sentencing Commission.

Thank you for taking the time to write a recommendation for the applicant named above. Your candid assessment will greatly assist the Commission's selection process.

Please use the following questions (on your office letterhead, if appropriate) as a guide and include your daytime telephone number and email address.

- How long and in what connection have you known the applicant?
- What is your view of the candidate's: (a) intellectual ability; (b) writing ability; (c) public speaking ability; and (d) personal integrity?
- What is your view of the candidate's future prospects for making substantial contributions to his or her profession and community?

Candidate applications must be postmarked or received online by **November 15, 2013**. Letters of recommendation may follow the application but must be signed, dated, and postmarked to the following address by **November 30, 2013**:

Supreme Court Fellows Program
Room 5
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, DC 20543

Please note that this is an updated deadline for letters of recommendation, superceding the November 15 deadline indicated on earlier versions of this form. If you have questions, please call 202-479-3415 or email fellowsprogram@supremecourt.gov.

Equal Opportunity Employer