



Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps
Veterans Advocacy Project, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Organization: Veterans Advocacy Project, University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Fellowship: Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corps

Located in: Denver, Colorado

About the Veterans Advocacy Project

The Veterans Advocacy Project is a program of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Students and lawyers work together to assist Veterans with their VA Disability Benefit Compensation appeals and Discharge Upgrades. The VAP focuses on homeless and low income Veterans and has clinics in Denver and Colorado Springs. Because the VAP is the only pro bono clinic in the state offering these services, Colorado Veterans receive preference.

Fellowship Summary

The VAP is hosting a one-year Fellowship to provide essential legal services to our nation's veterans, active military service members, and their families. The selected candidate will be a part of a corps of legal Fellows serving in the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Program and will encounter hands-on experience providing direct legal representation to the veteran. The Fellow's role combines elements of direct legal representation and community outreach and advocacy. The attorney selected for this Fellowship will be housed at the VAP's local office. Per Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps guidelines, the selected Fellow's term of service **must begin prior to October 1, 2018 and last for one year.**

Fellowship Description

The Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corps (VLC) Fellow will:

1. Provide high quality direct legal representation to financially eligible veterans and their families. This will likely involve conducting intake, assembling evidence, conducting interviews, and researching relevant law.
2. Assist in VA and Military hearings.
3. Work with students in the VAP.
4. Participate in a national corps of attorneys committed to providing legal representation to the veteran community.
5. Have access to a substantive and skills-based training curriculum and ongoing support, including participation in Equal Justice Works' annual Leadership Development Training in Washington, D.C.
6. Position is a one-year Fellowship.

Qualifications

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal Fellow will possess a demonstrated commitment to public interest work and a strong desire to assist indigent clients. Further, the ideal candidate will have the following:

- Excellent writing, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills;
- Strong oral and negotiation skills, and the ability to work as a team member;
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments;
- Knowledge of veterans' benefits law and/or experience with veterans and military families; Persons with military service or related-military background, including status as a military dependent, are encouraged to apply;
- Diverse economic, social and cultural experiences and a second language are preferred;
- Law school clinic, externship, summer, or other relevant practice experience;
- Colorado state bar membership or eligibility to practice in (state) under limited permission rule preferred (the latter is available as a result of bar membership in another state); Individuals who took the Colorado Summer 2018 bar exam are eligible to apply.

Required Qualifications

- Ability to undergo and pass AmeriCorps-mandated criminal background checks (only convictions for murder and/or presence on sex offender registry are automatic bars to service; other criminal convictions are allowable pursuant to Equal Justice Works review and approval);
- **Ability to begin the fellowship no later than October 1, 2018 and attend Equal Justice Works' annual Leadership Development Training in Washington, D.C. from November 6 – 8, 2018.**
- Be licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction or have taken the Summer 2018 bar exam and be awaiting results.

Compensation Package

The Fellow will receive an annual living allowance, as well as financial support for housing, student loan repayment, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses. Additionally, Fellows receive an education award, health insurance, and other benefits. Interested applicants should contact Ann Vessels, Director of the VAP with any follow up questions. avessels@law.du.edu.

Other Benefits Provided by the VAP:

- Health and dental insurance, and low cost vision plan available;
- Life and disability insurance;
- Parking;
- Position related travel reimbursement and bar dues;
- Opportunities to participate in national substantive training on veterans law issues and in a variety of local and regional skills-based and substantive trainings.

Other Benefits and Professional Opportunities offered by AmeriCorps:

- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment upon successful completion of service
- Opportunity to attend national trainings focused on leadership, networking, and project development sponsored by Equal Justice Works
- Childcare assistance (if income-eligible)

Application Instructions

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to Ann Vessels (avessels@law.du.edu), at the Veterans Advocacy Project, 1247 Santa Fe, Denver, Colorado 80204, no later than September 12, 2018. The letter of interest should clearly refer to the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Fellowship position. Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow is scheduled to begin the term of service no later than October 1, 2018.

The VAP is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.

Application Deadline

September 12, 2018 but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.