



ACLU of Michigan Fellowship Sponsorship

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan welcomes proposals from recent law graduates, judicial law clerks, and other qualified applicants for funded fellowships on cutting-edge civil liberties and civil rights issues. Selected applicants will work together with the ACLU of Michigan to develop and submit proposals for national public interest law fellowships, such as the [Skadden, Soros, Equal Justice Works](#), and [Justice Catalyst](#) fellowships. Selected applicants who are eligible for law-school specific fellowships, such as the [Liman, Harvard Law Review](#), or [University of Chicago](#) public interest law fellowships, are encouraged to apply for those as well. Click [here](#) for more information about possible fellowship sources.

With over 35 full-time staff members, the ACLU of Michigan is one of the largest affiliates of the American Civil Liberties Union and a leading civil rights organization within the state. We litigate groundbreaking, high-impact, high-profile cases addressing a wide range of constitutional issues, including freedom of speech and religion, police misconduct, voting, due process, privacy, poverty, criminal justice, reproductive freedom, education, and the rights of people of color, women, LGBTQ persons, persons with disabilities, immigrants, and people who are incarcerated.

We welcome applications with project proposals relating to any civil rights or civil liberties area. Interested applicants should review our [website](#) and [legal docket](#) for a better understanding of our work. Proposals related to areas such as reproductive freedom, policing and surveillance, and immigrants' rights may be most likely to align with our current organizational priorities. Some examples include:

Reproductive freedom

- Eliminating barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare for people of color and Black women, especially access to necessary and dignified prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care for women who are incarcerated.
- Challenging Michigan's requirement that young people under age 18 obtain a parent's consent prior to accessing abortion care.

Immigrants' rights

- Ensuring farmworkers in Michigan have fair and equal access to government services and protections.
- Improving conditions in county jails that hold immigration detainees on behalf of ICE.

Policing and surveillance

- Challenging the use and expansion of mass surveillance technologies (e.g., Shotspotter, traffic cameras, widespread public surveillance cameras, facial recognition, Shadow Dragon, or similar) when deployed by government actors (e.g., police) or government-sponsored activities (e.g., public housing).
- Challenging evolving practices of relying on artificial intelligence to make governmental decisions or potentially discriminatory private decisions (such as decisions that impact access to employment, housing, or public accommodations).

The list above contains only a few examples of what an applicant can propose. Whatever the topic, we will work with the selected fellowship candidate to develop a proposal that builds on the candidate's interests and skills, ensures appropriate supervision, fits with the ACLU's priorities, and employs strategies most likely to be effective in advancing the project's goals.

As part of the ACLU of Michigan's mission to increase access and opportunity for those individuals and groups who have historically been under-represented and underserved, the ACLU of Michigan is committed to having a diverse workplace. People of color, women, LGBTQ+ persons, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Fellows will work either in Detroit or Grand Rapids with supervision dependent on the location and fellowship project.

Qualifications:

Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights, exceptional research and writing skills, and a J.D. degree (or expect one within the next year).

Salary:

This opportunity is not funded by the ACLU of Michigan. The ACLU of Michigan will cooperate with successful applicants to seek fellowship support, and the salary will be based on the terms of the fellowship awarded. For Skadden Fellows, the 2025 salary is \$70,000. For fellowships with lower salaries, the ACLU of Michigan will make up the difference so as to match the Skadden salary. Fellows will also be eligible for the ACLU of Michigan's standard benefits package, including healthcare coverage.

How to Apply:

Applications for sponsorship are due July 7, 2024.

To be considered for sponsorship, please submit a cover letter that:

- identifies a specific area of interest, specific fellowship project, and goals for what you want to accomplish during the fellowship;
- explains why you want the ACLU of Michigan to host your project; and
- specifies the fellowships for which you would like to apply.

Please append a resume and a writing sample to your cover letter. Applications should be emailed as a single PDF to **fellowships@aclumich.org**.

Applicants should also be ready to ask two recommenders to write letters in support of their fellowship applications. Letters of recommendation need not be submitted with your cover letter but may be required before the ACLU selects a candidate for sponsorship.

In advance of submitting their applications, applicants may seek guidance about whether their area of interest and proposed work fits within the ACLU's priorities and strategies by emailing Ramis Wadood at rwadood@aclumich.org.