

Civil Liberties Fellowship

The ACLU of Michigan is accepting applications from exceptional college graduates to work as a volunteer ACLU fellow on cutting edge civil liberties and civil rights issues. The ACLU works in the courts, legislature and community to protect a wide range of civil liberties, including: freedom of speech and religion, police misconduct, voting rights, right to counsel, privacy rights, reproductive freedom, education reform, and the rights of people of color, women, LGBT persons, immigrants and prisoners. While the fellowship is unpaid, it offers a unique opportunity to gain experience working with leading civil liberties attorneys and activists on exciting and rewarding projects in a supportive environment. The fellowship will provide outstanding preparation for individuals considering law school, graduate school or another career in public service. However, it is also well-suited for all who are committed to defending constitutional rights and individuals from any stage of their career are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in the Detroit and Grand Rapids offices.

The ACLU asks for a full-time volunteer commitment of 6-12 months. Start and end date scheduling is flexible; however, fellows that begin before the end of May will have the opportunity to take part in the ACLU of Michigan's structured summer internship program with other non-legal and legal interns from across the country. The summer program typically includes exciting opportunities to engage in court-watching, observe legislative hearings, attend bi-weekly lunch-hour roundtables with notable attorneys and participate in group social events.

Responsibilities:

Legal: ACLU fellows will be given significant responsibility working on case selection, ongoing cases and developing new cases. Such responsibilities may include: phone and written intake database management, special project investigation, fact-checking and editing documents, drafting memoranda addressing the facts of potential cases, meeting with and interviewing potential plaintiffs and witnesses.

Communications: Responsibilities may include: blogging for the ACLU website; tracking media clippings; and preparing for press conferences.

Legislative and Field: There may be opportunities to work with our legislative and field staff on lobbying or organizing projects.

Administrative: Responsibilities include helping staff prepare for board and committee meetings and supporting staff on various projects and cases.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree.
- Demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights.
- Outstanding academic record and community work experience.
- Exceptional research, writing, and interpersonal skills.

Supervision:

Fellows are supervised by the legal director, staff attorneys and paralegal. Fellows may also have

the opportunity to work with our executive director, legislative director, communications director, Racial Justice Project staff attorney, LGBT Project staff attorney, cooperating attorneys and/or attorneys from the National ACLU.

Applications:

Please email or send cover letter, resume and writing sample to:

Michael J. Steinberg, Legal Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
2966 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48201
(313) 578-6814
msteinberg@aclumich.org

Funding:

We encourage applicants to seek outside funding to support their fellowship. Below is a non-exhaustive list of sources of funding that individuals may investigate. The ACLU of Michigan is more than happy to work with fellows on their funding proposals to outside organizations.

Potential Sources of Funding:

- **Scholarship and award databases such as [FinAid](#):** Search for available funding-- you may qualify for specific awards based on your public service record or other factors.
- **Free online services such as [Crowdrise](#):** Create an internet platform to solicit donations from friends and family to support your volunteerism.
- **University awards and fellowships:** Contact your college's career office to see if there are school-specific awards or fellowships for graduating students and alumni to support volunteer work.

To learn more about the ACLU of Michigan, go to www.aclumich.org. The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All interested individuals, including people of color, women, LGBT persons and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.