



PUBLIC SERVICE

Sara Wood '10 spent her second-year summer interning at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, which provides legal assistance to low-income residents and community groups.

Wood, whose work was funded through a Mortimer Caplin Public Service Fellowship, assisted in a variety of cases in areas such as public benefits and family law, but spent most of her time on housing issues.

“Gentrification is rapidly occurring in Brooklyn A’s service areas, which dramatically increases property values,” Wood explained. “This revitalization gives some landlords an incentive to illegally force or coerce long-term residents out of rent-stabilized and rent-controlled apartments so they can then renovate the apartments and substantially raise rents. As a result, there is a significant problem with landlords violating the rent regulation laws and the housing code by shutting off essential services such as heat and hot water, not making needed repairs, and illegally raising rents.”

Wood researched, drafted pleadings, attended court proceedings and assisted in client interviews.

“I developed client contact, legal writing and oral advocacy skills and gained practical experience that will be invaluable to my future career in civil legal services.”



“EACH TIME A MAN STANDS UP FOR AN IDEAL or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of

hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

—ROBERT F. KENNEDY '51

VIRGINIA UPHOLDS THOMAS JEFFERSON’S conviction that lawyers have a special obligation to serve the public interest. We are committed to nurturing the civic virtues that support his ideal of public responsibility: integrity, civility and service. The Law School offers hundreds of thousands of dollars in fellowships to students pursuing public service careers, and its loan forgiveness program removes the burden of debt repayment from students who choose lower-paying public service careers, making virtually any career a practical possibility.

MORTIMER CAPLIN PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

The Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center is the School’s focal point for public service programming and outreach. Its efforts include:

- Career counseling for students and alumni
- The Virginia Law Pro Bono Project
- Coordination of summer internships and postgraduate fellowships
- Public service career panels, speakers and workshops
- Public Works, a blog featuring public service and pro bono advice and news
- The annual Public Interest Interview Week

VIRGINIA LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

The Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program assists graduates with annual law school loan payments. Program details are available online at www.law.virginia.edu/loanforgive.



POWELL FELLOW PHIL STOREY '09 will work for the Legal Aid Justice Center’s Immigrant Advocacy Program after graduation.

Given each year to a graduating student pursuing a public service career, the Law School’s Powell Fellowship provides a \$35,000 salary for one year, with the expectation of renewal the second year, allowing recipients to work at no cost to a partner public-interest organization.



THE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE LAW each year attracts lawyers, citizens and students from across the country to discuss current public interest legal issues. Keynote speakers in recent years have included U.S. Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito (above) and Stephen Breyer, ACLU President Nadine Strossen and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine.

PRO BONO PROJECT

Virginia is committed to the ideal that all students will fulfill their professional obligation to provide free legal services to the indigent and underrepresented. The Center supports a voluntary program encouraging all students to complete at least 75 hours of pro bono service during law school. Opportunities are available with local attorneys and organizations, as well as throughout the nation. The Center also organizes pro bono projects focusing on areas such as domestic violence, family law, veterans disability claims and children’s health.

PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS

The Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center helps students applying for internships and postgraduate fellowships.

Powell Fellowship

The School’s Powell Fellowship in Legal Services, honoring former Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, awards \$35,000 to a graduating student or judicial clerk. The fellowship enables him or her to work under the sponsorship of a public interest organization to enhance the delivery of civil legal services to the poor. The award is made for one year with the expectation that it will be renewed for a second year. Recipients also are eligible to participate in the Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program.

PILA Summer Fellowships

Provides grants of \$4,123 and \$7,083 to law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service summer internships.

Mortimer Caplin Public Service Fellowship

Provides summer fellowships to exceptional law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service internships.

Linda Fairstein Public Service Fellowships

Provides summer fellowships to exceptional law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service internships.

Monroe Leigh Fellowship in International Law

Provides a total of \$10,000 for one or two students to pursue a public international law project.

PUBLIC SERVICE FAST FACTS

213 students logged pro bono hours on 200 projects;
\$378,000 in fellowships awarded to 81 students working in public service over the summer;
20 students participated in the Law School’s first planned alternative spring break trip



FOUR VIRGINIA STUDENTS WERE NAMED SKADDEN FELLOWS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

The national fellowship offers recipients an annual salary with benefits to work on

public interest projects of their own design.

Dania Davy ’08 (pictured) used her fellowship to help black farmers retain property within their families. Working in Durham, N.C., for the Land Loss Prevention Project, Davy is focusing her efforts on community education and preserving ownership through estate planning. Black farmers own less than 2 million acres nationally.

“Through talking to different national experts on black farmers I learned that no one was really working on this estate-planning element, which is significant because the majority of black farmers are elderly,” Davy said. “I see this as my life’s work. I see myself going along the track of becoming an expert in this field.”

Other Public Service Awards

- Herbert L. Kramer/Herbert Bangel Community Service Award (\$3,500)
- Mortimer Caplin Public Service Award (\$2,500)
- Claire Corcoran Award (\$1,500 or \$750)
- Pro Bono Award

PUBLIC SERVICE

www.law.virginia.edu/public-service

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