



# PUBLIC SERVICE

**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 the Pro Bono Project and career counseling for students and alumni.

**VIRGINIA LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM** The Law School's loan forgiveness program helps repay the loans of graduates who earn less than \$75,000 annually in public service positions. Participants in the program who earn less than \$55,000 annually receive benefits covering 100 percent of their qualifying law school loans. PROGRAM DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT [www.law.virginia.edu/loanforgive](http://www.law.virginia.edu/loanforgive).



**POWELL FELLOW CRYSTAL SHIN '10** will advocate for the educational rights of youths in the juvenile justice system while working for the JustChildren Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville. Given each year to a graduating student pursuing a public service career, the Law School's Powell Fellowship provides a \$40,000 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.

**"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



**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.



**FIVE VIRGINIA STUDENTS WERE NAMED SKADDEN FELLOWS** in the past four years. The prestigious fellowship offers recipients an annual salary with benefits to work on public interest projects of their own design.

**DANIA DAVY '08** 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 fewer 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.”

**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 \$40,000 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**

Grants of \$3,500 and \$6,000 to law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service summer internships.

**MORTIMER CAPLIN PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS**

Offered to exceptional law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service internships.

**LINDA FAIRSTEIN PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS**

Offered 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.

**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



**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.

**PUBLIC SERVICE FAST FACTS**

- 293** students logged **13,832** pro bono hours; **\$361,500** in fellowships awarded to **85** students working in public service over the summer;
- 34** students participated in the alternative spring break trip in five cities



**LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM**

The Law and Public Service Program’s first participants have served in the Peace Corps, the FBI and AmeriCorps. They’ve worked at home and abroad on five continents, are fluent in numerous foreign languages, and have long resumes in volunteer and paid public service positions, including many related to law. The students also draw on a variety of personal experiences that led them to want to help others, from witnessing famine to working with crime victims. “We were blown away by

the strength and quality of the applications,” said Professor Jim Ryan, who leads the program. “To say that it was a competitive process is an understatement. It was difficult to make selections, but it was also inspiring to read about the experiences, commitment and passion of the students.”

Each year the program offers admission to 20 first-year and five second-year law students, who will have access to faculty mentors, guaranteed funding for summer public service jobs and access to seminars relating to public service law.

“Everyone in the program is just outstanding — I can’t

believe what kind of company I’m in,” said Kate Reynolds ’12. “I feel like we’re going to take over the world and make it better.”



**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
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