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## Fellowship Timeline (from 1L to Graduation!)

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### 1L Year

- Start exploring public interest law:
  - Check out OCP's [Public Service Guides](#).
  - [PSJD](#): Online resource connecting public interest law job-seekers with job opportunities
  - [Public Service Network](#): A database of Michigan Law alumni and students working in public service law in the U.S. and abroad.
- Join a [student group\(s\)](#).
- Plan your 1L summer:
  - Attend OCP panels and workshops to learn about resources and career paths.
  - Think about your 1L summer as part of a series of experiences you will have while in law school that will build your public interest resume. What skills will you develop with your 1L summer job? What type of position do you plan to find for your 2L summer?
- Meet with Alan Kahn, Public Interest Director, or another OCP counselor (after October 15th) to discuss your career goals, your 1L summer job search, and experiences to consider in preparation for a fellowship. You can schedule an appointment [online](#).
- You will need a professor and a legal employer to write a letter of recommendation for you at some point so get to know a professor or two. You can do this by taking more than one class with a professor (and doing well in her classes), taking seminars so the professor knows your work, or by becoming a Research Assistant for a professor.
- Plan to take a clinic (or two!) during law school.
- During your 1L Summer:
  - If you are in the city where you plan to be after graduation, research and meet with organizations with whom you might want to work during your 2L summer and/or sponsor you for a fellowship. And make connections with local alums working in public service.
  - Research fellowships on [PSJD](#) to begin to understand the fellowship options. There are hundreds of fellowship opportunities out there!

## 2L Year

### September – December

- Begin your 2L summer job search. Identify organizations that might be potential sponsors for fellowships and include them in your summer job search.
- Attend the [EJW Career Fair](#).
- Apply for the [Dean's Public Service Fellowship](#).
- Broaden your public interest resume (take a clinic, work on a pro bono project, do an externship, volunteer at a local organization).
- Do research for a professor that you are going to ask for a recommendation.
- Identify potential topics for a fellowship.
- Meet with Alan Kahn, Public Interest Director, or another OCP counselor to discuss job search and fellowship track.

### January – April

- Finalize your 2L summer job. Consider whether to talk to your employer about serving as your host organization.
- Consider whether you are going to apply for clerkships and fellowships.
- Attend OCP's presentations on fellowships.
- Meet with one of MLaw's Fellowship Counselors in January.
- Fine tune your proposal ideas. You might identify an organization(s) that you'd like to work with and tailor a project around that organization(s) or you might develop a project and then present it to an organization(s). Talk to the alums that are doing fellowships. Find out how their fellowship application process unfolded, how they identified fellowships and projects, how they handled the application process, etc. Maintain notes of those discussions and begin researching fellowship options.
- Research and identify potential NGOs and fellowships to apply for.
- Begin checking [PSDJ](#) and OCP's job postings on [Symplicity](#) for fellowship postings.

## May – August

- Develop your post-grad job search battle plan. This includes clerkships, fellowships and other non-fellowship opportunities. Create a chart of deadlines and application requirements to keep you on track. If you're considering entry-level government hiring programs, be aware that many have September deadlines.
- If you're applying for a fellowship that requires you to be sponsored by an organization, you will want to secure a sponsoring organization by July 1<sup>st</sup>, if possible.
- If you pursue a fellowship with a sponsoring organization, draft a fellowship timeline laying out when you, someone from your sponsoring organization, and your recommenders will complete each step of the fellowship process.
- Work with your organization to fill in the details of your fellowship project.
- For fellowships such as Skadden, you should contact the director of the fellowship program at least once before submitting the application. OCP can help you strategize about how to do this.
- Read past fellowship applications from former MLaw students. Email Alan Kahn ([kahnas@umich.edu](mailto:kahnas@umich.edu)) for copies.
- Secure commitment of application readers and references. Give them the timeline indicating when you will need them to read or write a reference and STICK TO YOUR TIMELINE.
- You should be in touch with OCP over the summer so they can help develop your plan, contact readers, etc.

## 3L Year

### September – December

- **September:** Finalize fellowship applications.
- Research and apply for non-fellowship positions such as public interest jobs or positions with government programs. Government deadlines are usually in early Fall so be prepared to have those applications out.
- **Early October:** Review the EJW Career Fair employers' list and consider attending.
- **October-November:** If you made the interview pool for Skadden, you will learn about it in now and you may hear from EJW at this point to schedule an interview. Continue to apply for openings and fellowships.
- If you have an interview for a fellowship, set up mock interviews through OCP.
- Let your recommenders and supporters know what is going on.

### January – May

- Keep applying! Many public interest organizations do not hire attorneys 6-12 months in advance. They hire when they have an opening that needs to be filled immediately. Keep checking the job posting sites to make sure you don't miss a good one!
- Meet with an OCP counselor to continue talking about job search strategy.